



News Release

April 30, 2019

For Immediate Release

The Reverend Susan C. Johnson to Receive Honourary Degree at AST Convocation *AST to also honour long-time employee, the late Jim Reimer*

Halifax, NS – Atlantic School of Theology (AST) announced today that it will award a **Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa***, to the Reverend Susan C. Johnson during its convocation ceremonies on Saturday, May 4, 2019. The degree is being presented to Reverend Johnson, the first female to be elected National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), in recognition of her incredible contributions to ecumenism.

About the Reverend Susan C. Johnson

First elected National Bishop of the ELCIC in June 2007, Rev. Johnson affirmed her leadership and was re-elected to a third four-year term by the National Convention of the ELCIC in 2015.

Bishop Johnson is active in the international Lutheran community. She is committed to the work of bridging barriers between Christian denominations and advancing relationships between Christian communities. She has led the church in speaking on issues of justice and is actively involved in the work of KAIROS, which unites Canadian churches and religious organizations in faith and peace initiatives.

Born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Bishop Johnson is the daughter of Rev. Donald and Lois Johnson, and one of many pastors on both sides of the family.

AST will also be honouring the late Mr. Jim Reimer as an **Associate of Atlantic School of Theology** in recognition of his long engagement with AST.

About Jim Reimer

A beloved member of the facilities team, Jim Reimer enhanced the life of Atlantic School of Theology (AST) each day of the eighteen years he cared for the campus and the community.

Jim's position at AST was his vocation, and he viewed each moment as an opportunity to meet needs with both honour and honesty. Inspired by his personal philosophy to 'Make today better than yesterday,' Reimer never encountered a professional or personal challenge too large for him to take on and excel at.

Private, attentive, respected and admired, Jim loved the Toronto Maple Leafs and making treehouses. He was an avid diver, fisherman, boater, and accomplished guitar player. He was also a proud godfather to his niece Ashley.

His hard-working hands are now at rest. He never said goodbye, rather “see ya later.” AST is deeply grateful for his commitment, support and faithful service.

Convocation

The Reverend Susan C. Johnson will give the address at AST’s 2019 Convocation, which takes place Saturday, May 4, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., in The Cathedral Church of All Saints.

Located on the Northwest Arm in Halifax, Nova Scotia, AST helps develop students to meet the theological and ethical challenges of today’s world.

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