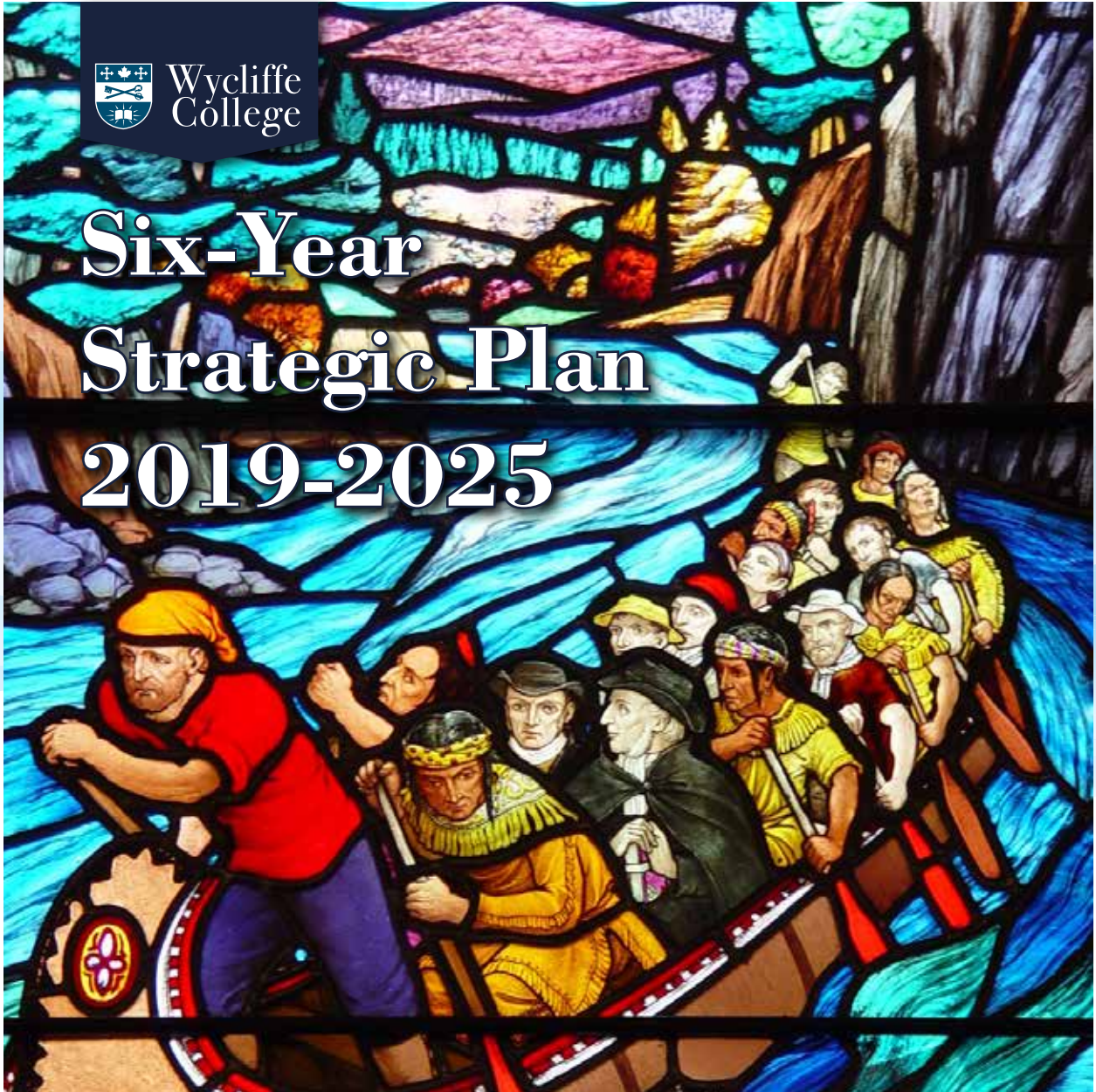




Wycliffe
College

Six-Year Strategic Plan

2019-2025





Dear Friend,

When I was in high school we lived on a lake and dabbled a bit in sailing. I always admired a classmate who seemed to be born with a tiller in his hand and who relished tricky weather, as it gave him an advantage in the races. For where others might reef the sails or steer to windward, my friend would become aggressive. Hauling on the sheets, his boat would leap out of the diffident clutch of vessels to take the lead.

This is an image that springs naturally to my mind as I introduce Wycliffe's new Strategic Plan. It is common now to say that the Church and theological colleges are into some heavy water. Those who hold to Christian convictions feel the stiff and shifting winds of culture against them, while theological colleges try to tread water as enrolments decline. Wycliffe could put its head down, yielding to the weather, for the College is a worthy vessel. It has weathered many storms in the past and it is stable enough to survive whatever tempests blow up before us. God has been good to us.

But this is not what God is calling us to do. After months of prayer and study, we feel that God is asking us to tauten our sails and launch out and brave the elements.

What you will find in the next few pages is a description of priorities God has laid on our hearts: we want to make sure that every student has a knowledge of Scripture rooted in first principles of theology; we want to cultivate leadership more effectively in the local context; we want to respond to the majority world's need "to be equipped for mission and growing to maturity in Christ" (to quote the vision of John Stott); and we want to enhance the community experience of Christian life and witness here in the heart of the University of Toronto.

Let me say how much we covet your companionship and prayers as we seek to respond faithfully and boldly to God's call. Know, too, that we continue to hold you in our prayers as we look to the fullness of God's kingdom coming among us in his Church.

+Stephen

With steady enrolments, gifted faculty, strong leadership and healthy finances, Wycliffe College is on the cusp of an exciting future: a future in which we will pursue our renewed mission to God's glory of educating people for practical ministry and theological scholarship in Christ's global church and the world.

Our future promises to be one of significant change: in the demand for and delivery of theological education; in the profile of theological students; and in the Church. Anticipating such change, Wycliffe College is embarking on a **six-year effort** to prepare for that future by:

- expanding our service to the Church
- deepening our transformational impact on Christian leaders
- enhancing access to our educational and program offerings
- creating more capacity for students to pursue advanced theological studies, and
- growing our partnerships with churches, donors, and the academy worldwide.

We make such plans boldly, even as we renew our commitment to being a place where future Church leaders can learn to read Scripture well, hear God's Word, and in turn, respond to the painful cries of the world.

Our preparations will flow from **five strategic objectives**, fuelled by prayer, and funded by a significant fundraising effort.

The five objectives are...





OBJECTIVE 1

SCRIPTURE AND THEOLOGY

Understanding the Bible as the Word of God written has always been central to the identity and work of Wycliffe College. Therefore, we will be a leading evangelical theological academy for the theological interpretation of Scripture at the doctoral and master's levels (in preparation for ministry in Christ's Church) and an internationally recognized voice and resource on Christian thought, and on the Church's relation to culture.

We will do this by expanding the Wycliffe Centre for Scripture and Theology, increasing the number of conferences, colloquia, and seminars it offers, and adding a more robust publishing stream. Recognizing that the quality of our programs, students, and ultimately also of the graduates we send out into the world will always be a reflection of the Christian character and academic calibre of those who teach here, we will also invest heavily in our faculty, preparing now for faculty succession. Throughout this process, we will emphasize the centrality of the Word so that we will preserve the theological reading of Scripture as a hallmark of a Wycliffe education. Finally, we will preserve and advance Wycliffe's role as a vital Christian presence in the University of Toronto, by contributing to the larger intellectual life of the University, and continuing to offer public events that engage the most critical issues of our day.

OBJECTIVE 2

PROGRAMS AND LEADERSHIP

Wycliffe College has a long tradition of developing, nurturing, and supporting Christian leaders, both during the time they are with us, and after they leave to engage in the ministries to which God calls them. Recognizing that the needs of today's students are changing, we will offer robust yet increasingly flexible modes of learning, while reserving a unique and distinctive residential learning component for a student's course of study. We will be a leader in formational readiness and standards.

We will do this by investing in online learning and conduct research and development in formational assessment. Incorporating both in-class and distance students, we aim to increase our average Master's class size over the next seven years through investments in recruitment and new bursaries. To deepen our impact, we will care for the on-going educational needs of alumni by creating a designated suite of online courses to bolster their professional and leadership development. Finally, we will continue to add to, renew, modify, and promote our various programs to ensure we are effectively preparing leadership for the whole Church of today and tomorrow.

OBJECTIVE 3

LOCAL

A frequent criticism of theological colleges today is that they are absent from the front lines of ministry. In response to this concern, we will be a leading partner in local church development.

We will do this by creating a **Centre for Excellence in Ministry** to serve and advance church growth and online courses designed specifically to further Christian maturity and service in all persons. We will **build two new missional hubs** for local learning, training, and leadership in the church. Further, we will **establish and resource an Alumni network of mentors** willing to coach students and new graduates. Finally, we will **increase our appeal** as a community of engagement for theologically aligned denominations, churches, and parachurch organizations, and also develop our offerings of services, materials, and faculty speakers/preachers with a goal of building fruitful, mission-based relationships.

OBJECTIVE 4

GLOBAL

As rapid cultural shifts continue to push the Church to the margins of society, it becomes ever more critical to work with like-minded believers in the pursuit of God's mission to the ends of the earth. To that end, we will be a leading global partner in theological education.

We will do this by **establishing and strengthening strategic relationships** with key evangelical church and parachurch organizations in Asia, Africa, North America, and in Indigenous territories, to **assist them in the design, teaching, and delivery of appropriate theological curricula**. We will create and fund avenues for visiting international scholars to teach and supervise Wycliffe students, and we will also **nurture links with organizations** that support theological students from the Majority World. Finally, we will **renew those programs** that revolve around community development work and **provide leadership** in forming those who will minister in increasingly culturally diverse settings.





OBJECTIVE 5

COMMUNITY

More and more, today's students are desiring to remain in—and contribute to—the building up of their own local Christian communities, even as they study. And yet, there will always be those who seek to be formed in the context of a population of theological learners. With this in mind, we will advance Wycliffe's heritage and reputation as a growing, vibrant, diverse, and supportive learning and worshipping community.

We will do this by enhancing the appeal of life in community at Wycliffe through **endowed residential scholarships**, the creation of an **intentional residential learning community** with a specific missional placement, and **upgrading and expanding** student housing and learning facilities. Mindful of the growing number of students who wish to study part-time or from a distance, we will implement more flexible course schedules. Lastly, we will seek to **increase partnerships and training opportunities** for campus ministries.

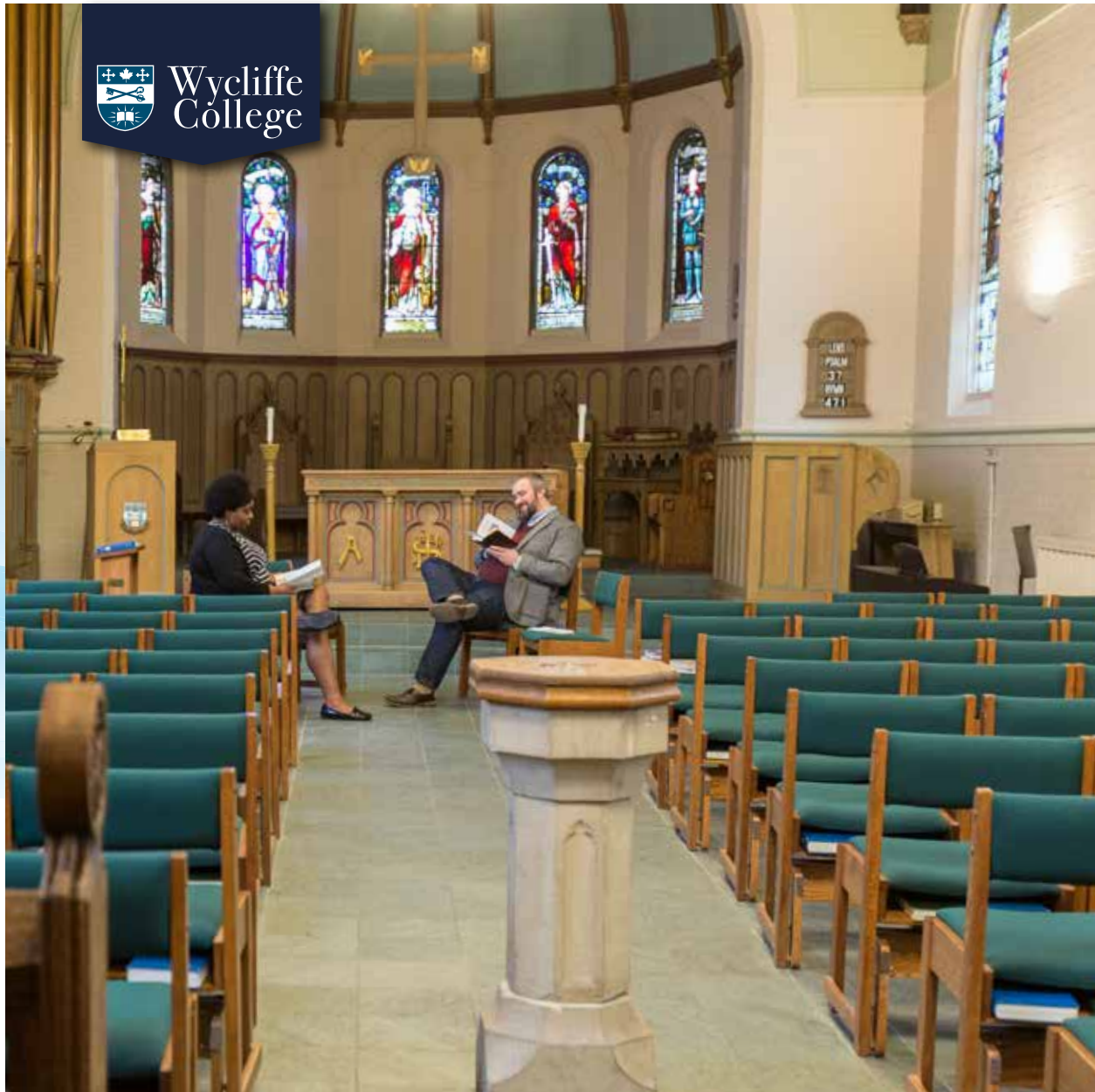
HOW WE WILL ACCOMPLISH ALL OF THIS

The aforementioned objectives have been conceived, developed, and approved by Wycliffe's faculty, staff, Board, and friends through a year-long process of research, discernment, and prayer.

We invite you to join with us in prayer as we take steps to fulfill this mandate, and at the appointed time, to partner in this work through the sharing of financial gifts, that together we might fulfill this plan and so bring glory to God.



Wycliffe
College



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