



McMaster Divinity College

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Dear Friends of McMaster Divinity College

The completion of another academic year always brings great joy. There is so much to celebrate! This is especially true this year at MDC.

We had a wonderful Convocation ceremony—our first live one in three years—in which we congratulated nearly forty students as they received their degrees. We had many Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Theological Studies (MTS) students finish their programs, along with a healthy number of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) graduates. We also had two more Doctor of Practical Theology (DPT) students complete their studies. The DPT continues to emerge as a unique degree with great ministry potential for those who desire further advanced theological education.

We were fortunate to hear from several of our students at Convocation, as we did from several more at our President's Dinner Online earlier this spring. Each one of these students has a different story to tell of how God has led them through the course of their studies and is now encouraging them in new directions as they seek to serve him. We are looking forward to hearing great things about how God continues to use them to serve his church in the days and years ahead.

We use the rubric of Knowing, Being, Doing as a way of organizing our approach to theological education. We are unparalleled in the emphasis we put upon Knowing, and we take great pride in the accomplishments of our graduates, the Doing. However, one of the under-rated strengths of our students is their Being. Our students are being formed into the likeness of Jesus Christ so that they can be witnesses and servants in the world. Our students answering their calls to various forms of ministry is a constant inspiration to all of us.

Thank you for your continuing support of McMaster Divinity College as we seek to educate the next generation of pastors, teachers, and other Christian leaders.

In Christ,

Stanley E. Porter, PhD
President and Dean

STORIES FROM OUR STUDENTS

Erin Steckley, MTS student

Tell us about your journey to MDC.



At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, as someone temporarily laid off from work who suddenly had a lot of time on their hands, I was living in the tension of enjoying the newfound rhythms of rest and silence, while simultaneously dreading their inevitable end whenever

my job needed me back. During this time, the thought of attending divinity school began to dwell at the forefront of my mind. It felt sudden, shocking, and costly, but the deep joy and overwhelming sense of freedom, peace, and anticipation I experienced allowed me to say “yes” very readily to something I never would have chosen for myself. My calling to MDC was, and is, interwoven with my calling to deeper Christian discipleship.

Solomon Ng’ang’ah, DPT student

Tell us about your journey to MDC.



I am the Associate Pastor of Africa Inland Church in the Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya. My calling in ministry is preaching to the poor, the homeless, sickly, destitute, and most vulnerable in the society. I came to know MDC through a friend and MDC alumni, whom I met at a

youth conference in Nairobi. After listening to him teach, his scholastic rigour, sincere interpretation of the scripture, and application acumen, I was convinced that MDC must have invested heavily in him. He prayed with me and encouraged me to join MDC when the time was right.

Now, 10 years after meeting him, I joined MDC’s Doctor of Practical Theology program. My desire is to grow my knowledge in the interpretation and application of the scriptures to be equipped to address the ongoing challenges in my home country, particularly the issue of young Christian youths joining Islamic faith and consequently, becoming members of global terrorism

Tell us how spiritual formation has been a part of your experience at MDC.

Spiritual formation is the process of becoming more like Jesus. Spiritual formation invites us into the identity that was bestowed on the Son, “beloved.” I am grateful to many people at MDC, professors and fellow students alike, who have been instrumental in teaching and reminding me of this. MDC has been a community where significant personal spiritual formation has taken place. Each semester, my courses have informed each other, and this interconnected learning has spoken into my life. History and theology courses have opened me up to the beauty of Christian traditions previously unfamiliar to me, biblical studies courses have left me in awe at the creativity and intentionality of Scripture, and ministry studies courses have challenged me to think critically about a variety of topics relevant to the Christian faith. In all these learning experiences, MDC has been a place of flourishing for me, and I thank God that I get to be here.

groups. My research will be on the role of church leaders in countering this issue, specifically in the Kibera slum.

What challenges have you faced during your first semester at MDC?

When I applied to MDC, I planned to join other students in Canada. With the surge in COVID-19, the embassy denied my student visa, so I completed my first semester online. This has been especially difficult due to the technology and telecommunication infrastructure in my country. At one point, I was forced to climb a tall tree to catch bandwidth! Having said that, my professors have been so gracious and understanding, and have given me encouragement to continue with my studies. My church has wished me well in pursuit of my studies, but is unable to support me financially while I am away. My family and I continue to pray that God will provide us with finances to cater for my studies and our basic needs as we navigate this transition.



Scan the QR code to for more student stories and to learn how you can be praying for Erin and Solomon.



CELEBRATING CONVOCATION 2022

On May 24, 2022, we held our Convocation ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of our 37 graduates. What a joy it was to be together in our renovated space after an extended closure due to COVID-19. While the majority of our graduates were able to join us in person, remaining graduates and many guests from around the world joined us virtually for our first livestreamed Convocation event.

Among our graduating class were 8 Master of Divinity students, 15 Master of Theological Studies students, 2 Doctor of Practical Theology students, 8 Doctor of Philosophy (Christian Theology) students, and 4 Graduate Certificate (Christian Studies) students. During our ceremony, we also officially recognized Dr. Mary L. Conway as Associate Professor Emerita of Old Testament for her exceptional years of service to MDC, and heard testimonies from student speakers Faith Lau and Darlene Seal, who were also recipients of President's Gold Medal awards.

Thank you to those of you who joined us, whether in person or virtually. As our graduates now leave us to serve in various forms of ministry, please remember them in prayer as they follow God's will for their future.



"As I reflect on the past three years, I am drawn to the 12 disciples whom Jesus called. How odd that group was, these 12 people from very different backgrounds who would come together and function as a team, learning from one another and caring for each

other deeply. That has been my experience at MDC, it has been an honour and gift to join with so many people with different experiences, learn how God has worked in their lives in unique ways, and it has been a privilege to share a little bit of their story."

—Faith Lau

Student Speaker & 2022 President's Gold Medal Winner



As I completed my degree over the last six years I found myself in different stages, and in each stage I found a prayer that carried me through that particular stage.

In the first two years as I completed my coursework, I found the prayer of Jacob at Bethel, "surely God was in this place and I didn't know it". In the next stage I found myself celebrating milestones, and heard the prayer of Samuel entering the promised land saying "God has brought us this far". Finally, in the last several months as I have been looking back at my journey, I remembered Nehemiah's refrain "the gracious hand of my God has been on me". And so, I honour the difficulty and struggle, give thanks for the good, and most of all, I want to recognize the character of the God who has brought us this far, and will see us to the end of our journey."

—Dr. Darlene Seal

Student Speaker & 2022 President's Gold Medal Winner



Interested in watching the recording?

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NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

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Our new 6-course certificates are designed to help you meet your ministry goals. Courses are directly applicable and provide training in specific areas of ministry. These specialized graduate certificates are beneficial for ministry practitioners and lay people alike, regardless of previous theological education. Study where you serve with our flexible learning options.



Complete in just one year, up to a maximum of four years



Start in May, September, or January



Courses can be completed in-person or remotely by livestream

Tuition



Scan the QR code to view our tuition fees. Scholarships and Financial Aid available to most students.

Application Deadlines

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Fall Semester | June 1 |
| Winter Semester | October 15 |
| Spring Semester | April 15 |

Contact Admissions

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