



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

University of Winnipeg Welcomes New Dean of Theology

WINNIPEG— Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Winnipeg is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. James Christie as the new Dean of Theology, effective July 1, 2005, replacing Dr. Gordon MacDermid who retired last month.

Dr. Christie is currently Senior Minister of Southminster United Church in Ottawa. A bilingual native of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Quebec, he has pursued studies at Bishop's University, McGill (Birk's Award; University Scholar), the United Theological College in Montreal (Nordberg Prize for Contextual Theology) and the Toronto School of Theology. His MA thesis in social ethics, *Love and Fine Thinking: H.G. Wells and the World State*, focused on issues of religion and world order. His doctoral thesis, *Beyond Tolerance: Christians and Jews in Dialogue*, explored historical, biblical and theological issues in interfaith relations, and proposed a 'grass-roots' model for interfaith dialogue.

Dr. Christie has practiced ministry in Montreal, New York State, Toronto and Ottawa, and has also worked in teaching, academic administration and the investment industry. Academically, he has served as a member of the Emmanuel College Council in Toronto; developed and taught short courses for Queen's University and the United Church of Canada in Faith, Culture and Politics; designed and taught Queen's first course on science and religion, *Science, Religion and Society: An Emerging Dialogue*; and, in March of 2003, was theologian to the Justice Department of Canada Forum on Genetic Futures. Dr. Christie is a member of the Board of Governors of the United Theological College in Montreal, and Vice-Chair of the Governing Board of the Montreal School of Theology, where he heads a task force to establish a Doctor of Ministry programme. Dr. Christie was a Founding Director of Earth Day in Canada in 1990.

In the wider church, he has held several senior positions, including Chairperson of the Presbytery of York, President of Toronto Conference and Interim General Secretary for Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue for the United Church of Canada. He has represented the United Church on the Faith and Witness Commission of the Canadian Council of Churches, and was a long-time director of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto. He is a member of both the Ottawa Chapter of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, and the Christian-Jewish Dialogue of the National Capital Region. Dr. Christie is one of three Vice-Presidents of the Canadian Council of Churches. In February, 2003, he engaged in a national church leaders' mission to study the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Uganda and Tanzania. He has also served as a media resource in Rome to the Canadian Ambassador to the Holy See during the funeral of John Paul II.

An internationalist, Dr. Christie is a leader in the movement for global democracy, UN reform, and human rights, chairing the Council of the World Federalist Movement (a 2002 Nobel Peace Prize

nominee) and serving as a Director of the Institute for Global Policy, both based in New York. Closer to home, he has co-chaired, with Dr. Elizabeth Barot of UNESCO, the Group of 78, an informal association of prominent Canadians concerned with global policy issues.

His articles, essays and reviews have been published in The United Church Observer, The Practice of Ministry in Canada, The Canadian World Federalist, Mondial, The Federalist Debate, Dialogue, Context, Pilgrimage(the Journal of the C.S. Lewis Society), and The Ottawa Citizen.

Dr. Christie and his wife, Jan, have three sons.

Located in the heart of downtown, The University of Winnipeg is a compact, diverse, multicultural academic community committed to access and excellence. Ranked by our graduates in Maclean's magazine University Graduate Survey (November 15, 2004) in the Top Ten of all Canadian universities when asked about their "Entire Educational Experience." UWinnipeg is home to more than 8,700 full- and part-time students.

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