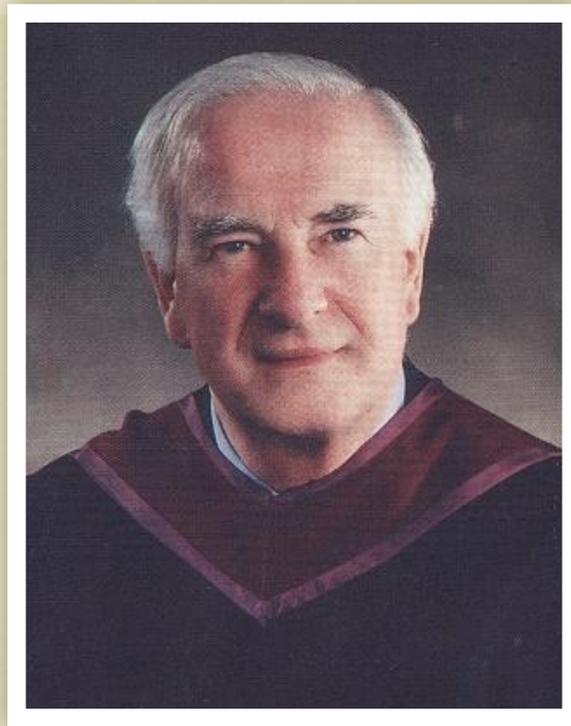


EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN LEADERS

# ACADIA

DIVINITY COLLEGE



John Gladstone  
*Chair of Preaching and Worship*

**The Chair of Preaching and Worship** is named after John Norris Gladstone, the highly regarded Senior Minister at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto, Ontario, where he served for 26 years. He was widely recognized for his vibrant and distinguished preaching and received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from McMaster Divinity College in 1970. A strong supporter of Acadia Divinity College throughout his career, he was the Gerald K. Simpson guest lecturer in 1984 and also shared the teaching of a Doctoral course in Preaching and Worship in 1994.



## Acadia Divinity College

Acadia Divinity College (ADC) has a distinguished record of theological education. As early as 1830, Baptists in Nova Scotia established a “department of pious scholars” at Horton Academy in Wolfville for ministerial training. With the founding of what became Acadia University in 1838, preparation for ministry was continued under various formats until the School of Theology was officially formed in 1923.

When Acadia University was reorganized in the late 1960s, the School of Theology was reconstituted as Acadia Divinity College in 1968. Today, Acadia Divinity College exists as the official seminary of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches and continues as the Faculty of Theology of Acadia University. The University awards all ADC degrees, and all ADC graduate degrees are approved by the Association of Theological Schools in Canada and the United States.

Acadia Divinity College offers theological education at the bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral levels, equipping men and women for leadership roles in churches, chaplaincies, denominational leadership, university and seminary teaching, cross-cultural mission, para-church leadership, and other areas of ministry. The College is known for rigorous academic instruction and also for a strong emphasis on practical training. This training is designed to help students clarify their call, establish their ministerial competencies, and refine their character in order that they might be used of God as effective leaders in the local church and other ministry settings.

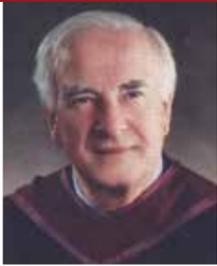
With rich and varied backgrounds, Acadia Divinity College’s highly qualified professors are published authors, respected leaders in their fields, and actively engaged in local, regional, national, and international ministries. With a diverse student population, representing many countries of the world and including more than 20 Christian denominations, Acadia Divinity College’s reach is global.



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The John Gladstone Chair of Preaching and Worship was established in 1993 by a lead gift from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation.

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## John Norris Gladstone

The Reverend Dr. John Norris Gladstone was born in London, England, the second of three children of a Baptist minister and his wife. He grew up in Suffolk in the east of England where he developed a life-long passion for soccer and the Arsenal football club. During World War Two he served in the Royal Air Force, was stationed in Iceland and Australia, and took part in the Normandy landing in June, 1944. After the war Dr. Gladstone was educated at Manchester Baptist College graduating in 1950. That same year he married Joyce Austin and they had two children together, Peter and Judith.

Following ordination in 1950, Dr. Gladstone served Baptist churches in Caversham, Plymouth, and Bromley, England. In 1965, the Gladstone family immigrated to Canada upon receiving a call to Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto.

Dr. Gladstone's scholarly, well-structured sermons, delivered eloquently, attracted a large and loyal congregation for over two decades. Visitors would travel over three hours and from as far away as Michigan, just for the benefit of hearing him preach. Dr. Gladstone published four books of his collected sermons during his ministry years, and regularly contributed to "Moments of Meditation" on CFRB radio. He was a frequent guest preacher in many and varied pulpits, including First Baptist Church in Washington D.C. where he spent eight months as interim minister after retiring from Yorkminster Park.

His exceptional homiletic skills are celebrated annually in the John N. Gladstone Festival of Preaching at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton. With its focus on Christian proclamation, the purpose of the Festival is to provide students, faculty, alumni, and local church leaders with illuminating theological insights for ministry. Earlier in his career he completed sabbatical studies in Oxford and was appointed Chancellor of Tyndale College and Seminary in Toronto in May 2000, a position he held until his death in 2005.

In his retirement years, he delighted in leading tours to the Holy Land for small groups of interested parties. He also devoted time to House of Compassion, an organization that serves the homeless, and to the Langham Trust, a foundation for the education of clergy in the developing world. He was a Christian leader in both word and action, much loved by a wide circle of friends in Canada, Britain, the United States, and Australia.

Dr. Gladstone has long been held in the highest esteem at Acadia. Through a generous gift from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation in Toronto in 1993, the John Gladstone Chair of Preaching and Worship was established in recognition of his outstanding contribution to preaching in Canada for more than a quarter of a century.

## Annual John Gladstone Sermon

Since 1962, an annual Commissioning Service has been held for graduating students. The Commissioning Service is one of the spiritual high points of the school year. It is not a graduation but is the College's way of sending off the leaving students with its love and prayerful support. The departing students are commissioned to fulfill their ministry in Christ's Church as they have opportunity.

The person selected to preach the sermon for the Commissioning Service is typically a guest preacher from the Atlantic region. When the John Gladstone Chair of Preaching and Worship is fully funded, the College will be in a position to select a guest preacher for this special service from a wider potential. The guest preacher will be invited to give the Annual John Gladstone Sermon for the year.



### Rev. Dr. Allison A. Trites

B.A. (Hons.) (University of New Brunswick)  
B.D. (Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary)  
Th.M. (Princeton Theological Seminary)  
D.Phil. (Oxford University)  
D.D. (Acadia University)

The Reverend Dr. Allison A. Trites delivered the inaugural John Gladstone Sermon on April 4, 2002, with Dr. John Gladstone present at the Commissioning Service. Dr. Trites is the Payzant Distinguished Professor of New Testament, Emeritus, Acadia University, and he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Acadia University in 2012.





**Rev. Dr. Peter Holmes, Acadia 2006**  
**Minister of the Congregation, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Toronto**

John Gladstone was one of the greatest preachers of his generation and some have said, one of the last of the truly great preachers. I first met John as a theological student when my professor of preaching, the legendary preacher Leonard Griffith, brought us together. There is a very real sense in which Leonard gave me to John to continue the task he had taken up of mentoring me for ministry. It was a great gift and privilege to study under these two giants of the pulpit.

John Gladstone and I stayed close until his death for by that time he was not only my mentor but also one of my predecessors in the pulpit of Yorkminster Park. In my early years in the post, John sat with me in the study before we would go out to conduct the service together. I was very aware of his prayers and his support.

John was set apart by a deep longing to be faithful with every word that was offered up in worship. Whether it was a phrase he turned in a sermon or a pastoral prayer, John longed for every word to bring honour to Christ whom he served. For John both worship and preaching were part of a high and holy calling that never stopped occupying his heart and mind. We often spoke about 'thinking homiletically'. John's mind was always a tune for the truth of God in the world around and in Holy Scripture and he used language and gesture to communicate that truth flawlessly. John Gladstone was an artist of the Word.

In this age of PowerPoint projectors and ten second sound bites, some may think of Dr. Gladstone's approach as old fashioned, and yet wherever I go I hear people saying one of the reasons they have now stopped going to church is because the preacher has lost their interest and left them uninspired. Cardinal Collins of Toronto, one of the finest Roman Catholic preachers of this day, recently told me that he brought in an expert in church growth to speak to his clergy and the consultant told them there are two things on which to build a church, "great preaching" and "great music". Sunday by Sunday John offered up great sermons at Yorkminster Park and God blessed him over and over. John's approach is not outdated. In fact the need for strong preaching and carefully prepared worship are more important than ever. I don't believe we have heard the last of the great preachers, and I trust that God will raise up a vast number through the ongoing work and ministry of the John Gladstone Chair of Preaching and Worship at Acadia Divinity College.

It was a privilege to complete my Doctor of Ministry in preaching at Acadia Divinity College. It is a warm and embracing community with great traditions and a faithful spirit. I am grateful they are keeping alive the name and memory of a man God used to bring new life to his church.



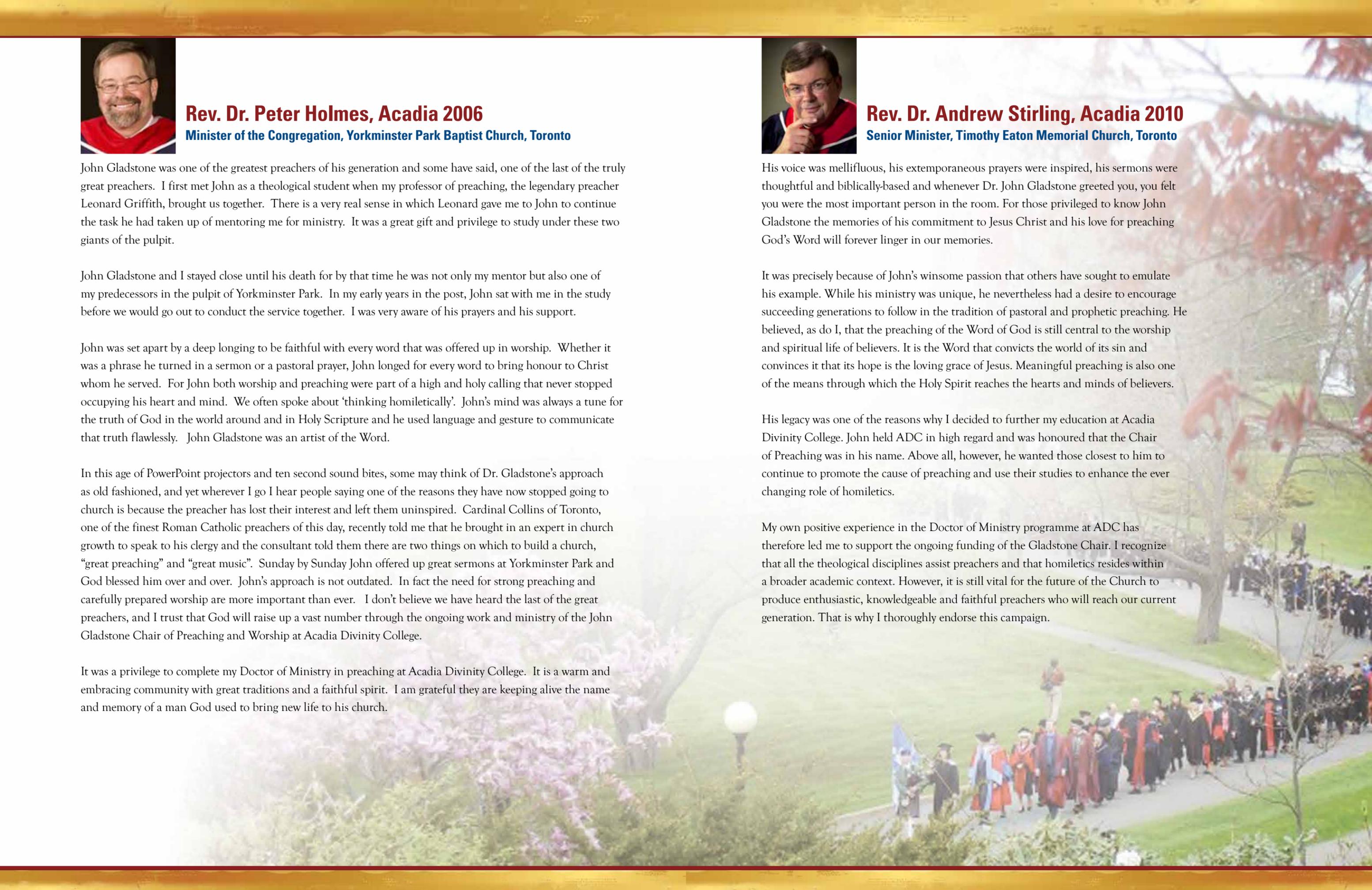
**Rev. Dr. Andrew Stirling, Acadia 2010**  
**Senior Minister, Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Toronto**

His voice was mellifluous, his extemporaneous prayers were inspired, his sermons were thoughtful and biblically-based and whenever Dr. John Gladstone greeted you, you felt you were the most important person in the room. For those privileged to know John Gladstone the memories of his commitment to Jesus Christ and his love for preaching God's Word will forever linger in our memories.

It was precisely because of John's winsome passion that others have sought to emulate his example. While his ministry was unique, he nevertheless had a desire to encourage succeeding generations to follow in the tradition of pastoral and prophetic preaching. He believed, as do I, that the preaching of the Word of God is still central to the worship and spiritual life of believers. It is the Word that convicts the world of its sin and convinces it that its hope is the loving grace of Jesus. Meaningful preaching is also one of the means through which the Holy Spirit reaches the hearts and minds of believers.

His legacy was one of the reasons why I decided to further my education at Acadia Divinity College. John held ADC in high regard and was honoured that the Chair of Preaching was in his name. Above all, however, he wanted those closest to him to continue to promote the cause of preaching and use their studies to enhance the ever changing role of homiletics.

My own positive experience in the Doctor of Ministry programme at ADC has therefore led me to support the ongoing funding of the Gladstone Chair. I recognize that all the theological disciplines assist preachers and that homiletics resides within a broader academic context. However, it is still vital for the future of the Church to produce enthusiastic, knowledgeable and faithful preachers who will reach our current generation. That is why I thoroughly endorse this campaign.



## Academic Chairs of Acadia Divinity College

To honour the contributions of pastors, denominational leaders, academics, and laypeople who have answered God's call, and who through the Baptist movement locally and worldwide have advanced the cause of Christ, nine academic chairs are established at Acadia Divinity College. These represent specific areas of ministry and are named for outstanding Christian leaders.

### The nine established academic chairs are:

- Thomas James Armstrong Memorial Professorship of Practical Theology and Church History
- Dr. Millard R. Cherry Chair of Christian Thought and Ethics
- Sheldon and Marjorie Fountain Chair of Evangelism and Mission
- John Gladstone Chair of Preaching and Worship
- Abner J. Langley and Harold L. Mitton Chair of Church Leadership
- Thomas B. McDormand, Charles J. Taylor, and Dennis M. Veinotte Chair of Pastoral Care and Counselling
- Hannah Maria Norris Chair of Christian Missions and Social Issues
- Payzant Chair of Biblical Studies
- Stevens-Fenerty Chair of Urban Ministry and Church Growth

### Endowed academic chairs are important to Acadia Divinity College for three key reasons:

- They allow us to attract top scholar-practitioners, ensuring quality instruction for our students. This results in our churches and ministries having well-prepared leaders.
- Since professors are paid out of interest received from endowment funds set aside to support the academic chair, student tuition rates are lowered. This lessens student debt loads for our graduates thus reducing financial stress upon ministry families.
- Endowed academic chairs enable us to make wise strategic decisions about adding new programs and initiatives to advance our mission of preparing Christian leaders. We can do this wisely, knowing that core programs have stable and dependable funding.



**ACADIA**  
DIVINITY COLLEGE

*Equipping Christians to Serve*

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[www.AcadiaDiv.ca](http://www.AcadiaDiv.ca)



**Acadia Divinity College is a certified member of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities**

Spending of funds is confined to board-approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution designated towards a board-approved program or project will be used as designated, with the understanding that, when the need for such a program or project has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for such program or project will be used where needed most.