

Maritime Messenger

Volume 63 No. 4 June 2025



MOMENTUM

5 REASONS
CHRISTIAN HIGHER...

Page 2

INVEST IN YOUR
FAITH THIS SUMMER

Page 3

FINANCIAL
REPORT

Page 5



Tom Marshall
Academic Dean

5 REASONS CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION WORKS FOR YOU

You have unanswered questions, and the Bible study does not go deep enough. God's been nudging you toward doing something about it.

Here are 5 reasons Christian higher education can work for you.

1. We take the guesswork out of the learning process.

"Can I search the web and watch videos and listen to podcasts to learn?"

Yes, self-learning is one method to take. To achieve the best results, one must be ready to learn, set goals, have a learning process in place and be able to evaluate what they have learned. High self-motivation is essential.



What is the difference between the self-directed learner and a student in a course?

University and college courses are led by instructors with experience in the field of study. They would set the learning goals, provide engaging learning opportunities and oversee learning evaluation with valuable feedback. They act as the coach and encourage student success while providing critical feedback to improve the student's competency level. The student still needs to be motivated but are not alone in the process.

2. We provide a format that fits your busy schedule.

"Do I have to attend a physical classroom?"

No. MCC uses a learning management system (LMS) named Populi. It is the virtual classroom where you interact with the instructor and fellow classmates. There are no 50-minute lectures like a typical course but a 10-minute introduction to each lesson from your instructor.

"Are there lessons each week?"

Yes. There are 1 lesson per week for 8 weeks for certificate courses, and 1 lesson per week for 12 weeks for Master's program courses.

"When are assignments due each week?"

Thursday and Sunday each week. Assignments include class discussion and a short paper with the occasional self-reflection. Assignments are based upon the readings.

3. We provide a setting for learning through discussion and feedback.

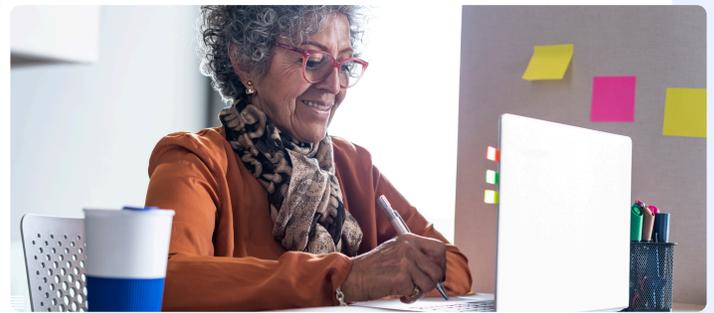
"What are class discussions?"

Class discussions are the heart of the learning process where you interact with your fellow classmates. Structured questions guide the conversation each week. Students write a post based upon their reading and provide feedback to their classmates' posts. An instructor also contributes insights and questions to encourage feedback.

4. It's never too late to learn.

"Am I too old to take a class? I've been out of school for some time."

No one is too old. Learning is only prohibited by one's own self-limitations. We'll help you become familiar with our learning management system and guide you through any problems along the way. If you can read and write a sentence, and have graduated High School (or have an undergrad if you're interested in our Masters degree), then you are ready to learn.



5. Experience leads to confidence.

How will taking a course make a difference in my life?

You will experience focused learning with other like-minded individuals through the guidance of an instructor who knows the way, and who encourages everyone to think critically.

You will put into practice your ability to assess, evaluate, and communicate to others what you are studying.

You will have confidence because you have walked the ground, asked the right questions, and are able to evaluate competing thoughts, ideas, and outright false leads through critical thinking. 



INVEST IN YOUR FAITH THIS SUMMER

Larissa Weatherby

As I head into another summer,

I've been reflecting on Ecclesiastes 3, where Solomon writes that there is a season for everything. As the daughter of a farmer, this passage has always resonated with me deeply. Seasons were tangible in our home growing up—visible in fields, weather patterns, and harvest rhythms. But as a Christian, it's especially comforting to know that spiritual seasons exist too.

We know we won't always live on the mountaintop—and thank God, the valleys don't last forever either.

For me, summer is not a straightforward season. With vacations, camps, and shifting routines, it's easy to get thrown off schedule. In the midst of the busy intensity of camp ministry, I'm learning to be more intentional about how I invest in my faith during these months.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

This year, I've been working through a Bible-in-a-year reading plan on the YouVersion app. I'm reading it with a friend, and the accountability has been so helpful. I know that if I fall behind a few days, she'll encourage me to keep going—and I want to do the same for her.

Another goal I've set for myself is to read at least one Christian book per month. I plan to keep that going over the summer—and hopefully catch up on a couple of the months I've missed too.

One practice I'm intentionally carrying into the summer is **grace**. I want to make realistic goals. I've learned that if I promise myself I'll spend an hour every day in silent prayer, I'll end up failing and then feeling guilty by the end of week one. So instead, I'm leaning into breath prayers and worshipping God in the beauty of His creation—especially during this season when His handiwork is on full display.

I'm also making an effort to find worship opportunities where I'm not serving. I'm really looking forward to events like the Maritime Christian Fellowship and the evening worship services at camp.

Wherever this summer finds you—whether it be a frazzled VBS experience or soaking up endless beach days (or hopefully a little of both!)—I encourage you to pause and ask: What's my plan for staying rooted in Christ this summer?

Whatever your season, don't let it pass without seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus. 

Inspired by Larissa's Blog post, read it here:



Content Recommendations

PODCASTS

- Bible in Life with John Whittaker
- The Bible Recap
- With the Perrys Podcast
- Faith Over Fear with Jennifer Slattery
- Bible Thinker



BOOKS

- Stranger in the Lifeboat - Mitch Albom
- Beholding - Strahan Coleman
- This Present Darkness - Frank Peretti



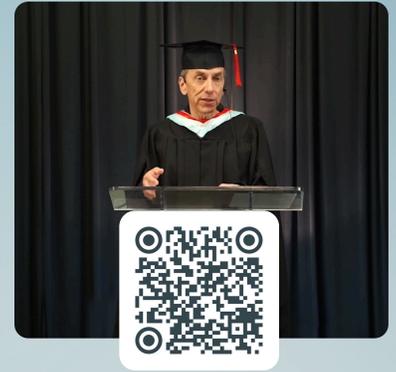
MUSIC

- Just Jesus - David Leonard
- Big God - Terrian
- Praise Opens Prison Doors - Cain
- Still Waters - Leanna Crawford
- What an Awesome God - Phil Wickham
- Let the Church Sing - Tauren Wells
- Redeemed - Big Daddy Weave



2025 Graduation

Six students received a certificate or master's degree during Maritime Christian College's Graduation Ceremony June 7, 2025



View the Graduation service here or on our YouTube channel

Master of Arts in Disciple Making and Ministry Leadership



Aaron Starr Williams
Texas, USA

“

“The tools I gained will help me lead people better through strong administration and vision to make disciples in our church and community,” **Britton Clay** said in reference to his Master of Arts in Disciple Making and Ministry Leadership Degree. *“I am praying that God uses our church to reach the nations as disciples of Jesus are made.”*



Britton James Clay
Oklahoma, USA

Disciple Maker Certificate 1

“

“I came to know about MCC through serving in my local church and I found the available programs were in line with the Bible courses I wanted to take,” **Wumi Emeziem** said. *“I also found the curriculum and method of learning achievable.”*



Adewumi O. Emeziem
Nova Scotia
Canada

Awards

The Harry & Annie Mellish Memorial Award

To a graduating student who best exemplifies a servant leadership style in his or her chosen area of ministry (Matthew 20:25-28).

Britton James Clay & Aaron Starr Williams

The R. Eldon Hickox Memorial Award

To a graduate, going into the ministry of the gospel, who has shown diligence, sincerity, ability and desire to preach the gospel.

Britton James Clay & Aaron Starr Williams

Youth Disciple Making Ministry Certificate



Lorranda M. LeDrew
Alberta
Canada



Olanrewaju M. Williams
Lagos
Nigeria



Sarah A. Macdonald
Prince Edward Island
Canada

“

“I will be using the knowledge and practical experience that I had during my courses to help when building my team working in children and youth programs . . . as well as how we evaluate how our programs are doing, and that our values need to be woven into everything we do.” **Sarah Macdonald** said. *“I also know more about how to build relationships in order to share the Lord.”*

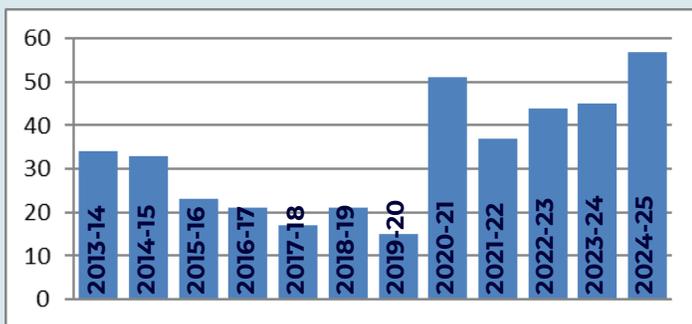
ANNUAL ENROLLMENT AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Academic Program Highlights from 2024-2025

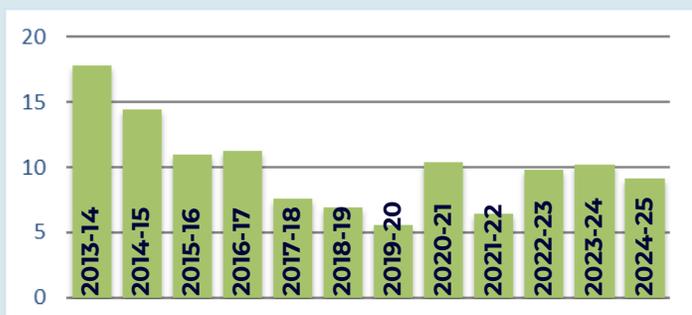
- Student enrollment increased by 12 students from the previous year, with 47 in undergrad programs and 10 in the master's program. There were 28 students who took an MCC course for the first time.
- Student geographic location: Canada-43 (AB-1, MB-1, NB-14, NS-15, ON-5, PE-5, QC-2), Ethiopia-1, Kenya-2, Nigeria-2, Uganda-1, UK-1, and USA-7 (IN-1, KY-1, OK-1, TN-1, TX-3)
- First students graduated in June 2025 from the Youth Disciple Making Ministry Certificate and the Master of Arts in Disciple Making & Ministry Leadership Degree.
- The new Disciple Maker's Path Certificate was launched in January 2025 with 26 students enrolled.
- Developing a new certificate called How to Study the Bible to be launched September 2025.
- Hired a Director of Marketing, Katie Stevenson, in July 2024 to focus on recruiting more students through effective digital marketing.
- Started using the financial section of our Learning Management System in January 2025 - students can see bills, bursaries, balances and make a payment.

MCC Enrollment (September to August)

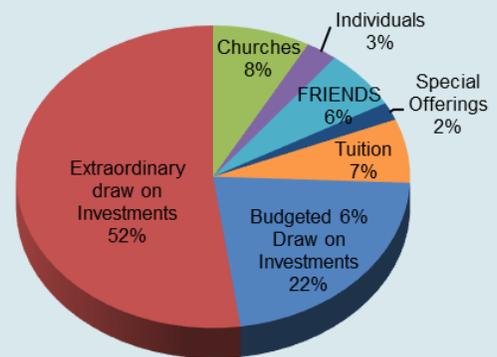
Headcount - Full-time, Part-time, and Auditing Students



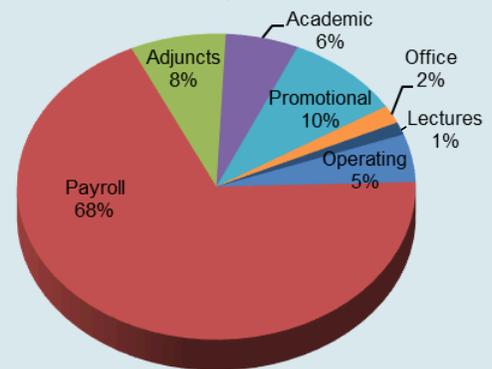
Full-time Equivalency (FTE) - Full-time students plus full-time equivalent of part-time student credit hours; no audit



2024 Operating Revenue \$664,544



2024 Expenses \$663,981



Fiscal Highlights from 2024

- Total overall income vs. 2023 was lower by \$98,981. This was offset by total overall expenses being lower vs. 2023 by \$110,570. These changes were mostly related to the property sale in 2023.
- Overall tuition income was lower by \$15,283 due to fewer students in the MA Program and moving the start of the first course in the Disciple Maker's Path Certificate to January 2025.
- Donations from individuals and churches decreased by \$30,539 from 2023, which caused a higher draw on investments.
- The Director of Marketing position started on July 1, 2025. The cost of this additional staff person is covered by eliminating fees paid to contractors for marketing, social media recruitment activities, and website support and development.
- MCC received a clean audit of 2024 financials.



MOMENTUM

Richard Jones

For several years our June edition of the Messenger has featured an “Annual Enrollment and Financial Report” for Maritime Christian College (MCC).

One of the biggest challenges in reviewing student enrollment numbers or last year’s financials is that we’re looking in the rearview mirror—trying to make decisions about the road ahead based on what’s already behind us. For instance if you look at the student enrollment, it is clear that by 2019-2020 MCC faced an "existential crisis" with student enrollment dropping to an unsustainable level, sparking Board and staff concerns about MCC's future. Thankfully, our Board and staff committed to forging a new path forward through prayer, the Holy Spirit's guidance, and stepping out in faith centered around disciple making following New Testament principles.

As I reflect on this month’s theme of momentum, it’s clear that MCC’s forward motion is continuing to be fueled by our response to real challenges:

First, enrollment is down across all Christian higher education platforms. In response, we’re actively researching what kind of education people are seeking—especially practical, certificate-based learning that fits into busy lives. **MCC switched to an online learning format - and our student enrollment has climbed significantly.**

Second, the cost of education remains a major barrier. **We’re addressing this by offering the first course in each certificate program for free.** We are able to continue making education affordable by transparently sharing our progress toward long-term sustainability, thanks to donor support.

Finally, we’re working to demonstrate the value of an MCC education in a world where free content is everywhere. Through financial aid, free courses, and church partnerships, **we’re helping students discover MCC as a worthwhile investment in their spiritual and leadership growth**, whether they are studying in our Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership Degree or one of our certificate programs.



“I’VE ALREADY STARTED TAKING STEPS TO IMPLEMENT WHAT I’VE LEARNED, AND I’M EAGER TO SEE THE IMPACT IT WILL HAVE.”



Jamie Bombardier
Essentials to Disciple Making
January 2025

STUDENT
REVIEW

We continue to see interest from students all over the world who value MCC’s approach to education and our focus on disciple making. It is my prayer that this momentum we have been experiencing will be reflected in our student enrollment for the upcoming fall 2025 semester.

In the meantime, I hope you read this edition of the Messenger with hope and anticipation of what the Lord has in store for Maritime Christian College, and will continue to support MCC's efforts in making disciples all over the world. 📧

KT NORRIS LECTURES 2025 RECAP



“I really enjoyed being with you all and was encouraged by our time together myself... I am grateful that people found the lectures valuable and helpful ... praise the Lord for that!”

DR. JOHN WHITTAKER

The session recordings are now available on our YouTube channel: @maritimecc:

[Click here to watch!](#)

Financial Summary:

- Income = \$ 9,170
- Expense = \$ 10,940
- Shortfall = \$ -1,770

To help cover this shortfall donate at mccpei.com/donate with “lectures” in the memo.

We had a wonderful time of learning and fellowship at this year’s KT Norris Lectures with Dr. John Whittaker. It was great to see those of you who were able to attend in person.

If you would like to hear more from John, we encourage you to visit his website The Listener's Commentary: listenerscommentary.com.



STUDENT QUOTES



"THIS COURSE WAS AN AMAZING REMINDER OF WHAT JESUS DID FOR ME. HOW CAN I POSSIBLY DENY HIS COMMAND OF LOVE TO GO AND TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM?"



Nikki Lewis
Essentials to Disciple Making
January 2025



"I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS CHALLENGING AND ENLIGHTENING COURSE TO ANY FOLLOWER OF JESUS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR CURRENT UNDERSTANDING OF DISCIPLE MAKING."



Maureen Mosher
Essentials to Disciple Making
January 2025

BURSARIES MARCH AND MAY 2025

The John and Lillian Bergman Recruitment Fund

Patrick Afum
Lilet Alcos
Clarice Bautista

The May Herring Memorial Scholarship

Ana Samuel

The Michael Richard Smith Memorial Award

Maureen Mosher

The Tuition Scholarship

From funds donated in memory of Edward P. Benoit, E. Neil Burt, John E. Carew, Hazel (MacNeil) Dewar, Dorothy J. Lord, Garnet & Gertrude McIntyre, Earl Ohl, Gordie Ohl, Alvin Rowledge and Della Murphy, Donald F. Stewart, Neil W. Zimmerman; endowments from Grape Grove Church of Christ, Rodney Christian Church, and Truro Church of Christ.

Ana Samuel

The Westport Church of Christ Bursary

Lilet Alcos
Cheryl Rodd

In Loving Memory

January 1, 2025 - May 31, 2025

HATTIE ARMSTRONG – Burt's Corner, NB
Heather Jones

GRANT CROCKETT – Stratford, PE
Mary Hickox

MARLENE DUNPHY – Nanaimo, BC
Heather Jones

DAVID ESTEY – Duncan, BC
Heather Jones

MIRIAM PUGH – Burt's Corner, NB
Heather Jones

Please Note:

Memorial gift donations will be published in the Maritime Messenger and a card sent to the next of kin if the name and address are included with your donation.

In Honour of donations will be recognized with a card sent to the honouree if the name and address are included with your donation.



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Indianapolis, IN 46256

Cheques payable to: National
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Memo: MCC, Fund # 1103649

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**Canadian Centre for
Christian Charities**

ACCREDITED MEMBER

Stewardship Policy:

"Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution designated towards a board approved program or project will be used as designated, with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for a program or project will be used where needed most."

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Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership

Fully Online, Part-time, Complete in 2 years

- Learn Foundational Theology
- Gain Disciple Making Skills
- Become an Intentional Leader

 **APPLY ONLINE AT MCCPEI.COM**



NEW

How to Study the Bible Certificate Program

Unlock the meaning.
Discover the message.
Share the truth.

Course 1 September 2025
How to Study the Bible ~~\$250~~ **\$0**

Course 2 January 2026
How to Study the Old Testament \$250

Course 3 March 2026
How to Study the New Testament \$250

Students order their own textbooks in desired format (e-books or physical)

Disciple Maker's Path Certificate Program

Practical teaching on the what,
how, and why of sharing the truth
of the Gospel of Jesus with others.

Course 1 September 2025
Essentials to Disciple Making ~~\$250~~ **\$0**

Course 2 January 2026
Road to Making Disciples \$250

Course 3 March 2026
Disciple Making Lifestyle \$250

Students order their own textbooks in desired format (e-books or physical)

Our certificate programs are designed for busy lives!

3 courses - 8 weeks each - First course free

The first course is on us - Your only expense is your textbooks!



MARITIME
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

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