

Pine Hill Report from Board Chair Louisa Duck Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council

Pine Hill Divinity Hall continued to be busy over the past year as we supported AST in its efforts to provide the high quality to theological education expected and required by the United Church of Canada.

We continue to find the best way to support candidates in their path to ordered ministry whether it is through Masters, Bachelor or Lay Ministry paths of education. Working with the Formation Director Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett and the United Church Faculty group are essential to success.

We are truly blessed with a Board of vibrant lay and clergy members, supporting one another on various Bursary, Finance and Nominating Committees. The Board has representation from Bermuda-Nova Scotia, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters, and First Dawn Eastern Edge Regions. New Board members this year include the Rev. Jeff Chant (serving on the AST Board and PH Finance Cttee.) and Jane McDonald (Finance Committee.) Completing their terms on our Board this year will be Mr. Bob Carter, who has served as Treasurer for most of his adult life, and the Rev. Keith MacPherson who has Chaired Bursary Committee.

The Executive Committee is formed by the Chairs of each committee who are permitted to make decisions on behalf of the Board. United Church faculty are represented with great integrity by the Rev. Rob Fennell. United Church student interests are well-represented on the Board by Jaqui Morral, a final year Summer Distance student. We are grateful for the dedication of every member of the Board.

Pine Hill also has responsibility for finding United Church representatives to serve on the AST Board. Rev. Kate Jones (Fundy St. Laurence Dawning Waters Region), Rev. Kim Waite (First Dawn Easter Edge Region) and Mr. Jim Musgrave, Rev. Jeff Chant and the Rev. Linda Yates, all from Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region) with Linda in the seat of past Chair, AST Board.

The Founding Parties meet twice a year. Representatives from PH, University of King's College, the Anglican Dioceses of NS & PEI and Fredericton, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Halifax & Yarmouth on the board. UCC Executive Minister, the Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, is present whenever possible.

Pine Hill supports the part-time position of UC chaplain, the Rev'd Sarah Raeburn, and offers partial financial support for the Continuing Education Convenor, Lydia Hood. The full-time positions of the UC Formation Director, the Rev'd Dr. Ross Bartlett and Executive Director, Brenda Munro, are fully funded by Pine Hill.

Six UCC Bachelor of Theology students received tuition grants. Tuition bursaries were provided to 23 students enrolled in the M.Div. Program, in the amount of over \$148,000, a Promise Leadership Bursary was awarded to a UCC youth member nominated by their congregation for excellence in leadership. PH reimburses students' portion of all necessary UCC workshop fees.

Pine Hill supports bursaries to AST United Church graduates of AST. Annual Continuing Education Bursaries totaling \$1,500 awarded in 2025-2026 to the Rev. April Hart. The 2025-2027 Tri-Annual Pine Hill Alumni Association Scholarship of \$7,500 continues to be awarded to the Rev. Chris Walker for his study in Doctor of Divinity at Acadia University.

PH's 2018 Capital Commitment of \$3,000,000 continues to be used to restore the 1898 Flagship Building on the AST Campus. In the past year, much conversation continued between PHDH and AST Board to determine the best use of the Bldg. to serve needs of the AST Community.

It is my great privilege to continue to serve as chair of Pine Hill, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to work with everyone who is part of it. They are all tremendously gifted people who exemplify service and generosity, and I am truly blessed to be part of this group. I thank them all for the time and energy they put in so that Pine Hill can continue its mission of supporting students who seek to serve God and all God's children. I look forward to carrying out this work together for another year as we search for my successor.

Respectfully submitted,
Louisa Duck
Chair, Pine Hill Divinity Hall