



McCormick Theological Seminary

George Floyd Anti-racism **ANNUAL REPORT** Healing

How can I pray for you? Healthcare disparity John Lewis

Socially strong Clergy and Lay Leadership Summit

Peaceful protests Commencement #DoJustice **2020**

Physically distant Immigration reform Incarcerated learners

STAYING TOGETHER, Uncomfortable conversations

McCormick Days View. Like. Share. **STAYING APART**

Food for the good of the soul



A seminary in the city, McCormick Theological Seminary is one of the world's great centers of theological education and research. McCormick seeks to embody and create a more just and compassionate world through rigorous academic study, practical experience, spiritual formation and an active, engaged learning community. Founded in 1829 and a leader in the Chicago faith community since 1860, it is a seminary with a long history of high academic standards and a commitment to social justice.

Part of the Reformed tradition is an ecumenical commitment and openness to dialogue with different perspectives within the larger church. McCormick's student body represents a wide variety of Christian traditions including Baptist, United Church of Christ, African Methodist Episcopal, Pentecostal, non-denominational students and more. Common to all our students is a desire to live in a racially, ethnically, linguistically, and theologically diverse community rooted in our faith and in a shared commitment to service for the common good.



President's Message

Standing on Unwavering Hope

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5: 1-5 (NRSV)

Dear Friends,

On February 28, 2020, we held our winter board meeting using a video conferencing application many of us had barely heard of—let alone used—called Zoom. In 2018, we had moved to remote gatherings for our winter meeting to ensure greater attendance because, after all, who wants to travel to Chicago in February? During the finance committee report, Trustee George Bermingham noted that there was growing economic uncertainty about the impact of a virus that shut down the entire city of Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei Province, a city with a population of more

than 11 million people. The virus was called COVID-19. CO for Corona; V for Virus; ID for identification; 19 for 2019, the year of its discovery.

Two weeks later, on March 13, we informed our community that we would follow the lead of cities like San Francisco, and we asked everyone to stay home, study from home, work from home, learn and teach from home. As I shared with the community at the time:

We have lived through a tumultuous week—and it is not yet over. We will, no doubt, face some difficult days ahead. We know that there will be some anxious times and that we will face questions and problems foreseen and unforeseen. It is in these times that we must lean into and upon our faith. We must take care of one another and ourselves and we must not forget those whose health and financial challenges are far greater than our own. We ask you to pray with us for God's guidance, wisdom, and love. We also ask for your flexibility, creativity, patience, and perseverance in the days and weeks ahead.

As I write this letter on September 2, 2020, more than 186,000 of our fellow Americans have died after being infected by the virus—more than 6 million cases reported in the United States alone. And, as we have come to understand, the virus has had a disproportionate impact on communities of color here in Chicago and across the country. The virulent impact of systemic racism and structural economic inequity is not limited to COVID infection and death rates.

Over the course of the past six turbulent months, we have witnessed in horror the shooting of Jacob Blake and the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Elijah McClain, and, in a video just released yesterday, Daniel Prude. Six more names added to a long, long list of mostly young African Americans gunned down or choked to death by police or self-anointed vigilantes. Not even COVID can contain the frustration and resolve of the thousands of citizens who have risen up, marched in the streets, and in one voice said: this must end. Sadly, we see that the same evil that perpetrates and perpetuates this violence against persons of color will not willingly relinquish its privilege and power. It is time for seminaries and the church to step up, acknowledge that we have too often been facilitators of systemic racism, and we must speak up and act now.

In these days, I find myself reflecting often on the passage above from Paul's letter to the Romans. Suffering is, of course, relative, but we all know that there is more suffering, more

“It is time for seminaries and the church to step up, acknowledge that we have too often been facilitators of systemic racism and we must speak up and act now.”

uncertainty, more fear here and around the world today than there was just four years ago. But it is indeed in our own suffering and witness to the suffering of others that our endurance is challenged, our character forged, and, with God’s grace, hope emerges.

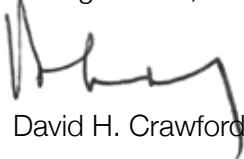
Just after the 2016 presidential election, Rev. Dr. Wendell Griffen wrote a powerful book called *The Fierce Urgency of Prophetic Hope*. His book seeks to answer this question: “How are we to be committed to the cause of Jesus during and AFTER the presidency of Donald J. Trump?”

Part of Dr. Griffen’s answer to the question he poses is that we must believe “in a subversive and liberating vision of hope based on the faith tradition inspired by the religion of Jesus.” And, he adds, “Acting on that hope will allow those who believe in the Spirit of God to confront, condemn, and overcome political, social, commercial, and religious actions that promote alienation, fear, hate, and despair.”

It seems to me that Dr. Griffen has provided us a roadmap for the future of theological education and the church. In the pages that follow, it is my prayer that you will see an unfolding transformation in our work that is bold, prophetic, and ever-faithful to McCormick’s ideals.

God bless you and thank you for your love and support of McCormick Theological Seminary.

With gratitude,



David H. Crawford
President



Staying Together While Staying Apart

Staying Together While Staying Apart

As the coronavirus was spreading rapidly across the nation, McCormick demonstrated new levels of support within the McCormick community.

“We wanted to finish the semester with the same rigor and integrity we had at its beginning...and we were going to do that online. But it wasn’t just about shifting classes and events online. What would be our online presence? How do we continue to pay attention to students? How do we create a teaching/learning presence that is student-centered? How do we have conversations that are meaningful for the moment in which we live? We weren’t interested in just moving online because it was now expedient. We were committed to radically altering the way we engage and altering the relationships between students and teacher...between McCormick and its larger community. How would this medium help us do that?”

Some of the ways McCormick’s faculty and staff addressed those questions are seen on the next few pages. We’ve always been a place where people are supportive and work as a team. The past few months have given us numerous examples of those attributes. Embedded in the stories of the faculty and staff members featured are the tireless efforts of every member of McCormick. Moving courses and events online was a group effort. This wasn’t simply operating as usual. We were setting up to perform in front of a camera. And we needed to know that simply turning a camera on did not mean doing things normally. We first had to hear and

“We first had to hear and feel and express our own anxieties and fears about this seismic shift in such a short period of time – for ourselves, students, and a community that looks to us for relevant resources.”

– Dr. Steed Vernyl Davidson

feel and express our own anxieties and fears about this seismic shift in such a short period of time – for ourselves, students, and a community that looks to us for relevant resources. While meeting the demands of our teaching schedules, faculty created and then re-created ways to deliver courses and events online. Some programs that would have had multiple sessions in a day or two, were re-imagined, extending over longer periods. Sessions were then available to participants and are still available online for those who were unable to participate.

The challenges offered opportunities, one of which is to build our digital presence. A creative IT team became crucial to sustaining our webs of relationships, courses and events. In the months ahead, there will be more fruit from this season that drew us together while allowing us to expand our abilities to share our courses, programs, and events with broader and more diverse audiences. Take a look.”

Dr. Steed Vernyl Davidson, Dean of the Faculty, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament



Change is Coming, and it's Coming Right Now

McCormick, like many institutions of higher learning, had questioned whether to dive more fully into offering distance learning programs and degrees. There were pros and cons on each side of the discussion and there was no great rush...until the rapid spread of the coronavirus in mid-March caused schools, businesses and gatherings of all kinds to cease in-person operation. But this ending offered a new beginning. "All of a sudden, we weren't talking about it anymore," said Barbara Fassett, director of Information Technology, "It was guess what, we're going to do it right now."

Fassett and a team of two in the IT department used an extended two-week spring break to get McCormick classes and events up and running online. McCormick already had a Learning Management System and utilized Zoom for the occasional student who needed remote learning capabilities. But teaching every class, every day virtually was massive and new. And, the first and one of biggest challenges was making sure students had the proper equipment and capabilities.

"We discovered some of our students didn't even have computers or laptops," Fassett said. "Some students had been using the library or the campus writing center to access computers and Wi-Fi, and those resources shut down during the pandemic. So, we had to make sure everyone had access to laptops and an Internet connection at home." Fassett and the IT team also had to conduct training sessions for faculty and students about this greater use of the learning management system, Zoom functionality, and best

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practices for using this medium for instruction. In partnership with Abby Mohaupt (M.Div.’11), who provided instructional design expertise, Fassett and the IT team were able to guide the transition to virtual learning.

In addition to courses, several seminars and events were moved online. This work involved the collaboration of several departments to hold commencement ceremonies, the Divine Wisdom Festival and the Symposium on Trauma virtually. These events required the capacity for hundreds of participants to stream at the same time. “Fortunately, we had recently refreshed all of our switches, servers, firewall, and spam filter,” Fassett said. “And, during that process, we had tripled our bandwidth.”

In her 12 years at McCormick, Fassett had not experienced anything quite like preparing the entire campus for working remotely. But the eye-opening experience presented a glimpse at what could be possible for the future of instruction at McCormick. “This experience let us know that we have options,” Fassett said, “and we have the support of the entire McCormick community to maintain the seminary’s ability to honor its commitment to rigorous academic standards.”



By Faith, Not Sight

“One of the biggest challenges was not being able to see the reaction of the audience,” said Dr. Lis Valle about moving McCormick’s first ever Divine Wisdom Festival online. The assistant professor of Homiletics and Worship, Dr. Valle had created The Wisdom Festival, a showcase of worshipful arts and expressions, to be an in-person experience. The global coronavirus pandemic moved it online where gauging audience response was challenging for presenters. “One of the presenters was using comedy to connect with viewers,” said Dr. Valle. “Usually, when you make a joke, you wait to see how it lands with the people. He didn’t have that. What he had to do was imagine the laughter and go from there.”

That feeling of disconnectedness was one of Dr. Valle’s concerns as she sought to understand the experience of worshipping outside a traditional worship space. “When we go to a physical worship space, the sacred space is created for us by the building,” she explained. “It’s organized in a way for worship in community. When you’re worshipping online, the medium itself can feel like a barrier to worship.”

For many viewing the festival, that became a frequently asked question, how do you create a sacred space when worshipping from home? Speakers offered suggestions, inviting viewers to look through their eyes of imagination, seeing nooks as places of refuge, every object as having holy use, and every room filled with ordinary graces. “And, all of a sudden, the place where I am, lo and behold, my bedroom, is a holy place,” a participant noted in their feedback about the festival.

Initially envisioned for five days in April, the virtual festival was spread over 30 days in May and June and drew hundreds of live participants and additional views since the event.

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“We provided alternate ways to connect to God, others and ourselves.”

– Dr. Lis Valle

“For me, the way the traditional Church has done things may be good for many, but not for all,” Dr. Valle said. “That is why we need to keep exploring what we consider to be worship. The Festival had two main purposes: to create a space for speakers who have non-traditional ways of teaching and to help people see worship as an experience of the mind, body, spirit, and soul. The need to do this online added a challenging layer, but I believe we provided alternate ways to connect to God, others and ourselves.”

View Divine Wisdom Festival presentations at facebook.com/watch/McCormickSeminary

View. Like. Share.

McCormick connected with new audiences and kept the seminary connected to its alumni and community through an expanded use of social media and video conferencing platforms.

7,000 views of the Commencement Service

3,138 viewers of events on social media

2,643 reactions to events (likes, hearts, etc.)

1,402 comments during live stream events

100 average registered participants for each Symposium on Trauma

135 shares of live stream events

16 worship services, 12 modalities of preaching featured, and 1 art gallery showcased as part of the Divine Wisdom Festival

Mental Health Care is Justice Work

When Dr. Stephanie M. Crumpton first envisioned offering Symposium on Trauma, McCormick’s associate professor of Practical Theology had imagined that she and other experts would talk about trauma and mental health in broad terms. Two events sharpened their focus. First, COVID-19 was picking up speed across the U.S., moving the initially planned one-day event into a fifteen-part series online. Then the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers and the racial unrest that followed caused them to look more closely at the impact of these events on the mental and physical health of African Americans and other persons of color.

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, depression and anxiety among African and Asian Americans spiked after the death of George Floyd. These populations, that have historically been underserved in the mental healthcare arena were struggling with two traumatic events. The symposium shifted to address that reality. “The pandemic, once again, exposed our nation’s healthcare disparity,” said Dr. Crumpton, who partnered with the Rev. Dr. Barbara A. Wilson (M.Div. ’01, D.Min. ’08) of the Presbytery of Chicago, and Science for Seminaries to develop the presentations. Dr. Crumpton noted that violence, poverty, healthcare disparities and racial inequality increase feelings of hopelessness and the mental health of people who have been marginalized for generations.

“COVID-19 grief was a new dimension,” said Dr. Crumpton. “The losses were multiple – unemployment, school closings, restrictions on travel and group gatherings, distancing in relationships, health concerns, and uncertainties about the future – and occurring one



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“At McCormick, justice has a healing component.”

– Dr. Stephanie Crumpton

on top of another. It’s grief layered on grief. It has been and could continue to be a shifting landscape and the challenge will be to understand what we personally need to do to care for our own mental health as well as that of our communities.”

Helping people find the language and some strategies for dealing with trauma and “grief that knows no bounds” became a cornerstone in the series. Dr. Crumpton started with weekly webinars in April and shifted to a bimonthly format to offer information and strategies for dealing with the myriad ways grief and trauma play a role in child abuse, financial and food insecurity, unemployment and isolation. The presentations also provided tools for helping children deal with grief and trauma and ways communities can help each other manage communal grief. Meditative and breathing exercises were incorporated into presentations, providing ways to cope with stress and bring a sense of calm back to life.

“The majority of people joining us online are actively involved with ministry right now,” Dr. Crumpton continued. “People are hungry to understand what they can do to help others. The Symposium on Trauma was an extension of McCormick’s ‘justice arm.’ At McCormick, justice has a healing component.”

View McCormick’s Symposium on Trauma at mccormick.edu.

Caring and Incarceration



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“It was a feeling of major disappointment, then deep concern,” began Jia Johnson, “How would our students and everyone in the place prepare for this situation?” The place was Cook County Jail. The situation, according to an April Chicago Sun Times article, was the death of four detainees from COVID-19, and positive coronavirus test results for nearly 400 men in the jail. And, the students? They were the six men who were in the certificate program in theological studies, part of McCormick’s Solidarity Building Initiative for Liberative Carceral Education at Cook County Jail.

For the past two years, McCormick has been developing a theological education program at the Cook County Jail, providing what Johnson, program director for the Solidarity Building Initiative, calls “educational justice.” Initially piloted by Dr. Jenny McBride, assistant professor of Theology and Ethics and associate dean of Doctor of Ministry Programs, the initiative seeks to remove the barriers to personal, intellectual and spiritual growth by offering people who are incarcerated a seminary education and connections to re-entry. It also works with communities and houses of faith to advocate for the incarcerated and communities impacted by mass incarceration. In 2019, twelve incarcerated learners earned a certificate in theological studies and this year, a new class was in the middle of the winter course when COVID-19 halted progress.

“The virus was not only a health threat, it also created an even more isolating existence in an already dire circumstance,” said Johnson. “It was important for us to stand in solidarity with our students in that moment.”

“The virus was not only a health threat, it also created an even more isolating existence in an already dire circumstance.”

– Jia Johnson

Support for McCormick’s incarcerated learners shifted. “Through our partnership with Community Partners in Dialogue-CCJ, we raised funds to provide protective personal equipment, soap, and hand sanitizer,” Johnson said. “The McCormick community wrote letters of solidarity to students at the jail and contributed to the PrayNow initiative. Those prayers became part of *A Prayer Collective: Words of Hope in Crisis*, that was shared with incarcerated students and the McCormick community.”

The initiative also co-hosted a public education series, *Isolation in Perspective: Criminal Justice, Disconnection and the Church*, with Minneapolis’ Westminster Presbyterian Church. Incarcerated learners were invited to write essays that were shared during the five-part public education webinar, rooting conversations in their scholarship, voices and lived experience of being incarcerated during a pandemic.

“This is a time of uncertainty for everyone,” said Johnson. “It’s been important that I remind our students who are incarcerated that there is a village of faithful humans upholding them in the spirit of deep solidarity that Jesus demonstrated on the Cross.”



2020 Distinguished Alumnus

Reaching Out, Lifting Up

The ministry of one church changed the life of one young boy. **Rev. Dr. Jorge Morales** went on to change the lives of countless others.

Jorge Morales was nine years old when he, his mother, twin brothers and two sisters came from Puerto Rico to live with an uncle in Chicago. Soon his grandmother arrived, and they settled into their own apartment on Sawyer Street in the Lawndale community. Some days, there was money to purchase kerosene and some days, the apartment was cold. But the blessing of those early years was the Warren Avenue Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ. “One Christmas, they came to our door with food, toys and Jesus,” remembered Rev. Dr. Morales, “and they never stopped reaching out to us.”

That was Rev. Dr. Morales’ introduction to lived faith, one that he’s never forgotten, and one that he made a commitment to follow. When he retired in 2018 as conference minister of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. Morales, McCormick’s 2020 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, had earned his own reputation for reaching out to others.

“In the 1960s, my consciousness grew enormously,” began Rev. Dr. Morales. “A friend introduced me to the Black Church and organizations such as Operation Breadbasket. I realized that the Black Church was a powerful influence in the life of African Americans. I thought that the Church could be the same in the Latinx community. I became interested in becoming a pastor.” After earning a bachelor’s degree at Northeastern Illinois University, Rev. Dr. Morales enrolled at McCormick in 1973,

“One Christmas, they came to our door with food, toys and Jesus, and they never stopped reaching out to us.”

– Rev. Dr. Jorge Morales

earning Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees by 1984. While a seminarian, a Latinx theological studies program was in its early stages, and Rev. Dr. Morales got involved. Soon, he was its coordinator, helping to recruit students, recommending Latinx theologians for lectures and teaching positions, and assisting in curriculum development. He continued to work with the program while pastoring at St. Lucas United Church of Christ; several of its members became McCormick graduates.

During his years in ministry, Rev. Dr. Morales reached out to Latinx communities through his work with the Community Renewal Society and Advocate Health. He established and was a founding member of the Center for Community and Leadership Development, Latinas in Illinois, First Congregational Church Pre-school and Day Care Center, and Sembrando El Futuro (Sowing the Future) Youth Center. He has served on national boards for the United Church of Christ and the World Council of Churches.

“The role of the church is to empower people and raise their level of awareness about what can be,” said Rev. Dr. Morales. “Through the outreach of one congregation, my life was changed. That’s what the church is called to do.”



2020 Distinguished Alumna **An Unmuted Voice**

Rev. Dr. Nayoung Ha keeps going back to city offices and Supreme Court steps to speak for those who can't speak for themselves.

Ask Rev. Dr. Nayoung Ha about her sheroes and she'll tell you about Harriet Tubman. Ask her why the woman who escaped slavery and became an abolitionist and orator is her historical role model and she'll say, "because she didn't just save herself, she also saved others."

The same could be said of Rev. Dr. Nayoung Ha, (MATS '07) McCormick's Alumna of the Year who had earned a Master of Divinity degree before coming to the U.S. in 2003. Rev. Dr. Ha has modeled what it means to give one's self in the service of others. Her efforts supported the passage of legislation that helped to make Illinois a sanctuary state. As a seasoned organizer, she has been at the forefront in the fight for language access and voting rights protection for Korean and other Asian American communities. She's worked with the Cook County Clerk's Office and the Chicago Board of Elections for years, recruiting bilingual election judges so that Korean voters could communicate at polling places. Her efforts over the past year helped to make a Korean-language ballot possible; it was used for the first time in March. She's overseeing the creation of a Korean-language website that will provide Chicago's Korean citizens with information on the November election and the vote-by-mail option. She's heard in seminary lecture halls, speaking on culturally attentive pastoral leadership and the need for an ethic of resistance in South Korea.

"When I wrote my Ph.D. thesis, I stated that the study of theology is not solely academic work, it's also the putting of God's Word into

“The study of theology is not solely academic work, it’s also the putting of God’s Word into action.”

– Rev. Dr. Nayoung Ha

action,” said Rev. Dr. Ha, an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and part of the worshipping community at Chicago’s Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church. “God is everywhere, but God is especially among the least and the oppressed. The most sacred and holy stories I’ve ever heard came from voices that had been muted and unheard.”

Unmuting the voices of undocumented individuals has been one of the most passionate endeavors of Rev. Dr. Ha, who earned her Master of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy in Systematic Theology degrees from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. It’s meant organizing prayer vigils and protest rallies, marching from New York to Washington, D.C. to visit congressional leaders, and standing outside the Supreme Court to call attention to the need to protect DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival) recipients and their families from being deported. In June of this year, the Supreme Court upheld that protection, but for Rev. Dr. Ha, there is more to do.

“There are still undocumented people who are not eligible for DACA and are without healthcare, a driver’s license, or a Social Security card,” she said. “That decision was a great win, but many still were left behind. Regardless of their immigration status, people who live and work in this nation deserve to be respected and protected with human dignity and rights because they are also men and women made in God’s image. We have to advocate for all.”

Harriet would be proud.

Staff and Faculty

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Professor of Theology

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President

Stephanie M. Crumpton
Assistant Professor of Practical Theology

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Administrator of Student and Academic
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Monica N. Williams
Administration and Guest Housing
Coordinator

Ashley Woodfaulk
Human Resources Coordinator

Summary of 2019-2020

Operating Income and Expense

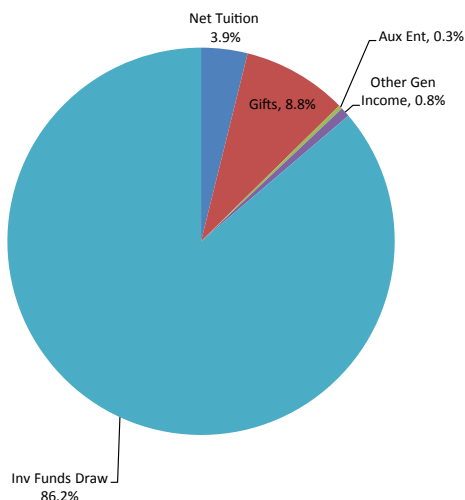
Invested Funds Transfer	86.25%
Gifts	8.78%
Net Tuition	3.87%
Auxiliary Enterprises	0.33%
Other General Income	0.79%

Instruction	29.15%
Gen. Admin. and Governance	25.47%
Academic Support	13.54%
Advancement	8.48%
Student Life	6.13%
Auxiliary Enterprises	0.31%
Marketing and Communications	0.84%
Plant and Operations	11.39%
Debt Service	4.72%

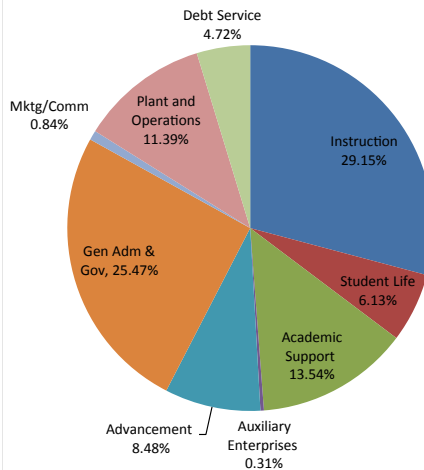
Total Sources of Funds 100.00%

Total Uses of Funds 100.00%

FY19/20 Sources of Funds



FY19/20 Uses of Funds



2019-20 Financial Report

This has been an extraordinary year, with many unexpected challenges. We have been blessed by the equally extraordinary support of our McCormick Community from alumni and donors like you. You have sent us encouraging letters, emails, additional gifts, books, worship resources, prayers and beautiful stories sharing the power of the McCormick Community in your life. Some of you wrote to say that you were sharing all or a part of your stimulus check to support our emergency financial support for students, our expansion of the theological studies program at Cook County Jail, the Divine Wisdom Festival and more. Some of you shared that you had attended one of several public programs McCormick converted into free, ongoing webinar series and how it changed your perspective about the carceral system, generational trauma, and the diversity of what worship can look like and be. Thank you!

None of this vital work for our wounded and divided world happens without you. We are profoundly grateful for the gifts with which you have entrusted us. We have the great joy and honor of witnessing how your gifts support and encourage students to lead in God's holy transformation of our world into Beloved Community, where every human life is cherished, no one is marginalized, and all people are given the tools and opportunities to flourish in their communities.

Because of your support, McCormick ended FY20 on a solid financial footing and ready to face the challenges ahead. Thank you for all the ways in which you share your gifts and yourself with McCormick. We thank you and thank God for you.



Dr. Robert Cathey

Enriching Your Faith through the Faith of Others

The first morning of studies in Beirut, Lebanon, Bob Cathey was awakened by the sounds from the local mosque that called the city to prayer. Turning in the bed, he asked himself, “If I’m going to live here for the next few months, what am I going to do with this call to prayer?” The obvious answer was to pray. And, so each morning, he prayed the New Testament verses called the Lord’s Prayer. “It occurred to me that there are no specific Christian symbols in that prayer,” said Dr. Robert Cathey, who retired as professor of Theology this summer. “It felt a fitting prayer for my current surroundings.” What’s more, as he continued this practice, Dr. Cathey asked himself a second question, “What sound would remind him to pray when back in his Chicago surroundings?”

For Dr. Cathey, a curiosity about how different faith traditions and cultures can inform his own began early in life. One such experience was a Boy Scout Jamboree in Japan that included visits to mountainside monasteries. “I didn’t ‘feel’ anything there,” he recalled, “not realizing – until years later – that was the point. Sometimes there’s a nothingness to faith, with its silence, laments, and feelings of forsakenness that can allow you to experience spirituality in new ways. Journeying outside my understanding and then taking a comparative journey back into my own tradition gave me insights and an appreciation for the practices of other traditions.”

McCormick has a long tradition of creating opportunities to enter into dialogue with people of other faiths and cultures, noted Dr. Steed Vernyl Davidson, Dean of the Faculty and vice president of Academic Affairs. Using grants from the Wabash Center and InTrust, Dr. Davidson and Dr. Sarah Tanzer, Professor of New Testament and Early Judaism, have been heading up an initiative that is building on McCormick's strengths in this area, broadening the faculty's and students' exposure to interreligious pedagogy.

"The benefit we see coming from this work is a stronger, more intentional focus on how we can work with other faith communities to live and do advocacy together," said Dr. Davidson. "We want our students prepared with the kinds of theological sensibilities that support their ability and capacity to practice ministry that has a more expansive definition of what it means to work together for the common good."

During his 22 years with McCormick, Dr. Cathey championed interreligious dialogue, teaching the seminary's religious pluralism course, taking students to conferences of the World Parliament of Religions, writing extensively on issues of interreligious collaboration, and holding leadership roles with organizations that work toward greater intercultural understanding.

"In the Western world, we tend to understand faith as denomination," said Dr. Cathey. "We tie everything to shared beliefs. But what if people are part of the faith community simply by showing up? This could offer us new ways to think about discipleship, allowing people to become naturally interested in faith because they see how it can serve the good of us all."



The Other Side of Through

Recent graduate Lisa D. Jenkins shares the faith needed to make it to the other side.

The year 2020 might well go down in history as one of the longest years ever. While it held the same number of days as any other year since the institution of the Gregorian calendar in the 16th century, it also held seemingly endless months of quarantine, death, uncertainty, racial protest, and leadership insecurity. The rush to get over a global pandemic led to the premature re-opening of businesses, colossal unemployment, and what felt like an unexpected stay at a remote winter cabin, at just the time you were supposed to be experiencing seasons of re-birth and growth.

“Yet there is always another side,” said Rev. Dr. Lisa D. Jenkins (D.Min.’20), the tenth pastor and first female pastor of St. Matthew’s Baptist Church in Harlem, New York. “Setting our sights on the other side is what keeps us going. It’s what gives us hope. It’s what makes the effort worth it. You see the new condition, the new place or the new state of mind you want to live in.”

Rev. Dr. Jenkins has had to remind herself of *The Other Side of Through*, a collection of sermons on hope, empowerment, justice and faith she published last year as her church and family lost beloved members this year. “As a Black preacher, I’m tasked with digging into the Scripture to convey hope and justice in the bleakest of situations,” said Rev. Dr. Jenkins, a graduate of McCormick’s Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. Scholars: African-Centered Religious Thought and Ministry and adjunct lecturer at the City University of New York. “I’m a New Yorker, but the folks who raised me—my

“The way to the other side is to never dismiss the hard disciplines of a crisis but stay the course and embrace the rigors of the journey that will enable you to achieve the goal.” – Rev. Dr. Lisa D. Jenkins

parents—they were from the Jim Crow, Deep South. They lived in a world that made no sense. But they shared a faith that said you can still believe that good will outweigh the bad, that love will overshadow hate, and that evil will be destroyed. The way to the other side is to never dismiss the hard disciplines of a crisis but stay the course and embrace the rigors of the journey that will enable you to achieve the goal.”

Getting to the other side of “through” has always called for determination on the part of Rev. Dr. Jenkins. “Despite what others say, you have to know God’s call on your life,” said Rev. Jenkins, who has taught at New York Theological Seminary. “When others say things that are tailored to destroy your faith, you have to tell yourself, ‘obviously they’re talking to someone else.’”

Leading Uncomfortable Conversations

Good preaching, it's said, makes the comfortable uncomfortable and brings comfort to those who have been uncomfortable. For McCormick students, leading uncomfortable conversations is part of the call.



"I didn't know what sexual violence was," began **Maryclare Beche**. "Perhaps if someone had told me, I could have prevented what happened to me." So, Beche is using her voice to educate students from six schools in western Kenya on sexual violence through expressive arts, such as poetry, dance, song and drumming. A second year master of divinity student, Beche believes that as more survivors share their transformative stories from trauma to hope, the more they are able to experience a deeper healing that can in turn heal the world.

Beche is one of many McCormick students who is including in her call a willingness to tackle conversations that were often considered off-limits. Beche takes her strength to enter such dialogue from her own childhood experiences and courses that have changed her perspective about herself and survivors of sexual violence.

"Deciding to get a theological education was one of the best decisions I've made because my experience so far has been one of healing," said Beche, who has served as co-editor of the seminary's student newspaper. "McCormick leads from a place of compassion and empathy. I've learned that it's okay to be angry but to channel that anger."

Blake Collins never gave much thought to being accepted in grocery stores, churches, or a university campus. He moved with ease around his childhood community in Columbia, Maryland, as well as where he worked in Baltimore or attended college in Philadelphia. He can't recall being heavily policed or ever questioned about why he was in a particular neighborhood.

“One workshop, Bible study or sermon series will not eradicate how white supremacy is manifested in white Christian theology.” – Blake Collins

“As a white Christian, I’ve felt welcomed, and some sense of ownership, in almost every space,” said Collins, “but our theology should encourage us that we are accountable to that reality.” For Collins, a second year master of divinity student and former associate for the Presbyterian Church (USA) Young Adult Volunteers program, that accountability has meant inviting young people to connect with communities by cultivating relationships, visiting detention centers, or exploring and nurturing their Christian faith by recognizing those who are marginalized and engaging in honest identity-work from those experiences.

“One workshop, Bible study or sermon series will not eradicate how white supremacy is manifested in white Christian theology,” said Collins. “There’s a sense of belonging that we have that hasn’t been allowed for others. We need to ask how others feel in the spaces we created for ourselves; actually listen and act.”

“The Girl Became Flesh,” a poem by **Adriana Rivera**, reimagines and celebrates women as bearers of light and life. Written for a worship service at McCormick, Rivera, a second year master of divinity student, later performed it at McCormick’s first Divine Wisdom Festival this summer.

“It’s a womanist approach to social injustice,” said Rivera who teaches English as a Second Language at an elementary school and church. In it, she intertwines the Creation stories found in the first chapters of Genesis and John and lifts up the role of the feminine and a concern for the environment. It’s an invitation to transformation, to change how the earth and diverse people groups are treated. Rivera views the creative arts as a tool for change, for without the change, “we’re the ones left broken and bruised,” “The Girl Became Flesh” reveals.

The Girl Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Girl
And the Girl was with God
And the Girl was God
And the Girl became flesh and breasts and hips and lips and life
We have seen her glory, the glory of God's beloved, full of grace and truth

Before the Girl became flesh, she danced among us, delighted because of us
Then the Girl became flesh and dwelt among us
When the Girl became flesh, she bled among us, bled because of us

Still some did not heed her call
Still some did not believe her cause
Still some believed they did not need her at all

Through her all things came into being, were birthed through her
But while the world was still wet and warm from her womb
The cold, bitter darkness began to loom
But remember in her was life and that life was the light of all people
Her light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome her
With her light in our eyes, we will rise, and we will not be torn asunder
But forgive us God, if and when we have forgotten our Mother

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?
In her is love and light and life
For hers is our rally cry, the reason why we fight
Against the darkness, against the hard hits
And this is the part that most people miss
With her, we have nothing to lose
Yet we choose to refuse our muse
Preferring our own way which only leaves us broken and bruised

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?
Does not falling in love with Divine Wisdom illuminate a new choice?

We see her, we feel her
We are answering the call
We fear her, we hear her
We are giving her our all
We serve her, we learn from her
We're moving as she prods
Because it's always been about her
My Girl, My God

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Marilyn C. and Redford B. Nash	Benjamin S. West	Mabel K. and John F. Gibby
Janet and Donald Niemeyer	Francine White	Bronwen and Fred Gibson
Ariene E. Oey	W. Kenneth Williams	Ellen C. and Paul C. Gignilliat
Jennifer Ould	Martha G. and Robert A. Wilson	Dorothy and Walter Gilbertson
Audrey H. Parigi	Roger A. Withee	Mildred B. Grubbs
Hilesh Patel	Shirley A. Wooden	Grace B. Hamilton
Barbara S. Peter	Adela Yarbrow Collins	Kathy and David A. Hansen
Dr. Susan Pevery and	Robert and Angelina Yoder	Susan V. and Charles E. Hansen
The Rev. Mr. Paul H. Rutgers	Marilyn S. and William A. Yuell	Doris E. Hanson
Darlene E. and Robert P. Rademacher		Annie L. Hardie
Julia Rademacher-Wedd	Heritage Society	Miriam L. Hathaway
Jamie Ramsay	<i>Anonymous</i>	Mitzi G. Henderson
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Adriana Rivera	Sue S. Althouse	Kurt T. Peters
Jeniffer Rodriguez	Leslie and Gerald T. Andrews	Miriam B. Huth
Tamara K. Rogers	Judy and A. Gary Angleberger	Betsy A. Jay
R. J. Ross	Louise N. Armstrong	Teresa Kendall
Carol A. Ryman	Nada M. Barnett	Krista K. Kiger
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Melody Seaton	Raymond A. Bowden	Mae L. and S. Kim Leech
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Casey Thornburgh and Phillip Sigmon	Virginia W. and F. Andrew Carhartt	Eileen W. Lindner
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Deborah Smith	Eleanor C. Cherryholmes	Mary J. and Boyd B. Lowry
Mary Square	Helen H. Christ	Helen N. and K. Ilunga Malenga
Nancy C. Stahl	Mary M. Churton	Joan B. Malick
Thomas and Vicki Steensma	Lois C. and Fernando Colon	Gwendolyn and Stanley Marsh
LaShondra Stephens	William N. Colwell	Dolores G. Martell
Sanja R. and Derrick D. Stinson	Alice and Paul F. Cruikshank	Rose E. and Allen Maruyama
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Annika L. Stroope and Jeremy A. West	Joan B. and John G. Davies	Kathleen R. and Akira P. Matsushima
Eulisa A. Thomas	Sue C. Dempsey	Ruth and David W. McCreath
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Tracy Turner	Lewis H. Dunlap	Virginia and Allen Menke
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[*] Deceased

Linda Morgan-Clement and
Michael L. Clement
Florence R. and J. Elliot P. Morrison
Nancy J. and David E. Mulford
Sandra and Nelson R. Murphy
Stephanie L. and Scott A. Nesbitt
Howard A. Newman
Sandra J. and Richard W. Nuernberg
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William R. Pennock, Jr.
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Phyllis E. and L. Raymond Sells
Donald W. Sherman
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M. Grayson and James R. Van Camp
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Cleo R. Williams
Dorthea Louise Yoder
LuciClaire and Paul H. Young, Jr.
Marilyn S. and William A. Yueill
Meg McClaskey and Gordon R. Zerkel

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Gilbert Bowen

Thomas R. Perryman

Sam Evans

Cynthia M. Campbell and J. Fred Holper

Lisa M. and Alyn Dagher

Laura S. Mendenhall

Margaret E. Towner

V. Bruce Rigdon

Marjorie J. Thompson

Dianne Shields

Rose C. Taul

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William A. Alexander

Fay J. Alexander

Hank and Mary Andersen

Carolyn O. Mikels

Joe K. Bury

Helen L. Bury

Thomas H. Cavicchia

Karen D. Cavicchia

Jim Chamblee

Elizabeth C. Ploger

William M. Clark

Raymond James

Robert H. Craig

Sharon H. Craig

John Mohr

Larry Crittenden

Anita Crittenden

Keith DeLap

Jean H. Delap

Rhoda B. Ablahat Ganja

Robert E. Ganja

Hugh Halverstadt

Carol J. Allen

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Ruth E. Morgan

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Arlene E. Oey

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Bettye B. Parker

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Silas Severson

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Margaret Loehlin Shafer

Byron E. Shafer

Merle E. Smith, Jr.

Christine C. Smith

Jack Stotts

Virginia C. Stotts

Philip and Mildred Volkwijn

Desire L. and K. Robert Volkwijn

In Memoriam

We give thanks for the lives of our beloved alumni who joined the great cloud of witnesses during the past year. May God continue to bless each family member and friend who mourn their loss. May we find hope and comfort in God's gift of life eternal.

Class of 1956

John William Kuckuk
Elizabeth Burch Lambros

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Jerry L. Rice

Class of 1963

Thomas B. Martin

Class of 1966

Richard L. Krajewski

Class of 1968

William E. Brown

Class of 1970

Louis Toney

Class of 1971

Robert (Rob) H. Craig

Class of 1974

Emily Nation

Class of 1975

Frank T. Mohr

Class of 1982

James E. Atwood

Class of 1985

Caroline J. Cerveney

Class of 1990

Leon Finney, Jr.

Class of 1998

Sylvia A. Franklin

Class of 2001

James Crawford

Class of 2020

Jerome A. Adams
Lula Martin



During his 25-year commitment to McCormick Theological Seminary, Life Trustee Charles Barrow served a term as chairman of its Board of Trustees and presided over the installation of Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell as its president, the first woman to head a Presbyterian seminary. An active member of the Chicago community, Mr. Barrow also offered his leadership abilities to the Planned Parenthood Association of Chicago and the Rehabilitation Institute.



McCormick remembers the life of faculty member Rev. Dr. Hugh Fleece Halverstadt, who taught in the seminary's Doctor of Ministry program for 19 years, retiring in 2001. He was one of theological education's foremost experts on managing church conflict. His book, *Managing Church Conflict*, advocates a Christian vision of shalom and an ethical process of conflict management that calls for respectfulness, assertiveness, accountability and a focus on the larger common good. *Read more about his life and work at mccormick.edu.*

Graduating Class of 2020

Certificate in Black Church Studies

Denise L. Sangster

Deborah Sheree Smith

Certificate in Latin@ Theology and Ministry

Monica Godeleva Salgado

Daniel Israel Soto Gonzalez

Certificate in Theological Studies

Lula Martin (posthumously)

Master of Theological Studies

Kristy Renee Goodwin

Roberta A. Hayes

Jocelyn Janine Jones*

Immanuel Paul Karunakaran

Luckmal Dewappriya Panditharathna

Sam I. Paul

Master of Arts in Ministry

Myrnalis Rios-Nieves

Denise Smith

Maria R. Sullivan-Marrero

Heh Nay Thaw

Master of Divinity

Min Gyeong Choe

Kenneth Gabriel Crews

La Tonja Deonne Ellis

Miyoung Kim

Tracy Alexis Owens

Francisco Quezada Zuazua

Tiffany Wynne Ross

Armando Acosta Salazar

Wanda Elaine Simpson

Eddie Robert Williams, III

Doctor of Ministry

Jerome Anthony Adams (*posthumously*)

Kyung Hyun Cho

Anita D. Crittenden

Carrie Madeleine Finch-Burriss

LaTrice Yardette Finch

Lisa Danielle Jenkins

Jongduk Kim+

Woo Chang Kim

Youngmoon Kim

Tae Wan Kwon

Woo Yong Lim

Daniel Muro

Kristin Rae Philipson

Georgia Anne Senor

Kirby Spivey, III

Laurie Blonk Sponaule

Won Bok Suh

*Masters Academic Distinction

+ACTS DMin in Preaching

McCormick

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