

Challenge & Response

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Academic Year 2021-2022



**CHANGING TIMES.
ENDURING COMMITMENTS.**

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Chicago Theological Seminary
1407 East 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
Phone: 773.896.2400 Fax: 773.643.1284
ctschicago.edu

Interim President
Dr. Marsha Foster Boyd

Interim Academic Dean
Dr. Rachel Mikva

Dean of Students & VP of Student Services
Jason Frey

Vice President for Advancement
Chad Schwickerath

Vice President of Finance & Administration
Karen Walker

Chief Strategic Officer
Lisa Zook

Director of Communications
Brendan Diamond

Executive Assistant to the President
Kim M. Johnson

Challenge & Response Contributors
Joey Carrillo
Brian Clarke
Brendan Diamond
Jason Frey
Kim Schultz
Chad Schwickerath
Munir Shaikh
Rev. Brian E. Smith
Tyler Tully

Graphic Design
Angelle Juneau
Crystal Yang

Photographers
Lauren McCadney
Donnell McLachlan
Adia Robinson Butler

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To contact the editor,
email: editor@ctsichicago.edu,
or write to:
Editor, *Challenge & Response*,
Chicago Theological Seminary,
1407 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637

Support CTS Students and Initiatives at: ctsichicago.edu/give

Welcome

A LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR BRIAN CLARKE



Dear friends,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, it has seemed at times as if we are living through an interim period. In-person learning and events have been curtailed, if not cancelled altogether. For many, it has been a period without seeing family and friends, without doing the things we would normally do, without living the lives we would normally lead. But through it all, CTS has continued to fulfill its Commitments to justice, equity and mercy.

The pandemic has led us into another type of interim period. With the departure of former president Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr., we have welcomed to CTS an interim president in Dr. Marsha Foster Boyd, who will be staying on during our search for a permanent president. Dr. Boyd has jumped into CTS feet-first, meeting with every single member of the faculty, staff and now board during her first few months here and really taking the lead on making CTS a more open, more transparent place. We are extraordinarily honored to have Dr. Boyd leading us during this interregnum period.

Meanwhile, with Vice President of Academic Affairs and Academic Dean Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder on sabbatical, we have been thrilled to have Rabbi Dr. Rachel Mikva, the Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman Chair & Professor of Jewish Studies, filling in as Interim Dean. Dr. Mikva is an exemplar of CTS's Commitments, someone who is constantly pushing her students and the Seminary to think more in terms of social justice and equity. Thank you to Dr. Mikva for agreeing to fill in for Dr. Crowder for the rest of the academic year.

As 2022 approaches, we at CTS are well aware of the uncertainty change brings. But though much is changing at CTS, our Commitments remain steadfast. The mission of Chicago Theological Seminary remains, as ever, to educate and inspire the next generation of religious leadership. We're doing this in new ways, whether by offering our courses online or in hybrid formats, or through our partnership with Bayan Islamic Graduate School. Our Commitments guide us towards being the leader in progressive theological education, and we are very excited to see what the future brings.

During this interim period, we may see even more changes at CTS. But we will never turn our backs on what makes this institution so unique. As the oldest freestanding progressive theological seminary in the country, we know that we must change as times change. We will continue to equip the next generation of theologically-minded leaders with the skills and background they need to succeed in a world that, too, is beset by change. We are committed to continuing the proud legacy of Chicago Theological Seminary.

With peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian G. Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Clarke
Chair, Board of Trustees
Chicago Theological Seminary



BLACK FAITH
LEADER COLLECTIVE:
GATHERING FOR
SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EQUITY

By Rev. Brian E. Smith, Director of
Community Relations & Strategic
Partnerships



During the summer of 2020 at the peak of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the unrest resulting from the murder of George Floyd, an unlikely alliance formed at CTS. The Black Faith Leader Collective is a cooperative body of interfaith leaders who have decided to convene and network for the common good. This group emerged organically in the wake of emergency COVID relief funding provided by the Henry Luce Foundation. The foundation granted CTS \$150,000 to develop programming and support for congregations and faith leaders serving distressed populations in the Chicagoland area. A significant portion of the grant enabled CTS to engage faith leaders with listening sessions, pastoral care counseling and funding for technology support.

During the process of gathering, faith leaders discovered common threads of vulnerability and commitments enabling them to see each other as partners and friends in a volatile chain of events. These faith leaders from Christian, Muslim and Jewish backgrounds suddenly found themselves actively engaged in interfaith prayer and substantive dialogue around issues related to health, safety, mission and

worship. As funding opportunities waned, the faith leaders decided that they wanted to maintain the relationships they had developed during the summer. Leaders shared that the most valuable part of their experiences was the opportunity to share and convene with each other. Members of the Black Faith Leader Collective began to meet monthly to determine a future course of action. One member took the

initiative to establish a talent database to register the talents, gifts and graces of leaders within the group.

Members quickly discovered that most of the participants within the Black Faith Leader Collective were bi-vocational, with certifications and experiences outside of ministry. Geographically, the Collective spans across the South and West sides of Chicago, encompassing many denominations and faith traditions. The binding characteristic is the fact that all the participating bodies serve the Black community in some manner. Currently the group is organizing around key areas of concern including Congregational Leadership, Housing, Community Health, Black Humanity, Police Brutality and Poverty.

The hope is that the Black Faith Leader Collective will continue to evolve into a sustainable conglomerate of faith leaders and practitioners who lead and address the material and spiritual needs of their respective congregations and communities.



An Interview with Dr. Ray



Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr., stepped down as President of Chicago Theological Seminary on August 31, 2021. During his tenure, CTS has seen a good number of changes both internal and external. Dr. Ray took some time to talk with Kim Schultz, who was then serving as Interim Director of Communications, about his tenure and his hopes for the future.

KIM SCHULTZ: Dr. Ray, thank you for taking the time to talk with us. You and I had the chance to chat for Challenge & Response 3½ years ago, just as you were beginning your time with CTS. So, how are you feeling about leaving CTS?

REV. DR. STEPHEN G. RAY, JR.: I think it's bittersweet in that I deeply care about the school and all the people connected with it—but I'm ready for the next phase of the adventure. I think what I've been able to accomplish at CTS with some really gifted and talented people on the leadership team has really contributed to the future of the school. I also know that [the idea that] when it is time to move along because what you've done is what you can do has always been a part of my guiding light as I've been moving through my career and with my ministry.

Q: COVID was a hard year for all of us—institutionally for CTS, but also for you personally. Is there anything you want to share about that?

A: I think many people know because I've not tried to keep it a secret, but over the last 16 months, I've lost both of my parents to Covid, as well as twelve or thirteen other people who were very close to me. And my wife was battling cancer, and of course I caught coronavirus. So it has been a very difficult past 16 months—[and all this] in the midst of some major work we were doing at the seminary. So this wasn't a quiet period for us, We had to move all of our operations remotely. We started the Wednesday Reflections [now Wednesday Gatherings] as a way to create space and opportunity for students, alums, staff, faculty, and our friends to find a space of hope during the darkest days of the pandemic. We went through a reorganization, [and] we did significant budget work, so besides just the personal challenges, this has really been a very, very challenging time. Because we've been moving forward and getting stronger as an organization.

Q: Of your accomplishments, what makes you the proudest?

A: I think the thing that I'm most proud of is us as a school being open to actually seeing a future in which we bring our Christian identity in a path of transformation by working and partnering with other people, so that we're not just trying to do Christian in a new way. We're not just trying to reach a different Christian market, but we're actually open as an institution to becoming something new in which we can express our deepest identity – but do so in ways that we could not have imagined when we're doing that in partnership with others. So, I would say of all the things, the most important thing is our relationship with Bayan, because that really physically is a manifestation of the possibility for the future.

Q: Tell us more about that.

A: Our relationship and partnership with the Bayan Graduate Institute of Islamic Studies is one of the things that I would point to that I'm most grateful to be leaving as part of my legacy. They were able to see something in us that allowed them to want to join their future with us. And I want to recognize one of our alums, Sana Syed, who was instrumental in beginning the conversation. But fortunately, after she began the conversation, they were able to look at the school and really feel as if this could be a place where they could build a strong future.

In terms of accomplishments, I'd also want to point to the Fourth District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, that we now have a formal relationship [with them]. That is a significant sort of dimension of this vision as well.

I would also simply point to the people and the students. For instance, on Monday evening, I met with some students who wanted to have a farewell conversation. And it braced my

heart that a number of those students were Muslim students, and we had a UU student. What they were demonstrating is what my hopes were for what CTS could and would become.

Q: What do you think is the most important for seminaries to survive and thrive?

A: The most important thing for thriving is to recognize that number one, we have to think about ourselves as more than a place where people get MDivs. That can't be the center of our identity. We have to begin to raise the significant question, *How do we deliver theological education across multiple platforms, as well as with multiple ways of demonstration—certificates, micro-credentialing, as well as graduate degrees?* Because I think that always has to be a part of what we are, but I just don't think that can be at the center of what we do. And I think that if seminaries, particularly ones of our size that are freestanding seminaries, allow themselves to explore what it means to deliver theological education as opposed to simply thinking of themselves as guarantors of graduate degrees in theology or some other field. That's going to be critical in terms of thinking about the future.

Q: What do you hope you see in a year or two from now from CTS?

A: Well, I think the thing that I would hope for would be a hopefulness. What I mean by that is that if you're familiar with the landscape of theological education, schools of our size and relative budget are passing from the scene each and every year. That has created a significant amount of anxiety as well as trepidation as to what the future will look like. So what I'm hoping is that with these new partners who are excited about building a future with us, that their excitement will ignite a new hope for us.

Q: What are your plans post-presidency? What do you intend to do in the immediate future?

A: [I have] some plans that have been on the backburner for a while! I'm first just going to get some rest. This COVID era has been a very difficult one for me personally and for my family, and so I really just want to rest and renew. But I really want to get started on a new book, an introduction to theology textbook for first-year students either in religious studies or students that are coming in as MDiv students. I taught that class before I came to CTS for thirteen years straight. And there was a way in which I understood a text that I wanted to write, but I could not in good conscience take any time to write a book while having to deal with the demands that came with the presidency.

Q: Stephen, what imprint do you hope that you made on the institution and the people in it?

A: Well I think the biggest thing is to have hope in a future that is more expansive than the past that we have. So in terms of our interreligious work, in terms of the ways in which we're reaching out to new communities to develop vibrant partnerships—the Black community, the Muslim community, the LGBTQIA community—in more ways than just doing programming, but actually trying to build the kind of bridges that we continue to go across so that people will see in CTS the best of their hopes and dreams and as a consequence will want to become a part of the future of CTS. So that's what I pray is my largest legacy.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to add, Dr. Ray?

A: I think that the thing that I have been telling students for the 30 years that I've been teaching now is, "Go where your heart calls you." Because if you have trust and faith in God, if you go where your heart calls you, you will find work for your hands, for your mind, and for your heart. Continue in the hope and knowledge that if you give God something to work with, God will make something beautiful. And CTS still has work it can do, and still has something that can be made beautiful by God in this world. So my encouragement to everyone is to that, even in the midst of uncertainties that we have, to do so with courage and to do so with a deep sense of hopefulness—because there is a way that if we have the firm conviction that our work is going to give something to God to work with in building a better future for us all.



Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr., leaves behind him a wonderful legacy at Chicago Theological Seminary. To show our appreciation for Dr. Ray, CTS has renamed Conference Room 232 as Stephen G. Ray Jr. Class and Conference Room. He is pictured with Brian Clarke, Chair of the CTS Board of Trustees.



CHICAGO
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

JUSTICE LIVES HERE

Changing Times at Chicago Theological Seminary

by Brendan Diamond

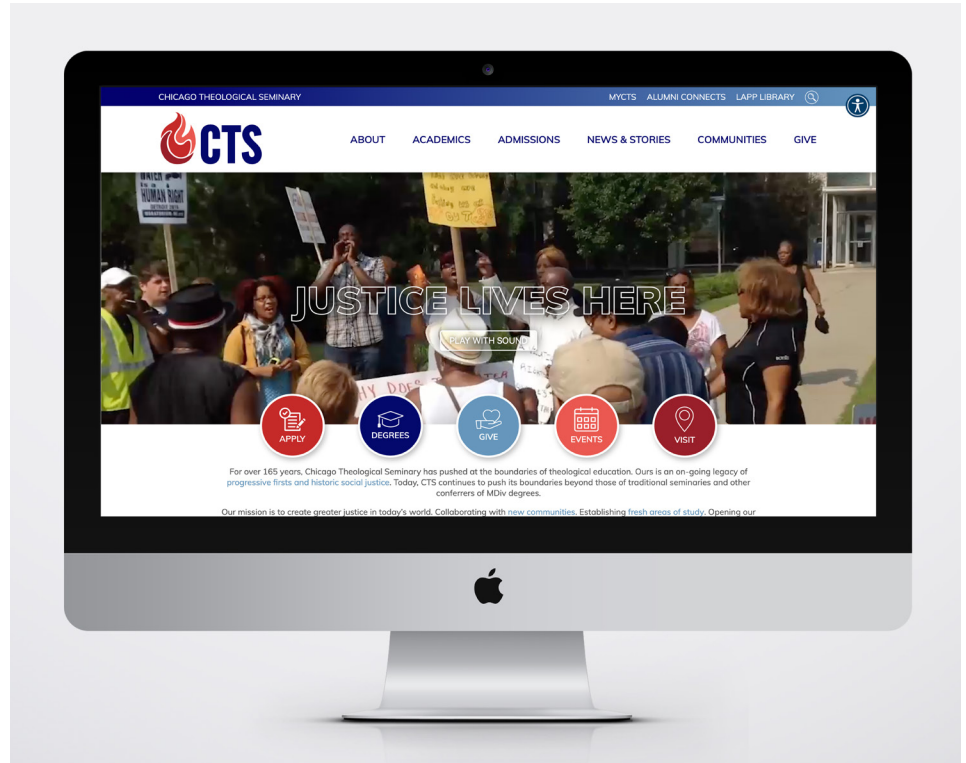
CTS has always embraced change. Whether social, societal, or internal, we are proud that we stand on the leading progressive edge of religious and spiritual formation and education. In other words, **we're not radical; we're just early.**

With theological education rapidly changing, CTS has established a new Office of Strategic Initiatives. This office is engaged in the development of sustaining relationships with organizations that share the mission and vision of CTS, allowing us to deepen and develop our relationships with the Black church, the LGBTQIA+ community, and the Muslim community. These efforts are central to building



a new ecosystem for the Seminary. Falling under the purview of the Office of Strategic Initiatives are strategic partnerships, creative initiatives, events, communications, and the InterReligious Institute. The office is led by Lisa Zook.

We're also embracing change with an update to our branding. Our longtime flame has been updated slightly to encompass three colors, emphasizing the change inherent at CTS. We have also changed our tagline. While we still believe in supporting our students to be Leaders for the Next, we wanted a phrase that would showcase how we have grown in the social and societal sphere. For that reason, our tagline has changed to something even more all-encompassing: **Justice Lives Here.** This reflects our continued efforts to train and cultivate a sense of activism



and social justice within our student body and our community writ large.

Along with our branding refresh, CTS has invested in updating our website. As our most external-facing recruitment and educational tool, we wanted our website to have a more modern look and feel. On our home page, you can now easily find videos of recent events and Wednesday Gatherings, along with our blog and podcast, Our 7 Neighbors. On other easily accessible pages, you can read about our mission and commitments, our history, and our lectures and awards. It's also easier for prospective students to find what they need to apply and enroll at CTS. We additionally have a section for all of our community work, including the InterReligious Institute, the Center for Black Faith & Life, the LGBTQIA+ community, and alumni.

Finally, to better serve our students, we are moving to a new class schedule. Beginning in the Fall term of the 2022-2023 school year, we will be moving to a tri-term format, which will allow us to fill the summer months with more class offerings and programs. This, in turn, will help students complete their education more quickly, should they so choose. We are hopeful that this important change will allow greater flexibility for all of our students.

Though we are going through many changes, CTS remains what it has always been: a forward-thinking, social justice-oriented institution dedicated to education, social equity, and religious formation. We will continue to lead the way for future generations.

**Change is coming.
Commitments remain.**



An Interview with Interim President Dr. Marsha Foster Boyd

What is it like to be called to CTS at this current time?

As I have said over and over, there were only two schools in the Association of Theological Schools that I ever even considered or thought about serving as president. One was Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, where I did serve for seven years as president. The other was CTS. That was many, many years ago that I had that thought. And so obviously and clearly to me, now is the time, and I see myself being able to bring all these years of experience in administration to bear for CTS at this time. So it's really clear that now is the time that I'm supposed to be here. I think I'm able to look at what is happening and make assessments as to what my areas of expertise are and experience are to bring to bear on what's happening at CTS. CTS is, like every other free-standing seminary, having to look at what it will be, how it will be, and who it will be in the years to come. I think all seminaries, especially free-standing seminaries, are looking back and can see where denominational support and traditional pathways to ministry were enabled through the denominational seminaries. But now, we see that the numbers of those students coming for Master of Divinity degrees to go into parish ministry are declining or are flat. Students are looking for alternative ways to exercise their ministries -- not necessarily in the parish. So here at CTS, the areas of chaplaincy and interfaith are very important right now. We'll just have to see, going into the future, what the priorities will be.

What do you see as being the most important areas that CTS should be focusing on during your presidency? What do you hope to see in a year's time?

In an interim position, one cannot affect long-range change. One has to assess where one sees the institution almost as a snapshot in time and address the issues that appear. So, certainly, in alignment with the commitments of CTS, the Muslim program with Bayan has been expanding, as well as

the area of chaplaincy. They're both long-term commitments for the school, so I just see myself as continuing to advocate for, encourage and support those two areas in particular. And I think those are niche, if you would, areas for CTS—well-known niche areas—we just need to keep publicizing and advertising those two areas especially.

What is your favorite part so far about CTS? What is really drawing you into the experience?

One of my mantras is, "People matter," so it's the people at CTS that I'm just thrilled to be working with. I took the opportunity in my first five weeks at CTS to meet with every faculty and staff member for just a half-hour conversation. Here we are in COVID time and can't meet face-to-face, so I just had to decide what would be the best way to greet people and have people meet me. So that's what I did over the first five weeks, and it was just wonderful to meet such committed people. Everyone without exception is glad to be working at CTS (at least, that's what they told me), and it's just wonderful to know that with the challenges that face theological education today, that those who are working at CTS love the institution and are committed to seeing it thrive.

What's something that people wouldn't expect about you?

I like to needlepoint. I have needlepoints all over my place. I've been doing needlepoint down through the years, and I really enjoy doing it as a hobby.

I also have a cat named Sheba! Some people have met my cat online because she loves to be in my lap. The interesting thing about Sheba is that she's a COVID company cat. I adopted her a year ago in August, and she is 14 years old. Older animals often don't get selected for adoption, so I thought that it was important. I said, two old ladies ought to be able to do well together. And we are.



An Interview with Interim Dean Dr. Rachel Mikva

What brought you to CTS? Why here?

I came from Jewish Theological Seminary [in New York City], where I was teaching after completing my doctoral work there. Before that I had been a congregational rabbi for 13 years, and before that I was in rabbinical school for 5 years. So that's about 20 years of being engaged in the Jewish world and loving it—walking with others as they discover the deep meaning and purpose in modern Jewish life.

At the same time, I hungered for a bigger world. When CTS posted the position of Professor in Jewish Studies, I was impressed that a historically Protestant seminary would endow a chair in Jewish studies because they were so committed to the idea that religious leaders need to know something about traditions other than their own. Then I looked at the website and saw the Mission and Commitments Statement. Here was this exceptional institution trying to do cutting-edge work around race and class and gender and sexuality and religious diversity—and I wanted to be a part of it.

What do you think that having you serve as Academic Dean right now means for CTS at this point?

We live in a time of rapid change, and CTS has adapted in ways that I think reflect not only the changing landscape of theological education but also the shifting terrain of religion in the world. CTS highlights the importance of coming together across religious differences, no matter what our lifespans are, and co-forming together—because we live together in a shared society. I think that commitment to interreligious engagement is reflected in our partnerships with Bayan and Hartford, in the broad diversity of our students, and in the growing diversity among our faculty as well. It's interesting that as a Reform Jew and as a rabbi, it feels normal that I was asked to be interim dean. I've been here a long time—12 years. So I think it feels normal to folks as opposed to, "What's a nice Jewish girl doing in a historically Protestant seminary," because we are so diverse and we are living into that. We are growing into our interreligious commitments in new and exciting ways that are completely separate from me. So it just feels a natural part of that.

What does this appointment mean to you personally? Why did you say "yes" to this job?

I said yes primarily for institutional reasons. I love CTS. I'm committed to CTS. Even though it's a lot of work to serve as dean, being asked to serve for a short while while the dean has a well-earned sabbatical seemed like not such a big ask. I grew up in a family that valued service; my father worked in public service his whole life. When he gave up his lifetime appointment on the U.S. Court of Appeals to serve as White House Counsel, his reasoning was, "If the president asks you to do something and you can do it, you say yes." In my humbler context, I think, "If the institution that I care about and I'm invested in asks me to do something, and I can, I try to say yes."

To step up into leadership means setting aside some of my own projects, like a book that may not get done for a while. It means learning about the institution and about all of the unseen work that people do. I'm eager for the opportunity to support our amazing faculty and to advance the commitments and mission of the institution.

What's something that might surprise people about you?

In my younger days, I had some jobs that might surprise people: I was a wrangler out in Wyoming; I was a designer and production and stage manager in the theatre; and I was a lifeguard while supporting myself in college.

New Staff Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff to the CTS family:



DARNELL PAYNE

Director of Information Technology

Darnell comes to CTS with more than two decades of experience in information technology. Prior to his arrival at CTS, Darnell was the Director of Information Technology at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He was also the owner of Osineo Network Services, Inc. A graduate of Moraine Valley Community College and Governors State University, Darnell has also served as an adjunct instructor at Prairie State College.



ROBERTO MENDEZ

Financial Aid Coordinator

Roberto spent more than seven years at La Casa Norte, a nonprofit that aims to serve youth and families confronting homelessness by providing access to stable housing and delivering comprehensive services that act as a catalyst to transform lives and communities. Roberto began as Information and Referral Specialist, and later was promoted to Development Associate and, finally, Volunteer Coordinator.



BRENDAN DIAMOND

Director of Communications

Brendan has more than a decade of experience in nonprofit and higher education communications. He comes to CTS from Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights, IL, where he served as Director of Alumni Engagement. He also has prior communications work history with the Northern Wyoming Community College District and Temple University in Philadelphia.

Recent Events

CASTAÑEDA Lecture & Award

On Holy (Cruising) Ground, in Sacred (Sub) Space: Beyond the Homonormative & Cisnormative Study of Religion

with speaker MELISSA M. WILCOX

The Gilberto Castañeda Lecture and Award were established in 1994 in loving memory of Gilberto Castañeda, the “adopted” son of Dr. Theodore Jennings and Rev. Dr. Ronna Case. Gilberto first met Case in California, where she worked to develop mission congregations among undocumented workers from Mexico. Gilberto “found the love of God so compelling that he not only became a member but also a leader in the new congregations of young people” that were being established by Rev. Case. In 1994, at the age of 29, he died of complications from AIDS.

The 2021 Castañeda Lecturer was author Melissa M. Wilcox. Wilcox is Professor and Holstein Family and Community Chair of



Religious Studies at the University of California, Riverside, and specializes in the study of gender, sexuality, and religion in the Global North/Global West. Dr. Wilcox’s books include *Coming Out in Christianity: Religion, Identity, and Community*; *Sexuality and the World’s Religions*; *Queer Women and Religious Individualism*; *Religion in Today’s World: Global Issues, Sociological Perspectives*; *Queer Nuns: Religion, Activism, and Serious Parody*; *Queer Religiosities: An Introduction to Queer and Transgender Studies in Religion*; and (with Nina Hoel and Liz Wilson) *The Religion, the Body, and Sexuality*. Dr. Wilcox’s current research is on spirituality in leather and BDSM communities.

PUBLIC SQUARE LECTURE SERIES



Making A New Reality Together

*Presented by
Kamal Sinclair*

The CTS Public Square Lecture Series brings to life the seminary’s commitments and beliefs, encouraging open discourse and engagement around emerging issues. This lecture series offers students and the community an opportunity to hear from leading voices on a variety of critical subjects.

On April 15, 2021, Kamal Sinclair presented a lecture titled

“Making a New Reality Together”. Sinclair is “making the world more beautiful” as the Executive Director of the Guild of Future Architects and artist at Sinclair Futures. She shared insights from a two-year research project on equality in emerging media commissioned by Ford Foundation’s JustFilms in partnership with Sundance Institute’s New Frontier program.



C. SHELBY ROOKS Lecture & Award

C. Shelby Rooks was the first African American to serve as president of a predominately white theological school. He was one of the founders of the Society for the Study of Black Religion. An influential minister in the United Church of Christ and in the African-American religious community, Rooks served as executive vice president of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries from 1984 until his retirement in 1992. Earlier, he headed the Fund for Theological Education in Princeton, New Jersey, and had been pastor of Lincoln Memorial Temple, United Church of Christ, in Washington, D.C. Rooks died May 19, 2001.

The C. Shelby Rooks Lecture launches a series of programs, open to the community, that invites individuals and communities, lay, clergy, and scholars to engage in religious and theological reflection on issues relevant to African-American

faith, freedom, and justice. The C. Shelby Rooks Scholar Award acknowledges the outstanding work of a particular CTS student who carries Rooks' legacy in their commitment to community and uses the lessons from the past to guide the future.

The 2020 C. Shelby Rooks Lecture was given by Bree Newsome Bass. Bree Newsome Bass is an artist, activist, and public speaker. She is an organizer in the modern civil rights movement and has helped develop several non-profit and grassroots organizations. In 2015, she attracted national attention when she scaled a flagpole at South Carolina's capitol building to remove the Confederate battle flag in protest of systemic racism following the racially-motivated murders at Emanuel AME in Charleston. Her artistic work includes written, film, and performance pieces. She is the recipient of an N.A.A.C.P. Image Award, among other honors.



WAJAHAT ALI

Every spring the IRI hosts a widely-know interreligious leader to speak about issues of the day pertaining to interfaith engagement. The evening also allows the opportunity to award the Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman Interreligious Leadership Award. This award honors Rabbi Schaalman's long commitment to interreligious understanding, including his 12 years of teaching at CTS. The award is intended to advance interreligious understanding, engagement, and leadership. In 2022, the IRI Spring Lecture will be renamed the Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman Interreligious Lecture and Award.

The 2021 IRI Spring Lecturer was writer and political commentator Wajahat Ali. Wajahat Ali is a new kind of public intellectual: young, exuberant, optimistic, and funny. And though today's doomsday headlines report growing division and racial strife, he hasn't given up on his vision of a truly multicultural America—free of hate, fear, and bigotry. With refreshing honesty and humor, the New York Times writer and popular political commentator discussed how we can come together as a “multicultural coalition of the willing” and drive lasting social change.

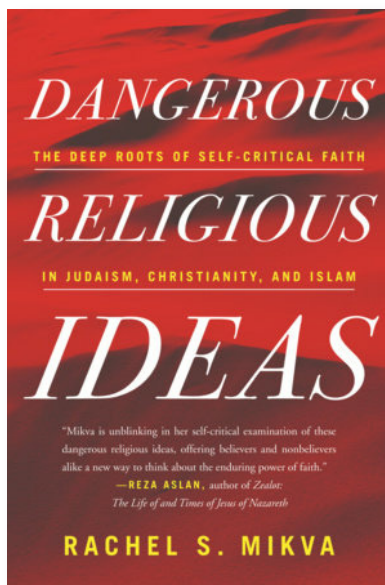
Book Publications

Dangerous Religious Ideas: The Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Scripture's abiding relevance can inspire great goodness, such as welcoming the stranger and extending compassion for the poor. But its authority has also been wielded to defend slavery, marginalize LGBTQ individuals, ignore science, and justify violence. Grounded in close readings of scripture and tradition in Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, Rabbi

Dr. Rachel S. Mikva, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman Chair & Professor of Jewish Studies, and Senior Faculty Fellow of the InterReligious Institute shows readers that the Abrahamic religions have always been aware of their tremendous power both to harm and to heal. And so they have transmitted their sacred stories along with built-in tools—interpretive traditions—to do the necessary work of taking on dangerous religious ideas and fostering self-critical faith.

By exploring the themes of Scripture, Election, Reward and Punishment, Dr. Mikva examines how the interpretive methodologies of these religions have identified and grappled with their perilous power and positive potential. Many readers presume that their understanding of scripture's meaning is absolute, forgetting how these sacred texts and the history of interpretation have valued multiple perspectives and recognized ongoing rhythms of change. It's not a modern phenomenon to debate the nature of truth, hold space open for doubt, value humility, and question our capacity to know things—especially about God and God's will—with certainty. In fact, none of the traditions could remain vital or thrive together without a sustained practice of self-critique. *Dangerous Religious Ideas* reframes the way we talk about faith to create a space where public discussion of religion is more constructive, nuanced, and socially engaged.



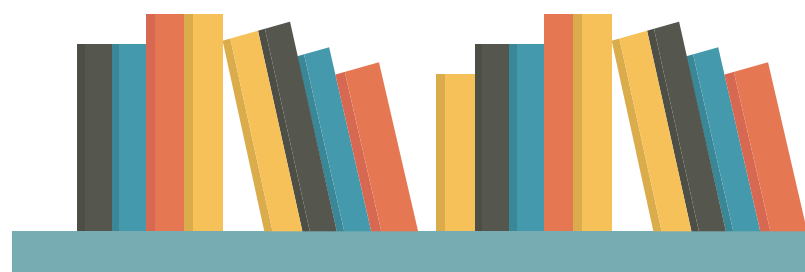
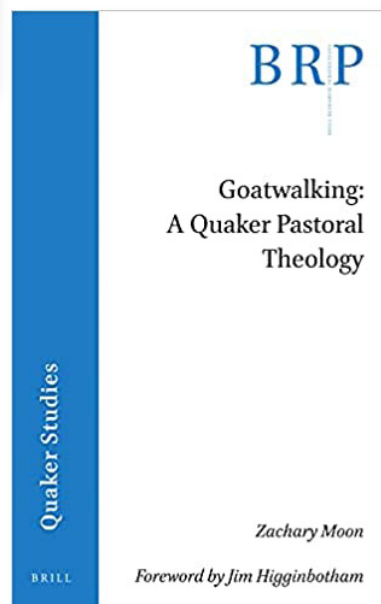
Goatwalking: A Quaker Pastoral Theology

Dr. **Zachary Moon**, CTS Associate Professor of Theology and Psychology, explores the rich traditions of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in relationship to the field of pastoral theology. Firstly, he explores the significance of metaphor in influencing the pastoral theological imagination.

This includes revisiting Seward Hiltner's classic 'shepherding perspective.' Moon secondly utilizes the works of Jim Corbett in animating an alternative pastoral metaphor and claims a 'goatwalking perspective.' Finally, he broadly traverses the terrain of Quaker traditions, particularly those



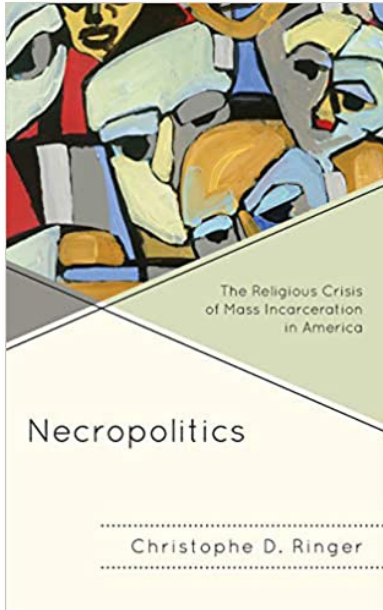
practices that pertain to compassionate care and support of spiritual wellbeing, acknowledging that the concepts of 'pastoral theology' and 'pastoral care' are largely unfamiliar within Quaker theological understanding yet asserting that Quaker traditions provide resources that aid broader pastoral theological discourse and support the healthy living out of Quaker faith in community.



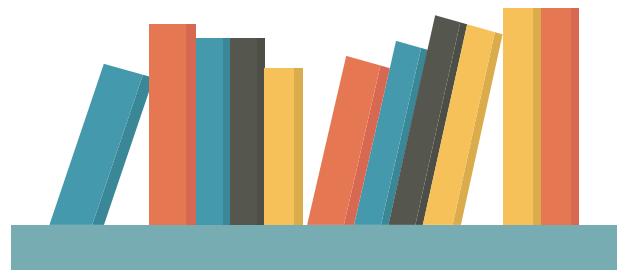
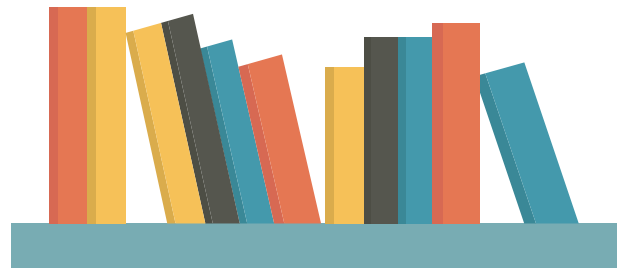
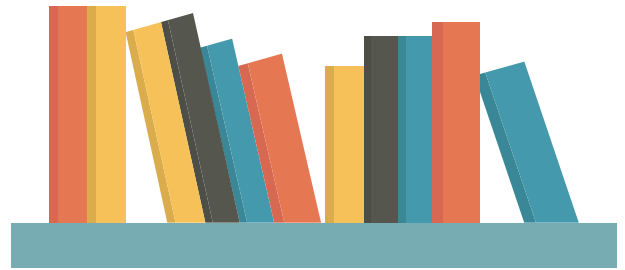
Necropolitics: The Religious Crisis of Mass Incarceration in America

Necropolitics: The Religious Crisis of Mass Incarceration in America explores the pernicious and persistent presence of mass incarceration in American public life. Dr. **Christophe D. Ringer**, CTS Associate Professor of Theological Ethics and Society, argues that mass incarceration persists largely because the othering and criminalization of Black people in times of crisis is a significant part of the religious meaning of America.

This book traces representations from the Puritan era to the beginning of the War on Drugs in the 1980s to demonstrate their centrality in this issue, revealing how these images



have become accepted as fact and used by various aspects of governance to wield the power to punish indiscriminately. Dr. Ringer demonstrates how these vilifying images contribute to racism and political economy, creating a politics of death that uses jails and prisons to conceal social inequalities and political exclusion.



BAYAN

& CTS



BAYAN
ISLAMIC GRADUATE SCHOOL

Since the Fall of 2019, Bayan Islamic Graduate School has been in partnership with CTS to offer concentrations in two of the CTS degree programs. CTS President Stephen Ray played an instrumental role in welcoming Bayan to the CTS fold, and Bayan President Jihad Turk notes,

“Our board recognized the spirit of openness and innovation extended to Bayan as we began exploring new opportunities. Chicago is a dynamic environment with a large and active Muslim community that welcomes such collaboration, and we are excited to build a long-lasting relationship with CTS.”

Muslim students and those of other backgrounds who’ve matriculated at CTS can opt to enroll in courses that constitute a concentration in Islamic Studies within the Master of Arts (MA) in Religious Studies, or a concentration in Islamic Chaplaincy within the Master of Divinity (MDiv) program. In these concentrations, students take about 25% of their courses with CTS’ diverse faculty, and 75% of their coursework is completed with Bayan’s extensive range of world-class affiliated faculty.

Bayan began admitting students in 2011 when it was established as part of a consortium of interreligious seminaries in Southern California, and offered its concentrations through the Claremont School of Theology, with the final class completing their studies



this past May. To date, Bayan has graduated 52 students representing the varied Muslim American communities nationwide. These graduates, as well as current students, are part of growing cadre of Muslim American imams, chaplains, educators and organizational leaders who are becoming better equipped to engage the interfaith context, mobilize community members for civic engagement, and to pass along the faith to the next generation. A [recent report](#) issued by the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) suggests a positive trend that half of American mosques have a full-time paid imam, up from 43% a decade ago. Of the imams in these positions, 22% were born in the U.S., an increase from 15%, indicating that a preference for hiring American-born imams is growing. However, only 6% of all imams received their Islamic degree (BA, MA, PhD) from an American institution, with 55% receiving such education abroad. Part of Bayan’s mission is to build human capacity that is best

suitable to addressing the needs of Muslim Americans and engaging the broader society.

Currently, approximately 75 students form the Bayan portion of the larger CTS student body, including 30 MA students, 38 MDiv students and several certificate students. Thus, Bayan’s continued growth reflects in the overall growth in the CTS admissions and enrollments. Now, almost every course offered by CTS and Bayan faculty includes a healthy mix of students representing various religious traditions and numerous life-stances. This real-world interaction in the classroom leads to deeper interreligious understanding and a unique kind of leadership formation, enhanced by the development of collegial bonds of inspiration and support, that the two institutions believe is vital for the future of America. Bayan and CTS are also partners in sponsoring various initiatives and participating in programs that elevate and advance theological education.

A WORKING PARTNERSHIP

Student Awards

C. SHELBY

ROOKS

2021 C. Shelby Rooks Scholar Award Retravia Ingraham

The C. Shelby Rooks Scholar Award acknowledges the outstanding work of a particular CTS student who carries C. Shelby Rooks' legacy in their commitment to community and uses the lessons from the past to guide the future. C. Shelby Rooks was the first African American president of a predominately white theological school and was one of the founders of the Society for the Study of Black Religion.

G. CAMPBELL

MORGAN

2021 G. Campbell Morgan Preaching Award

Julie Britton and Timothy Dotson

The G. Campbell Morgan Award in preaching is awarded to a current Chicago Theological Seminary Master of Divinity student who excels at the work of preaching. The award is in honor of The Rev. Dr. G. Campbell Morgan (DD 1902) who was voted one of the ten greatest preachers of the twentieth century. He was a genius of expository preaching, unfolding the biblical text with rigor, compassion, imagination, and art.

RABBI HERMAN E. SCHAALMAN

INTERRELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP

2021 Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman InterReligious Leadership Award Jeff/Lisa Simpson

The Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman InterReligious Leadership Award is an initiative of the InterReligious Institute (IRI) at Chicago Theological Seminary. It honors the passionate commitment to interreligious engagement modeled by the late Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman.

CASTAÑEDA

2021 Gilberto Castañeda Scholar Award Mac Buff

The Gilberto Castañeda Scholarship was established in 1994 in memory of Gilberto Castañeda, the adopted son of Dr. Theodore Jennings and Rev. Ronna Case. This award honors outstanding, openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students at Chicago Theological Seminary. It is an expression of the seminary's commitment to transform congregations from places of hostility and alienation to communities of hospitality and empowerment.

JUDITH PARKS SANDERSON

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

2021 Sanderson Award for Women in Leadership Michelle Carr

The Sanderson Award for Women in Leadership was established in 2006 in memory of Judith Parks Sanderson who died in 2004 after a courageous battle with Ovarian Cancer. Judith Parks Sanderson had an outstanding career as an educational development manager with leadership roles at William & Mary College, Princeton University and University of Chicago during a time when women in managerial roles were rare as "the glass ceiling" limited opportunity. She planned to assist startup not for profits in their development efforts and wanted to mentor younger women who showed management promise. This annual award is given to an outstanding woman candidate to assist in furthering her career.

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

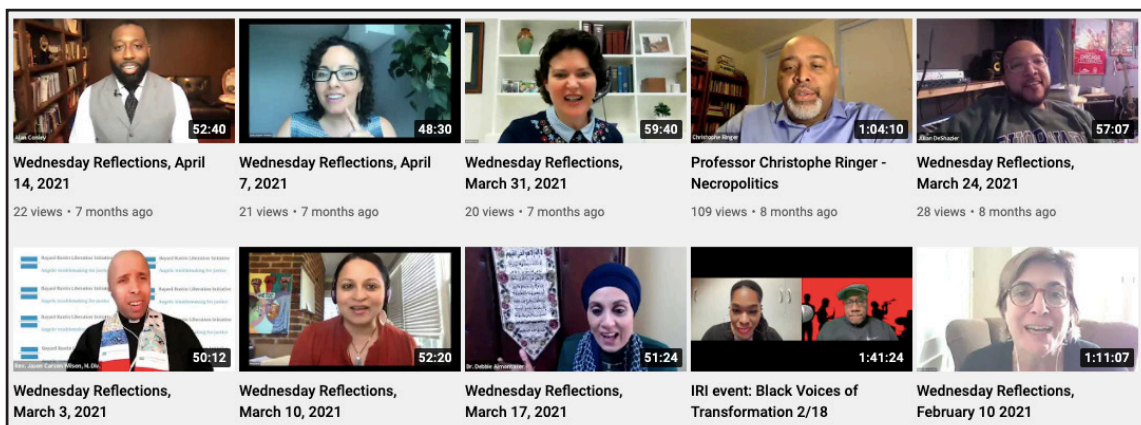
WEDNESDAY

Gatherings

Traditionally, CTS has held a chapel service each Wednesday at noon, followed by lunch and fellowship. As we settled into the “new normal” of self-isolation in 2020, we moved the chapel service online. At first, the point was really to provide a place for students, faculty, and staff to check in on each other and really assess the rapid changes COVID-19 forced. But as time went on, we began inviting speakers to provide a little stimulation and excitement. These Wednesday Reflections were a hit! Topics included “When They Build Walls, We Build Bridges,” “Christians Against Christian Nationalism,” and “An Inside Look at the Christian Left.”

At the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, Wednesday Reflections were rebranded Wednesday Gatherings. It is a time for the greater CTS community to come together as one to reflect on and discuss topics applicable to students, alumni, faculty, and staff alike. Since the start of the school year, topics have ranged from “Finding Rest in the Storm: Embracing a ‘Theology of Self-Care’ in the Midst of Crisis” to a celebration of Sukkot that dovetailed into a discussion on climate change and care for the Earth.

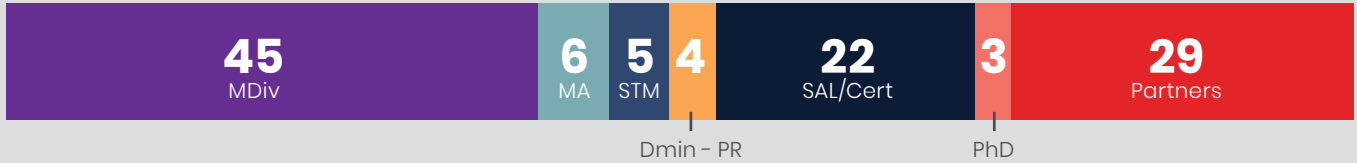
Wednesday Gatherings occur every Wednesday (except for holidays) and use the same Zoom link every week:
<https://ctschicago-edu.zoom.us/j/97135339976>.



CTS By The Numbers

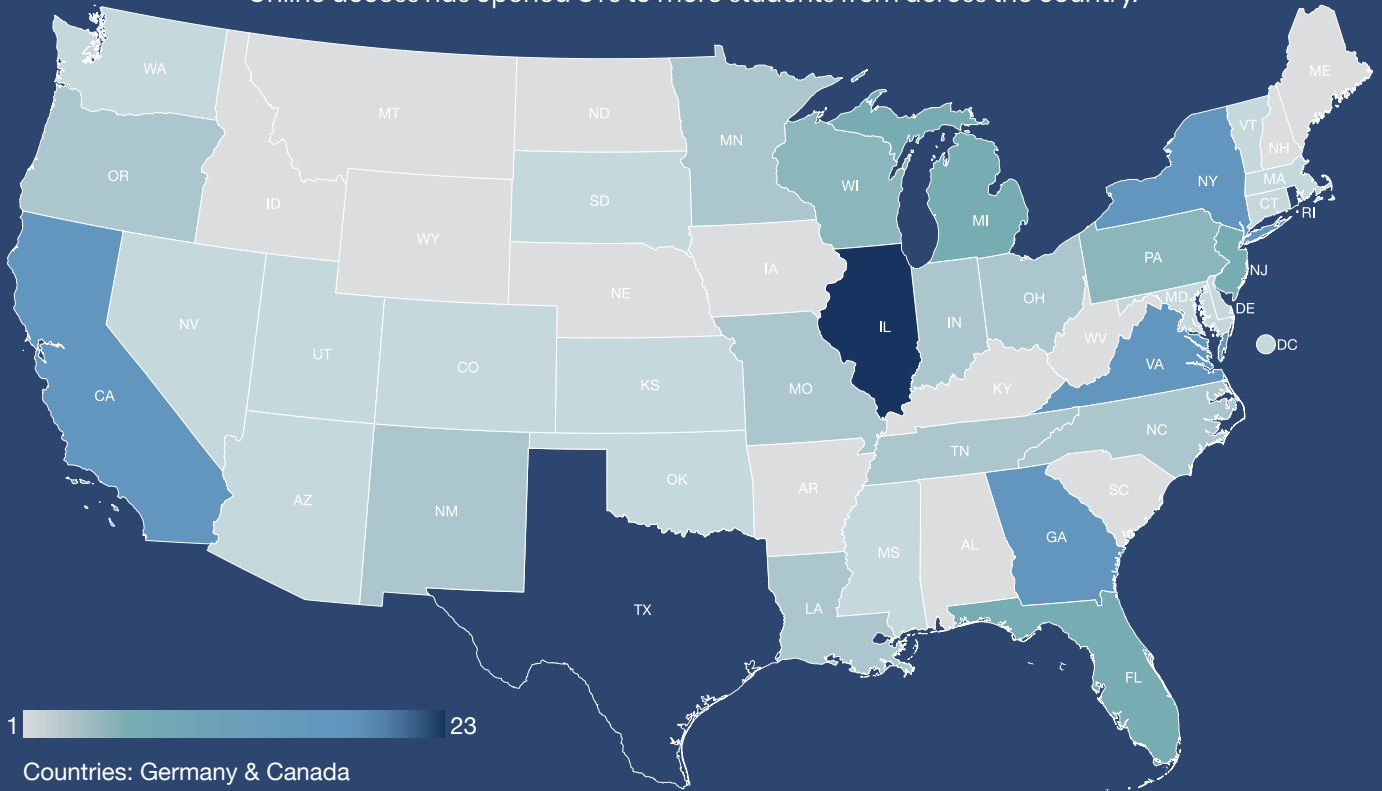
What Degree?

MDiv students account for 54% of new students



What states send the most students to CTS?

Online access has opened CTS to more students from across the country.



Sexual Orientation

Approximately 1/3 of the student body is non-heterosexual.

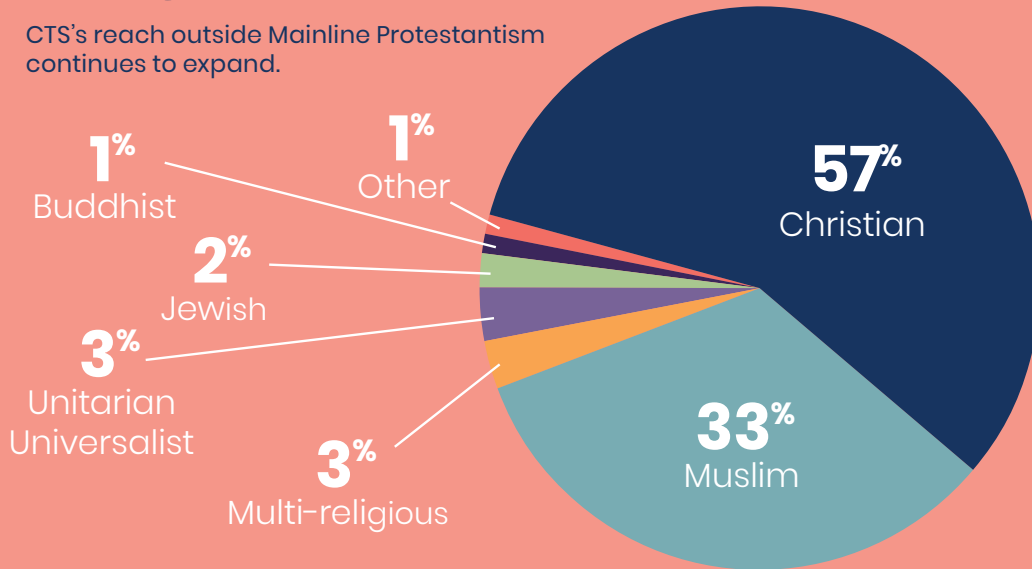


DID NOT DISCLOSE

Here's a look at the 2021 Incoming Class at CTS.

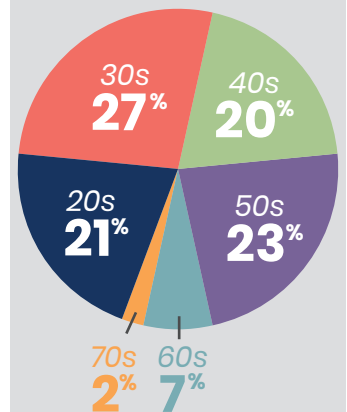
Religious Affiliation

CTS's reach outside Mainline Protestantism continues to expand.



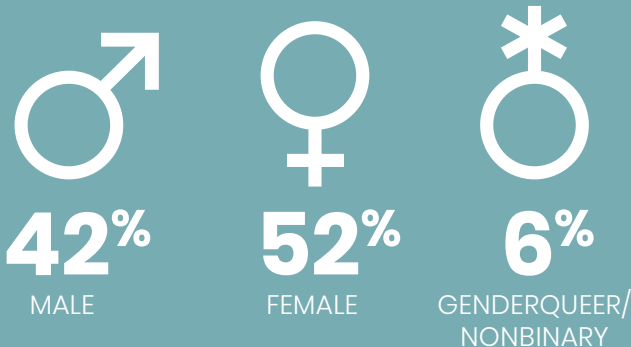
Age of Incoming Students

The appeal of CTS runs across age groups.



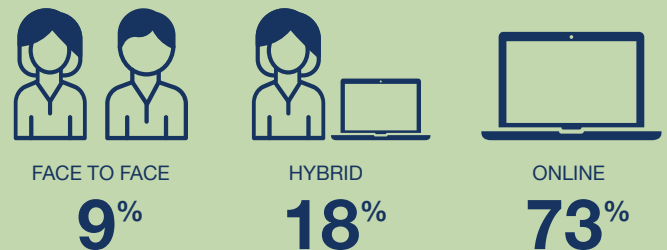
Gender ID

Continues to be less than 50% male.



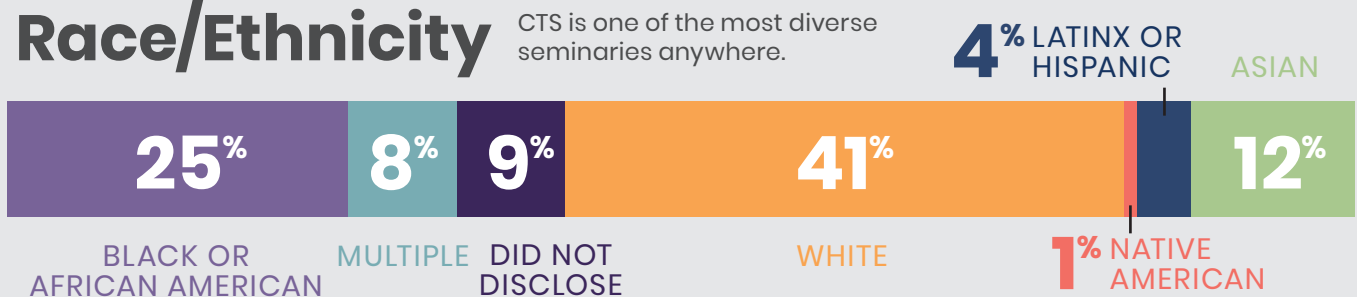
Mode of Study

Thanks in part to the pandemic, the percentage of online only students continues to rise.



Race/Ethnicity

CTS is one of the most diverse seminaries anywhere.





A NETWORK TO RELY ON

Resilience in Leadership Initiative



Early career clergy are faced with many challenges in today's ministry climate. Decreasing church attendance coupled with structural challenges, such as COVID, racism, sexism, and homophobia exacerbate feelings of pastoral isolation. Today's ministers often struggle with expectations that require them to do multiple things at once without secure access to a continuing system of support. Research demonstrates the importance of peer-to-peer relationships for post-seminary graduates facing common obstacles to staying in ministry. Building upon these best practices with funding from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., the Resilience in Leadership Initiative (ReLI) at CTS focuses on developing meaningful

relationships between clergy with an aim towards helping ministers thrive in their short and long-term vocations.

In October 2021, ReLI recognized the culmination of its first full cohort of mentors and fellows during its annual gathering retreat. Given the obstacles provided by the pandemic, this year's gathering was entirely virtual and coincided again with the annual Rooks Lecture. Project participants took active

roles in both virtual meetings, with ReLI fellows Candace Laughinghouse and Erica Williams taking part in the post-Rooks panel discussion. Dr. Kate Lassiter facilitated this year's self-care workshop, while fellows Shea Watts and Quientrell Burnell provided additional worshipful talents.

Though every region and denomination represented in the program is unique, ReLI fellows are mostly women of color, African-American, and queer given the project's particular commitments. "The immense diversity of people, experiences, and geographies is what makes ReLI so undeniably different from similar programs," said CTS alumni Tyler M. Tully who is directing ReLI. "Our entire project is aimed at facilitating meaningful relationships for clergy who are particularly at risk for burn-out." In this way, ReLI closely aligns with the seminary's longstanding vision, mission, and commitment to the development of religious leaders who are already transforming the world towards greater justice and mercy.

The realities of COVID-19 have certainly made an impact on ReLI and similar projects also funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.'s "Thriving in Ministry Initiative." But CTS's established infrastructure makes online engagement simple and allows for recruiting new mentors and fellows all over the country regardless of their geographic location. Tully expects that ReLI will now focus on developing online relationships between peers and mentors, which will allow for better fits between clergy's professional and spiritual needs. Lilly's "Thriving in Ministry Initiative" has granted CTS the funding to continue ReLI for three more years.

"Our entire project is aimed at facilitating meaningful relationships for clergy who are particularly at risk for burn-out."

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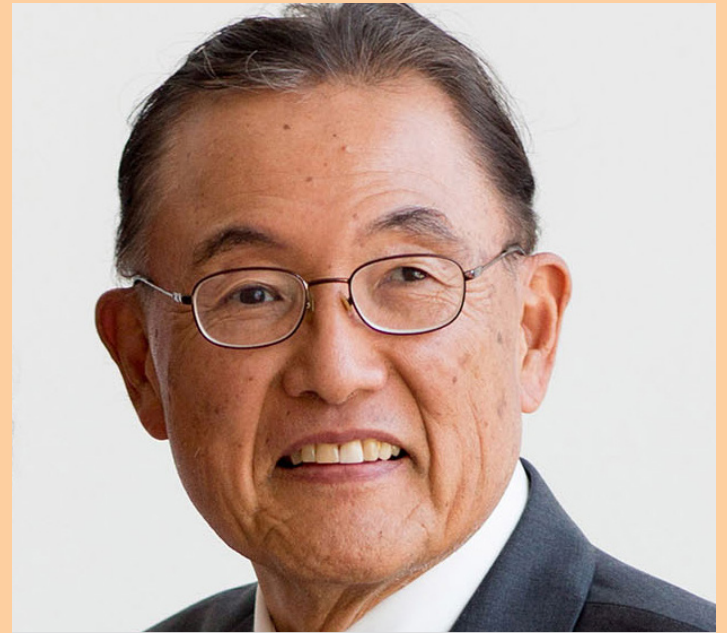
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JUSTICE



Newton Lee Wesley, DMin 1982

An engineer by training, Newton Lee Wesley (Lee) came to the Booth Business School at the University of Chicago for a business degree and stayed in the dorms of Chicago Theological Seminary. In the dorms, he found himself surrounded by CTS people. They shared meals together, and while they ate, they discussed the humanities—a welcome divergence from the topics and discussions of Lee’s advanced business classes at UChicago. And these conversations became routine. As these friendships developed, Lee became more and more interested in philosophy and theology with a keen understanding of the justice work they demanded.

One of the many acquaintances was CTS alumnus, Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. who was actively working toward racial equality with Operation Breadbasket. In 1965, at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Lee joined Rev. Jackson and others in traveling to Selma, Alabama for the historic 1965 march. The alumni who marched in Selma received the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award from CTS.

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MARCHES ON

Foundation
Giving Stories

The important work of justice for the marginalized was not a new idea for Lee. Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Lee and his family were among more than 120,000 Japanese Americans sent to internment camps. He spent his toddler years surrounded by barbed wire and watch towers at the Minidoka camp in the Idaho desert. Even though he and his parents were born in the United States, racism and unfounded “fears of espionage” resulted in government sanctioned, forced exile to “relocation centers.” When he and his family were finally allowed to leave southern Idaho, they relocated to Chicago’s Uptown neighborhood with many other ethnic minorities.

After finishing his MBA, Lee later he returned to Hyde Park and his community for the Doctor of Ministry degree at CTS, graduating in 1982. During this time, he completed two units of field education—a Clinical Pastoral Education unit as hospital chaplain and an internship with the Church Federation in Chicago, leveraging his business experience to assist with marketing and communications. Lee’s experiences in Field Education and his intense interest in theological and philosophical studies stayed with him after graduating and continued to play a role throughout his personal life. Lee died of pulmonary fibrosis in 2019.

Wanting to celebrate her late husband, Victoria Granacki, along with the Office of Advancement and other CTS staff worked closely together to identify areas of need which aligned with Lee’s passion for CTS. The gift honors Lee’s legacy in three key areas. First, the gift created a partial student scholarship for one student during the 2021-2022 academic year. Keeping Lee’s passion at heart, the scholarship will be awarded to a student with interests in Chaplaincy Studies. Second, the gift offers needed support toward the existing Student Chaplaincy Program at CTS. Now in its second year, the Student Chaplains enhance and shape student life at CTS by prioritizing individual connections and community building among students, faculty, staff, and the wider community. They work closely with the Assistant Director to imagine and implement new programming that acknowledges and speaks to CTS’s diverse identities.

Finally, the gift’s third area of support provides new opportunities and support for Field Education supervisors. Lee’s time at CTS was shaped by his experience in Field Education and CPE. Dr. Katharine Lassiter, Director of Field Education at CTS, led a collaborative process to determine how to best use this gift to support supervisors as they train religious leaders in their contexts during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Through Lee’s legacy Dr. Lassiter will provide much-needed respite as well as a forum for a variety of topics suggested by supervisors. The gift allows Dr. Lassiter to bring in subject matter experts to lead webinars and conversation. Topics for the 2021-2022 academic year include: how to design & deliver remote education programs; diversity and sustainability audits; how to become open & affirming and anti-racist organizations; interfaith spiritual care & chaplaincy; and care for caregivers. In the spring semester, Field Education supervisors will receive a copy of Patrick Reyes’s book, *The Purpose Gap: Empowering Communities of Color to Find Meaning and Thrive* (Westminster John Knox Press) to read along with their students as well as an invitation to “come to class” for discussion.

Lee’s Legacy will certainly have a lasting impact. Student Chaplains will work to create deeper community in-person and online for the CTS community. Student scholarship will ease the burden of student debt. The biggest impact may be found in the support for Field Education supervisors, with influence felt by current and future students as well as in the communities where these congregations and organization exist.

If you are interested in learning more about this gift or ways in which you can create a legacy at CTS, contact the Office for Advancement at 773.896.2430 or advancement@ctschicago.edu.



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PASSING THE FLAME

Did you know you can support the mission of Chicago Theological Seminary without writing a check? By providing for CTS in your estate or listing CTS as a beneficiary, you can pass the flame to the next generation of leaders. A planned gift will help ensure that justice continues to live at CTS.

(Learn why Robb Lapp (MDiv '57, STM '17) has left CTS a planned gift in his estate, in his article on page 42.)



To find out more visit ctschicago.edu/planned-giving/

THE VICTOR & JESSIE

Lawson
S O C I E T Y

Those who make a planned gift of any amount become members of the Victor and Jessie Lawson Society.

In Memoriam

Spotlight: Rev. Lynn Young



Today, I take a moment to honor Rev. Lynn Young who passed away on November 18th, 2020. Lynn received her MDiv from CTS in 2019 after being named a Gilberto Castaneda Scholar in 2018. Lynn was ordained in the United Church of Christ following graduation and served as co-pastor at Grace UCC in Plymouth, Indiana. I could spend so much more time naming the plethora of accomplishments attributed to Lynn, but today, I need to concentrate on a particular role Lynn occupied, that of my beloved friend.

My first encounter with Lynn was at our shared CTS orientation, in 2014. I was talking with a group of my peers from that incoming class in the chapel when out of the corner of my eyes I see this person dressed in full native regalia, feathers and leather, approaching us. After a few introductions, Lynn told us she had to return to Indiana and began to walk away. Then, Lynn turned around and approached me, tapped me on my shoulder and said, "you don't know this, but you and me, we are going to get to know each other here."

On the first virtual session of our PT course, the instructor asked if folks had a preference for a projects partner for the semester. Immediately, Lynn spoke up and said, "Yes! I want to work with Jeff (my name back then). We were supposed to work together from our home locations but

Lynn thought it better if we meet in person halfway between our homes and CTS. In that first meeting, we discovered we were both Native American discovering our common Lakota Sioux heritage, and our birthdays were both on Nov 23 and with Lynn's guidance, I eventually recognized my two-spirited gender identity that matched my own. We continued to meet at CTS each month for that semester and our journey to CTS turned into a semi-annual trek every year thereafter. (Just Ask Dr. Stone how many times he had to come let us in on the weekend).

A while back, I asked Lynn, "why did you pick me to be your partner?" Today, because it reveals so much about the Lynn I would come to love as my friend, my sibling, my littermate, I want to share the response I received.

The reason comes from part of my hard core theology... but it's not suitable for all spaces (all written projects). I believe, in connection... for serious, littermate!

I believe in the sacred connection of beings...I believe that similar to string theory in quantum physics (which has invisible strings connecting all matter), that people are connected by strings of Spirit. I believe that there is this amazing invisible network of Spirit strings. Some folks are utterly oblivious to the connections. Some people spend their entire lives whacking away at those strings, trying not to be connected. Some people put on thick suits of armour in hopes that maybe they won't feel the vibrations of all of those strings. Still others feel those vibrations keenly, and seek out those to whom they are connected. I seek out those to whom I am connected. That connection - that love...is in truth, why I picked you as my partner for that class...and wasn't I right? They just don't come any better than us...right?

CLASSES OF 1950 - 1959

Henry A. Campbell (MDiv '51)
Lee A. Dalrymple (BD '59)
James M. Gustafson (BD '51)
Robert L. Jewett (BD '58)

CLASSES OF 1960 - 1969

Reine R. Abele (BD '60)
Sandor J. Farkas (Honorary '60)
George H. Zilliac (BD '60)

CLASSES OF 1970 - 1979

Richard Galloway (MDiv '70)
Glen A. Halbe (MDiv '72)
Frazier N. Odom (DMin '77)
Theodore C. Roos (DMin '77)
Thomas L. Truby (DMin '77)

CLASSES OF 1980 - 1989

Julia Brogdon (DMin '81)
James E. Griffes (Attended '80-'82)
Eva L. Salmons (MA '87)
Thomas J. Walker (DMin '86)

CLASSES OF 1990 - 1999

Corean Bakke (DMin '90)
Phillip Conyers (MDiv '98)
Ellis J. May (MDiv '93)
Nancy H. Nyberg (MDiv '95)
Barbara K. Taylor (MDiv '91)

CLASSES OF 2010 - 2019

Lynn J. Young (MDiv '19)



Elder Thomas M. Hughes Scholarship



New Named Scholarship Created in Honor of CTS Alumnus

by Rev. Brian E. Smith

CTS alumnus Elder **Thomas M. Hughes '77** is no stranger to innovation and trailblazing. He is currently leading the fundraising effort to establish the first AME endowed scholarship at the Chicago Theological Seminary. As a native of Kingstree, South Carolina during the era of segregation, he broke the color barrier in standardized testing becoming the first African American student in eastern South Carolina to take the SAT exam. Elder Hughes advanced to Allen University, earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics, and he eventually became an elementary school teacher.

Elder Hughes has always remained faithful to his AME roots. He is a preacher's kid, born and raised in the African Methodist

Episcopal Church tradition. He and his sisters Wilhelmena and Gwendolyn recount happy memories growing up in the church parsonage as youth. He realized that he needed to be properly trained in order to become an effective and competent minister. His calling led him to come and apply to the Chicago Theological Seminary in the mid-seventies.

Hughes was not only a stellar minister and seminarian, but he was also a budding entrepreneur in the mortuary industry. While matriculating as a student, he simultaneously worked as a mortician. He recalled sometimes driving to class in a hearse but fortunately, he was always the only passenger arriving at CTS! Through the years he managed to not only build successful mortuary businesses but he also became an Elder in the AME 4th District covering portions of Canada and upper Midwest of the United States. At the height of his career, he had oversight of over 100 churches. After 50 years of faithful service, he retired in the summer of 2020.

Elder Hughes has an enduring legacy of providing money to many of the children in his districts. He often gave them money encouraging them to develop an acumen for saving. His heart of generosity began poured out onto CTS a few years ago. Shortly after the 4th AME district entered into partnership with Chicago Theological Seminary, Rev. Brian E. Smith of the strategic Initiatives department worked with Elder Hughes and his sisters to establish scholarships in his name. After significant outreach and stewardship even during the pandemic season, Elder Hughes and his family have managed to raise over \$46,000 towards a \$100,000 endowed scholarship fund designated for AME and black students who are in excellent academic standing and demonstrate outstanding service to the Church. The Hughes family is ecstatic about reaching this milestone and we welcome all those who have an affinity for this effort. CTS is seeking contributions to help us reach our goal this year.

To learn more about the Elder Thomas M. Hughes Scholarship, or to make a contribution to this worthy cause, contact Rev. Brian E. Smith, Director of Community Relations and Strategic Partnerships, at brian.smith@ctschicago.edu.

\$46,000

Goal: \$100,000



CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

JUSTICE LIVES HERE

Please remember CTS at this time of year.
We thank you for your continued support.

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