

“The whole is greater than the part, but it is also greater than the sum of its parts.”  
Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*

---

## Report and Recommendations of the Steering Committee to the Governing Council of Regis and the Collegium of USMC regarding the proposed alliance between Regis College and the Faculty of Theology of the University of St. Michael's College

### Executive Summary

The University of St. Michael's College (USMC) Faculty of Theology and Regis College were originally established to form ministers for the benefit of the Church and Canadian/global society. These Missions remain essentially the same today, even as they must respond to rapidly evolving realities. There is a clear and evident *complementarity* between the two schools, and—as integral components of TST and the U of T—both institutions are strongly positioned to exercise leadership in Roman Catholic and ecumenical theological education. The present-day circumstances provide a real opportunity to implement federation.

The purpose of the *Report* is to brief the governing bodies on the Steering Committee's progress to date, and to lay the groundwork for a formal motion to adopt the following **two** resolutions in June 2021:

1. Authorize the Steering Committee to proceed immediately, assisted by appropriate legal counsel, to craft a Memorandum of Agreement that will guide the federation of Regis College and the USMC Faculty of Theology, with a view to recommending this MoA for approval to the Governing Council of Regis College and the Collegium of the University of St. Michael's College at the regular meetings of each body in September/October 2021.
2. Extend the mandate of the existing Steering Committee at least until such time as the governing bodies establish the Governance Oversight Committee recommended in the report of the Governance Subcommittee.

The following sections summarize recommendations made by the five subcommittees established by the Steering Committee.

### Governance

- Adopt a Federation Model that will be a single entity operationally but be ultimately accountable to the distinct governing bodies of Regis College and the University of St. Michael's College through an Oversight Committee and a Dean; it will also have a Joint Academic Council to deal with academic matters.
- The new entity will incorporate the following:
  - One Dean with appropriate support.

- An integrated faculty with appropriate cross-appointments of Regis and USMC.
- A unified/coordinated curriculum that includes programs leading to both civil and ecclesiastical degrees.
- Explore canonical co-sponsorship of USMC by both the Congregation of St. Basil and the Society of Jesus.

## Finance

- A financial plan must be developed that specifically addresses the very significant ongoing structural and operating deficits of both Regis and the Faculty of Theology and outlines an economically sustainable future.
- The plan must include:
  - Increasing revenue through creative program development and institutional strategic enrollment planning;
  - A realistic and just strategy to reduce expenses that respects the rights of current employees, and;
  - Dedicated fundraising.
- Regis and USMC will continue funding deficits during the proposed transition period.

## Academic

- Shorter-term:
  - Align the Regis and USMC PhD, MDiv and MTS degrees.
  - Make ecclesiastical degrees accessible to USMC students.
  - Standardize faculty designation terminology.
- Longer-term:
  - Integrate the faculties while ensuring that required expertise is maintained.
  - Establish a joint committee structure.
  - Locate both entities in one on-campus space.
  - Develop Continuing Education programs that focus on lay formation.
  - Explore ways in which both faculties can engage with USMC undergraduate programs.

## Facilities & Campus Resources

- Locate both faculties and support personnel in a single on-campus space.
- Combine the libraries in one location.

- Designate St. Basil's Church as the venue for major liturgical/ceremonial events and retain the Regis chapel for weekly liturgies and similar events.
- Explore reserving some USMC residence space for graduate students.
- Develop a Continuing Education program.

### Community Life & Spiritual Formation

- Develop joint orientation and retreat programs for faculty, staff and students that focus on the charisms of both institutions.
- Build a formal relationship with St. Basil's Parish to enhance student life and build pastoral skills.
- Merge the Liturgy Committees of both Regis and USMC; work closely with Campus Ministry of USMC.
- Develop a plan for appropriate use of the various on-campus worship spaces.
- Locate both faculties in a single on-campus space.
- Reserve some USMC residence space for theology students.
- Explore ways in which theology faculty and students can engage with USMC's undergraduate programs.

### Conclusion

- From the beginning, the process of forging a more intimate alliance between both Regis and St. Michael's has generated substantial enthusiasm and good will from all constituencies. Particular thanks are due to the members and support persons of the five sub-committees.
- The Steering Committee views **institutional complementarity** and **present opportunity** as the critical framework for this initiative.
- The current objective is that the Governing Council of Regis College and the Collegium of the University of St. Michael's College, respectively approve/adopt the two resolutions found above.
- All other recommendations will be incorporated/subsumed into the proposed MoA and subsequent implementation.