

# Abundance & Grace

President Aloyo's Weekly Expressions

Volume 2, Issue #4

October 21 2023



## Core Value Focus: INNOVATION



**Innovation** is one of the great buzzwords of the modern world. Its meaning has been dramatically watered down to some extent as every insurance company, restaurant chain, and fashion label has tried to adopt it as a core value. Yet it still has a simple and true meaning: finding new ways of doing things. Innovation is about embracing a culture of creativity, including plenty of hard work and a fair share of failure.

Great innovators throughout history and the many working today have committed themselves to a robust development process, which includes lots of creative thinking, testing, enhancing, and evaluating.

Theologically speaking, we believe that this is one of the ways in which God works through us. For us, innovation is based on creative work, prayer, and listening. We serve a God who is the source of all creativity, God has given us incredibly powerful brains, the gift of hard work, and critical thinking, and the awesome power of the Holy Spirit. Combining these God-given resources could be the key to awesome new ideas and ways of leadership development and ministry formation as we pursue our strategic directions in creating platforms of belonging and becoming.



### On-Campus Prospective Student Experience!

Next Monday and Tuesday, Columbia Seminary will be welcoming close to twenty prospective students on campus. They will interact with students, faculty, alums, and staff as they discern their calls to ministry! We are grateful for the work of our EMVO team and all Seminary partners who are making this possible. **Information:** [NicholsonA@CTSnet.edu](mailto:NicholsonA@CTSnet.edu)

### Columbia Celebrates

Announcing COLUMBIA CELEBRATES: To honor and celebrate our administrative staff's stories, we are gathering accomplishments completed both within the Seminary and outside the Seminary community. One of our core values encourages us all to live into a community of belonging & becoming. It is up to you to share your joys because we wish to celebrate with you. Once every three months we will communicate with the Seminary community these accomplishments. Soon, you will receive information from Jody Sauls, Director of Human Resources. **Information:** [SaulsJ@CTSnet.edu](mailto:SaulsJ@CTSnet.edu).



### IDI Progress

We are grateful for the faculty and first-year students who are currently participating in the administration and assessment of the IDI. This is our second stage of a three-tier process by which we participate in creating a more inclusive community. **Information:** [BaumL@CTSnet.edu](mailto:BaumL@CTSnet.edu).

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## JEDI Mapping

The Rev. Maureen Gerald is our JEDI partner to map the equity, diversity, and inclusion priorities. Her process takes a holistic, transformational approach to implementing organizational change rooted in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI). Leading with a transformational approach will allow Maureen to offer a clear map of needs specific to racial, gender, social, religious, and non-binary identity justice work. It will also help develop systematic capacities, determine strategy, and create processes that elicit social justice at every institution level. Maureen has been and will continue to meet with Seminary partners in this process. **Information:** [GeraldM@CTSnet.edu](mailto:GeraldM@CTSnet.edu)

## Center for Lifelong Learning

Columbia Seminary is committed to explore creative platforms where clergy and laay leaders can engage in their ministry formation. Our Center for Lifelong Learning is developing in such a way that it is a benchmark of creativity in leadership formation through its programs in spiritual direction, congregational leadership, support for wounded clergy, and certifiante programming. We take this opportunity to welcome Rev. Dr. Helen Blier, our new Director of Lifelong Learning. **Information:** [GallindoI@CTSnet.edu](mailto:GallindoI@CTSnet.edu).



## Alumni Council

The Seminary's Alumni Council was on campus during the first week of October for a series of meetings. The Alumni Council serves to build community among CTS alumni/ae in our local contexts so that it can promote seminary events, continuing education offerings, fundraising events, communicate financial needs, and connect out alumni/ae with the seminary. We aare grateful for their service to and with the Seminary community. I had the opportunity to fellowship with them and explore new ways of service and connection with the Seminary. **Information:** [BailyJ@CTSnet.edu](mailto:BailyJ@CTSnet.edu).





# Core Value

October 2023  
INNOVATION



INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A  
RECEPTION DURING AAR/SBL



Saturday

NOV 18 2023

at 8:00 pm

430 E Commerce St  
San Antonio, TX 78205

## AAR/SBL

Columbia Theological Seminary will be in attendance, supporting our faculty and students who will provide leadership in several venues at this year's AAR/SBL gathering in San Antonio, TX. The 2023 Annual Meetings in San Antonio, Texas, November 18–21, hosted by the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), is the world's largest gathering of scholars interested in the study of religion. All CTS alums, faculty, students, and friends are invited to join us for a reception at Casa Rio on **Saturday, November 18, at 8:00 p.m.** We look forward to embracing you! For more information contact [AndrewsM@CTSnet.edu](mailto:AndrewsM@CTSnet.edu).

## Campus Master Plan

We are excited and grateful to report that our Campus Master Planning efforts are moving forward with the leadership of our Shepherding Committee and architectural partners at Lord Aeck Sargent. In the coming days you will be invited to participate in a campus-wide survey regarding campus needs and priorities. Additionally, more information about opportunities to participate in Focus Group conversations will be forthcoming soon. We ask for your participation and active engagement in the survey and focus groups so that we can all benefit from the voices and collective wisdom of our community! **Information:** [sadlerm@ctsnet.edu](mailto:sadlerm@ctsnet.edu).



## Conscious Inclusivity

Flourishing in the Workplace – Fostering Conscious Inclusivity held on October 6 was attended by 56 participants. We are grateful for such a significant participation from our workforce and the Office of Human resources received a 75% evaluation response rate, which is an excellent marker since 60% is the significant rate that is aspired from such events. There was an overwhelming satisfaction rate that many characterized the session as “non-judgmental,” the absence of “blame & shame,” and “refreshing outlook in community development.” The next session on **December 1** will focus on practical tools that can be incorporated in developing a culture of conscious inclusivity. **Information:** [SaulsJ@CTSnet.edu](mailto:SaulsJ@CTSnet.edu).







# Core Value

October 2023  
INNOVATION



## Partnership Building

The Mar Thoma Church, a reformed Indian church, traces its roots to 52 AD wherein one of the 12 disciples of Christ, St. Thomas sailed to Southern India and converted Hindus to Christianity. The church is apostolic in origin, universal in nature, evangelical in principle, ecumenical in outlook, oriental in worship and episcopal in character. With the guidance of Dr. Raj Nadella, I had the opportunity to preaching on October 6 at The Carmel Mar Thoma Center in Atlanta. I had the honor of re-engaging with Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa who is the bishop of the Diocese of North America & Europe. **Information: AloyoV@CTSnet.edu**

## Partners In Ministry

On Wednesday, October 18, Columbia Seminary celebrated a Partners In Ministry luncheon at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. This was a celebrative event where we welcomed over 250 Columbia Partners who are committed to share their solidarity through prayers and financial resources. Alums, clergy, laypersons, students, trustees, and staff filled the great hall where we broke bread together and heard the vision and strategic direction of our beloved institution. We are grateful for the witness of Victoria Robinson and Dana Abu Ghazaleh who shared their inspiring call stories. The participation of Rylan Harris and the Seminary choir was inspiring. Our Advancement Team was stellar in the organization of this major event - CONGRATULATIONS! **Information: HuffineD@CTSnet.edu**



## Wellness Wednesdays (for CTS community)



Wednesday  
October 18, 2023

3:00 PM



YOGA



SPACE  
Campbell Hall 209

Facilitator:  
Rev. Lindsay Geist,  
Campus Minister

Another Student Formation & Campus Culture Production

## Wellness Wednesdays

The Student Formation and Campus Culture team is developing a great SPACE for the entire seminary community. In addition a flier with important information regarding Crisis Resources will be disseminated soon. For **information: GeistL@CTSnet.edu.**

## CAMPBELL HALL ELEVATOR

The Campbell Hall Elevator Project is underway! The installation crew has been on campus. **Information: SadlerM@CTSnet.edu.**

# SOWING

## President Aloyo's Friendraising Ventures October – November 2023



### OCTOBER

**20-22: Greenville, SC**, meeting with alums and prospective donors. On the 22nd, preaching at Fourth Presbyterian Church at 10:30 a.m.

**28-29: Chicago, IL**, meeting with alums, prospective donors, executive presbyter, and preaching at the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton.

**31-November 1 : Pittsburgh, PA**– Providing a seminar at the Association of Theological Schools conference

### NOVEMBER

**3-5: Indianapolis, IN** meeting with alums and partners and preaching at 2nd Presbyterian Church.

**6-8: Indianapolis, IN** meeting at the Lily Endowment Pathways Gathering.

**8-10: Ft. Worth, TX** – Presbyterian Foundation Board

**10-12: Savannah, GA** – Alums and preaching at First Presbyterian Church of Savannah.

**13-14: Philadelphia, PA** – Meet & Greet at Church in the Mall and preaching at Philadelphia Presbytery

**15-17: Little Rock, AK** – Keynoting at National conference.

**18-19: San Antonio, TX** – AAR/SBL Conference

### PREACHING IN CHAPEL

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24**  
**“A NEW DAY”**  
**MARK 10:17-31**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2**  
**GREAT CLOUD OF**  
**WITNESSES**  
**10:10 A.M.**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18**  
**8:00 P.M.**  
**COLUMBIA SEMINARY**  
**RECEPTION @ AAR/SBL**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30**  
**STATE OF THE SEMINARY**  
**HARRINGTON**  
**AUDITORIUM**  
**10:10 A.M.**