



GRACE COMMUNION SEMINARY

GCS NEWS

A Newsletter for Students and Alumni of Grace Communion Seminary

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President's Letter



Dear students, faculty and alumni,

Winter came a little early this year for me here in Chicago, cutting short our autumn. But the GCS Fall term was stretched out a bit

due to the Thanksgiving break we built into the schedule. So, we're just now wrapping things up a little later than usual. We had a good semester with a great line-up of courses offered and solid enrollment. For those of you studying with us this term, we trust it was an encouraging and rewarding time.

Behind the scenes, a lot of effort has been exerted by the GCS staff to complete all that is necessary to renew our accreditation from the federally recognized DEAC (Distance Education Accrediting Commission). It is required every five years. It's really a year-long process that will culminate in a visit to our Charlotte offices by DEAC members this coming January. Your prayers are appreciated not only for a good outcome of being renewed but



One of many GCS staff meetings working towards accreditation

also that all the work would be beneficial to the seminary and in turn to GCI and the whole global church. Special thanks are due those who completed this monumental task: Chief Liaison Officer, Dr. Russell Duke, who headed up the project; Dean of Faculty, Dr. Michael Morrison; Registrar, Georgia McKinnon and Dr. Duke's assistant Lance McKinnon.

I am especially thankful that we include among our students a cohort of GCI international students as well as a few from outside our denomination. The ministry of the seminary does reach beyond its walls—a benefit of being an online church-related educational institution.

As you may know, the GCS staff and I serve under the oversight of GCS Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr. Joseph Tkach (who is also Chairman of the GCI Board of Directors) and the GCS Board. We have recently instituted a plan of board member rotation, accepted the retirement of a couple of long-term members and added three new members. Rotating off the Board are Pat Shaw and also Ron Kelly. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their faithful service over many years. They were recognized for their service at our most recent Board meeting.

Being added to the board are Ted Johnston and Becky Deuel. Ted has taught and will continue to teach for GCS. Becky is a GCI elder/pastor and graduate of GCS. We welcome both to the Board and thank them for their voluntary service. Most recently nominated was Dr.

Michael Morrison, our Dean. He accepted his nomination and was appointed to the GCS Board. We welcome him as well.

As announced previously, I want to remind you that tuition will be increasing for the next term, January 2020. In order to cover more of our actual and slightly increased expenses,

Cont. we'll be increasing tuition from the current \$200/credit hour to \$220/credit hour or from \$600 to \$660 for a standard 3-unit credit course. And then again, in January of 2021, our plan is to increase tuition an additional \$20/credit hour, to \$720 per standard 3-unit course. Our tuition will still be very reasonable. The current rates for scholarships will remain the same. The total estimated cost of the MA degrees we offer will still come in at around \$10,000.

The final notice I want to bring to your attention is the GCS graduation ceremony we will be having this coming Friday, July 31, at 2:30 pm. It will be held in Charlotte, NC not too far from our new home office in conjunction with our GCI Denominational Celebration. We are looking forward to recognizing the achievement of about twenty of our students. We hope many of you can make it to the graduation and the triannual celebration. If you're hoping

to be one of them make sure you are in contact with our Registrar, Georgia McKinnon.

If you know of those who might be ready to benefit from taking some courses from GCS, please feel free to encourage them to consider joining us in the upcoming semester.

Grace and Peace in Christ Jesus,
Dr. Gary Deddo
 President

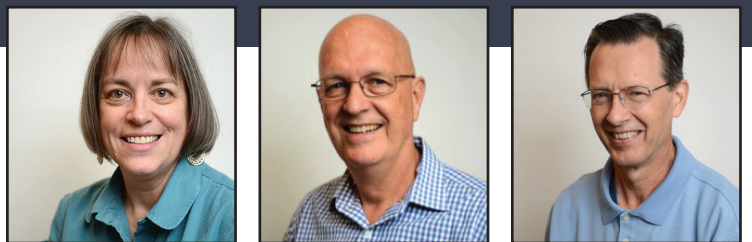
Ron Kelly and Pat Shaw Retire from GCS Board



Ron and Norva Kelly

Terry and Pat Shaw

Welcome to our newest Board Members



Becky Deuel

Ted Johnston

Michael Morrison



Pat Shaw with Joseph Tkach and Gary Deddo

Ron Kelly and Pat Shaw were recognized for their faithful service to the GCS Board on October 15. Ron was unable to be on location but both were given a plaque in honor of their service. Thank you Ron and Pat for the many years of faithful service to GCS.

Accreditation Update



We are in the final year of being accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC), a federally approved national accreditor. Retaining accreditation is a long and involved process as we assess our own programs in an effort to improve our work in the seminary to prepare pastors to minister in Christ with an Incarnational Trinitarian faith. Let me bring you up to date on our efforts.

Our application for another five-year term of accredited status was accepted in June, giving us a year to complete the process. Dr. Morrison submitted the Educational Offerings Application for the Master of Pastoral Studies and the Master of Theological Studies, which is a curriculum review of our courses and programs. We will receive the report from a third-party subject specialist in December, to which we will provide a response which will be reviewed by a visiting accreditation team from DEAC member institutions.

The staff has written the Self Evaluation Report (SER) which shows compliance with the 12 standards of DEAC accreditation, as well as developing documents for the 40 exhibits to support the claims in the SER. Those documents were submitted this December to the DEAC staff and will be forwarded to the examiners for their review.

On January 31, 2020, several examiners will visit our Charlotte offices to evaluate our seminary and make a recommendation to the

Cont. Commission. We have submitted a list of our students to them so that they may call on any of you to answer a couple of questions about your experience in the seminary. They also review the surveys that you have been sent at the end of each semester to determine student satisfaction and achievement. Our survey responses

have been consistently positive, so we thank you for your involvement and support!

Once the DEAC visit is complete, we will be given a report by the end of February that highlights any areas in which we are deemed not in compliance, and we will have 30 days

to respond. Then the Commission will vote in June at their biannual meeting, and we will be informed in July of our status. We appreciate your prayers as we go forward with our ministry in Jesus.

*Dr. Russell Duke
Liaison Officer*

Curriculum Update



Master of Divinity Application: We submitted paperwork for a M.Div. program on December 11. Our accrediting agency has a month or so to

analyze our request and to select some courses for more detailed scrutiny. We'll then have a month to submit additional supporting paperwork, such as the syllabus for the capstone course, and then they'll have a few months to respond to our application. If all goes well, we'll know by summer, and then we'll need approval from state regulators. We cannot make any promises that it will be approved in time for our graduation ceremony (July 31) or that it will be approved at all.

Graduation Details: Our graduation ceremony will be held at 2:30–5:00 pm on Friday, July 31, at the Embassy Suites hotel in Concord, NC (location of the GCI Denominational Celebration). Who is eligible to participate? Any student who has

completed the requirements of the MPS or MTS degree and has not participated in a previous graduation ceremony. So if you finished the degree in 2015 but were unable to participate in the graduation ceremony in 2017, you are welcome to participate in this one! Students may also participate if they are almost done – lacking only the final course.

All participants must pay a \$150 fee to cover the cost of caps, robes, and room –our Registrar will be supplying details on how that will be done.

Face-to-Face Courses in Charlotte: We plan to offer two courses in conjunction with the GCI Denominational Celebration in August. CM511 Homiletics will be taught by Dr. Dan Rogers, and CM506 Trinitarian Youth Ministry will be taught by Dr. Greg Williams and Jeff Broadnax. Both courses are tentative, pending approval by our accrediting agency, and depending on a minimum of five students for each course. Both

courses will be held at the GCI Home Office on Monday and Tuesday before the celebration. Both courses will require the normal tuition, plus \$150 surcharge to cover the additional costs of the instructors.

Also on Monday and Tuesday, there will also be some non-credit courses. ACCM will offer two courses, “Doctrines” and “The Bible,” at the Embassy Suites in Concord, NC. Also at the GCI Home Office, Cathy and Gary Deddo will offer “The Mark Experience,” designed to teach leaders of small group Bible studies. Although the GCS courses and the ACCM courses will be held at different locations, it might work well for a GCS student to attend one, while a spouse attends another. Google Maps says the two locations are about 35 minutes apart.

*Dr. Michael Morrison
Dean of Faculty*



Michael Morrison and Lance McKinnon enjoying unpacking new additions for the GCS library

Spring 2020 – From the Registrar



We are wrapping up 2019 and it has been a full year. In 2019, three students earned a Master of Theological Studies degree and two students earned a Master of Pastoral Studies degree. Seven students earned the ADCM and fourteen earned the Certificate of Theological Studies. Congratulations to these students! In 2019, we also had the opportunity to promote GCS at several events including the GCI Regional Celebrations and several training meetings at the home office. We are grateful for each opportunity to share about GCS. We are also grateful to you – our students, alumni, faculty and board members – for sharing

GCS with others. You are our best advertisements, and we thank you for sharing!

As we look ahead to 2020, we have much to look forward to in the new year. Our accreditation visit will be at the end of January and we will have our third graduation at our Denomination Celebration in July. If you are a recent graduate, we hope you will make plans to attend. (Be on the lookout for more details!) We have also added a faculty member, Dr. Kerry Magruder, who will be teaching TH504: Trinitarian Perspectives on Faith and Science in the Spring Semester.

Be on the lookout for an email with Spring Semester registration

information! Registration opens on January 3, and classes will officially begin on January 13. If you are trying to decide which class to take, let me encourage you to visit our courses page on our GCS website and review the short syllabus for each class we offer. The short syllabus will give you an idea of what to expect in the class.

If I can be of assistance to you in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me. Many blessings to you in this season of Advent!

— *Georgia McKinnon, Registrar*

Introducing New Instructor and Class



We are happy to announce a new instructor and a “new” course for GCS. We welcome Dr. Kerry Magruder to our list of faculty. Dr. Magruder is the Curator of the History of Science Collections and Associate Professor of Bibliography and Associate Professor of the History of Science at the University of Oklahoma. He will be teaching TH504, which has been renamed to Trinitarian Perspectives on Faith and Science.

Course description

The early church developed the doctrine of creation through sustained theological reflection on the Incarnation. This course explores what it might mean today to ground our thinking about science, nature,

and creation in the foundational theological perspectives of the Incarnation, Resurrection, and Trinity. This course surveys some of the conflict points for science and religion frequently encountered in modern culture, reassessing them in light of the theological perspectives of the Trinitarian theology of Thomas F. Torrance, and incorporating insights from the writings of C. S. Lewis.

Why T. F. Torrance? Why C. S. Lewis?

Examining the views of Torrance and Lewis are helpful because:

- They are two of the most highly regarded 20th-century Christian writers.
- Each wrote in the Nicene theological tradition of Athanasius.

FEATURED CLASS TH504 Trinitarian Perspectives on Faith and Science

- The theology of each is encountered in-depth in other GCS courses.
- Each also wrote prolifically on Christianity and science!
- Their books are not textbooks, but classics, for life-long learning.
- Many report that reading their books is an intellectually exhilarating, lifechanging experience.
- Each spoke anchored in the Church, for the sake of the world.

Schedule of Courses 2020

All schedules are tentative

Spring 2020: Registration begins Jan. 3. The first lecture is posted Monday, January 13; subsequent lectures are posted Mondays, January 20 to March 16. (When Monday is a holiday, lectures are posted on Tuesday.) All work is to be completed by April 6.

BI520	New Testament Survey	Mike Morrison
CH502	Church History: The Second Millennium	Neil Earle
CM503	Christian Counseling	Ted Johnston
FE501	Field Education I	Randy Bloom
TH504	Trinitarian Perspectives on Science and Faith	Kerry Magruder
TH508	Christology of T.F. Torrance	Gary Deddo

Summer 2020: Registration begins April 27; lectures posted Mondays, May 11 to July 13. All work is to be completed by August 10. A graduation ceremony will be held on July 31. *CM506 and CM511 may be offered in hybrid format.*

BI522	The Gospels	Mike Morrison
CM501	Pastoral Leadership	to be announced
CM506	Trinitarian Youth Ministry	G. Williams & J. Broadnax
CM508	Church Planting & Development	Randy Bloom
CM511	Homiletics	Dan Rogers
TH501	Nature of God and Jesus Christ	Russell Duke
FE501	Field Education I	Randy Bloom

Fall 2012: Registration begins Aug. 27; lectures posted Mondays, Sept. 7 to Nov. 9. All work is to be completed by Dec. 7.

BI501	Hermeneutics	Mike Morrison
BI522	The Gospels	Mike Morrison
CH501	Church History: The First Millennium	Neil Earle
CM504	Practice of Ministry	Ted Johnston
CM507	Experiencing the Trinity	Larry Hinkle
TH502	Nature of Humans and Salvation	Russell Duke
TH515	Seminar in Theological Ethics	Gary Deddo
FE501	Field Education I	Randy Bloom

If fewer than five students register for a course, it may be cancelled, at the discretion of the instructor. TH519 and TM501 (capstone courses for the master's degrees) are offered in all semesters.



Thank You

FOR PARTNERING WITH GCS

As the year draws to an end, we look back with grateful hearts for those whose passion and enthusiasm for GCS have moved them to partner with us through financial support and prayer. Your sharing with us is a blessing for the seminary to be a blessing to those we serve. We pray God's grace and blessing for you in the new year.

WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER GCS IN YOUR YEAR-END GIVING

Financial Support from alumni and friends like you has a profound impact on the seminary's mission of *"Equipping the Saints for Pastoral Ministry."*

Every gift is God's provision for his work in Grace Communion Seminary.



Donations to Grace Communion Seminary can be mailed to
3120 Whitehall Park Drive, Charlotte, NC 28273 or donate online at gcs.edu/donate.

CONGRATULATIONS to our 2019 Graduates

These students
have completed their
Master of Theological Studies
(MTS):

**Dennis Elliot
Sandy Richter
James Walrath**

These students
have completed their
Master of Pastoral Studies
(MPS):

**Gavin Henderson
Howard Klein**

CTS & ADCM Earned

These students earned a
Certificate of Theological Studies (CTS):

Helen Francis
Anthony Gachanja
Gary Glenister
Anthony Gregory
Saji Jacob
Johannes Maree
Margaret Mitchell

Takalani Musekwa
Michael McNally
Cynthia Quarles
Audi Santibanez
Steve Solari
Heber Ticas
Tim Wakeley

These students earned the
Advanced Diploma of Christian Ministry (ADCM):

Martin Connolly
Richard Fowler
Anthony Gregory
Saji Jacob

Howard Klein
Dan Krupp
Johannes Maree



***Come Celebrate With Our Graduates
At This Year's Graduation Ceremony***



On July 31, 2020, GCS will hold its
3rd graduation ceremony as part of our Denominational
Celebration in Charlotte, NC.