

December 2020

Dear MDC Partner and Friend,

The Christmas season brings many memories to each of us. It is a special time to celebrate and give thanks for God's wonderful gift to us of 'His Son', Jesus Christ. I hope and pray that your Christmas this year will continue to share in the great traditions of remembrance and thanksgiving that are essential to Christmas.

This year, our memories will include a pandemic, but I hope that this will be our first and last COVID-Christmas. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed all our lives. As I sit here writing this letter to you—not from my office in our newly renovated McMaster Divinity College building, but from my library, due to our new regime of working from home—I am reminded of how much we have to be thankful for, despite our immediate circumstances. I hope that you have been able to adjust to the new patterns of behaviour that are required of all of us. I most of all pray that you, personally, have not been directly affected by this virus and that you remain healthy and well.

More so than ever, I have been thinking at this time of year, and especially this year, of the many things that I am thankful for. I am especially thankful for the fact that the truth of Christmas—the reality of Jesus, the Son of God born in human form—is as important and relevant today as ever. I thank Him daily for His love and mercy. I am thankful for my immediate and extended family. My wife Wendy and I are thankful for our being able to be at home and have been enjoying opportunities to take more walks together (though perhaps not as many by the time you are reading this!). I am thankful for good friends and neighbours who are looking out for each other during this time. We talk more and know more about each other's comings and goings as we all want to get through this time safely.

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I am thankful for MDC and my excellent colleagues. We have had to make some major adjustments in our routines, as you can imagine, but due to the hard work and flexibility of all of us, we have been able to continue to fulfill our calling to educate men and women for various forms of Christian ministry, service, and leadership. I am also thankful for our courageous students, who are responding to God's vocational calling on their lives even during these challenging times. I hope that you too have those in your lives that you are thankful for at this time of year. Like me, you are probably realizing how much more thankful you are for them all than you have recognized before.

I am also very thankful for you, as a financial supporter of the work of McMaster Divinity

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College. We could not do the work that we do without people like you who also share the vision of educating the next generation of pastors, teachers, and Christian leaders. I realize that this may have been a difficult financial year for you—MDC has also been faced with many new and unexpected financial challenges, such as added technology costs for our online teaching, securing library resources for our online students,

increased financial aid for students suffering the effects of COVID, and reduced tuition revenue. I would appreciate your prayerful consideration of making a generous donation to MDC at this time of year. I am providing a response form at the bottom of this letter to encourage your prayerful contribution. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

In Christ,



Stanley E. Porter, PhD
President and Dean



McMaster Divinity College

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