

Spring/Summer 2025

EQUIP

A Collection of Updates & Resources from *Heritage College & Seminary*

“I honestly can’t imagine stepping into ministry without the knowledge, encouragement, and example I received here [at Heritage].”

Grad Profile: Manasseh Muvandimwe

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Update from Chancellor – Jonathan Griffiths

The work of raising up the next generation of gospel leaders for Canada is a challenging but thrilling one. It is a tremendous privilege for me to have a front row seat to see the way in which the Lord is at work here at Heritage, opening new opportunities for development, forging new ministry partnerships, and providing fresh resources to deepen and expand the work here.

It has been a delight to collaborate with so many members of our community, from students, to staff, to faculty, to alumni, to church and denominational leaders, and to prayerfully consider the future of Heritage over the course of our HeritageNext campaign. We have learned so much about the strengths of Heritage; what makes it special, and what challenges and opportunities it could embrace in the years to come.

We see clearly that the Lord is calling us to deepen partnerships with churches, to innovate in the delivery of our courses, and to invest

thoughtfully in the shaping of capable leaders for tomorrow's church, all the while remaining firmly rooted in our commitment to Scripture and to historic evangelical orthodoxy.

It is so encouraging to see student numbers growing and the financial position of Heritage strengthening, even though so many Christian colleges and seminaries across North America are struggling and closing their doors.

Our beautiful seminary building, which is now fully paid for and debt-free, is a visible reminder of the Lord's faithfulness to us and a hope-filled marker of the bright future we sense the Lord has before us. The Lord has been good to us, and we firmly believe that he has a significant work for Heritage to do in the season ahead. Thank you for your partnership and your prayers.

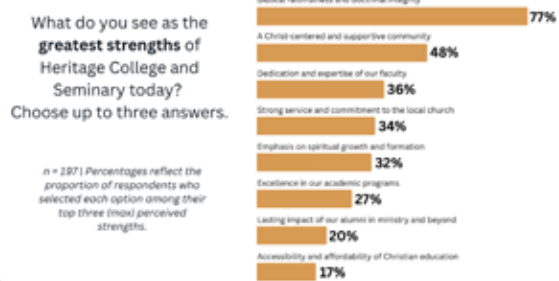
In joyful partnership in the work of the gospel,



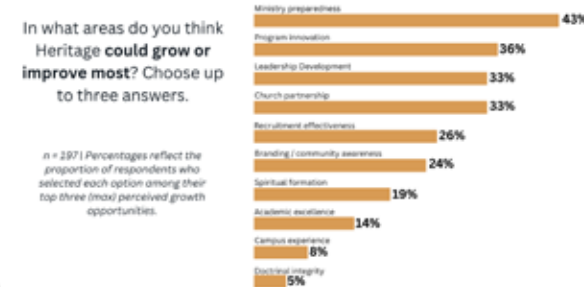

HeritageNEXT Findings

We are excited to share some of the results from our HeritageNEXT initiative as we look forward to the next chapter of Heritage.

Greatest Strengths



Greatest Areas for Growth



Top Priorities



2025 Graduate Profiles

Heritage has truly been like a second family to me. Even though most of my coursework was completed online and at a distance, I always felt a genuine sense of belonging. They embrace every student with care and love. I'm especially grateful for how everything at Heritage pointed me to Christ. I still remember preparing to take my first Greek class, I was naturally nervous. But as Dr. Wayne Baxter walked through the course objectives, he said something that stayed with me: this course would help us love Jesus Christ more. That simple statement sparked a curiosity in me: How could learning Greek or Hebrew deepen my love for Christ?

As I studied both languages, I was humbled, starting to alphabetize like a baby, but also amazed. They opened my eyes to engage Scripture more deeply. I'm grateful not just for the theological growth in my mind, but for the way my heart was continually stirred to love Christ more. Still thinking about how Heritage consistently pointed me to Christ, I recall a statement from Dr. Ian Vaillancourt that has carried me in my journey: "Christians don't fight for victory but from victory," the victory of our King Jesus, greater than David.

I'm also thankful for the rigorous theological training that shaped me, not only intellectually and pastorally, but also in developing a deep love and concern for Christ's church. The entire Heritage community models what it means to be faithful and godly in ministry. I honestly can't imagine stepping into ministry without the knowledge, encouragement, and example I received here. After graduation (and after enjoying some well-earned rest with my family), I will continue serving at my local church, The Metropolitan Bible Church (The Met) in Ottawa, particularly in shepherding retirees. It's my joy to help ensure they feel loved and valued and continue bearing fruit in this season of life. I'm also prayerfully considering pursuing a PhD in biblical studies to better equip myself for future ministry. Above all, I simply want to be a vessel of Christ; available to His church and His people, wherever He leads.

My heart goes out to pastors who haven't had the opportunity to pursue formal theological education. I long to walk alongside them, encourage them, and offer training wherever I can. That's why this August, I will be heading back to Africa for a mission trip to Kigali. I will be participating in a Lead Pastors' Conference on expository preaching and serving at the Ezra Generation Conference, which gathers young leaders from multiple denominations and countries.

Please pray that the Lord would use these efforts to strengthen His church and that I would remain a faithful and available servant, wherever He sends me. *"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service." 1 Timothy 1:12*



Manasseh Muvandimwe
Master of Divinity



Ezra Tekleyohans
Bachelor of Theology - Pastoral Studies

I have had an incredible experience in my time at Heritage. To be a part of an amazing community while being theologically equipped has helped me to serve in my own church setting. It has taught me how precious the church is to Christ and how I must use the gifts he has given me to serve his people and reach others with the gospel.

After graduating, I will continue my current role as Director of Outreach & Youth Associate at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Barrie, ON.

Moving from Classroom to Practical Ministry Experience

Guest Article from Pastor Derik Fuller, Lead Pastor at Forward Church Cambridge

Psalm 78:72
He shepherded them with a pure heart and guided them with his skillful hands.

In this verse, the Psalmist describes the leadership of David, the exemplar of

At Heritage, we are committed to serving as a parachurch ministry that comes alongside local churches in raising future pastors and ministry leaders. While we aim to provide rigorous academic training, accountability, and resources so that our students have the tools they need to rightly handle the Word of truth; we also believe wholeheartedly that hands-on ministry experience, guided by wise mentors, is essential in the formation of faithful Christian leaders to the glory of God.

This year, we've continued to witness the fruit of strong partnerships with churches that disciple our students and help them apply their learning wisely. We are deeply grateful to all who invest so generously in their growth.

The need for faithful shepherds and ministry leaders in Canada remains great, and we believe the combination of strong theological training and hands-on ministry experience will be key to meeting that need. If you are interested in partnering with us by taking on a Heritage intern, we would love to hear from you.

Jacob Tomc
Heritage Internships Director
jtomc@heritagecs.edu

what it meant to be a godly king and leader for the people of Israel. I believe it also serves as a model for us today as we seek to shape the type of leaders that the Church, in Canada and around the world, needs in 2025 and beyond—until Christ returns. First, we need leaders with “pure hearts”—hearts where Jesus rules and reigns, and where the Holy Spirit is at work, transforming and producing His fruit. When Paul lists the qualifications for elders and deacons, it is clear that his utmost concern is the character of those who would be chosen to lead. When we elevate leaders whose competency outruns their character, the results are disastrous for both leaders and the Church.

But competency still matters! Our churches need men and women who, like David, can skillfully guide them to live out the mission of Jesus. As a local church pastor and alumnus of Heritage, I am deeply grateful for the training I

Derik is passionate about introducing people to Jesus and helping them see how Jesus changes everything. Derik and his wife, Amanda, are both originally from the Tillsonburg area and have spent their lives living in and ministering to people in Southern Ontario.



received at Heritage, which has helped equip me to lead Christ's Church with the skills God has granted me by His grace. But I'm also deeply convinced that the best equipping happens when local churches work with schools like Heritage—hand in hand, in deeply connected partnership—to holistically equip Kingdom leaders.

For the Kingdom of God to continue moving forward in Canada and around the world in 2025 and beyond, churches like the one I pastor—and the ones you are a part of—need to continue figuring out how we can better collaborate with Heritage to raise up and equip men and women who will shepherd with pure hearts and skillful hands for the glory of God. May God grant us wisdom to learn how best to do this in the days ahead.

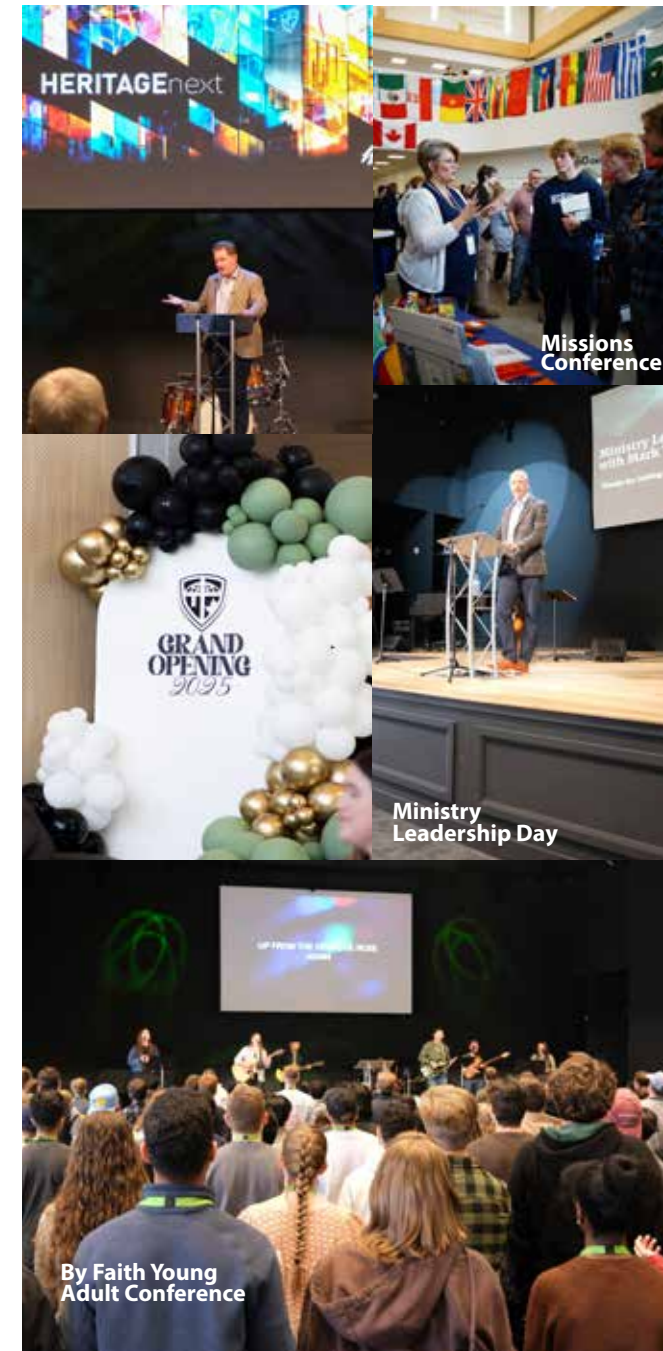
NEW Heritage Hubs

Heritage Hubs combines the best convenience of local live-streamed theological education with the experience of learning in community with other students.

While online learning continues to grow as a preferred model of learning, we also know that the experiences of in-person learning offer great advantages to a student. Hubs bring two or more people together to take in a live on-line seminary course. One doesn't need to choose between travel to Cambridge or studying locally in isolation. A Heritage Hub class offers live interaction with the professor in Cambridge and relationship-building with other students locally.

Heritage Hub sites have been established at Bramalea Baptist in Brampton, Morningstar Christian Fellowship in Scarborough, Calvary Church at Danforth and Pape in Toronto, Hope Bible Church in Oakville, Redemption Bible Chapel in London and First Baptist Church in Calgary. We are in the process of establishing hubs in Barrie, and in the Ottawa Region. If you are interested in attending a class at one of these Hubs, reach out to Jeff Swan (jswan@heritagecs.edu) or Nathan Ecker (necker@heritagecs.edu).

Events at Heritage



Heritage NEXT

February, 6, 2025

HeritageNEXT was a meaningful gathering where members of our community—staff, faculty, alumni, ministry leaders, and friends—came together to connect, share ideas, and pray for the future of Heritage College & Seminary. We are excited for what the Lord has in store in this next chapter, and we invite you to join us in prayer as we seek His direction and wisdom in the decisions ahead.

Missions Conference

February 4-5, 2025

We are grateful for the impact of this year's Missions Conference, which was the first major event held in our new Seminary Building! Students had the opportunity to engage in main sessions, attend seminars, and connect with missions mobilizers at the bazaar. The International Dinner and Cake Auction added a festive touch, raising funds to support students in both short-term and long-term missions.

Grand Opening

March 1, 2025

Heritage Theological Seminary recently welcomed our community for an exciting Grand Opening of the new seminary building. Guests enjoyed tours of the new space and engaged in thoughtful conversations about the importance of Seminary education in Canada.

Ministry Leadership Day

March 20, 2025

More than 250 attendees joined both in-person and online to hear Mark Vroegop, pastor, author, and President of The Gospel Coalition. He delivered a compelling message on the grace found in lament, guiding listeners on how to embrace sorrow and hope in their personal lives and ministry work.

The Gospel Coalition

March 22, 2025

Over 300 young adults gathered for the By Faith Young Adult Conference, held in partnership with the Gospel Coalition Canada. Together, they experienced powerful worship and rich teaching, creating an environment where new friendships and meaningful connections could take root.

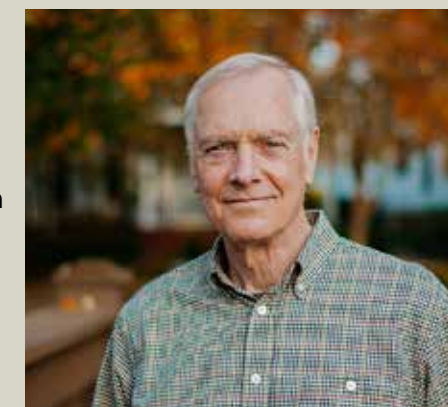
2025 has been a busy and exciting season of events at Heritage, especially with the completion of the new Seminary Building in January. The addition of spaces like the large auditorium—with its state-of-the-art lighting and sound system—has opened up even more opportunities to host larger-scale events of up to 430 people. If you're interested in holding your own event at Heritage, we'd love to help—get in touch with us today! info@heritagecs.edu

2025/2026 Guest Speakers Coming to Heritage



Heritage Preaching Lectures
October 9, 2025

Jonathan T. Pennington



Ministry Leadership Day
March 5, 2026

Ray Ortlund

Faculty Highlight – Dr. Steve West

Professor of Theological Studies and Academic Advisor



As both a seasoned pastor and dedicated professor, Dr. Steve West provides a dynamic integration of ministry and academia into the classroom at Heritage as he lectures on topics of theology, philosophy, ethics, and apologetics. Here, Dr. West shares why he believes being anchored in both education and the church is helpful for his students, and what excites him about teaching the next generation of church leaders at Heritage:

“Being a pastor for over twenty-five years has been a great benefit for teaching my courses and training people who will serve in the local church. Conversely, being a professor for almost fifteen years has been a tremendous blessing for my work as a pastor. We desperately need excellence in Christian scholarship, but we also need that scholarship taught and mediated in relevant ways to the church.

Speaking from my own perspective, our culture can be very confusing and overwhelming for pastors and churches, so analyzing and critiquing contemporary issues is extremely valuable. Being able to – hopefully – shed some light on ethical and theological issues today seems to me a vital task. It’s humbling to have these responsibilities, but a tremendous blessing and opportunity to serve in this way.

Ultimately, as I play my part in training Christian leaders, I’m being trained myself! Every week I learn numerous things from my colleagues, and I get to see students expand their knowledge, grow in maturity, and deepen their commitment to Jesus. It is exciting to see the gifts and abilities God has given our students, and it’s very meaningful to have a hand in shaping and developing them.”

Heritage is thankful for professors like Dr. Steve West who can create a learning environment where theological depth is matched with practical application. Students benefit not only from academic expertise, but also from personal ministry insight, gaining a holistic understanding of the Word of God and ministry in the church that equips them for life and ministry.

Heritage Has A New Bookstore!

Located on the second floor of our brand-new Seminary Building, the Heritage Bookstore is a place to purchase textbooks, merch, resources on leadership, current issues, biblical counselling, faculty-published books, devotionals, notebooks and more!



Books can be purchased in person or online!



The bookstore will be open for select events throughout the summer with regular hours beginning in the fall!

Scan the QR code to explore online!



Discerning the Call to Pastoral Ministry

Guest Article from Dwayne Cline and Kesavan Balasingham.

Dwayne is a Pastor and Interim Executive Director of The Gospel Coalition Canada and Kesavan Balasingham is a Church Planter and Pastor of Fellowship Church Rouge Park

Discerning a call to pastoral ministry is a weighty and sacred process that many find confounding and complicated. Aspiring ministry leaders must approach this journey with prayerful humility, theological clarity, and active involvement in the life of the local church.

Ministry leaders Kesavan Balasingham and Dwayne Cline had the privilege of engaging in a workshop on “Discerning the Call to Ministry” at the By Faith Young Adults Conference hosted by The Gospel Coalition of Canada in partnership with Heritage. Three hundred young adults attended this event. During the workshop, **the question of how to know the calling of full-time vocational ministry was explored.**

1. Volunteer in Your Local Church Under Formal Mentorship

The local church is the primary context in which pastoral gifts are discovered, nurtured, and affirmed. Your local church is the community where your calling is authenticated. Volunteering in various ministries – teaching, serving, leading –

under the oversight of seasoned elders or pastors provides invaluable insight and accountability. It also offers an honest evaluation of whether ministry gifting is evident in your life. Ask your elders and pastor to mentor you in this journey. If your church has a formal internship, apply to become an intern.

2. Develop Your Spiritual Gifts

Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit equips believers with gifts for the building up of the church (Eph. 4:11-12). Those sensing a call to ministry should reflect carefully on whether they exhibit gifts of teaching, leadership, and shepherding. These gifts are sovereignly bestowed and should be stewarded faithfully. Honest feedback from fellow believers and church leaders can help affirm and develop your gifts.

3. A Passion for Understanding and Conveying Scripture

Pastors are “able to teach” (1 Tim. 3:2), rightly handling the Word of truth. A genuine desire to study God’s Word deeply and communicate it clearly and faithfully is a

strong indicator of pastoral calling. The primacy of Scripture and the necessity of sound doctrine cannot be overstated. Those who feel called to the ministry should find great joy in theology, biblical study, and preaching the gospel with clarity and conviction.

4. A Heart for Reaching the Lost

Ministry is not only about nurturing the flock but also about reaching the world for Christ. Leaders should have a deep longing to see people reconciled to God through Christ. Ask God for a passion for the lost and do the work of an evangelist by sharing your faith with lost friends, family and neighbours.

In discerning the call to ministry, one must rely not on subjective feelings, but on a process of spiritual formation, ecclesial affirmation, and gospel-centered passion.



The Importance of Seminary in Canada

Article from Dr. David Barker, Professor Emeritus

Why seminary? Why is seminary education important for the church in our times? Here are some thoughts from over fifty years of deep involvement in this calling both as a student and a professor.

First, the church stands at the heart of God’s redemptive program today. Paul tells us that the church is “the community of the living God” and “the pillar and foundation of the truth” (1 Tim 3:15). Seminaries are intentionally designed to prepare pastors and leaders for the church. We need seminaries simply for this reason.

Second, seminary is a place where the rigorous disciplines of languages, Bible, theology, exegesis, oral and written communication, history, apologetics, preaching, theology of ministry, and more, are studied and learned, all of which are deeply needed in today’s church.

Third, mixing and mingling with teachers and fellow students allows us all to be

exposed to thinking and practices both inside and outside our traditional experiences. This provides many opportunities to broaden our thinking.

Fourth, seminaries are all about integrating learning, being, and doing. We work hard at not creating a dichotomy between the academic and devotional. One of my favourite phrases is, “Every time you crack the Book, you’re face to face with God.” Seminary is not just a graduate school of theological studies. It is preparation for a powerful and dangerous spiritual task, mission, and ministry.

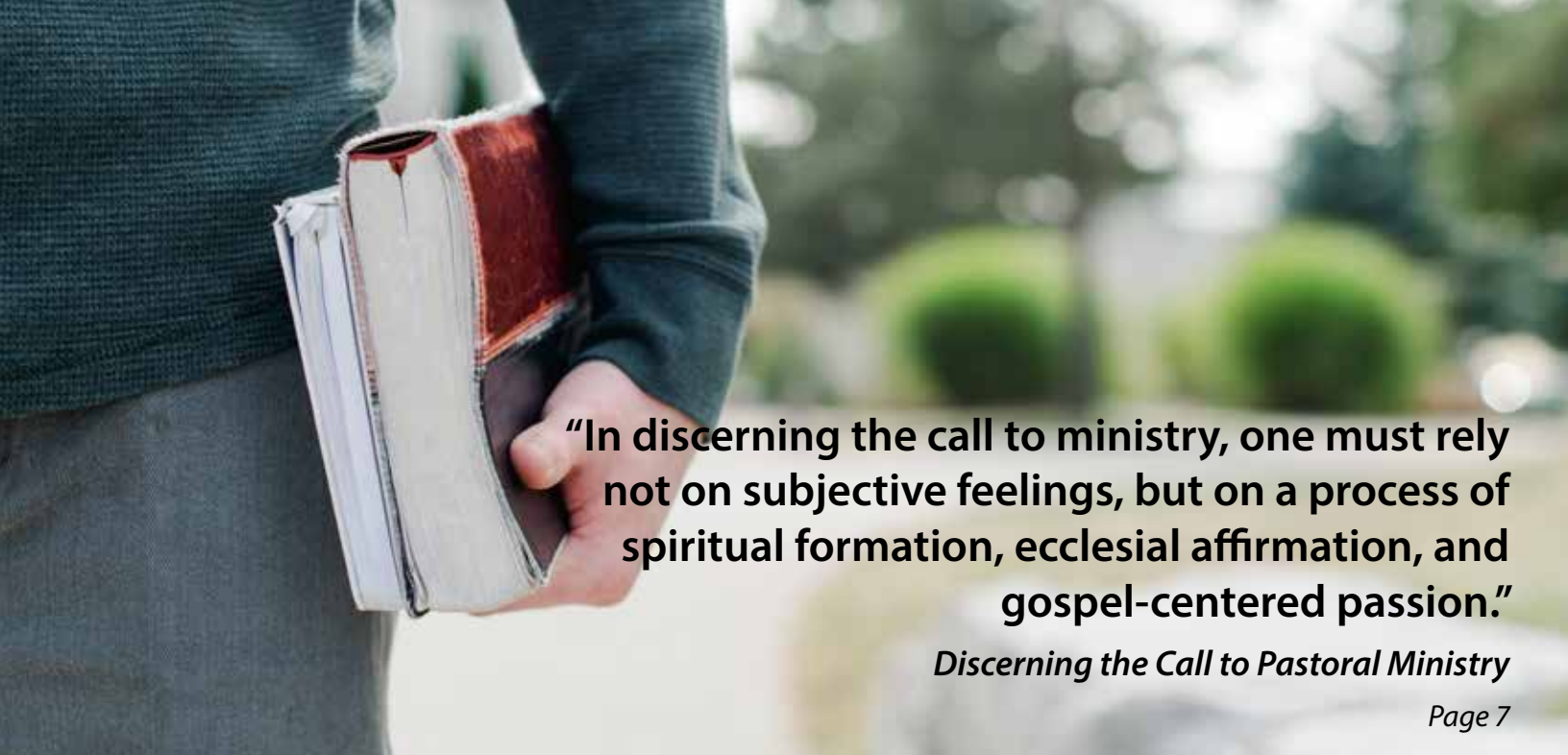
Finally, seminary is the place of engaging the interplay of pressures placed on the church from contemporary culture with rigorous biblical and theological direction.

Hence, I would argue that a rigorous seminary education is essential as the seminary speaks into, and hears from, a church that is facing increasingly

complicated cultures in both church and world. More than ever, we need thoughtful and well-prepared servant-shepherds and leaders to lead and guide our churches, denominations, mission agencies, and para-church organizations. The mission of Heritage Seminary is to do exactly this.

So, from someone who has been around the seminary world for over half a century, and hopefully with some wisdom gained over those years, these are some of my thoughts in answering the question, “Why seminary?”





“In discerning the call to ministry, one must rely not on subjective feelings, but on a process of spiritual formation, ecclesial affirmation, and gospel-centered passion.”

Discerning the Call to Pastoral Ministry

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Equip Future Leaders for Ministry

Encourage future leaders in your church community to discover Heritage and our ministry-focused programs.

Scan the QR to learn more and connect with us at DiscoverHeritage.ca.



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