



THE LESLIE K. TARR – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESS RELEASE

The Word Guild Honours Distinguished English Professor

HAMILTON, ON —Semi-retired professor of English Deborah C. Bowen of Hamilton, Ont., has been formally recognized for her contributions to the literary world and to her many students. This year's Leslie K. Tarr Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes a major career contribution to Christian writing and publishing in Canada, was announced at The 2019 Word Awards Gala held on June 14th in Hamilton, ON.

The annual award is given by The Word Guild, a national association of writers, editors, speakers and other interested Christians. Tarr was an influential magazine editor, and over the years the award in his name has been given to the likes of Jean Vanier, Jean Little, J. I. Packer, Rudy Wiebe, Maxine Hancock and Margaret Avison. Nominees for this award must have exemplified three key characteristics within their career to be considered. They will have demonstrated excellence in writing; contributed to the development of Christian writing and writers in Canada; as well as helped position the church in Canadian society, leading to better understanding of Christianity. Full details can be found at <https://thewordguild.com/leslie-k-tarr-award/>.

Dr. Bowen is professor emerita at Redeemer University College in Ancaster, Ont., known and loved by students for her concern with reading contemporary literature from a Christian perspective and her belief that God is at work in literature even where the divine is not immediately obvious there. She is also the author of two books on literature and postmodernity, and dozens of articles and academic presentations on contemporary British and Canadian fiction and poetry, often with an emphasis on environmental and ecological themes.

Bowen has been a credible Christian voice in secular academic settings – and a respected academic in Christian circles. This has allowed her to help the church examine some of its own blind spots, through literature, and to call it to greater engagement with the outside world. At the same time, she has critiqued a swath of contemporary literature from a faith-based perspective in such a thoughtful way that people from other backgrounds are compelled to pay attention.

In addition to her academic work (see <http://www.redeemer.ca/academics/offices-and-departments/our-faculty/deborah-bowen>) she has also given many public lectures to Christian audiences about the importance of writing, creativity and literature.

Bowen's excellent teaching at Redeemer has contributed to the development of a number of successful Christian writers, including Angela Reitsma Bick and Brent van Staaldin. Her teaching has also influenced many Christian students who have developed successful non-literary careers in areas such as law, television, book publishing, graphic design, public policy, and much more.