Memorandum of Understanding between the Joint Board of the Theological Colleges and McGill University.

- 1. The parties acknowledge that there is a legal Agreement between McGill and the Joint Board, which constituted the Faculty of Religious Studies ("FRS").
- 2. The parties acknowledge that it is the continuing intention of McGill and the Joint Board to develop teaching and research activities in religious studies in the University in response to contemporary financial, academic and social challenges. (the "Intention").
- 3. McGill is engaged in a community-wide process of reflection, review and renewal.
- 4. McGill and the Joint Board intend to examine the future academic development of the FRS, in good faith, and with a view to focus on the needs of the University as well as the larger community.
- 5. Subject to paragraph 14, the parties mutually seek through these negotiations and collaborations to guide the development of the FRS over the next three years.
- 6. The parties encourage the FRS to further develop its strategic plan for the future, with regard to its teaching and research programs as well as its staffing.
- 7. The parties acknowledge that the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) program has served the community well and should be continued.
- 8. The parties will work together to enhance the B.Th. program so that:
 - A) it can reflect changes in contemporary theological education in a pluralistic society;
 - B) it can continue to provide and enhance theological education in a global context for the three Theological Colleges: and
 - c) options can be developed within the B.Th. program to support ministerial education of other religious communities as well as cooperative programs with the other McGill disciplines involving professional education (such as pastoral care in health services, education, law and social work).
- 9. The parties agree that there are advantages to greater academic interface of the FRS with other faculties and therefore,
 - A) The FRS will be encouraged to envision, negotiate and develop collaborative programs, where appropriate, with other faculties and other programs which relate to religious studies, in order to enrich the professional programs and to enhance the multidisciplinary character of its undergraduate and graduate programs;
 - B) The University will facilitate the participation of FRS in activities such as the Faculty of Arts Council, its Academic Committee and the Faculty of Arts Computing Centre.

- 10. The parties agree to support the FRS in its initiatives with other universities in Montreal to envision, negotiate and develop a Consortium for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies in Religion and Ethics.
- 11. The parties agree that a Joint Committee will be established by the Joint Board and McGill University by January 1997 with 3 members appointed by members appointed by the Joint Board and an independent chair with an exofficion non-voting participant from FRS.
- 12. The Joint Committee shall have the mandate to make recommendations to the Joint Board and McGill for:
 - A) the development of the Intention in light of all available resources, including financing and staffing, and the continuing experience and progress of FRS in achieving paragraphs 6, 8, 9 and 10;
 - B) all appropriate administrative options including structure and status of the FRS to fulfil the Intention.
- 13. The Joint Committee will make reports to the Joint Board and McGill at regular intervals beginning in September 1997 and a final report by May, 1999.
- 14. The parties agree that neither intends to abrogate the terms of the 1948 Agreement between them without mutual agreement, and that they will seek constructive development to fulfil the Intention.
- 15. From the signing of this Memorandum during the term of the Joint Committee, neither party will alter its current relationship with FRS.
- 16. This Memorandum has effect from its signature, provided that it is ratified by the competent authority of each party.

Signed effective June 5, 1996.

THE JOINT BOARD OF THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES

THE

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING (McGill University)

Per:

George V. Lambert, Chairman

Per:

Dr. Bernard J. Shapiro, Principal

& Vice-Chancellor