



MONTREAL
DIO

SÉMINAIRE DIOCÉSAIN DE MONTRÉAL 1873

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- From the Principal
- What Next for the Church? A Hope-Filled Gathering
- Embracing an Ecumenical Life
- Articulating the Theology of Refugee Welcome
- Eric Dyck to serve as acting principal
- Montreal Mission Internship 2022
- Kicking off the Year in Fellowship
- Upcoming courses

PRO CHRISTO & ECCLESIA

FROM THE PRINCIPAL: THE GIFT OF TEACHING IN DIVERSE CONTEXTS



Principal Jesse Zink
Photo by Janet Best

This semester at the School of Religious Studies at McGill University, I'm teaching a new, introductory survey course called, simply, "World Christianity." It's designed to introduce students to the reality of Christianity as a world religion. In this new course, I have students from across the university and from an immense array of disciplines. Some of the students have some background in Christianity but many do not. Some of the students, like others of their generation, have a distrust or suspicion of anything related to

Christianity. Many others, are full of questions. They come to see me with questions that aren't just about the next assignment or exam but are of a deeper and more existential nature: who was this Jesus of Nazareth anyway and why do I find myself drawn to learning more about him?

I've also been teaching an online course this semester called "The Christian Gospel and Popular Culture." This is the latest in our popular series of open enrolment courses, oriented towards lay people across the church and across the continent.

In each session, I've been keying in on big theological words, like law, grace, judgment, reconciliation, or hope, and exploring how these themes are worked out—or not—in music, movies, books, and other cultural products of our time.

I am quite clear that the central calling of the college is the preparation of faithful and creative leaders for the work of the church in the world. Historically—and still today—we understand that work as preparing people for ordained ministry in the church. But the college is constantly pressing in new directions to make its resources available as widely as possible. The popularity of our online open enrolment courses demonstrates how interested people in the church are to learn more about their faith and its application in the world. I am also increasingly understanding how the college's historic relationship with McGill gives us an opportunity that is unique in Canadian theological education today. It is a gift to stand in a classroom full of students who are skeptical, disinterested, or ignorant of the Christian tradition. In my teaching, I hope I can bear witness to the integration of academics and faith and to demonstrate that Christians live their lives in the world like everyone else. In so doing, we provide the space for the deep questions so many students have and yet struggle to voice.

The gift of learning is not one we want to keep to ourselves in the college. With your help and support, we are continuing to expand the ways we share this gift. Thank you!

WHAT NEXT FOR THE CHURCH? A HOPE-FILLED GATHERING

Montreal Dio hosted a one-day conference on October 29 called *What Next for the Church? Congregational Ministry in a Pandemic-Shaped World*. "What I found so hopeful about this conference was how it lifted up the importance of stories and provided opportunities for us to talk to one another in new ways," said the Rev. Canon Jesse Zink, Dio's principal.

The Rev. Dr. Tim Dickau led the morning session. Dr. Dickau currently directs CityGate, a Christian resource organization in Vancouver, but served for 30 years as minister at Grandview Calvary Baptist Church. In the afternoon session, three Quebec-based clergy shared stories of how their churches experienced the pandemic and its aftermath.

Read more about What Next for the Church? at montrealdio.ca/advent-2022



The Rev. Dr. Tim Dickau
Photo by Janet Best

EMBRACING AN ECUMENICAL LIFE

Yvrose Lubérisse is a student from a Roman Catholic background in Dio's Master of Divinity program. She began studying at Dio this fall.

Tell us about your life before coming to Dio?

I moved to Canada from Haiti in 2001 with my three children. In my home country, I worked in education. I have a Bachelor of Arts, and a Master's degree in Distance Education, and a Bachelor of Education. I taught in an elementary school here in Canada for 10 years, and worked in community development before that. In 2020 I decided that I wanted to pursue theological studies. Montreal Dio and the Master of Divinity were the perfect fit for me. This year, through a fortunate combination of circumstances, I was able to resign from my teaching job and begin my studies.

What is your faith background?

Born into a Roman Catholic environment, I felt the presence of the Lord intensely since my first communion. At 8, my older brother became a Jehovah's Witness and dragged a good part of the family with him. My father and my late husband became Adventists, and my children are currently in an evangelical church. So, I have developed an ecumenical spirit to survive. I was part of an ecumenical group in Haiti



for a while, which met at an Episcopal Church. In my parishes in Montreal, I have been involved with meeting parents for infant baptisms, and children for first communion and confirmation, and in leading adult catechumenate. I have also written spiritual editorials for parish newspapers and articles focusing on social ministry.

Why were you drawn to the study of theology and the work of ministry? And what are you hoping to do when you are done with your degree?

I have always dreamed of studying theology further and I am living my dream. I am excited about the place of women in the Anglican Church. I see myself preparing to continue to help others to find God in their hearts. I want to make God my heritage and continue to enter into his peace. A call is a journey that you welcome in the secret of your heart. A call shakes you up. A call makes you say and makes others say: "You are crazy".

What are you enjoying most about your time at Dio?

I am in the place I was meant to be now. The community life in Montreal Dio surrounded by the United Church of Canada and the Presbyterian College is a great blessing. It is an ecumenical life. I have the feeling that I am not alone and that I am discovering with others.

ARTICULATING THE THEOLOGY OF REFUGEE WELCOME

Tevfik Karatop finished the Master of Divinity degree at Dio in 2021 and has since been studying for a Master of Arts in the School of Religious Studies at McGill. The aim of his research is to understand how theology gets enacted and redefined in parishes who choose to sponsor refugees. "After four years of discernment, it became clear that my vocation in the Church was serving refugees and advocating for their cause," he says. He believes strongly that academic knowledge should be used at the service of Christian ministry. "With my project, I hope to contribute to the Church's ministry of refugee resettlement by providing academic knowledge about this unique service."

His research centres around the Private Refugee Sponsorship program, a federal and provincial resettlement program that was initiated after the efforts of Canadian churches to welcome European refugees after the Second World War. "Christian churches, including the Anglican Church in Canada, are still the most significant participants of this program," he explains. He is working with several Anglican congregations in Quebec who are sponsoring refugees to understand why these communities are so eager to delve into the bureaucratic labyrinth of refugee



sponsorship, and what theological principles drive these ministries. "Based on archival research and interviews with sponsoring congregations, I can easily say that refugee sponsorship stands out as a unique ministry in our history and today. When Anglican churches sponsor refugees and resettle them in Canada, they respond to Jesus' calling to welcome strangers as they would welcome him. These ministries have generated new theologies that resonate with the big questions of the contemporary Church about cultural differences, immigration and increasing numbers of refugees and asylum seekers. Until now, my research has shown that Anglican churches' dedication to accompanying refugees opens up space for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we continue to discern God's calling to be one."

Tevfik is an example of the growing number of graduate students who have chosen to affiliate with the college while pursuing their advanced degrees at McGill. These students enrich our community by bringing their unique perspectives and research into our common life. Tevfik asks for your prayers on his research, and on the many Christians who, despite financial and bureaucratic challenges, continue to welcome strangers in Jesus' holy name.

THE REV. ERIC DYCK TO SERVE AS ACTING PRINCIPAL

The Board of Governors has appointed the Rev. Eric Dyck to serve as acting principal while Jesse Zink is on sabbatical during the winter semester of 2023.

Eric recently retired after a long ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church in Montreal. He is well known to the college, having previously served on the Board of Governors and taught in the ministry seminar. We look forward to welcoming Eric to the college community and we also look forward to Jesse's return as a rested and renewed principal!



MONTREAL MISSION INTERNSHIP 2022

In late May the college welcomed thirteen young people to Dio for the Montreal Mission Internship, a summer program that provides interns with individualized service work placements at social service organisations around the city, and spiritual and vocational guidance from program director Alan Ma and program mentor Fresia Saborio. The program is designed to give young people meaningful work experience while reflecting on God's call in their life and building community through weekly workshops, activities, prayer, and reflection. This program has been offered in the past in a few different formats. The faculty and staff at Dio were delighted to revamp it for the current post-pandemic context and look forward to offering it for years to come.



"MMI gave me the opportunity of a lifetime to discern life and the future as a young Christian. I am grateful for the opportunities and the tools I was given to discern, meditate, be empowered, and enjoy the city of Montreal. I leave this program feeling like I'm ready for the next stages of life."

Simon Bondoc
Calgary, AB

"MMI was an amazing opportunity to engage in important thought-provoking work. It also gifted me with amazing new friends and relationships that have and will continue to help me grow."

Thomas Osborne O'Donnell,
Sherbrooke, QC

"MMI encouraged me to go deeper in my faith inside and outside of a church setting. I will use this experience to acknowledge that I am capable of doing anything with God's love."

Becky Coholon
Hubbards, NS

Photo by Janet Best

Keep up to date with MMI!



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KICKING OFF THE YEAR IN FELLOWSHIP



The college community began the academic year with a retreat at CAMMAC Music Centre in Harrington, QC. The Rev. Wendy Evans, a United Church minister in the Montreal area, led a retreat organized around the theme of Spiritual Practices for a Changing Climate. This was an opportunity to spend time reflecting, both together and individually, on the gift of the natural world and the wisdom it provides if we only stop to listen. Saturday afternoon was spent swimming, canoeing, and otherwise soaking up the last days of summer sun. It was a wonderful time of connection with the college community and the natural world that surrounds us, made even more special by the absence of in-person gatherings over the last few years.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Bequests to Montreal Dio ensure vibrant theological education in Montreal for generations to come.

Simply share this sentence with your financial or legal advisor: "I bequeath to Montreal Diocesan Theological College in Montreal, QC, the sum of \$___ (or ___%) of my estate."

Learn more about how you can leave a legacy gift at montrealdio.ca/legacy.



Collaborative Ministry Leadership in a Constantly Changing World

Thursdays, February 2, 9, and 16, 2023
7:00pm-9:00pm

This course will give church leaders (clergy and lay) the theoretical and practical knowledge to lead their congregations faithfully and well — now and into God's unfolding future.



Paul the Apostle

Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2023
7:00pm-8:30pm

This course addresses some of the key questions about Paul and his influence on the formation of early Christianity. Almost everything we thought we knew about Paul is wrong. Come discover what's new.

SPANISH OPEN ENROLMENT COURSES

This year the college will be offering two in-person courses in Spanish: *Antiguo Testamento – Un Dios fiel, promesa y liberación* and *Leer la Biblia: Nuevo Testamento – Jesús, una alianza renovada con Dios*. Stay tuned for more details at montrealdio.ca/our-courses.



The Certificate in Bilingual Ministry

Learn to minister proficiently in French and bilingual contexts

Save the date for the French for Ministry Intensive
May 8th to 12th, 2023

If you are a chaplain, church administrator, priest, or anyone else working in a French or bilingual protestant ministry or spiritual care setting and want to improve your proficiency in French, visit www.montrealdio.ca/bilingual to learn more about this program. To obtain the certificate, participants must take the French for Ministry Intensive course happening this coming year the week of May 8th to 12th.