

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

Memorandum

To: The Regis College and University of St. Michael's College Communities

From: Don McLeod, CSB, Co-chair, Regis-USMC Steering Committee
Peter Warrian, Co-chair, Regis-USMC Steering Committee

Date: October 25, 2021

Re: Completion of the Regis-USMC Steering Committee's Work

Discussions relating to a possible alliance between Regis College and the USMC Faculty of Theology have taken place sporadically since at least the mid-1980s. On September 25th, 2020, three representatives of the Governing Council of Regis and three of the Collegium of USMC met on at Regis to determine whether a more concerted approach to this question was appropriate. At this meeting, facilitated by Peter Bisson, SJ, a strong consensus emerged that a strategic alliance of Regis and the USMC Faculty of Theology would strengthen both entities and thus help ensure the future of excellent graduate theological education within a rapidly evolving and competitive institutional landscape in Toronto and Beyond. The meeting concluded with the establishment of a Steering Committee to oversee the process of preparing a proposal.

On October 20th, the Regis Governing Council and University of St. Michael's College Collegium each approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the institutions establishing the federation of Regis College and the University of St. Michael's College for the purpose of “forging a world-class centre of excellence in Catholic theological study, whose mission is to promote teaching, research and formation to serve the needs of the Church and society, in Canada and globally.”

On October 22nd, 2021, the formal signing of the document brought this long and productive conversation to a successful conclusion. *This would not have been possible without the enormous contribution of the chairs and members of the various subcommittees established by the Steering Committee.*

The deep and shared vision and commitment of all constituencies has enriched this process immeasurably. As the activity of the Regis-USMC Steering Committee concludes, the success of the ongoing effort in meeting the challenges of implementation will again rely on these sources of inspiration and engagement. Responsibility for implementation of the agreement will now rest with an Oversight Committee composed of the Presidents and board Chairs of both institutions.