



Sept 11, 2014

Dear Friends of Bethany College,

By now you may have had your fill of updates from Bethany College but this one, we are pleased to say, is certainly more positive than those of the previous few months! In fact, much of the difficult summer seems behind us as we welcomed 24 new and 40 returning students back to our campus this September. We also have nine students who are completing their fourth-year internships at various locations, giving us a total student body of 73.

The 64 on-campus students exceeded the goal set out by the Board of Directors in the revised June budget by three. At that time, getting 61 students seemed like a real stretch and we were uncertain about what impact our announcement would have on our budget for donations.

But God has answered our prayers. The donations we have received during the summer months far surpassed our expectations and our normal pattern for that time period. This, along with significant reductions to our wage costs, has put the college on a reasonably firm footing for the start of Bethany's 88th year.

Although we are a little weary from navigating turbulent waters, we are exceedingly grateful for the response we received from churches, donors, and our students to our appeal for help. Please accept our sincere thanks for your gracious and generous response. We also wish to thank those responsible for re-establishing the Bethany College Alumni Association and the work they did on our behalf. We are humbled and honored by their efforts and the response we received due to their #growBethany campaign. We have renewed hope for our future, and are grateful to God for His provision.

Of course, we still have more distance to navigate. The process of discernment around the long-term future of Bethany College is also underway. Facilitating this process is Rod Schellenberg, Lead Pastor of Hepburn MB Church, who has been collecting questionnaires and hosting forums and conference calls with pastors and others in the effort to gain wisdom and direction on behalf of Bethany. This effort will culminate in a Discernment Summit on October 4th in a meeting of approximately 40 pastors, denominational leaders, donors, alumni, faculty, and other school and church leaders.

Please join us in praying that we will hear God's voice, and that we will gain clarity and direction about how to proceed as this discernment process unfolds.

Also, please pray for our students. They are a great bunch, and their enthusiasm is infectious! Next week, they will be embarking on Service Learning Trips to various inner-city locations, and to northern First-Nations communities. These are often life-changing events for students. And once again, we ask that you continue to pray for the staff, faculty, and leadership as we seek to walk faithfully in the midst of uncertainty and change.

In co-service to our Lord Jesus,

Howie Wall, President