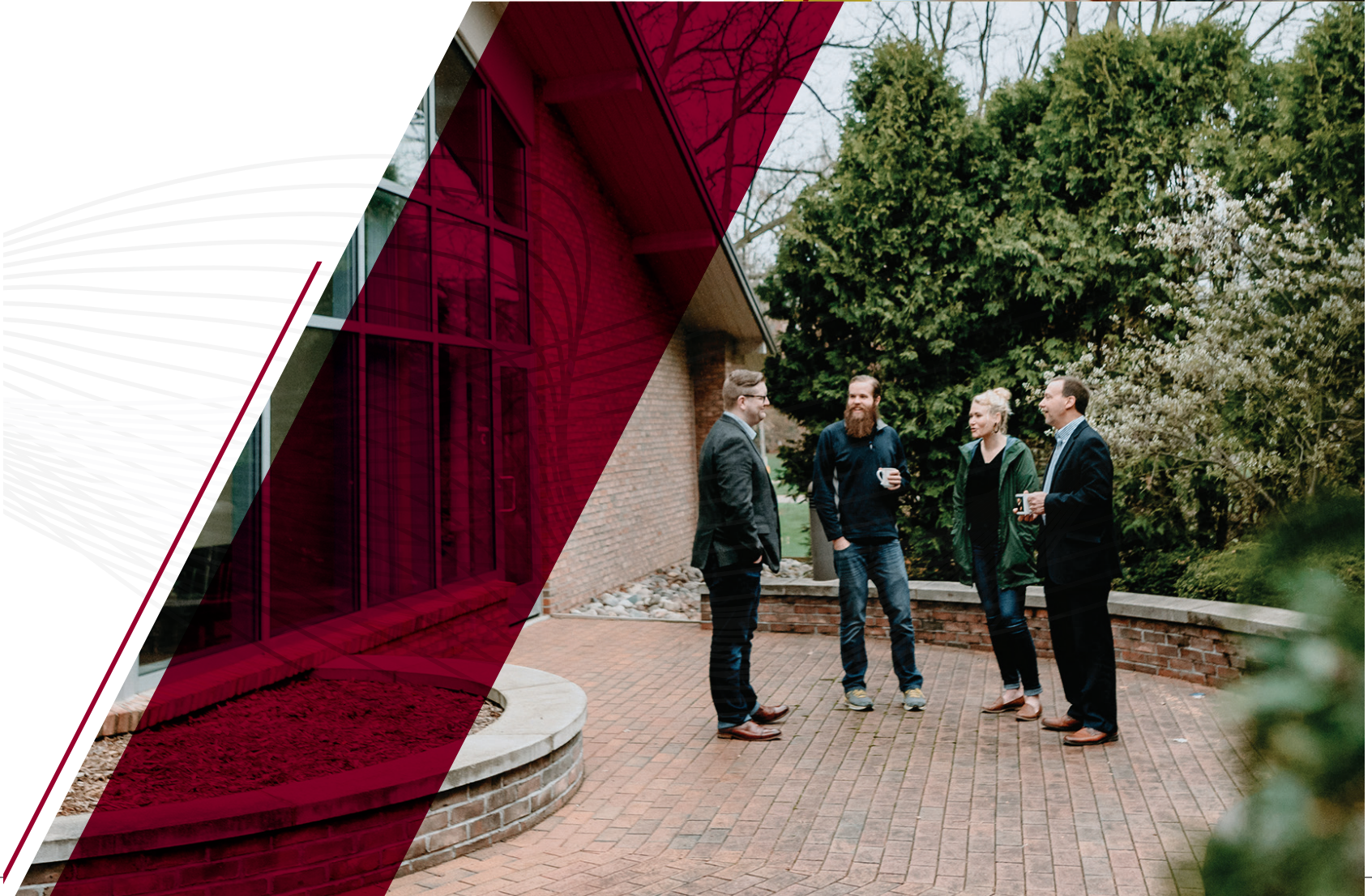


Impact

2021 REPORT



CALVIN
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY



Dear Calvin Seminary Supporter,

What do you think of when you hear the word – “impact?” As a now retired attorney who dealt with car crashes and slips and falls, I initially think of injuries!

When I read the Impact Report of Calvin Seminary, I now think of words like – healing, hope and encouragement.

The world is in need of healing not just from the effects of a pandemic, but because of the ravages of sin rooted in our individual lives and society.

The world is in need of hope and messengers of the gospel not only bring good news, they help people “see” that God is still at work in this world which is the foundation for all hope! The world is in need of encouragement because of the burdens that we all bear. As you read this “Impact Report,” our desire is that you find a measure of healing, hope and encouragement because you see God at work through your support and prayers for Calvin Theological Seminary.

As President, I am privileged to be on the front lines of students and stories where lives are still transformed by the work of a Triune God who claims us as His own and calls us to serve in this world that He still so loves.

One story that you may have heard, but it bears repeating, is the story of Jerry Opioyo who graduated in 2021 and was refreshed here to again serve in ministry. As you read more about his story on page 5, you will hear of the “impact” that again was my privilege to witness as one of the teachers for Jerry during his time at Calvin Seminary.

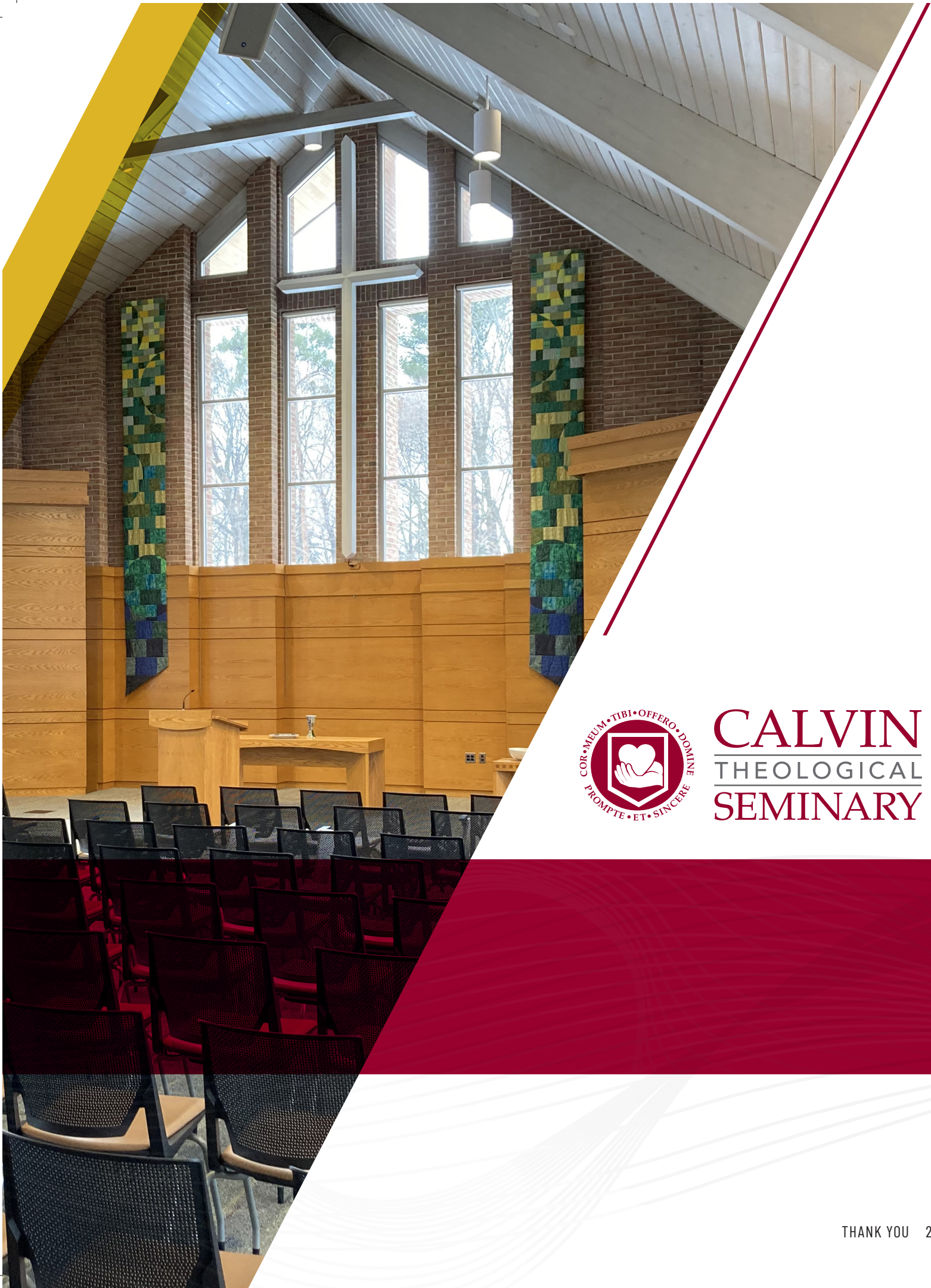
Thanks for reading and reflecting on more stories and pictures of impact at Calvin Seminary!

Blessings



Jul Medenblik, President





CALVIN
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

2021 Highlights



JANUARY

Stob Lecture - Jemar Tisby

Reverend Dr. Jemar Tisby, author and historian, was the featured speaker for the 2021 Stob Lecture Colloquium. Above, he discusses themes from his books "The Color of Compromise," and "How to Fight Racism."



FEBRUARY

XC Ski Trip

An All Seminary Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe outing in Feb 2021 was held at Pigeon Creek Park.



MAY

Commencement

Dean Sarah Chun poses with Marissa Walters, who graduated with a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree



MAY

Groundbreaking

The ceremony was attended by our donors, faculty and staff.



JUNE

Golf Outing

The 7th annual Golf Classic at Thousand Oaks Country Club.



JULY

Renovation

The demolition phase of the building renovation was at its peak in July. Seen here are images of the Student Center and classroom area.



AUGUST

CPI Golf Outing

Our first Annual Women’s Golf Classic was attended by 100 guests who enjoyed a morning of golf and fellowship to benefit the Calvin Prison Initiative (CPI). Kary Bosma (Calvin Prison Initiative - CPI), Sid Jansma Jr. (CTS Board Chair Emeritus & CPI), Anna Kinoti, & Laurie Morren (organizing chair of the event).



SEPTEMBER

Convocation

President Medenblik welcomes faculty, staff, students, and board members to the 2021 convocation in the newly renovated chapel.



SEPTEMBER

GRAM Event

Donors, faculty, staff, and friends of Calvin Seminary at the Grand Rapids Art Museum 2021 event. This event is a time of food and fellowship and gratitude for our donors for their generous support for the Annual Fund.



OCTOBER

Calvin Classic 5K Event

Calvin staff, faculty, and students and their families participated in the Calvin 5k Spring Classic and Family Fun Run.



OCTOBER

Servant Leadership Award

CTS hosted an event to celebrate servant leadership in advancing diversity. The 2021 honoree was Rev. Al Mulder.



NOVEMBER

Scholarship Event

Students and donors gathered at the Prince Conference Center for a time of fellowship and conversation.



DECEMBER

Christmas Around the World

Students and their families were joined by faculty/staff for a Christmas meal and shared Christmas traditions. Breaking a pinata to share candy is one of the traditions shared in this picture.



DECEMBER

Abraham Kuyper Prize

Rachel Denhollander, pictured with Presidents Jul Medenblik (right) and Michael LeRoy (left) received the 2021 Abraham Kuyper Prize for Excellence in Reformed Theology and Public Life. The prize, established in 1996 by Rimmer & Ruth Devries, is awarded jointly by Calvin University and Calvin Seminary.

Renewed in Ministry

Seminary grad returns to Kenya with renewed fervor, resources

Over a decade ago in 2010, Jerry Opiyo graduated from the University of Nairobi with a bachelor's degree in mechanical and manufacturing engineering, and materials science. Sensing God's call to ministry, Opiyo served in a variety of roles from 2010 to 2017, including as a pastor at Mavuno Church in Nairobi and a church planter in Kigali, Rwanda.

Then, burnout set in. After seven years of important, but intense and sometimes draining work, Opiyo knew he needed a change.

In 2017, Opiyo and his family—wife Cynthia and daughter Imani—headed to seminary for further equipping for their ministry. The family moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, so Opiyo could pursue a master's of divinity (MDiv) degree from Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS).

After receiving a scholarship package that would support him throughout his years at the seminary, Opiyo knew that he could sustainably study at CTS without having to take on student loans. So, the family headed to the U.S. to begin this new venture.

“I came running on empty,” Opiyo said, as he reflected on arriving at the seminary. “I came to CTS on the verge of ministry burn out after a grueling seven years of church ministry and church planting.”

For Opiyo, the seminary was more than just a place to grow in knowledge. “CTS became a place of healing and renewal,” he said, “as much as it was a place of theological instruction and doctrinal formation.”

While at the seminary, the Opiyo family formed relationships with fellow seminarians and local church members. The family attended a West



“CTS became a place of healing and renewal, as much as it was a place of theological instruction and doctrinal formation”

—Jerry Opiyo

Michigan church that they had first become connected with during their time in Rwanda. At this church, they ministered to small groups and grew deep friendships.

Now, Opiyo is again ready to minister in the midst of whatever challenges come his way. He completed his MDiv degree at CTS in the spring of 2021, and has returned to his home country of Kenya with renewed hope, purpose, and resources to continue in his calling of ministry and church planting.

And while he arrived at CTS feeling weary and nearly empty, Opiyo graduated with new confidence, saying: “I left filled to the brim and running over.” ●

Colin Watson, DMin Student

Colin Watson has been in high demand in the business world since the 1980s. He was a rising star at AT&T and NYNEX (now Verizon), and led as a top executive at the KeySpan Corporation and NYC2012, an organization formed to bid for the 2012 Olympic Games. Then for nearly 10 years he served as the CEO of Foundation Enterprises, LLC, a real estate investment and non-profit consulting company.

Throughout these endeavors, Watson was also active in the church, leading a parallel career of ministry work as an executive minister at his home church and Board President of Christian Reformed World Missions.

Watson's wife of more than 40 years, Freida, has also lived the formerly corporate, and now ministerial life alongside Colin. "She is my best friend and life partner who has journeyed with me in this adventure that God has laid out for us," Watson says.

In 2015, God led the couple in a new direction as Watson moved to full-time ministry as director of ministries and administration for the Christian Reformed Church in North America and, in 2020, he was named the acting executive director for the denomination.

While Watson leaves a legacy in each of his roles, he still desires to contribute more to his neighbors, particularly fellow Christ followers. It was this stirring that led him to apply to Calvin Theological Seminary's Doctor of Ministry, or DMin, program.

Watson had originally planned to enroll in the program upon his retirement, but he has delayed his retirement to be faithful to his current leadership position. So instead, Watson acts as executive director of the denomination while concurrently completing his studies.

"When I'm at the seminary, my name tag says student, not executive director," Watson says with a smile. It's clear that the role of student is one he relishes.

"I wish I had started this ten years ago but it is never too late," Watson says. "There's no such thing as being too young, too old, whatever—pick your descriptor—to continue to contribute to what God has asked you to do."

Watson is journeying as a student in the seminary's first DMin cohort, launched in May 2020. His key area of reflection is around minority leadership in institutions and organizations.

As a native of Guyana, Watson moved to the U.S. at the age of 18. Throughout his journey as a believer, he has noticed that the texts revered as the great works of theology, generation after generation, continue to be from a similar perspective.

"It is important for us to see from a variety of different cultures to say, this is what God has shown me from my perspective," Watson reflects.

From the unity of believers in John chapter 17 to believers coming together in Revelation 7, Watson sees God's greater plan for people of all backgrounds learning from each other. His study of the church in Antioch has furthered his interest in minority leadership, as this multicultural church was the Apostle Paul's sending congregation.

While Watson completes his DMin degree, he encourages others to begin theirs. ●



Colin Watson
DMin student



Contextual Learning

MDiv student Kelsey Bruinwood entered seminary with a specific vocational outcome in mind. But today, her sense of calling is full of possibilities.

“I came into seminary thinking that I would do non-profit work after seminary, but have since opened myself up to the possibility of doing more focused church ministry,” she says. “I feel both called towards doing work in the church, as well as doing work with those outside of the church.”

“I know that I’m currently being called to learn more about God and his world at Calvin Seminary, and I know that I’m called to serve God in whatever space I end up.”

For the Portage, Michigan, native, her contextual learning experience has played a role in how she views her calling. Currently at Calvin Christian Reformed Church for her in-context placement, Bruinwood has the opportunity to be mentored by church leadership and assist in leading the community she first joined as an undergraduate at Calvin University.

“I’m enjoying being able to participate as a weekly liturgist in their worship services,” she says. “Having the opportunity to take the things that I’m learning in class and apply them to the work that I’m doing at Calvin CRC has been so helpful in continuing to form my education.”

In addition to her contextual learning experience, Bruinwood has found the CTS classroom experience to be extremely helpful in informing real ministry situations—namely because, she notes, it is designed to be.

“My professors have all shown that they value our vocational formation in the way that they relate classroom material to the work that we do in the field,” she says. “Each of my professors have made efforts to connect our learning with our practice as they relate their class material to current events, and use examples in class that show how we can take our knowledge into our calling in ministry.” ●

“I know that I’m currently being called to learn more about God and his world at Calvin Seminary, and I know that I’m called to serve God in whatever space I end up.”

—Kelsey Bruinwood



“What I have realized is that God is calling me to serve him with all that I am, to use each of the unique gifts he has given me to care for others and bring him glory,” Hartgerink says. “That includes using both my passion for ministry and for nursing.”

—Makalah Hartgerink

Vocational Formation

Makalah Hartgerink, of Byron Center, Michigan, is graduating this spring with a master of arts degree in ministry leadership, with a focus in education, youth, and family. She also works part-time as a nurse at a pediatric office downtown, living out a passion she has had for years.

“What I have realized is that God is calling me to serve him with all that I am, to use each of the unique gifts he has given me to care for others and bring him glory,” Hartgerink says. “That includes using both my passion for ministry and for nursing.”

When Hartgerink started seminary, her choice to decrease her nursing hours was “a surprising and also difficult decision.”

“But I felt God clearly leading me toward ministry,” she reflects.

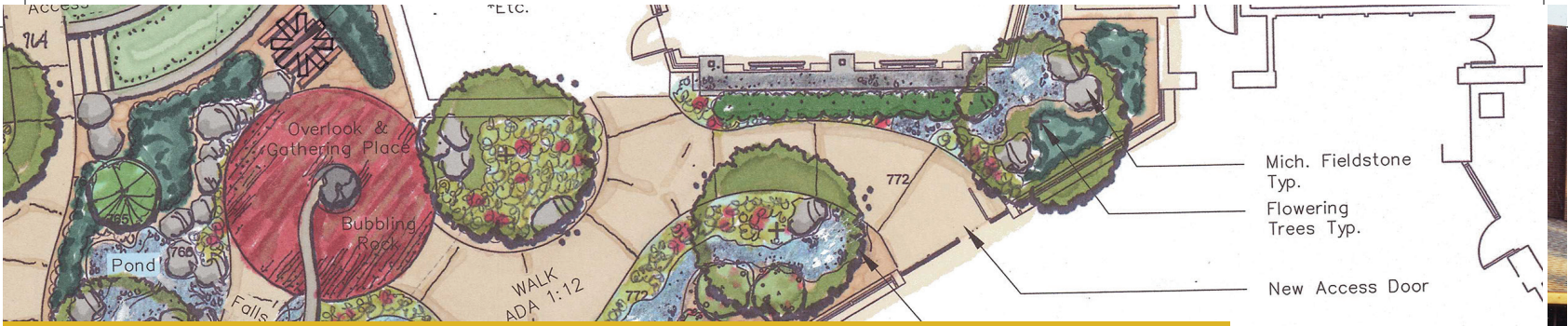
With that conviction, Hartgerink moved forward with seminary courses online and in-person, while still working with patients a few days a week.

During the course of Hartgerink’s study, the vocational formation office partnered with her to offer a ministry-based elective at City on a Hill Ministries.

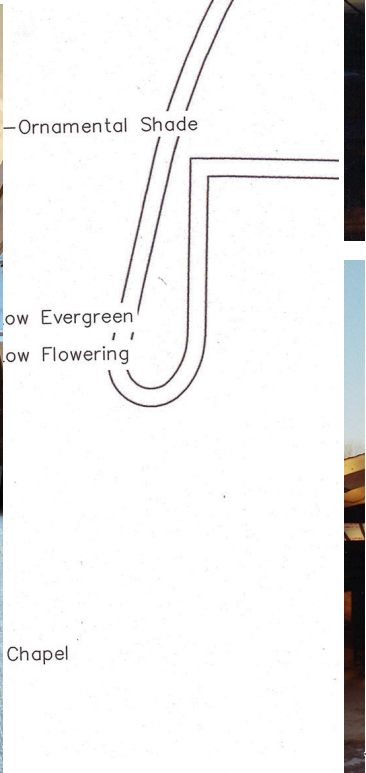
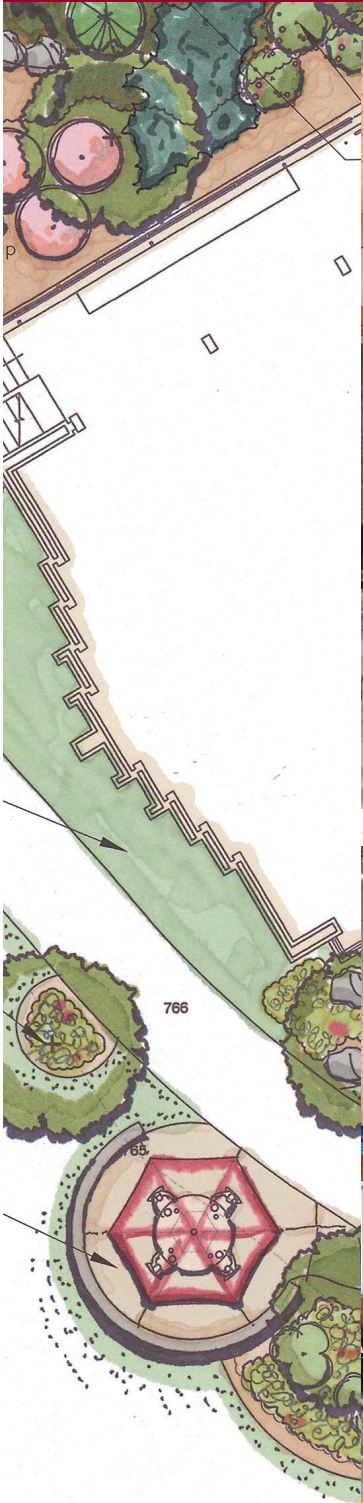
“This internship gave me the freedom and opportunity to explore ministry in a parachurch setting for a semester, while getting credit for it,” Hartgerink reflects. “I really enjoyed my time and it helped me more clearly understand my calling and passion for ministry.”

Hartgerink says she has seen firsthand the value Calvin Seminary places on her vocational formation through her contextual learning experiences, formation groups, and relationships with the vocational formation office team members.

“I have benefited from meetings with vocational office staff, such as Rev. Samantha DeJong McCarron and Professor Vandermolten,” she says. “Meeting with them and talking through how the Holy Spirit has been working in my life has been incredibly impactful.” ●



Building renovations

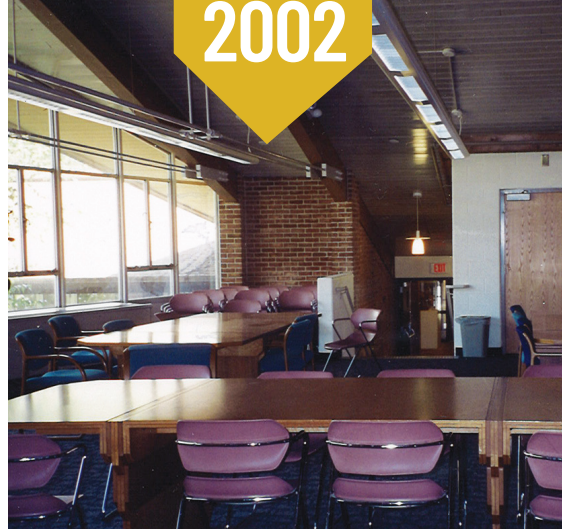
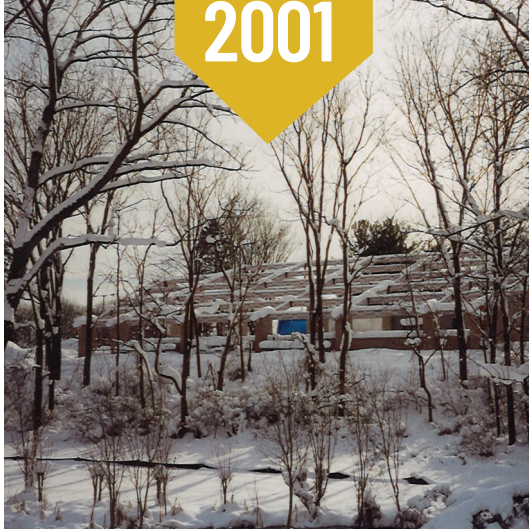
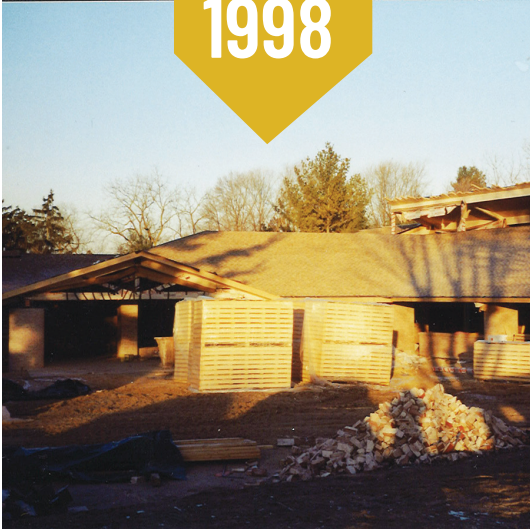




1998

2001

2002



Faculty Heritage Report

Young Ahn Kang, Karin Maag & Ronald Feenstra

Report on the “Reformed Identity of Calvin Theological Seminary” project, funded by a grant of \$6,300 from the Faculty Heritage Fund in 2021

BACKGROUND

What does it mean to be Reformed? The answer to that question will vary considerably from one denomination to another, from one seminary to another, from one congregation to another, and from one person to another. At Calvin Theological Seminary, we need to continually renew our sense of our Reformed identity, being alert to both strengths and weaknesses in our current living out of that identity. Doing so will serve a number of purposes. With a clear shared sense of our identity, we can better serve the church, help our students understand our Reformed “accent,” and connect our Reformed heritage to issues in the contemporary world so that our Reformed identity is not just a museum piece, but a living faith that enriches and strengthens Reformed Christianity both at CTS and around the world. Especially as Calvin Seminary, the church, and our students face an increasingly secularized world, there will be great benefit in activities that renew and strengthen our lived faith.

ACTIVITIES

In 2021, the three team leaders (Ronald Feenstra, Young Ahn Kang, and Karin Maag) held the following events:

- Discussion with faculty members on March 19, divided into three small groups, each moderated by one of the team leaders
- A three-day faculty workshop on August 10-12
- Summary discussion and brainstorming with faculty at the faculty retreat on September 7
- Discussion with faculty members on October 22
- Discussion with faculty members on November 12

All of these activities proved stimulating and helpful. Fourteen faculty members attended all or part of the three-day workshop in August, which featured presentations by Young Ahn Kang, Anne Zaki (a professor at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt), and viewing of a panel discussion on theological education from a Hispanic perspective, featuring Mariano Avila.

OUTCOMES

The faculty agreed that these discussions about Reformed identity and its significance at Calvin Theological seminary were vital. They supported the idea of further work to bring to light the various facets of Reformed identity as expressed in our teaching, scholarship, and witness. Ideas (to be implemented in 2022) include a series of short videos featuring individual faculty or faculty panels unpacking what it means to be Reformed at CTS; a series of alumni reflections on the same topic, either in short writings or in video form; and a planned volume of longer essays from CTS faculty on what it means to be Reformed.

APPRECIATION

Thanks to the funding we received, we were able to run all these programs and pay for the expenses of the three-day workshop. We are deeply grateful to the Faculty Heritage Fund for its support of this important work. ●

Tuninga Research Trip on Puritans & Colonialism

I am very grateful for the grant of approximately \$3,000 I received from the Heritage Fund in 2021-2022. This grant enabled me to take a two week research trip to New England in the summer of 2021 and to pay for related research expenses I am incurring this academic year.

This research pertains to my current book project, *The Wars of the Lord: The Puritan Conquest of America's First People*. The book tells the story of Puritan missions, colonization, and war in seventeenth century New England. This story is an important part of the legacy of the Reformed political theological tradition and its impact on American society.

I used the grant to pay for two types of research. First, it enabled me to visit dozens of sites that are important in my book, which is essential for a thorough understanding of crucial historical events. For example, I toured the site of the first praying town established by the missionary John Eliot at Natick, Massachusetts, visited key Indian sites and battlegrounds from the Pequot War and King Philip's War, and toured Deer Island, where Indians were interned under miserable conditions during King Philip's War. Such on-the-ground geography enables me to interpret the sources responsibly and accurately tell the story of what happened in Puritan New England during the seventeenth century.

Second, this grant is enabling me to pay for the acquisition of digital copies of dozens of unpublished hand-written primary documents to which I would otherwise lack access. These documents include court records, council minutes, and letters dating from the seventeenth century. They are having a tremendous impact on my understanding of Puritan views and actions in the period covered in my book. Simply put, I would not be able to write my book responsibly without them.

Thanks in part to this research paid for by the Heritage Fund, I have secured a contract for publication with Oxford University Press. The book is to be completed by 2023 and published soon after, with a crossover target audience of both academics and the broader public. It has led to numerous speaking engagements at various academic conferences and local churches. It has materially impacted several courses I teach on history and political theology, enabling me to address the issues of colonialism and racism so essential for students engaging in ministry today. And it will form the foundation for a ThM course I will be teaching on the Puritans and Colonialism beginning in Fall 2022, which I hope to develop into a PhD course as well.

I am extremely grateful to those donors who have contributed to the Heritage Fund, for they have enabled me to conduct this research with a level of care and expertise—access to key sites and primary documents – that would have otherwise been impossible but is essential to good scholarship. Simply put, I could not be the scholar that I am without this support. Thank you.

Matthew J. Tuininga



We are grateful for you!

Calvin Seminary is deeply grateful for your support. Thanks to your prayers and generous financial gifts, we are navigating pandemic-related challenges successfully. We are teaching and learning in renovated spaces that spark creativity and promote collaboration. And we are developing programs that will serve and equip a broader range of church leaders than ever before in our institution's history. Thank you for helping to make all these things possible!

Robert Knorr
Director of Development





The Art of Forgiveness

Despite the gray skies and blustery cold of a Michigan winter, my dad, Yuanhua Shen, decided to visit Grand Rapids in January 2015, traveling all the way from China. He came specifically to visit Calvin and to learn about Reformed theology. Dad wasn't born into a Christian family; as a matter of fact, he was an atheist and a communist for more than 60 years. Then, he found Christ—or rather, Christ welcomed him home.

With his newfound faith, Dad was so excited to learn about theology. And Reformed theology made particular sense to him, especially the emphasis on God's election and unrelenting grace. After we talked with theology professors at Calvin, I took him for a walk around the campus and we visited the art gallery. He was captivated by the paintings depicting the Prodigal Son and his loving father. It was a story that truly touched his heart—God, the loving father, waiting for a Prodigal Son (like Dad) to return home. He told me, “I want to do a calligraphy piece on the Prodigal Son.”

My dad wasn't a formally trained calligrapher. In fact, his career as a physics professor and researcher may seem far-removed from any interest in art. But our family always knew Dad had artistic talents, as shown through his photography and his occasional craft projects. After his retirement, Dad devoted all his free time to Chinese calligraphy. He wrote poems and recorded them using different calligraphy styles.

As promised, after Dad returned from his vacation in the U.S., he produced this piece:

a work of calligraphy highlighting not only the story of the Prodigal Son, but also his own life: “For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate.” Luke 15:24

This story originally appeared in *Returning Home: Further Journeys into the Art of Forgiveness*. Shen hand delivered her father's calligraphy from China to Calvin's Center Art Gallery in 2016.

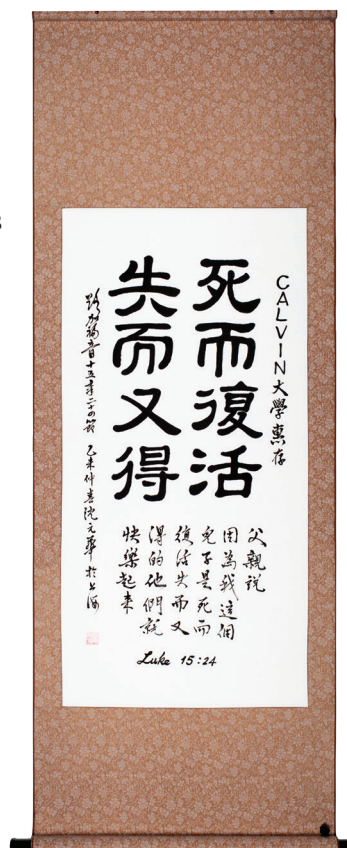
THE ART OF FORGIVENESS

This artwork and reflection are included in *Returning Home: Further Journeys into the Art of Forgiveness*. Larry Gerbens '69 is the editor of the book, which includes art and writing inspired by the Parable of the Prodigal Son. *Returning Home* is a follow-up to a similar book, *The Parable of the Father and the Two Sons*.

Funded by a gift to Calvin Theological Seminary from the Edgar Boevé estate, *Returning Home* features several authors from the Calvin University community and artwork from the university and seminary, as well as from Gerbens' and other private collections.

For Larry and his wife, Mary, this project is very personal. The couple have been collecting and speaking about art inspired by the Prodigal Son parable for many years. Larry traces his passion for art to a class he took from beloved art professor Edgar Boevé. “When speaking, I often share this quote from a Banner article by Nicholas Wolterstorff, ‘Art is the human spirit made visible. It is indispensable to our flourishing as God's human creatures,’” Gerbens writes in *Returning Home*. ●

Originally published in the Spark



Donor Impact

GRAM Event

Grand Rapids Art Museum event - This memorable event was hosted by Cate and Sid Jansma and Jul and Jackie Medenblik. We were delighted to be able to gather in person after having to postpone this event the previous year because of Covid-19. More than 110 people attended; highlights of the evening included talks by Larry Gerbens, a longtime supporter of the seminary, and Henry Luttikhuizen, professor emeritus of art history. Thanks to donors' generosity, we raised \$500,000 in matching gifts for the seminary. ●

Renovations

The first shovels hit the dirt on the Rooted in Christ, Renewing for the Future campaign. Construction progressed in phases, with the goal of opening up portions of the building to students and faculty first. Classroom renovations were completed in the fall, enabling teaching and learning to take place in state-of-the-art facilities. ●





Scholarship Meet-and-Greet

In place of our annual Scholarship Dinner, we hosted an in-person meeting at the Prince Conference Center. Donors and students were able to sign up in advance for a sit down conversation to get to know one another.

Scholarship Donations

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, \$1.5 million dollars' worth of scholarships were awarded to seminary students in 2022. We are deeply grateful for everyone who gave financial gifts to support our students.



Annual Golf Outing

This event is always a hit, and last year's gathering was as enjoyable as ever. The event took place at Thousand Oaks Golf Club, and 100 people participated, raising over \$200,000 for the seminary.



Women's CPI Golf Outing

For the first time ever, we offered a women-only golf outing! Participants ate breakfast together and then played 9 holes to benefit the Calvin Prison Initiative. It was such a great day of fun and fellowship that we are eager to host this event again in 2022.



Our Impact in 2021

170

Pastors and ministry leaders completed
Ministry in Covid-Shaped World summer courses

178

CEP/Lilly Endowment Peer Groups of Preachers

1900

Worship Symposium (with The Center for Excellence in Preaching (CEP) & Calvin University)

DID YOU KNOW CEP had 13,143 unique visitors per month to their website

OUR STUDENTS

25

Number of countries
represented in the
student body

Master of Divinity: 78

Master of Arts: 41 (English & Spanish)

Master of Theological Studies: 16

Master of Theology: 28

Doctor of Philosophy: 33

Doctor of Ministry: 15

Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy (EPMC): 17

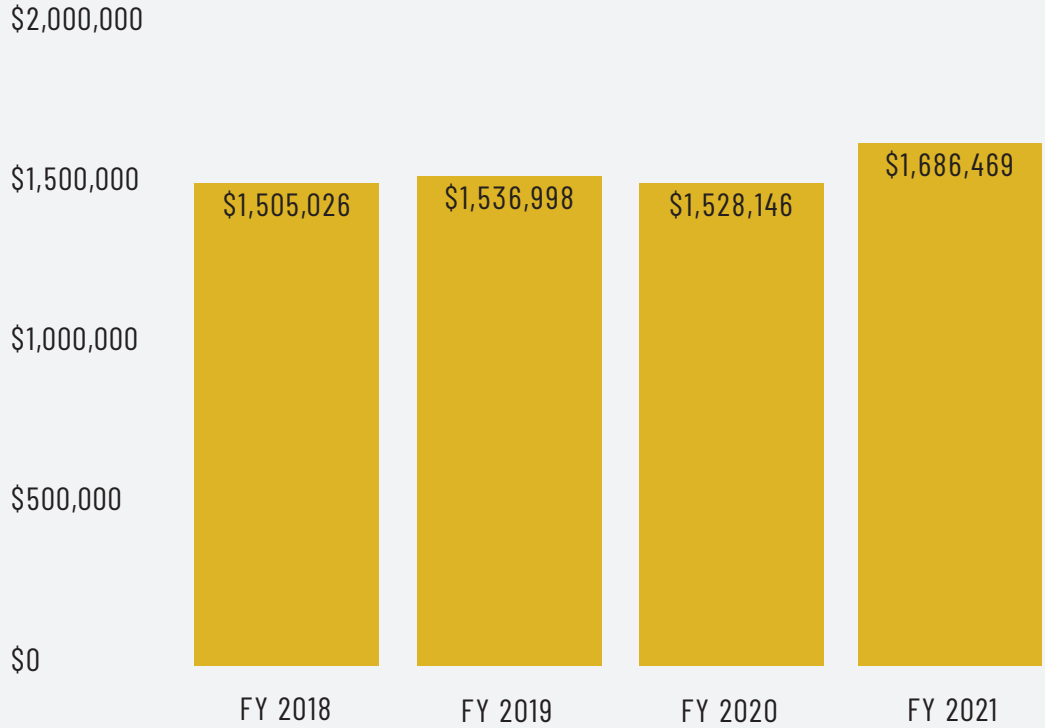
Latina/o Ministry Certificates: 13

Faculty & Staff: 66

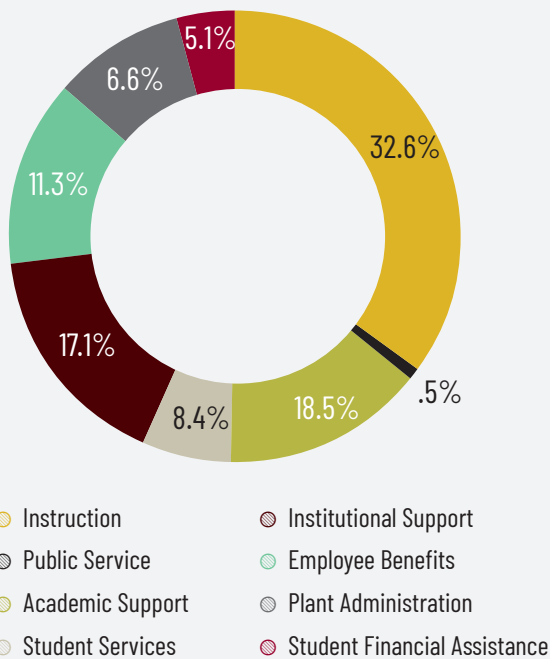
Certificate in Bible Instruction/Ministry Leadership: 3

Non-Degree: 7

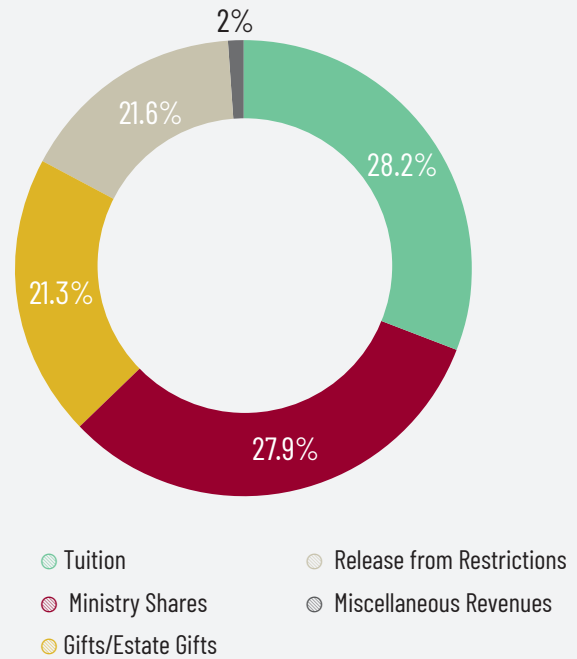
Annual Fund Gift Support



FY 2021 OPERATING EXPENSES
\$7,151,835



FY 2021 OPERATING REVENUE
\$7,909,524



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July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

