

Abundance & Grace

President Aloyo's Weekly Expressions

Volume 2, Issue #3

October 2, 2023



Core Value Focus: INNOVATION

Innovation is one of our Core Values! Through our Community Forums, Weekly Expressions, and other platforms, we will focus the month of October on the significance of Innovation. Our Strategic Blueprint states that *Innovation – Columbia Theological Seminary actively promotes accessibility and affordability as it seeks new and more effective educational approaches, exercising creativity to chart inventive paths forward into the future. This includes a bold willingness to risk following the Spirit's leading, the humility to learn from failure, and the courage to try a new path.*

Innovation and change are woven throughout the fabric of scripture, beginning with the creation narrative and traveling throughout scripture to Revelation 21:5: ***"He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'"*** If we believe humanity was made in the image of God, then consequentially, we, too, must embrace and celebrate innovation since God is the supreme innovator and leader of change.

Research on change management is a blossoming field in academia. Ironically, the education sector may be the most delayed at implementing effective change management strategies and systems, but this pandemic has pushed us along the change path. What keeps change from happening in educational institutions, particularly the theological academy? Is it the disturbance of the status quo? A threat to the employee's vested interests in their jobs? Or an upset to the established ways of doing things? Lack of energy? Resources? Or is it a leader's inadequacies? Likely, there is a cacophony of barriers to change at each of our Seminaries, making it challenging to isolate reasons.

The greatest enemy of innovation for many Seminary administrators and educators is the fear of the unknown. What if this idea does not work? What if this change upsets vital stakeholders in our community? What if this is not the right time? Are there hold-outs or, worse yet, silent naysayers to the proposed changes? Was the proper time taken to create buy-in? Are all changes coming from the top down? Or is the school feedback-friendly, where students, faculty, and board members are invited and encouraged to contribute ideas leading to fundamental changes?

Jesus said, ***"No procrastination. No backward looks. You can't put God's kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day."*** Luke 9:62 (MSG). We're either looking toward the kingdom, or we are not. We're either responding to the call of life or not. We're either open to the coming future, or we're not. Innovation is the opportunity to live the Gospel's promises in uncertain times fully. Keeping our eyes on the possibilities ahead and taking calculated risks that may fail is part of the journey! Yet, along this journey, our attempts will not be shackled by what we did not do or could have done! We will seize the day!



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THE REGISTER

A Guide to Administrative Offices



COLUMBIA
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

President's Council

The President's Council is publishing The Register. This resource for the entire Seminary community provides an overview of the administrative offices at Columbia Seminary. We have been experiencing structural changes to meet the strategic directives of our mission and vision. With these changes come numerous hires and reallocations of resources. We hope this communication tool will be an excellent instrument to direct inquiries from students, faculty, and staff in various scenarios. Remember that this is our first attempt and any suggestions for its further development can be forwarded to Lucy Baum at bauml@ctsnet.edu.

2024 Application is Live

Grateful for the due diligence of the Enrollment Management and Vocational Outreach (EMVO) team, in partnership with students, faculty, and staff, for meeting the mark of producing a live application for our degree programs. In addition to creating and implementing a robust vocational outreach schedule in the months ahead, we are enthused by our efforts in walking with prospective students as they determine if Columbia Seminary will be a significant tool in their discernment process. More information: nicholsona@ctsnet.edu



Community Forum

The Community Forum on Thursday mornings is for the Seminary community. It is an opportunity to share ideas, receive pertinent information, and contribute to the formation of our community. This coming Thursday, October 5, the Library and Information Services will be hosting the Community Forum at the John Bulow Campbell Library at 10:10 a.m.



Core Value

October 2023
INNOVATION



3rd Century Celebrations

Begin marking your calendars! In 2027, Columbia Seminary will begin celebrating its 200th anniversary by commemorating the 100 years it moved from Columbia, South Carolina to Decatur, GA. Columbia has a rich history and we will begin to develop the Third Century Commission - the planning team for both 2027 and 2028 where we will celebrate the beginning of our third century of service to Christ and the Church. For more Information: aloyov@ctsnet.edu

Campus Master Plan

On Thursday, September 28, Lord Aeck Sargent, the Architectural Firm contracted to guide us in our Campus Master Plan provided a robust presentation of the steps being taken to further optimize the 58-acre property God has gifted us. For the next few weeks, different groups of students, faculty, staff, and trustees will gather to receive ideas, comments, and suggestions. During the course of this coming week, an email will be forwarded by Marty Sadler, co-chair of the Shepherdng Committee for all to discern and sign-up. This process is a continuation of our Strategic Blueprinting process where we creatively seek to utilize this land for student, faculty, and staff flourishing. Information: sadlerm@ctsnet.edu.



Conscious Inclusivity

Flourishing in the Workplace - Fostering Conscious Inclusivity: On October 6 and December 1, both from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ms. Magda N. Yrizarry, former Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at Verizon and member of Columbia Seminary's Board of Trustees will facilitate this professional development series for all administrative staff, including administrative faculty. This series will take place in the Ellis Room. Within this coming week, more prep information will be communicated. Information: saulsj@ctsnet.edu.

SOWING

President Aloyo's Friendraising Ventures October 2023



In September, I was able to attend the gathering of the PCUSA Committee on Theological Education at the University of Dubuque. I shared in worship through the proclamation of The Word in the Chapel on September 15 and at Alpharetta Presbyterian Church on September 14. I keynoted at the Stewardship Kaleidoscope in Minneapolis, MN, on *Abundance & Grace – Reconceptualizing & Reframing Stewardship*.

In October, I will have the honor of representing our beloved institution at:

- 6 – Preaching at the Marthoma Church Retreat at 7:00 p.m.
- 8 – Preaching at the Shallowford Presbyterian Church at the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship
- 15 – Preaching at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church at 10:30 a.m.
- 20-22 – Greenville, SC, meeting with alums and prospective donors. On the 22nd, preaching at Fourth Presbyterian Church at 10:30 a.m.
- 27-29 – 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 – Providing a seminar at the ATS conference in Pittsburgh, PA.

PREACHING IN CHAPEL

OCTOBER 6
“WHO IS MY BOSS?”
MATTHEW 21:23-32

OCTOBER 24
“A NEW DAY”
MARK 10:17-31

OCTOBER 13
ATTENDING THE
INAUGURATION OF
JONATHAN L. WALTON AT
PRINCETON SEMINARY

OCTOBER 18
PARTNERS IN MINISTRY AT
TRINITY PRESB. CHURCH