

June 10, 2021

Dear friends:

I am writing to tell you that, after a long period of prayerful reflection and discernment, I have decided to retire from my position as president of Atlantic School of Theology at the end of February 2022.

Reaching this decision has been anything but easy. Serving as AST's president has been the pinnacle and great blessing of my ministry of leadership. I believe wholeheartedly in our mission, and know there is so much more to be done to advance it.

Together we – students, board, staff, faculty, volunteers, Founders, and friends of AST – have achieved many positive accomplishments over the past six years. We have:

- Secured over \$5 million for investment in student support, campus revitalization and academic programming
- Developed innovative new academic programs, and enhanced existing programs
- Entered into a lease with Halifax Hospice, bringing a like-minded tenant into our midst
- Signed a renewed Covenant with AST's Founders and strengthened our relationship
- Invested in and upgraded the infrastructure of our beautiful campus
- Enhanced our digital capabilities including a new hybrid classroom
- Brought the 1898 Building to a "shovel-ready" position for renovation
- Achieved re-accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools
- Created the position of Recruitment Coordinator and strengthened enrollment
- Launched the Leadership Learning Initiative and broadened AST's reach and relevance
- Expanded the capacity of our Residence to build revenue
- Reduced our carbon footprint, and began generating solar power
- Collaborated on the national, regional, and provincial level with universities and theological schools
- Brought our community safely through the worst phases of the global Covid pandemic

AST is at a crossroads as we begin the second fifty years of our story. There are significant challenges and opportunities ahead and bold steps to be taken. From the very beginning, taking courageous action with an openness to change and a willingness to do what needs to be done to advance our mission have been hallmarks of AST's faith. These are characteristics of this community which can be relied upon to form a strong foundation for the future.

The Board of Governors will soon be announcing plans to undertake a presidential search. Rest assured that I will continue to put my heart and soul into leading AST through the next eight months. Beyond that, AST will always be my beloved alma mater.

Blessings,

Neale