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## 1 The Faculty

### 1.1 Location

William and Henry Birks Building  
3520 University Street  
Montreal, QC H3A 2A7  
Canada

Telephone: (514) 398-4121

Website: <http://www.mcgill.ca/religion>

### 1.2 Administrative Officers

B. BARRY LEVY, B.A., M.A., B.R.E.(Yeshiva), Ph.D.(N.Y.U.)  
**Dean**

KATHLEEN MACDONALD, B.A., M.A.(McG.)  
**Assistant to the Dean,  
B.Th. Program Coordinator**

LUVANA DI FRANCESCO **Administrative Assistant**

### 1.3 History

#### The Faculty and the Colleges

During the nineteenth century several Theological Colleges in Montreal became affiliated with McGill. In 1912 they formed a Joint Board for the academic study of Theology, leaving each denominational College to provide its own professional training for Christian ministry. These relationships between the colleges and the University led naturally to the creation in 1948 of a Faculty of Divinity which assumed the academic functions of the Joint Board. This University Faculty now offers the Bachelor of Theology degree and graduate degree programs.

Today, the Colleges affiliated with the Faculty are: Montreal Diocesan Theological College of the Anglican Church of Canada; Presbyterian College of the Presbyterian Church in Canada; United Theological College of the United Church of Canada. They are all located close to the University Campus. In 1973 the Colleges pooled their resources in a year of professional studies (the In-Ministry year) to provide joint professional training for ministry. The Colleges now also confer a Master of Divinity degree on candidates who have successfully completed the B.Th. degree and the In-Ministry year for ordination.

## Theology and Religious Studies

The original Faculty of Divinity not only taught theological courses for ordinands, it also engaged in teaching undergraduates in other faculties a selection of courses of more general interest, such as philosophy and psychology of religion and comparative religion. This selection grew over the years into the present B.A. Honours, Major and Minor Concentration programs in Religious Studies within the Faculty of Arts.

In 1970 the name of the Faculty was changed to the Faculty of Religious Studies to reflect the new emphasis on "the academic study of religion" in higher education.

### 1.4 Facilities

The Faculty of Religious Studies is located in the handsome building, erected in 1931, known as the William and Henry Birks Building, formerly Divinity Hall, at 3520 University Street. Besides the usual classrooms, offices and common rooms, this building contains the University Chapel and the Birks Reading Room.

### 1.5 Birks Lectures

An annual series was established in 1950 through the generosity of the late William M. Birks. The lectures are given by distinguished visitors, usually in late September or early October. The first lecturer was the Right Reverend Leslie Hunter.

More recent lecturers have included Huston Smith, Northrop Frye, Wilfred Cantwell Smith, Gregory Baum, Robert McAfee Brown, Krister Stendahl, Charles Adams, and Jon Levenson.

### 1.6 Numata Visiting Professor in Buddhist Studies

In recognition of the strong Buddhist Studies program in the Faculty of Religious Studies, the Numata Foundation has given a 20-year grant to the Faculty to bring a visiting scholar

professional pastoral study beyond the B.Th., the "In-Ministry Year" offered by the three affiliated theological colleges under the auspices of the Joint Board of Theological Colleges.

#### **4.6 Course Selection**

Candidates for the ministry from the three Theological Colleges associated with the Faculty must select their courses in consultation with their denominational advisers and with the Chair of the B.Th. Committee.

Those seeking the degree who are not sponsored by one of the three denominational colleges associated with the Faculty will clear their course selections with the Chair of the B.Th. Committee.

In all cases this consultation should take place before registration.

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#### **4.7 Academic Standing and Course Loads**

##### **Satisfactory Standing**

Students enter the University in satisfactory standing and remain in this standing unless their GPA/CGPA for any year drops below 2.00. The normal course load in any academic session is five courses per term (15 credits per term). A student with a high GPA (at least 3.00) may take more than the normal five courses per term.

##### **Probationary Standing**

A student is placed in probationary standing if the GPA/CGPA falls between 1.50 and 1.99. Probationary students **may take a maxi-**



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*Environment)*      *(joint appt. with McGill School of*

*Lecturers*                      *(James McGill Professor)*

*Associate Member*

