

## **MISSION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE SUMMARY**

*(approved by the Victoria University Board of Regents February 11, 2011)*



Emmanuel College is the largest theological school associated with the United Church of Canada. Since its founding, Emmanuel has been integrally connected to both Victoria University and the University of Toronto.

### **VISION**

To be a leading theological school recognized for connecting academic excellence and global awareness to responsible public engagement.

### **MISSION**

Informed by its Christian heritage, relationship with both church and university, and its Canadian, urban, and pluralistic location, Emmanuel College provides an education characterized by rigorous theological inquiry, contextual analysis, commitment to justice, and inclusive practice.

### **INSTITUTIONAL VALUES**

Emmanuel College values educational achievement and academic freedom, social and cultural diversity, ecumenical and inter-religious relationships, the integration of the theoretical and the practical, analytical and transformational activities, excellence in teaching and research, spiritual and professional formation, and partnerships with communities focused on faith and education.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Emmanuel College was founded in 1928. It was established as a result of the formation of The United Church of Canada in 1925 and formed with the intention of continuing the tradition of theological education established earlier by Canadian Methodists and Presbyterians.

#### **Emmanuel Since Union**

In 1928 Union College united with the Faculty of Theology of Victoria University. The new college took the name "Emmanuel" from the words under the figure of John Wesley in stained glass in the Victoria College Chapel: "The best of all is God is with us." Another factor in this selection was the evangelical and often dissenting tradition of Emmanuel College in Cambridge University.

The United Church of Canada recognizes Emmanuel as one of its theological colleges and contributes towards its support. The College provides instruction in the beliefs and practices of the United Church, seeks to equip students for effective ministry through it, and serves as a centre of worship, theological inquiry and community within its tradition.

The United Church no longer educates for ministry in isolation but cooperatively since 1969 in the Toronto School of Theology. TST is a federation of seven theological colleges in Toronto. It is itself fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.

It represents an unparalleled undertaking in ecumenical theological education. Bringing together a wide variety of Christian traditions, this federation offers an exceptional opportunity to study and understand the complexity of the Christian religious experience in an environment that combines academic excellence with preparation for effective ministry.

Through Victoria University, of which Emmanuel is a constituent college, students share the library, residential and social facilities. The Senate and The Board of Regents of Victoria are the principal governing bodies of the College. Matters relating to theological education are the particular concern of the Emmanuel College Council, in which alumni/ae, administrative officers, faculty and students participate.

The University of Toronto, of which Victoria is a federated university, contributes the intellectual stimulus of a wider community of study and makes available the resources of many faculties and departments. A new relationship with the University was established in 1978 when it agreed through the Toronto School of Theology to award conjoint degrees with the TST member colleges.

### **Accreditation**

As a chartered and fully accredited member of the Association of Theological Schools, Emmanuel College is committed to maintaining the highest standards of education for ministry and theological research. Our standing with ATS is strengthened by the fact that TST as a whole has been similarly accredited; thus, the academic standing of Emmanuel graduates is recognized by ATS schools throughout North America.