

Our mission is to strengthen the life of the church by educating women and men for ministry, enlivening critical reflection on faith, and supporting bold Christian discipleship.



**Eden Seminary** 

## Message from President

Looking across this last year, we at Eden Theological Seminary have been taking stock of the provision of God. Hearing Biblical echoes of the wilderness wandering, we have noted common threads of fear, risk, trust, sharing, community, and abundance. It's been a remarkable year, and through it all we can shout with thanks that God's grace has been sufficient.

Early in the year, I was honored to be inaugurated as Eden's 14th President, and I have been blessed to work with a brilliant faculty and talented staff who have centered our attention on the lives and callings of Eden's students and the life of the church throughout this challenging year. Together we have rebuilt the school from its predominantly residential mode of instruction to a blended space in which physically and digitally present people teach, learn, worship, and share fellowship together in a vibrant community of learning and faith. As we have been about this work, we have delighted in the evidence that Eden's alumni are leading congregations, organizations, and communities of the church in similar institutional transformations. God is good!



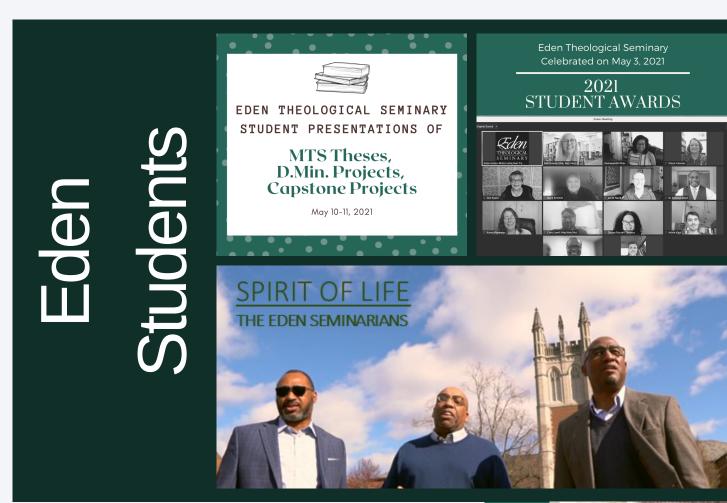
Throughout this journey, we on the faculty and staff have been moved by the vitality of Eden's constituencies of alumni, students, and friends who have attended digital, physical, and blended programs through which Eden has shared its mission in new ways. We have been inspired by the generosity of a growing community of donors who have responded to the Seminary's programming and new modes of access with messages of encouragement and gifts of support. In all of this we see God's provision and love as we work to trust and move with the Spirit's guiding through these times of challenge, change, and opportunity.

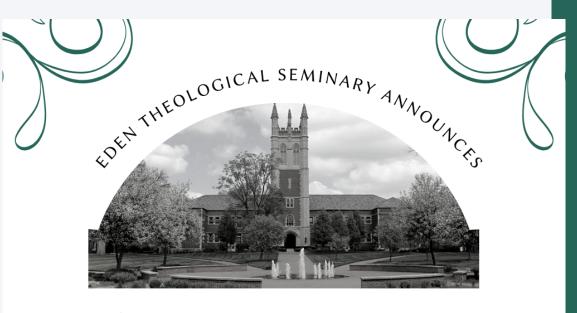
It is in hope and with thanksgiving for God's provision that we share this annual report. Blessings in the New Year,

Rev. Dr. Deborah Krause

Deb

President, Eden Theological Seminary





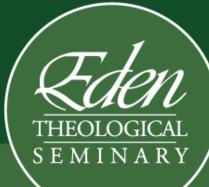
## 171<sup>st</sup> COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE EDEN SEMINARY'S CLASS OF 2021!

MAY 14, 2021 @ 7:30 PM CDT ONLINE VIA ZOOM AND FACEBOOK LIVE







## **BY THE NUMBERS**

(2015 - 2020)

THE LAST 5 YEARS

TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW STUDENTS 223

51% FEMALE



49% MALE



92% DOMESTIC

8%
INTERNATIONAL



NEW STUDENTS ARE DRAWN FROM 22 STATES 10 COUNTRIES



Congo • Ghana • India Indonesia • Japan • Kenya Myanmar • South Africa Sri Lanka • Tanzania



AVERAGE OVERALL GPA

3.37

STUDENTS WITH ADVANCED DEGREES

94 STUDENTS
BLACK, INDIGENOUS,
AND PEOPLE OF COLOR

121 STUDENTS
INFLUENCED BY ALUMNI
108 STUDENTS
IN THEIR 40'S & 50'S

64 STUDENTS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

#### CONGRATULATIONS to Eden Faculty on a variety of promotions during 2020-2021



Sonja B. Williams, Dean of the Seminary, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology



Dietra Wise Baker,
Assistant Professor of Contextual
Education and Community
Engagement and
Director of Contextual Education



Christopher Grundy,
Professor of Worship and Preaching,
Associate Dean of the Chapel



Damayanthi Niles,
Allen and Dottie Miller Professor of
Mission and Peace,
Professor of Constructive Theology,
Interim Academic Dean

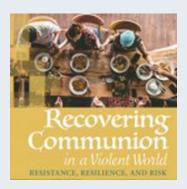
## Faculty & Staff Publications (2020-2021)

Dietra Wise Baker, Assistant Professor of Contextual Education and Community Engagement and Director of Contextual Education

"How Racial Justice Can Change Our Preaching Life" as part of Delaplane Writing Scholars 2022 Cohort, Aquinas Institute of Theology, *Preaching About Racism: Challenge & Journey*"

## Christopher Grundy, Professor of Preaching and Worship & Associate Dean of the Chapel

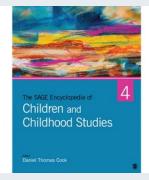
This Is the World I Want to Live in: Toward a Theology of Practical Sacramentality



Recovering Communion in a Violent World: Resistance, Resilience, and Risk

The act of breaking and eating a body in Holy Communion forms us over time. What if that's not such a good thing? Recovering Communion in a Violent World provides an unblinking examination of the ritualized reenactment of the violence done to Jesus in Holy Communion, using insights from the fields of ritual studies and trauma theory. Then, drawing upon recent research in Christian origins, the book raises possibilities for sacramental meal practices that don't ignore the death of Jesus but respond to it differently. Rather than colluding with systems of violence, these alternative practices respond to violence in our world by continuing to collaborate with the persistence and resilience of God, as well as with the realm of God still coming near. The result is a groundbreaking exploration that is both unflinching in its critique and passionate in its argument for the place of renewed Christian meal practices.

#### Laurel Koepf, Associate Professor of Old Testament



The SAGE Encyclopedia of Children and Childhood Studies

The SAGE Encyclopedia of Children and Childhood Studies navigates our understanding of the historical, political, social and cultural dimensions of childhood. Transdisciplinary and transnational in content and scope, the Encyclopedia both reflects and enables the wide range of approaches, fields and understandings that have been brought to bear on the evertransforming problem of the "child" over the last four decades.

#### Kristen J. Leslie, Professor of Pastoral Theology and Care

"Women, Military Sexual Trauma, and Moral Injury: Stand up, Speak up," (webinar, Soul Repair Center, Brite Divinity School, Feb.4, 2021),

https://youtu.be/zVGTYFX41aA

"Effective Care for Male Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma" (webinar, Soul Repair Center, Brite Divinity School, Sept. 28, 2021),

https://youtu.be/RmK-asGcVgs

#### J. Clint McCann,

Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation

Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and

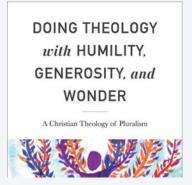
Worship, Year A & Year B. Exegetical essays on multiple psalms,

Song of Songs, Isaiah, Hosea, 1 Samuel, Deuteronomy, and Luke.

(forthcoming from WJKP)

"Reclaiming Divine Sovereignty in the Anthropocene: Psalms 93-100 and the Convergence of Theology and Ecology" in *The Psalms: Exploring Theological Themes*, edited by David M. Howard, Jr. and Andrew J. Schmutzer (Studies in Scripture and Biblical Theology; forthcoming from Lexham Press).

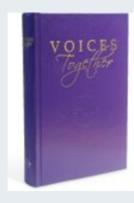
Damayanthi Niles, Allen & Dottie Miller Professor of Mission and Peace, Professor of Constructive Theology & Interim Academic Dean



Doing Theology with Humility, Generosity, and Wonder: A Christian Theology of Pluralism

This book looks at how Christians can think about their own theology in a manner that will allow them to not only be more open to interfaith dialogue but also to see that conversation as essential to what it means to be Christian. For much of history, Christian theology has been used to undergird and justify imperial power. This has required a theological construction that advances a vision of belief that stands above and against the world and other faiths, or at the very least acts as the one vision under which all the others must unite.

#### Paul Vasile, Director of Music





Song "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" was published in All Creation Sings, the new music/liturgy supplement to the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book. It is also published in the new Voices Together hymnal of the Mennonite Church along with "God Calls You Good," a song celebrating LGBTQIA+ bodies and experiences.

## **Eden Faculty**

Deborah Krause, President,
Professor of New Testament

Dietra Wise Baker,

Assistant Professor of Contextual Education and Community Engagement, Director of Contextual Education

Christopher Grundy,
Professor of Worship and Preaching,
Associate Dean of the Chapel

Kristen J. Leslie,
Professor of Pastoral Theology and Care

J. Clinton McCann, Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation

Damayanthi Niles,

Allen & Dottie Miller Professor of Mission & Peace, Professor of Constructive Theology, Interim Academic Dean

Laurel Koepf,
Associate Professor of Old Testament

Sonja B. Williams,

Dean of the Seminary,

Assistant Professor of Practical Theology

Distinguished Visiting Scholar (2020-2021)

Raquel Lettsome,

New Testament

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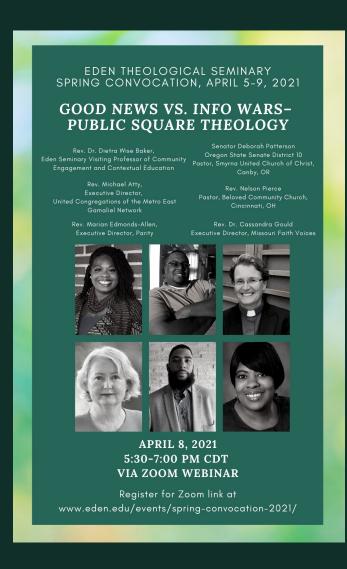
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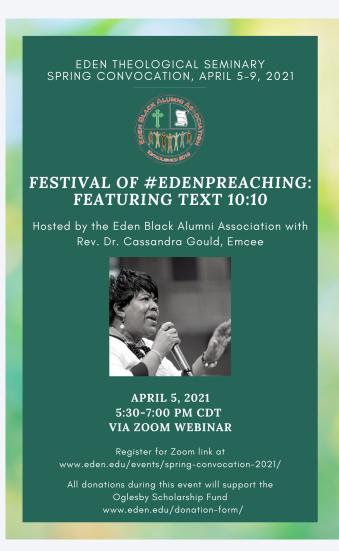
Rev. Dr. Stephanie Weiner

Rev. Ann Asper Wilson

## **Eden's Impact**

Alumni & Community Partners tell the story during Spring Convocation 2021: 
"This is What Theology Looks Like – Public Ministries of Resilience and Solidarity. A Celebration of Eden Seminary in the Progressive Christian Movement"







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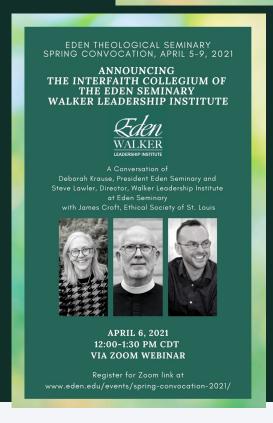
EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SPRING CONVOCATION, APRIL 5-9, 2021

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION
AND THE TWIN
PANDEMICSPROGRESSIVE SCHOOLS
RESPOND

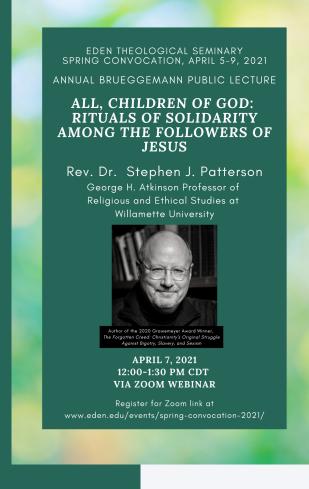
A Conversation among Presidents and Deans of
Theological Schools with
Dr. Frank M. Yamada, Executive Director,
Association of Theological Schools (ATS)

APRIL 5, 2021
12:00-1:30 PM CDT
VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

Register to receive your Zoom link at
www.eden.edu/events/spring-convocation-2021/









## **Eden Impacts** Church and Community Leaders



at Eden Seminary

## Eden Impacts Church and Community Leaders

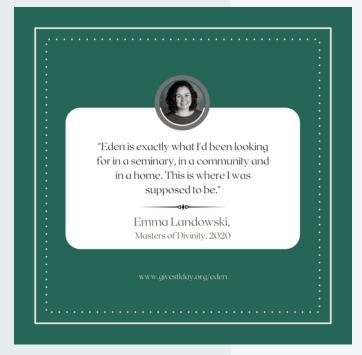
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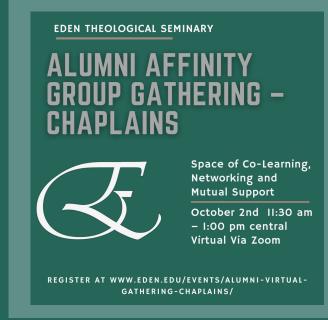
"It is essential that we form our identities in a world context and failure to do that... is going to endanger humankind and the earth itself... in the long run. If we don't learn how to think and act and work together, we are in deep trouble. It seems to me that we disappoint God, we hurt ourselves, we hurt each other, and we hurt the earth itself."

Dr. McCann Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation



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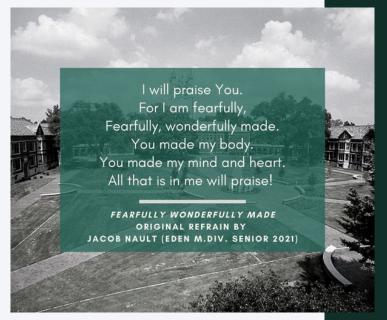




"The progressive
Christian Movement is a
moral imagination about
how we care for each
other and how we are in
relationship with each
other...and in all of these
relationships there's the
ability to build real power.
The kind of power that
can transform us and
transform the world."

EV. DR. DIETRA WISE BAKER
Visiting Professor of Community Engagement
and Contextual Education

www.eden.edu



#### 1 Cor. 1:4... With gratitude, we give thanks for you

Thanks to the generosity of our individual and alumni donors, Eden Seminary's transformational impact is evident around the globe. Foundations and corporate gifts expand that influence. We give special thanks also, to congregations that provide gifts directly to Eden, through denominational conferences and associations and through the CUE (Chicago, United, Eden) UCC Seminaries office. We are grateful for your part in sharing in the work of educating women and men for ministry, enlivening critical reflection on faith and supporting bold, Christian discipleship.

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The Annual Fund supports all aspects of the education at Eden and allows us to use your gifts wherever needed most.

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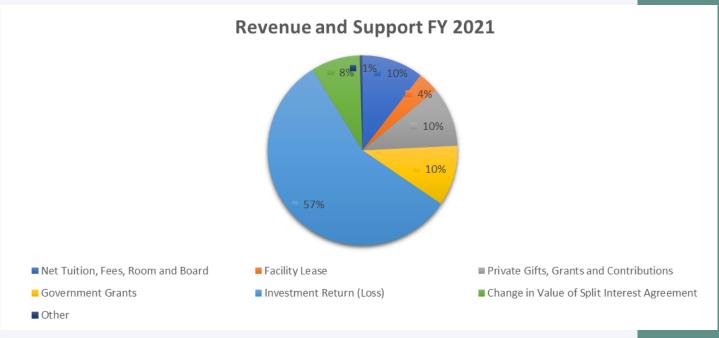
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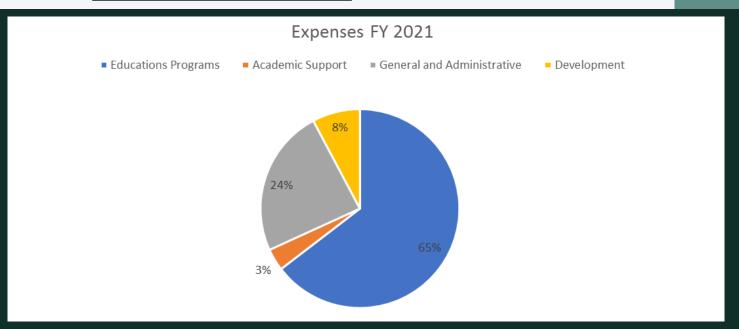
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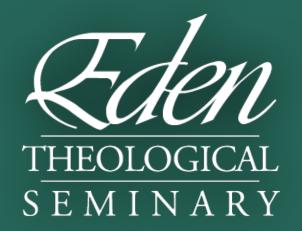
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