



Coming in...

Dr. Phil Zylla

administrator, writer, teacher, husband and father.

**Experienced in the ministry of the church –
Experienced in the mandate of the seminary.**

This summer, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Phil Zylla to the MacDiv community as our new Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology. Phil comes to us from ACTS Seminaries of Trinity Western University in B.C. where he was Principal since the fall of 2001. He was educated at North American Baptist College (B.A. Rel.), North American Baptist Seminary (M.Div.), Princeton Theological Seminary (Th.M.), and University of South Africa (D.Th.).



Dr. Phil Zylla



Phil has served three churches as Senior Pastor over the past 20 years, and served as adjunct professor in pastoral theology at Taylor Seminary, St. Stephens College, Regent College, and George Fox Evangelical Seminary. He has served as the Vice-Chair of the Baptist World Alliance Study Commission on Christian Ethics, where he has been active for the past 15 years. Phil has published articles and spoken widely in the areas of spiritual formation and the role of suffering in the life of the Christian. He published a devotional volume entitled *Merging Streams: Prayers and Poems for a Broken World* in 2005 and is currently working on a book entitled *God and the Experience of Suffering*.

While his main role will be in the academic administration of the programs at MacDiv, Phil will also teach one course per semester. This year he will be teaching *Pastoral Care in the Church* and *The Theology of Suffering*. He is committed to the task of preparing our students to be holistic ministers of the gospel, and we look forward to the contribution he will make to this area of our programs.

“It is an exciting time for theological education in Canada – the opportunities for the church to interface with the culture and to provide a moral and theological compass are increasing. MacDiv is well positioned to help reinvent the future of theological education, and to explore new terrain in ministry preparation, while still embracing the trajectory of our heritage. I believe that it is even more critical today to prepare mature theological thinkers who will become our future leaders in the church, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of that vision here at the College.”

Phil is married to Melodie and they have two daughters, Amanda (19) and Chelsey (15). When not teaching or administrating in the seminary, he enjoys playing competitive sports like soccer and squash, as well as the quieter, reflective avocations of writing poetry and gardening.



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Going out...

Congratulations!

We bid a fond farewell to our 2007 graduates; here are just a few of them:



James Robertson
M.Div. grad

In the summer of 2003, Jamie made the trek from his ministry and schooling in Calgary to begin his seminary training. From the start, Jamie has embraced both, and often extreme, ends of the learning process. His passion in studying involved many hours of pouring through church history documents in the archives, and yet you would often find him engaged in conversation and ministry with his fellow students. Jamie hopes to return for further study to help fulfill his goal of one day having the opportunity to teach others.



Juliet Cran
M.Div. grad

I Peter 3:18 states: "Prepare your mind for action." And in Juliet's mind, MacDiv did just that for her. Under the guidance of the faculty, she understood again and again the importance of seeing Jesus as the ultimate authority in her life, of handling the Word of God accurately and with care, and of ministering in humility and gratitude. Juliet was the recipient of the Principal's Gold Medal in recognition of her outstanding performance in the M.Div. program these past three years.



Steve Bedard
M.A. grad

Steve is pastor of Meaford Baptist Church and has the distinction of graduating this year with his third degree from MacDiv. He considers it essential to be always developing oneself, particularly as a pastor, spiritually, biblically and theologically through formal education. Steve enjoys the way the College enthusiastically connects with the local church by helping to make biblical research relevant to the person in the pew.



Adam Brown
M.T.S. grad

Adam came to MacDiv in the fall of 2004 anxious to discover answers to some of the 'Why?' questions about his faith and his future ministry. While committed to this journey, he wondered how seminary training might affect his personal relationship with God. But what he found through rigorous theological study and interactions with fellow students and the faculty was that his faith grew deeper. Adam continues his studies at the College in the M.A. program.

This year, McMaster Divinity College celebrates 50 years! On June 1, 1957, by Act of the Provincial Legislature, our Charter came into effect giving us the responsibility to carry on the work of educating and training ministers, missionaries and other religious workers of the Christian faith. And over these past 50 years, many of you have partnered with us to ensure that this important work continues. As we look to our next 50 years, we are asking God to continue to provide faithful supporters to help ensure this work is done with excellence. Thanking you in anticipation of your support,



Stanley E. Porter

Stanley E. Porter, Ph.D.
President and Dean, McMaster Divinity College