

Tyndale University

Report to General Conference 2024

This year marks 31 years of dynamic partnership between Tyndale University and the Free Methodist Church in Canada (FMCiC). It was in 1993 that Tyndale and five other historically Wesleyan denominations, including the FMCiC, established the Donald N. and Kathleen G. Bastian Chair of Wesley Studies. This chair exists to cultivate in new generations of students, an awareness of the rich heritage of John and Charles Wesley and the Methodist movement, as well as to provide focused and in-depth instruction in Wesleyan thought and practice. The current Chair, Dr. James Pedlar (installed in 2018), continues in this important work each year empowering students in their studies and research within the Wesleyan tradition.

This chair and our partnership together honours the work of Donald and Kathleen Bastian and their twenty years of service as denominational leaders in the Free Methodist Church, as well as the legacy of their impact on Wesleyan traditions in Canada. As we celebrate our partnership we are grateful for the work we do together and the powerful impact it has on students studying at Tyndale.

Tyndale University celebrates our 130th anniversary this year. The original purpose of the institution set out many years ago – to train men and women for the service of God at home and abroad – remains true today and is central to the mission of Tyndale. It is articulated in our mission statement, “Tyndale is dedicated to the pursuit of truth, to excellence in teaching, learning and research, for the enriching of mind, heart and character, to serve the church and the world for the glory of God.”

The undergraduate programs at the University have diversified and grown over the past number of years. Students can choose from a wide range of majors and courses. At Tyndale, the educational experience is more than academic, it is transformational. Students receive a distinctly Christian undergraduate experience, always challenged to ask and explore difficult questions, and where they develop the ability to think analytically, while integrating their theological and Biblical understanding, in order to develop the skills to respond to the issues of today and tomorrow.

Even as our undergraduate programs continue to flourish, Tyndale Seminary has become the largest seminary in Canada with an exceptional reputation throughout North America and worldwide. Students can gain new insights from our biblical languages courses, learn the workings of urban ministry and non-profit leadership, or hone their preaching and counselling skills while learning from expert faculty. Tyndale Seminary offers the Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree, both of which can be completed entirely online. It has launched several new Master of Arts degrees over the past two years, with additional new program launches planned. With a history of excellence in education, Tyndale’s graduate school programs challenge students to lead and serve with passion and purpose.

Strategic Plan

In the fall of 2022, Tyndale launched a new five-year strategic plan which was developed over an eighteen-month period. This plan reflects the current and future hopes, passions and commitments of Tyndale students, staff, faculty, administration, and the Board of Governors, and flows out of the Tyndale mission. It features six strategic themes: Global Christian University, Culture of Hospitality and Service, Diverse Community, Holistic Student Development, Digital Experience and

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Technology and Long-Term Sustainability. This plan demonstrates what it means for Tyndale to flourish as a Christian University and propels the institution to continue to innovate and prepare graduates who make a difference, and who are an influence and voice for Christ in the world.

Tyndale's 9th Chancellor

In the spring of 2023 Tyndale appointed Harriet Thornhill as its 9th Chancellor. Harriet is an accomplished, values-based business leader and faithful mentor and coach to many. She has a deep passion for living life with purpose and raising up a new generation of conscientious leaders who will make a difference in the world around them.

New Program Launches

We are thrilled to have launched many new and exciting programs over the last year. At the undergraduate level, minors in Ethics and Law as well as in Christian Apologetics; and a concentration in Law were rolled out in September 2023. A Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies begins in Fall 2024. At the graduate level, a Master of Arts in Historical and Theological Studies; a new program in Children, Youth & Adult Discipleship; and a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Thanatology were all launched this year. We also expanded counselling program options with the addition of an MA in Clinical Counselling last fall. It has been an exciting time for new and current students as these programs and course offerings have begun. We are thrilled to continue to expand program offerings to provide more opportunities for a faith-integrated, life-changing education.

Tyndale presently serves 1,600 students annually representing more than 40 denominations and 60 ethnic backgrounds. Today, Tyndale alumni are making a difference in the world and are working across private, public and not-for-profit sectors. We celebrate these important milestones at Tyndale as we move into our 130th year and are grateful for the active ways in which we see God at work at Tyndale, through our students and alumni worldwide and through our partners.

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