**MISSION**
Ambrose prepares men and women for wise, joyful, and redemptive engagement in the church, society, and the created order through excellent Christian post-secondary education.

**VISION**
Ambrose is a community of transformative Christian higher education – with a vision for the welfare of our city and our world.

**VALUES**
**Faith in Action:** We seek to live lives devoted to serving Christ and pursuing His will with bold confidence in His sovereign power and purposes.

**Holiness:** We are committed to the pursuit of a personal and corporate lifestyle that is worthy of the holiness of God and made possible by His indwelling Spirit.

**Community:** We learn within a hospitable and Biblically based community oriented around corporate worship.

**Service:** We provide humble and compassionate service to people in Christ’s name.

**Excellence:** We pursue and demonstrate best practices and act with excellence in all that we do.

**Accountability:** We embrace the Biblical stewardship of life and resources.
In a world that increasingly appears to uphold secularism as the ideal and eschews Christian values as at best archaic and at worst irrelevant, how can we be the “light on a hill” to our local community, our country and our world?

At Ambrose University, we have programs as diverse as the Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Business Administration and the Master of Divinity. Each one has a common thread: Our Christian faith and values are interwoven through each class and course with the express purpose of preparing men and women for service in the church and society. As these women and men serve, be it in the boardroom or in the church community, they also have opportunity to bring the light of Christ to their particular situation. Throughout this Impact Report, you will read about ways in which our faculty, students and alumni have reached beyond the boundaries of the campus to intersect with their communities and make a difference. The researcher in the Canadian Poverty Institute who is helping to inform policy in Calgary related to child poverty. The alumna who has, to date, had an impact on more than 2,000 teens and young women as she empowers them to make good life choices, and who developed a curriculum adopted by the Government of Alberta. The faculty sharing their knowledge and best practices widely through the ambrose@large online initiative.

The Flourishing Congregations Institute. Each of these and others in this Report are living out their Christian identity through action and responding in obedience to the call placed on their lives.

We cannot overlook your generosity as donors and friends of Ambrose in making these success stories possible. Your gifts have helped so many students pursue their chosen path, enabling them to study in community with like-minded men and women as they explore their faith through what they are learning. In April 2018, another 200 students graduated from Ambrose helped, in part, by your gifts, and they join the thousands of alumni already serving worldwide. Thank you for your support. It matters and it is appreciated.

How can we be the light in today’s society? By responding in faith and obedience to embrace Christ’s calling, and by recognizing that it is not only the pastor who has the opportunity to model Christ in their community, but also the teacher, businesswoman and community worker. At Ambrose, we strive to develop men and women who will do just that.

Gordon T. Smith
President
The continuing success of Ambrose University reflects the combined efforts of people and organizations — donors, churches, alumni, faculty, students and countless others — who believe the University has a vital role in empowering people to realize their full, God-given potential.

The 2017–18 year at Ambrose showed, once again, what is possible when people grow in mind, body and spirit thanks, in large part, to support from people like you.
2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS

Duffers double down on support
Participants in Ambrose’s annual Golf Tournament at The Links of GlenEagles proved that the unseasonable wind, rain and cold experienced on Sept. 13, 2017, couldn’t deter support for a great cause. More than 120 people raised $50,000, twice the amount of the previous year, to support Ambrose Athletics. Funds are crucial for ensuring student athletes are at the top of their game, helping to support scholarships, athletic therapy, travel and equipment, and the support of coaches, chaplains and staff.

Being there expands perspectives
Ambrose students and faculty alike continue to benefit through worldwide experiential learning opportunities, and 2017–18 saw students on study tours that expanded knowledge and their world view. The 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation was the impetus for a visit to Germany in May 2017 to “travel the story” of the life and times of Martin Luther — and proved to be a poignant reminder that everyone is part of a 2,000-year tradition of faith and the worldwide body of Christ. At almost the same time, and half a world away, another group of students was in Belize and Guatemala (funded in part by a Campus Alberta Grant for International Learning) on an interdisciplinary trip that blended anthropology with conservation and marine biology, illuminating the intersection between people and place. While the trips couldn’t have been more different, both delivered an important lesson: to better understand your own culture, you need to understand others.

Sharing great riches
A wealth of knowledge, information, expertise, experience, perspectives and best practices resides in churches across Canada. A bold new online initiative launched in 2017 by Ambrose Seminary is helping to ensure this treasure is shared across the country. ambrose@large is a visionary effort to use the reach of technology to catalyze connections among churches, so front-line knowledge and practice expertise can move beyond local communities and into churches nationwide. A grant from the U.S. Association of Theological Schools provided seed funding for this new portal of curated knowledge.
New Principal focuses on increasing global impact

Appointed in September 2017, Dr. Irene Tran brings her extensive international leadership experience to the Canadian Chinese School of Theology at Ambrose Seminary as the School’s new Principal. Dr. Tran is setting her sights on augmenting the strategic plan and seeking ways to increase the School’s already-significant impact, especially with respect to growing the capacity of Canada’s churches to provide leadership in a multicultural context. Ambrose was blessed to have Dr. Jason Yeung as principal for many years, and is blessed once again as it welcomes Dr. Tran.

Research grant a catalyst for flourishing congregations

A major grant from the national Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for 2017–2020 is advancing the groundbreaking work being undertaken by Ambrose University’s Flourishing Congregations Institute (FCI). In collaboration with churches across Canada, and with the support of additional organizational partners, FCI is gathering data about the health of congregations to deepen understanding. Throughout the project, analyses and insights that can be transformed into practical resources and actions to advance day-to-day ministry are being shared.

A class act to follow

Ken and Mavis Farkash of Vermilion, Alta., were recognized in fall 2017 for their very tangible contributions to teaching and learning. Following an initial donation in 2012 — which Ambrose recognized by naming the Farkash Classroom in the Residence and Educational Centre — the couple made a second, multi-year gift that enabled the University to finish three classrooms, two counselling rooms and one student gathering area. Doing so creating a sense of place for students and faculty in the Bachelor of Education program, in particular, as well as for the entire Ambrose community.

The community becomes the campus

Ambrose University launched a series of new one-day workshops in 2017–18 to reach out to people by taking learning to where they live and work. Workshops could be taken for professional development or could be used as credits towards a university degree. The new venture was sparked by churches and people in ministry who were eager to deepen knowledge in order to do more for their congregations.
ALUMNI IMPACT

The impact of Ambrose University on lives and communities is seen most clearly in students and alumni, who share their abundant gifts to make a positive difference in the world around them.

Support from people like you inspires the pursuit of knowledge, deep and rich spiritual formation, joyful engagement and a passion to serve. In 2017–18, these lights shone brightly.
Empowering young women

Alison Springer (CNC Bachelor of Religious Studies – Youth Ministry 1997) is strengthening the power of girls, giving them the practical street smarts, wisdom and confidence to make good choices — and live happier, healthier, safer lives. Springer founded Young Women of Power (YWOP) 10 years ago, and today more than 2,000 young women aged 12–30 take part in workshops, clubs, a forum, school assemblies and networks every year. In 2017, PivotFWD, a curriculum she developed, launched, getting the message out to even more girls. The Government of Alberta quickly saw its potential and is putting it into the hands of teachers and community workers across the province. Springer sees God at work in the accelerating momentum of YWOP, and in helping her use the challenges she experienced early in her life to become an accomplished professional speaker and respected advocate, leader and champion of “girl power.”

Growing a Christ-centred community

Ric Strangway (CBC Bachelor of Theology 1989; CTS Master of Divinity 1995) knows firsthand the impact of Ambrose University. He and several members of his family have attended Ambrose, strengthening their belief in the value of quality faith-based education in preparing people to serve in the world, whatever their gift, passion or vocation. Strangway himself was called to full-time ministry, and specifically to become a preacher, at the age of 14. In pursuing his own calling, higher education enabled him to forge lifelong friendships, grow his understanding of the gospel and his view of the world, shape and affirm his gifts and passions, and become a lifelong learner. His own life has been transformed and, today, as Lead Pastor of Calgary’s North Point Community Church, he walks with others on their journey to follow Jesus.

From on court to on screen

Ambrose student Jessica Zacharias is a star on the volleyball court, and her skills as a player opened the door to a unique opportunity to star on film. Zacharias was recruited to be the “body double” for the lead actress in The Miracle Season, an uplifting movie which premiered in April 2018. The story centres around a high school volleyball team struggling with the emotional loss of their best player, and Zacharias is featured in all on-court action sequences. In a twist of fate, the story was one that resonated with Zacharias, who lost her older sister to cancer years earlier. The volleyball community rallied around the Zacharias family during that difficult time. It delivered a strong message that taking part in sport is more than a game — it’s an impactful way to build a community and to learn valuable life skills, a way to discover identity and to reflect skills and talents.
Finding light in the darkness

Hannah (Truong) Temple’s (CBC Bachelor of Arts – Religion and Christian Studies 2001) family story is a remarkable tale of resilience, courage and gratitude. In 1980, Central Baptist Church in Victoria, B.C., defied controversy to sponsor the Truong family’s desperate flight to freedom from Vietnam. The family flourished and is now repaying that incredible gift from God by establishing the New Canadian Bursary at Ambrose University. To date, $47,000 has been raised from a wide community of support, well on the way to reaching the $50,000 goal. The endowed bursary, which will exist in perpetuity, is intended to help newcomers to Canada overcome financial obstacles to post-secondary education, so they can chart their own journeys of success.

The Ambrose Fund

Your support makes an impact.
Deep roots in Christian intellectual and spiritual traditions are abundantly evident in Ambrose University faculty. Through research, they shed light on global knowledge.

Through their passion for teaching, they share that knowledge with students and the wider community. Through support from people like you, they inspire curious, critical, compassionate disciples to go forward with confidence in the world in which God has placed them.
Improving the lives of people living on the edge

**Dr. Rita Yembilah**, Senior Researcher at Ambrose University’s Canadian Poverty Institute (CPI), is driven to improve the lives and well-being of millions of people living in poverty worldwide — and it starts right here at home. In March 2017, Yembilah completed a report on a CPI project centred on developing a multi-dimensional definition of child poverty, which is being used to help inform practice in Calgary. By piloting a framework that enhances the way agencies work, the aim is to refine a tool that can be used to give those agencies more latitude in how they respond to families’ needs. The project squares with Yembilah’s belief that research must be relevant, and that what is learned must be translated into action that makes a difference in people’s lives. The next step in her transformational work focuses on the justice system.

A new bug in the backyard

Last summer, Principles of Ecology course lab instructor **Dr. Ted Pike** and his students made an important find — right in Ambrose University’s own backyard. A small wooded area on the edge of the university campus proved to be home to many species of insects, including the rare Hyperaspis undulata, a ladybird beetle native to Alberta that has only been netted five or six times before. The group was in the area gathering insects for study when they found two of the elusive and rather nondescript-looking insects, which would have been easy to overlook except for the fact that Pike recognized the beetles’ distinctive markings. The entire adventure proved that when light shines on even seemingly familiar surroundings, careful attention and inquisitive minds can find wonderful surprises.

Ambrose scholars in the spotlight

Ambrose University faculty are engaged in a diverse array of scholarly work, from authoring books and book chapters, to editing textbooks, publishing papers in peer-reviewed journals and general audience magazines, and writing music, plays, poems and more.

On April 19, 2018, a year’s worth of work — totalling 32 pieces — was on display in the first annual Scholars’ Corner, a new event to raise the profile of research across the University and affirm the high quality of scholarship undertaken by faculty. Faculty gathered to share the challenges and triumphs they’ve experienced, and advance and support each other’s work. In showcasing scholarly activity, Scholars’ Corner helps build Ambrose’s capacity for such work and affirms its importance to teaching and learning.
Empowering Education

Since the early 1980’s, Bill McAlpine (CBC Bachelor of Biblical Education ’74; CTS Masters of Divinity ’93; University of Aberdeen PhD Practical Theology ’06) has been embedded in the past and present of Ambrose University. McAlpine began his career with Ambrose in Regina as the Dean of Married Students and, after a number of years, began teaching pastoral theology and methodology. In 2003, McAlpine moved to Calgary and continued in his current position as Professor of Practical Theology.

“The caliber of students here at Ambrose is top notch,” said McAlpine. “I am constantly amazed by our students and am proud to support them through their time at Ambrose. I am very grateful to God for this journey he has led me on.”

Not only has Ambrose been an important part of McAlpine’s life for the past couple of decades, it has been part of his families as well. McAlpine’s wife Heather spent part of her career working in various departments within Ambrose including Campus Services, Advancement and Alumni Relations. Heather currently volunteers with Library Services and has been for the past five years. Two of McAlpine’s children also graduated from Ambrose with a Bachelor of Youth Ministry and a Bachelor of Behavioral Science respectively.

The McAlpine’s have not only impacted Ambrose through their work but also financially as they have been donors since the early 1990’s.

“Ambrose offers such a valuable experience for the students,” added McAlpine. “As a professor it is so rewarding to see the growth of the students. I have had some amazing exchanges with the students and learned from them as well. I believe whole-heartedly that the students deserve to be supported.”

McAlpine also believes that Ambrose has a long and strong future and that the University is stronger than it has ever been. He adds that the vision and current direction of the University is what is needed in the greater community.

“My heart and my mind have always been committed to ministry and ministry training,” said McAlpine. “The way in which Bible colleges, including Ambrose, have changed over the years had made seminary programs even better. This is such a good time to take a seminary degree.”

Not only is McAlpine a passionate believer in the quality of the seminary program, he also believes in the overall quality of education at Ambrose. He enjoys working with the other faculties and showing students that faith and science or the arts can work harmoniously.

“I can honestly say that there isn’t anywhere I would have rather spent my career,” McAlpine reflected. “I am so grateful to work for an institution that I believe so firmly is bettering the community and the world. This is why I believe it is important to support Ambrose.”
AMBROSE AT A GLANCE

920 full- and part-time students

13 average class size

19:1 student-to-faculty ratio

100% Education grads offered teaching positions upon graduation

56 School of Ministry and Seminary students in practicum or internship placements

12,671 Ambrose graduates serving and changing communities

$1.2 million in financial aid distributed annually

80% of students receive financial aid

26 students in thirty Behavioural Science practicums

Share of Revenue 2017-2018
- Tuition and student fees 53%
- Donations and constituent support 18%
- Government grants 17%
- Sales, rent and other 12%

Share of Operating Expenses 2017-2018
- Employee compensation and benefits 64%
- Operating supplies 19%
- Financing 2%
- Scholarships and bursaries 6%
- Facilities 4%

Share of Donations 2017-2018
- Churches and Denominations $1,974,639.88
- Individuals $808,115.40
- Corporations/Business $479,013.07
- Foundations/Charities $413,147.30
Honesty, integrity, character, selflessness, kindness, faith and goodness are woven into community life and academic programs at Ambrose.

Launching in 2018, the timely new “#bethelight” campaign will put the spotlight on students who graduate with a greater capacity to make meaningful and lasting contributions to the well-being of their employers, churches, families and communities — graduates who are ready to “be the light.”
In 2018–19, Ambrose University will celebrate its 10th anniversary. This will be both a time to look back on a deep and rich history, and to pause to consider what the immediate future holds for the school, its students and the wider community it serves. On the horizon are advancements in several areas.

**Scheduling flexibility**
Pastors and lay leaders require flexibility in scheduling and course delivery. Ambrose is increasing course access by developing innovative strategies to deliver relevant credit and non-credit content through the Faculty of Theology. Some non-credit courses are offered over a day or a weekend. Completing additional assignments can earn course credit. Taking courses this way enables people to accumulate credits and work towards a certificate, diploma or degree at their own pace.

**Become the University of choice**
Ambrose aspires to be the No. 1 university choice for “mission-fit” students. The University aims to provide an exemplary learning experience in all programs — and fully capitalize on those that are groundbreaking, innovative, unique and only offered by Ambrose.

**Advancing Arts & Worship careers**
Contemporary careers in the Arts require artists to draw on more than one art form in an interdisciplinary manner. Ambrose Arts is exploring creative new avenues to make it possible for students to concurrently study music, theatre and dance. Doing so will expand students’ knowledge and skill repertoire, enabling them to move with confidence into myriad arts roles. Ambrose is also investigating the development of new Worship Arts programming that will help lead the church into deeper and richer worship.

**Engaging students in faculty-led research**
The opportunity to work alongside their faculty in research is an exceptional hands-on learning opportunity for students — and an important way to advance the scholarly work undertaken by faculty across the institution. Ambrose aims to increase student engagement in disciplines including Behavioural Science, Science, History and more.

The annual Ambrose Research Conference (ARC) will continue to put the spotlight on this vital facet of University life by showcasing student research. This is a key contributor to the ongoing and future success of graduates. They carry their research skills and learnings into graduate school and the workforce, enabling them to add greater value in the business world, journalism, law, the performing arts and more.
THANK YOU...

Your gifts of time, talent and treasure deliver the scholarships, facilities, faculty, programs and impact that sets our university apart. We are grateful.

To learn more about the profound difference your gifts to Ambrose University make possible — and to explore giving options — please contact:

University Advancement  
(403) 410-2000 ext. 2920  
advancement@ambrose.edu