

THRESHOLD

Spring '25 Edition
A Reflection from President Aloyo
"A New Chapter"



COLUMBIA
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Happy New Year, and welcome to the start of the 2025 spring semester!

I hope you had a wonderful winter break and enjoyed time with family and friends as we celebrated the end of 2024. I am extremely grateful to the faculty and students who participated in the [cultural immersion](#) courses in Cuba, Los Angeles, CA, and Atlanta, GA. Additionally, welcoming students from across our degree programs for classes on campus this month was a pleasure. The beginning of 2025 has been filled with excitement and activity, including the experience of a few snowy days!

A new year brings the opportunity to start a new chapter, which makes change possible and invigorating!

For instance, this year in my own personal journey, I wish to embrace and define words such as *perseverance* and *launch*. I'm committed to enhancing my daily meditation practice.

Embracing new routines in my ministry journey is both thrilling and demanding. It's thrilling because these practices deepen my self-awareness and reveal my potential. However, it can be challenging to let go of routines that are comfortable but yield little in terms of growth; parting with them often stirs feelings of grief and loss. For example, I am working on meditating right after my daily stretching and morning run, which is becoming a powerful anchor in my day.

I'm also expanding my reflection practices beyond my preparation for lectures, studies, and sermons, as establishing a long streak for spiritual, personal, and intellectual growth is incredibly inspiring!

Finally, after a six-year break, I'm excited to reignite and launch my passion for playing the baritone saxophone. I'm determined to embrace minor setbacks along the way, ensuring that obstacles are seen as opportunities rather than reasons to give up.

As we advance as an institution of higher theological inquiry, we have a unique chance to reassess our routines and workflows and make needed adjustments, embracing our shared commitment to service with a fresh perspective as we approach a third century of educational ministry to Christ and the Church in a rapidly evolving world.

To truly thrive as a vibrant component of institutional life, it is essential that we acknowledge collectively that every purposeful step we take in managing transitions brings us closer to meaningful accomplishments in our mission to be more effective stewards of God's resources.

The beginning of a new year is pivotal for setting personal and professional aspirations that can transform our lives and uplift those around us.

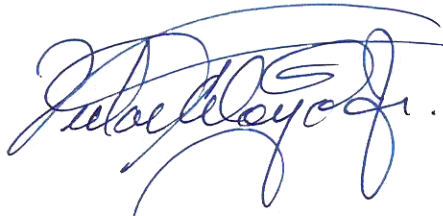
I urge each of you to reflect on your journey of personal growth and consider how you can actively support the Columbia Seminary family and our broader communities.

Together, we have the power to lead with passion and purpose, transforming 2025 into a remarkable year defined by insight, bold action, and unwavering determination.

Let's seize this opportunity to illuminate the path forward together! Let's honor our achievements, acknowledge our challenges as we release the past, uplift one another, and transform this semester into something extraordinary. Here's to new beginnings and a thriving year ahead!

I ask for your prayers as I will proclaim the Gospel and [represent](#) Columbia throughout the region and the world.

In Abundance and Grace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Victor A. Aloyo".

Rev. Dr. Victor A. Aloyo
11th President
Professor of Practical Theology



From the Office of the President: *Laying the Path Forward*

Through a phased-in approach and using our [Strategic Blueprint](#), President Aloyo, the Vice Presidents, and their respective departments fashioned departmental [priorities](#) in the summer of 2024, collaborating with the various stakeholders on campus.

One of those institutional priorities was to begin assessing our programs and initiatives and determining their relevance to our mission to educate and nurture faithful, imaginative, and effective leaders for the sake of the church and the world.

Phase I:

In Phase I, We identified the [Appreciative Inquiry Model](#) of organizational change as a primary tool for this work because it focuses on building upon an organization's strengths rather than approaching change with a deficiency mindset.

Appreciative Inquiry encourages organizations to grow and evolve in the direction of what's already working, instead of "fixing" a problem. Therefore, since September 2024, we have been deliberating on the specific components of this model, preparing our Seminary community for Phase II.

Phase II:

In Phase II, the seminary community will engage in focus group conversations around a series of appreciative inquiry questions designed to identify our key assets as we strive to improve our capacity to achieve the Seminary's mission, vision, and strategic goals.

With the guidance of [Rev. Dr. Trace Haythorn](#) and informed by our Strategic Blueprint, market research, and Comprehensive Campaign Research, the PC held a mid-year retreat on January 13 in which we began preparing a framework for assessment. Together, we will explore our distinctive strengths and investigate old patterns that may be keeping us from reaching our full potential.

Over the coming weeks, Dr. Haythorn and Lucy Baum will invite staff, faculty, trustees, and students to participate in 1-hour focus group conversations addressing the same series of questions. Participant responses will be recorded and analyzed utilizing Atlas TI (a qualitative analysis software) to assess key themes. The identified themes will inform a report to the President's Council for an April 2025 meeting.

Phase III:

Beginning in the summer of 2025, Phase III will use the data gathered and themes identified in Phase II to make recommendations for how best to direct the seminary's energy and resources to accomplish our mission and vision going forward.

The determinations of this assessment process will be presented to the President's Council in early 2026 to make appropriate impact decisions for the 2026-2027 academic and fiscal year. The Seminary will begin implementing appropriate decisions on July 1, 2026.

The Strategic Implementation Team, chaired by Lucy Baum, will communicate regularly with the Seminary community throughout this process.

Flourishing and Belonging:

One of Columbia's strengths is its diversity of students, faculty, denominational representation, and cultural realities.

Located in the hub of the modern-day civil rights movements, Columbia is poised to build upon its Reformed tradition, geographical location, and core values of inclusive community, mutual respect, becoming and belonging, and excellence as it recognizes the rapidly changing societies and varied contexts in which ministry is being and will be done.

Flourishing at and beyond Columbia Theological Seminary requires all persons to pursue justice as they work towards honoring and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in their many contexts.

We are demonstrating this commitment by investing our resources in implementing the position of Senior Advisor for Flourishing and Belonging. We are pleased to announce that [Dr. Rafael Reyes III](#) has been called to be the inaugural Senior Advisor for Flourishing and Belonging.

Dr. Reyes has been the Graduate Director of Student Life & Community Engagement at Katz School of Science and Health at Yeshiva University in New York City. Before that, he worked at New York Theological Seminary as an assistant professor of theology and religious studies in several administrative posts and taught at the University of San Diego. Dr. Reyes holds a PhD in Religion from

the Claremont School of Theology and master's degrees from Claremont, Drew University, New York Theological Seminary, and Alliance Theological Seminary.

In this role at Columbia, Dr. Reyes will be directly responsible to the Office of the President and will provide leadership to the entire Columbia community, especially by directing its efforts toward cohesive, collaborative, and comprehensive programs that support these core values at all institutional levels. As part of the JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) mapping process, Dr. Reyes will utilize the spring semester to have conversations with students, alums, faculty, staff, and trustees in exploring the next steps toward our exploration of defining and refining elements of flourishing and belonging.

Honoring Excellence - Student Formation and Campus Culture

In the last academic year, the President's Office, through the Office of Human Resources, implemented the Honoring Excellence Initiative in gratitude to offices and departments providing invaluable services driven by the Seminary's mission. We began by celebrating our facilities staff, the security team, the CLL staff, and the Information Systems Team (Library). On March 11, 2025, we will celebrate the stellar staff of the [Student Formation and Campus Culture](#) department. More information will be forthcoming from the Office of Human Resources.

Common Messaging & Talking Points:

Manifesting a clearer understanding of why we exist as an educational institution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be essential as we continue our mission and vision of forming the next generation



of Servant-Leader-Scholars to renew the Church and transform the world. As faculty, staff, and President Aloyo continue our Friendraising and Partnership-Building ventures, designing a standard message with appropriate talking points is critical. In a short-term exercise of defining the Seminary's identity, we will conduct an intersectional approach to embracing the Seminary's standard message and talking points based on our strengths and aspirations during these next few weeks. Information: President Aloyo

Institutional Identity:

In an ambitious long-term initiative, the Seminary recognizes that God is actively present in creation, even as our world undergoes constant change. Grasping the essence of the Church's mission—both in our local context and globally—is vital for our enduring flourishing and revitalization. The Seminary community, encompassing trustees, faculty, students, alums, and staff, will embark on a year-long, purposeful dialogue to reflect on our core identity.

While our mission and vision statements provide a solid foundation for our activities, it is critical to understand the “why” driving our work as an educational institution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Atlanta.

This understanding has profound implications, reaching across the Southeast, throughout the United States, and around the world. It transcends mere philosophy and denominationalism; it is essential for cultivating clarity, focus, and direction for building a pool of servant-leader-scholars who aim to renew the Church and transform the world.

Without a well-defined “why,” Columbia risks becoming adrift, pursuing one project after another, and responding impulsively to every opportunity. Conversely, by solidifying our “why,” we can create alignment, motivate our teams, and make informed decisions that promote sustainable growth and transformation.

As we enter the threshold of our third century, it's important to consider our internal mission and purpose from our market's perspective. Why do the Church and future servant-leader-scholars need us? What gap are we filling, and what evolving issues require the information we provide through our research and scholarship? What characteristics of the evolving Church indicate a need for renewal, and why would learners want to be a part of that renewal and receive their preparation at Columbia?

Understanding our external “why” will help us define our unique value proposition. Rather than attempting to serve everyone, how can we at Columbia focus on addressing specific needs uniquely and substantively?

Strategic Communications

We are in our seventh month of being part of the President's Office, and in that time period we began to lay the groundwork for our new expanded role. We did this by:

- Setting up [Columbia Current](#) as the hub for internal announcements and communications. Please visit to get the latest information about Forums, updates from the library, and more. Submit information to post on Columbia Current to communications@ctsnet.edu
- Creating a [Strategic Communications plan](#) that parallels our Strategic Blueprint in terms of goals, objectives, and duration.
- Developing a [Strategic Communications Hub](#) where you can find resources for branding, photography, and video; templates; and access the Help Desk to put in a ticket for communications support.
- Creating a web page to celebrate and honor the many ways our [faculty](#) contribute to theological education.
- Updating the [homepage](#) to promote what is happening at Columbia.

Our Spring 2025 initiatives include:

Faculty Promotions: Building on our continued web celebrations of our faculty,

- We are piloting a new initiative to promote our faculty authors. We have three faculty who have book publications this spring – Dr. Yoo, Dr. Brown, and Dr. Myers – and we will be developing a web page, press release, article, and video for each of these authors and books that we will share widely.

- We will also celebrate Dr. Smith's inauguration in March 2025 with an event page on the website, a press release, article, and video.
- We are also working with Dr. Mark Douglas and Dr. Martha Moore-Keish on the rollout of a community event that is part of their AAAS-funded climate justice grant.

Editorial Strategy:

As part of our planning in the fall semester, we identified the need to review and revise the way Columbia tells its story. To ensure that we can enter the modern era of storytelling with a presence both digitally and in print, we are rethinking everything from our online newsroom to our social media presence to our videos to our print presence. You may have noticed the absence of Vantage, and that is because we have paused it as we review and reshape our strategy.

- **Editorial Board:** In December of 2024, Columbia's Editorial Board met for the first time, and we will resume meeting next month. This group will help light the way forward for us.



Lantern

- **Coming Soon - Lantern:** *Lantern* will be our overarching brand for our digital and print presence and will be the name for our new print publication coming in July 2025.



Strategic Communications Community Support:

We are also partnering cross-departmentally on a number of events and projects.

Student Formation and Campus Culture on Faith, Praxis, Scholarship, a video series highlighting the research and scholarship of our faculty to tell the story and promote Advocacy Days of Training

Alumni & Church Relations to tell the stories of our alumni at the 2025 Alumni Reunion and beyond

Office of Philanthropic Advancement to develop the Endowment Report

Center for Lifelong Learning to promote the online resource What Comes Next: Addressing Politics as a Church After the 2024 Elections

Faculty endeavors, including Dr. Mark Douglas and Dr. Martha Moore-Keish on the promotion and distribution of the community event attached to their AAAS grant.

Alumni & Church Relations

Alumni Reunion 2025: Reclaiming the Call to be the One Church

Feb. 26-28, 2025, Columbia will welcome alumni back to campus to celebrate the ministries of our distinguished alumnus, Rev. Dr. Paige McRight '02, and our Pioneer in Ministry award winner, Rev. Matt Conner '17. Alumni will enjoy lectures by Dr. Maake Masango '87, Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Care and Counseling at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, workshops led by Columbia faculty, staff and alumni in a wide range of topics including Ethics, Caring for the Caregivers, Best Practices for improving Social Media presence, preaching, and much more. We will enjoy hearing from a panel of alumni who are serving in Korea, Scotland, the Caribbean, Puerto Rico and Ghana, to learn how the Holy Spirit is moving among us across the globe. We will hear from Drs. Catherine and Justo Gonzalez and William Yoo, as we consider the future of Christianity as guided by the history of Christianity. And new this year: there will be time for the nurture of our spirits. Thanks to a generous grant from the Nancy C. Kinzer Fund for Shalom, we will offer options for participants to enjoy chair massage, yoga, a spirituality center with a labyrinth, and individual time with a chaplain. You can find out more and see pictures here: <https://www.ctsnet.edu/alumni/event-information/>.

The Alumni Advisory Council plans and implements the Alumni Reunion. Our alumni advisory council meets in person twice per year and online throughout the year to advise President Aloyo on ways Columbia can best connect with and support our alumni and churches. We are grateful for the leadership of our Executive Committee: President: Rev. Sydne Check Allen, Vice President: Rev. Jarred Hammet, and Secretary: Rev. Jill Joyner.

Come See Columbia Day

On April 24, 2025, we are pleased to welcome Presbyterian Women and church groups of all sorts and sizes to campus to experience a day in the life of Columbia Seminary. Participants will begin the day with a continental breakfast, then enjoy worship, classes with students, a luncheon where we will hear directly from students about their call journey, and end the day with a tour of Mission Haven, a mission of the Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Living Waters and the Synod of South Atlantic, which provides a clothes closet to our students and missionaries, and short-term housing to missionaries on furlough. Find out more and register at www.ctsnet.edu/events/come-see-columbia-day/

Human Resources

Looking back:

For the fall semester, **32 student associates** worked alongside our **95 full-time and part-time employees**. Of the 95 employees, we welcome seven new employees to our workforce.

All new degreed students completed the required Title IX training in the fall semester.

In September, Zoe Fletcher was presented with the Betsey Burgess Award as a staff employee who demonstrated faithfulness, dedicated service, and Christian character, upholding the seminary's purpose and mission.

In October, our library staff was selected for the Honoring Excellence Reception.

Also, Rev. Christi O. Brown led Navigating Transitions, the first in a two-part professional development series. *Remember, clear is kind.*

Going forward:

In January – June 2025, HR is continuing its work with compensation and benefits vendors and is reviewing qualified consultants' proposals.

Professional Development - Constructive Feedback

As part of our ongoing commitment to professional growth and development, Rev. Christi O. Brown will return to campus on Tuesday, January 28th, to lead the second of our two-part training series, **Constructive Feedback**. This mandatory session aligns with our Strategic Blueprint's goal of maximizing employee growth and workplace satisfaction, efficacy, and accountability (AD-Goal #5) through a supportive workplace culture prioritizing personal and community well-being and professional development. For more information contact Jody Sauls, Director of Human Resources.



Board of Trustees

Intercultural Development Inventory: In pursuit of our vision prayer to become a community of welcome, hospitality, and belonging, and our commitment in the Quality Enhancement Plan to deepening the intercultural intelligence of all the seminary's constituents, the Board of Trustees will complete the IDI online assessment during the next few weeks. Responses will be scored and placed along the Intercultural Development Continuum and trustees will be invited to a one-on-one Zoom debriefing with Dr. Elaine Robinson, a qualified IDI administrator. The Board will receive a full report on our assessments during the May 2025 Board meeting.



Academic Affairs

Faculty Search:

Columbia's search for a new professor of World Christianities continues in the spring term, with three on-campus interviews the week of February 10-14, 2025. The committee, which is chaired by Christine Roy Yoder and includes Tim Hartman, Nicole Symmonds, Raj Nadella, Sue Kim Park, Montisa Watkins, and Trustees Alan Thornburg and Lesa Kestler, invites the community to participate in the public lectures and sample classes of our semi-finalists and will invite your feedback as part of this vital discernment process. The detailed schedule is forthcoming. The committee's goal is to recommend a final candidate to the Board of Trustees in March and, with their approval, welcome our newest faculty member to the Columbia community on July 1, 2025!

Faculty Travel Seminars:

Faculty travel seminars continue in March as part of our QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) and the Seminary's commitment to foster intercultural intelligence in faculty, staff, and students. Some faculty members will travel to Washington, DC, to focus on Jewish and Muslim interfaith dialogue through visits to the Holocaust Museum, the Islamic Center, The Museum of the Palestinian People, and other institutions. Other faculty members will travel to Los Angeles, Calif., to focus on interreligious and interfaith theological education through visits to the University of the West, the University of Southern California, and the Claremont School of Theology. These trips are exceptional opportunities for our faculty to engage together in immersion learning experiences and explore intercultural pedagogies.



Inauguration of Dr. Mitzi Smith: On Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Columbia will celebrate the inauguration of Dr. Mitzi Smith as the J. Davison Philips Professor of New Testament. Dr. Smith will present her inaugural lecture (4-5:30 pm, Harrington Center Chapel), and the community and special guests will gather for a reception that follows at the President's Residence. This momentous occasion honors Dr. Smith's distinguished leadership as a scholar and theological educator. Please mark your calendars now and join us!

Faculty Excellence:

Columbia Theological Seminary has a first-class class faculty. They are leaders in their disciplines, represent a variety of Christian traditions, receive their training from the finest institutions of higher learning, and come from around the world to serve at Columbia. They are inspired and driven daily to form the next generation of pastors who serve the church and the world. The innovative spirit of our

faculty truly blesses us, such as the development and implementation of the Lilly-granted Preacher's Studio for Renewal directed by Jake Myers and Anna Carter Florence, the fusion of photography, documentary film, spirituality, and social justice with Ralph Batsui Watkins, the development and implementation of the Wonders of Worship Initiative through the leadership of Kathy Dawson.

In addition, we acknowledge and celebrate the research and scholarship of our faculty, who contribute to theological and religious periodicals and publish books used as textbooks in other theological institutions. Let's celebrate the forthcoming books from William Yoo, *Reckoning with History: Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and the Making of American Christianity* (Westminster John Knox Press, January 28, 2025); Jake Myers with Sunggu A. Yang, *Preaching Philosophy: French Thought for Gospel Proclamation* (Baylor University Press, March 15, 2025); Bill Brown, *Sacred Tension: Embracing Dissonance and Dialogue in the Old Testament* (Upper Room, anticipated March 2025 publication).

Coaching @ CAL:

[CAL](#) coaches can mentor, empower, and support you through all types of academic challenges, including decoding an assignment, coping with distractions, using Turabian, developing a thesis statement, and more.

Center for Lifelong Learning:

[Lifelong learning](#) helps keep organizations accountable for their goals and mission. Delve into the following courses and programs to discern how lifelong learning fits into your ministry toolkit.

- **Become a Spiritual Director**
The application deadline is May 1, 2025.
- **Women's Work ONLINE**
February 13 and March 13, 2025
Center down and spend time with inspiring women whose wisdom will help you reacquaint yourself with your work, sense of self, and all that is asked of you.
- **Pastor, Do You Have a Minute? Mental Health and Ministry ONLINE**
January 22 and 29, 2025
Registrants will join a synchronous webinar lunchtime series to refresh their pastoral care knowledge and learn new ministry insights.
- **Teaching for Transformation with Older Adults ONLINE**
January 20- February 28, 2025
This course explores learning styles, effective teaching methods, current teaching-learning theories, and practices for the adaptation of older adults.
- **Zen for Christians ONLINE**
March 2 – April 11, 2025
Participants will learn basic Buddhist teachings and reflect on the similarities and differences between Zen meditation and Christian contemplative prayer.
- **Wounded Minister's Retreat**
May 19-22, 2025
Location: Columbia Theological Seminary, Center for Lifelong Learning
- **Leadership in Ministry Workshops**
Atlanta, GA | March 17-19, 2025 and November 10-12, 2025
Richmond, VA | March 17-19, 2025 and September 15-17, 2025
- **FREE Leadership in Ministry Webinars**
February 14, 2025
March 14, 2025
April 25, 2025

Business & Administration

Breakfast and other enhancements coming to the Refectory

Starting with the spring term, we will be piloting providing breakfast in the Refectory three days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). We will also be launching a website that lists the daily menu and nutritional information as well as updating signage in the service line. More information will be forthcoming from the Business Office.



Student Formation and Campus Culture

Connecting to the PCUSA:

Ten PC(USA) Partners along with PC(USA) Stated Clerk Jihyun Oh ('06, '24) and other denominational leaders, Corey Schlosser-Hall will be joining us on campus for our 2nd Annual PC(USA) Pilot Partnership Gathering on February 16-19. We will explore deeper mutually beneficial partnerships between Columbia Seminary and the Church. We will envision what projects and initiatives we seek to build together, for example, our **Faith-Scholarship-Praxis Series** for church leaders featuring our faculty and other endeavors we seek to pursue together this 2025 year. These PC(USA) Mid-Council Leaders will conclude their time with us on campus by interviewing Columbia students at a Call Fair on February 19th with other local leaders and congregations seeking to engage our students in vocational discernment.

Faith-Scholarship-Praxis – A Columbia Faculty Series in Collaboration with SFCC

Through our growing PC(USA) Partnership Initiative, we were asked to feature our esteemed faculty in a recorded series discussing their latest scholarship and research. The Faith-Scholarship-Praxis Series will be used far-and-wide by pastors and congregations, lay leaders and more, as it lives on a new landing page on the Columbia Seminary website. Together with several of our faculty we will explore conversations on everything from “Why Climate Change Matters for Your Church” to “Preachers in the Book of Acts,” and everything in between. We are thrilled that through this first ever digital Columbia Faculty Series we will continue to highlight the diverse and talented Faculty that Columbia Theological Seminary has to offer. For those wishing to know more about the Faith-Scholarship-Praxis Series, please contact Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill, VP and Dean of Student Formation and Campus Culture.

Advocacy Days: March 6 & 7 – Columbia Theological Seminary will host its first “Call to Justice, Advocacy Days of Training” in partnership with the PC(USA) Washington D.C. Office of Public Witness, the Self Development of People from the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Presbyterians for a Better Georgia and Faith in Public Life (Georgia) Partners. We will have events for the Columbia community and local/regional colleagues to learn about their call to justice in the public square. Together, we will explore why Advocacy matters. What is our call to justice as disciples of Jesus Christ? How can I get involved? And so much more.

**Annual Intercultural Food Festival:
April 4**

Second Annual Intercultural Food Festival & Celebration – Dr. Ria Martin, Director of Intercultural and Global Services at Columbia Theological Seminary, will host another exciting Festival Celebration of all the diverse cultures that make up the community here. We will delight in food, music, games, and more as we celebrate the

incredibly diverse community we are blessed to be a part of together.

Community-Wide Celebration: May 2—Year-End SFCC Community-wide Celebration—noon -4 PM—Come and enjoy the end of the Spring 2025 semester and celebrate our graduates. We will have food, games, prizes, and more as we delight together at the end of the year.

Shalom Selah:

Shalom Selah will continue on **Tuesdays at 2 PM** in the S.P.A.C.E. with the Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis '13, our Campus Minister. Please actively join us in prayer each Tuesday at 2:22 PM as we lift our voices to God as a community. Please remember that the Virtual Prayer Board (tinyurl.com/ctsprayerwall) is available to all members of the Columbia community to engage in prayer and respond together. Finally, if you have any mental health needs, please set up a time to meet with Rev. Shavon, our Campus Minister, during her one-on-one office hours.



Office of Philanthropic Advancement

Transitions:

Interim Vice President: Tim Norton, beginning on January 27, 2025, will serve as Columbia's Interim Vice President for Philanthropic Advancement for the next few months. Tim Norton has over 30 years of experience in higher education and most recently served as the Vice President of Advancement and Executive Director of the DSC Foundation at Daytona State College. He specializes in working with colleges, universities, healthcare organizations, and other non-profits. He helps these institutions advance their missions through strategic public relations, marketing, and development communications campaigns. Additionally, he manages capital and building project campaigns, conducts research, writes proposals for private foundation grants, and develops programs for donor engagement.

As a member of the President's Council, Interim Vice President Norton will work closely with the President, Board of Trustees, and other senior leaders to develop and implement strategies that enhance the institution's visibility, reputation, and financial resources. The Interim VP will coach and mentor the Philanthropic Advancement team to continue fundraising and engagement while the Seminary prepares to develop and implement a Comprehensive Campaign.

Departmental Assessment:

In addition, with the services of [Coxe Curry](#), the Office of Philanthropic Advancement will undergo a departmental assessment to identify its strengths and gaps as we fashion a new position description for the permanent Vice President for Philanthropic Advancement and begin a national search in the proceeding months.

The Comprehensive Campaign:

The Comprehensive Campaign development will continue, guided by Rebekah Groover, our new Senior Director for Strategic Giving, the President's Council, and the Comprehensive Campaign Executive Committee.

Partners in Ministry (PIM):

Columbia Theological Seminary will host two Partners in Ministry events this fiscal year to engage new donors and steward existing supporters toward multi-year commitments. The first event will occur on February 19 in Greenville, S.C., at Fourth Presbyterian Church, and the second will be held on May 8 in Charlotte, N.C. These gatherings provide meaningful opportunities to share Columbia's mission, celebrate our impact, and deepen partnerships that support the Seminary's vision for the future. Information: Nathan Kongthum

Partners on the Porch (POP):

"Partners on the Porch" is an innovative entry point for individuals interested in supporting Columbia Theological Seminary. This intimate, relaxed gathering introduces attendees to Columbia's mission and impact while offering an opportunity to explore ways to get involved, including serving as table hosts for our Partners in Ministry (PIM) events. POP provides a warm and accessible environment to cultivate and strengthen new relationships. Our next POP will be on March 20 in Charlotte, N.C.

Columbia Cares:

On April 27th, the Sunday after Easter, Columbia faculty, students and staff will be invited to preach in congregations across the Southeast to support our alumni who could use a respite following a busy Lenten

season. We hope this offering will provide needed support for our alumni, while also offering the seminary community an opportunity to build new connections with our alumni and churches. Contact Julie Bailey for more information: baileyj@ctsnet.edu.

Enrollment Management and Vocational Outreach



Our vocational outreach efforts are in full swing!

This fall, we welcomed prospective students individually or during Experience CTS and attended 12 off-campus vocational outreach events. So far, in January 2025, we have already attended three off-campus vocational outreach events, including the College Conference at Montreat.

Before our application deadline on April 15th, the Enrollment Management and Vocational Outreach team plans to attend sixteen off-campus vocational outreach events and welcome more prospective students to campus either individually or in groups; co-host monthly virtual events with our faculty, highlighting our degree programs; lead another Experience CTS in March, and, in collaboration with Seminary partners, we plan to host an inaugural, interdenominational retreat for college students in the fall 2025.

To learn more about the admissions process, the team, or where we are visiting, visit us online: www.ctsnet.edu/admissions

Columbia Calendar

JANUARY

26-27

Dr. Aloyo speaking at Bellevue PC and Synod Meeting, Nashville, TN

29-31

Dr. Aloyo at APCE Conference, Memphis, TN

18 & 21

African Heritage Student Association Week Chapel Services, 10:10 am, Harrington Chapel

25

A Community Concert featuring *Vox Profundi* Choir of Goshen College (Goshen, IN) 7:30 pm, Campbell Hall Chapel, Free!

26-28

Alumni Reunion, Columbia alumni are invited to gather on campus to reconnect with old friends and make new ones, hear Rev. Dr. Maake Masango keynote speaker, attend workshops and panels with professors and international church leaders, alumni awards, Dr. Aloyo leading closing worship. On campus

FEBRUARY

1-2

Dr. Aloyo at Alum event & preaching at Idlewild PC, Memphis, TN

9-18

Dr. Aloyo, keynote speaker at Global Mar Thoma Conference Kerala India

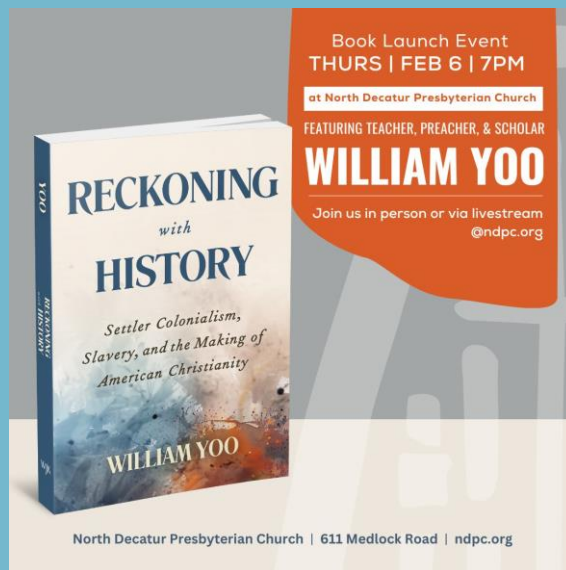
11

Our Community in Song "Sounds of the Sanctuary: The Congregational Voice of the Black Church Experience" Dr. Tony McNeill, Worship Leader 10:10 am, Harrington Chapel

FEB. 6

Dr. William Yoo is launching his new publication through a Book Talk. This event offers a unique opportunity to

hear from Dr. Yoo as he discusses his book and reflects on the importance of reckoning with the past to move toward a more just and faithful future. Dr. Yoo challenges individuals and communities to confront uncomfortable truths through his teaching and research, fostering dialogue and action for transformation. 7 p.m. at the North Decatur Presbyterian Church, located at 611 Medlock Road, Decatur, GA, or ONLINE. More info at <https://ndpc.org/>



MARCH

6-7

Advocacy Training Event,

a training opportunity for the Columbia and local

community to learn how to get involved in local advocacy and public witness. Presented in partnership with PC(USA) Office of Public Witness and Advocacy in Washington, D.C., Self-Development of People in the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterians for a Better Georgia, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, and Faith in Public Life (Georgia). Preregistration required.

19

The inauguration of Dr. Mitzi J. Smith as the J. Davison Philips Professor of New

Testament. Harrington

Center Chapel, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Reception will follow at the President's Residence.

21

Dr. Aloyo Preaching at Chapel worship, 10:10 am, Harrington Chapel

25 & 28

International Student Association Week Chapel Services, 10:10 am, Harrington Chapel

27-29

PANAAWTM Conference at Columbia

APRIL

15

Stations of the Cross with Columbia Student Artists, 10:10 am, Oldenburg Quad

18

Good Friday: Seminary Closed

24

Come See Columbia Day experience a day in the life of Columbia Seminary

25

Creation Care Chapel Service with the Dabney and Tom Dixon Creation Care

Awardee preaching, 10:10 am, Columbia Garden. The Dabney and Tom Dixon Creation Care Sermon Prize goes to the best sermon addressing environmental concerns.

27

Columbia Cares Day

MAY

2

Dr. Aloyo preaching at Chapel Worship, 10:10 am, Harrington Chapel

10

Dr. Aloyo preaching at White Bluff Presbyterian Church in Savannah, GA

16

Baccalaureate Service with speaker Dr. Renita Weems
Decatur Presbyterian Church

17

Graduation Ceremonies
Trinity Presbyterian Church

20

Staff-A-Palooza, annual staff celebration

23

Seminary community begins Summer Fridays through 6/27

26

Memorial Day – Seminary Closed

JUNE

17-19

Dr. Aloyo preaching at the National Presbyterian Black Caucus Conference

30

Last day of Academic/ Fiscal Year 2024-2025

PLEASE NOTE: *dates listed are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please visit*

www.CTSnet.edu/events

for the latest information, registration, and locations.

