



EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Dear Eden Community,

This is a message of care and information for you because you are on our hearts and minds during this time of epic size change, global pandemic, and monumental institutional celebrations.

A few things: The faculty designed the fall schedule to be fully online. In the spring we noted for some campus gathering if it were safe. Following the best Public Health guidance, as cases continue to grow here in STL and STL County, we are recommitted to the policy - that we will not gather on our campus for teaching and learning or any community life activities.

Now for all the good news:

I hope you will celebrate with me, the new schedule design. It was developed by faculty and staff to support students in distance learning, while also supporting our vibrant community of learning and faith -- with intentional spaces for chapel, student cabinet, and community activities. This is what we are currently calling “Terrific Tuesdays! Because anything and everything can happen on a Terrific Tuesday. I think it might have been a Tuesday Eden decided to cut tuition in half! #TerrificTuesday

Take a look at the course schedule. Go ahead and look. Have you noticed Progressive Christian Leadership courses are all on Tuesday? Everyone at the same time? Can you tell how much we’ve missed you while you were away, and how important it is for us to check in weekly? Contextual Education is going to be distance based, and PCL will be virtual...exciting plans created by Dr. Wise Baker await you.



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Do you recall that Eden's New Testament professor Dr. Krause received a huge promotion this year? That means we began a search high and low for someone who can bring the rigor, and keep academic integrity paramount in one's learning. So again, let us celebrate Dr. Raquel Lettsome joining us as the Visiting Distinguished Scholar in New Testament. As a famous preacher often said, Get Ready, Get Ready, Get Ready! Eden is truly Leading!

Maybe you joined the team this week for Bright Space Training, our new learning management system – if you missed it, no worries, we recorded it for you because it's just that important and exciting. Brightspace is going to brighten and warm our gathering together from courses, to social and community life, to becoming your first stop for all your needs in the Eden HUB! Because it is the HUB, that will Help US Be.....Eden.

Take some time investigate what's happening in the HUB because the Eden Family has been working overtime to create and integrate the life of non-degree, Walker and Life, even the IFL's to speak to you during this time of peculiar atmospheric shifts. As challenging as these times are for our families, communities, congregations, and school, the Spirit is at work leading us to create new forms of community, and new ways of being church. In these shifts, we are better together. We find a vision for hope and continue our journey on a path towards wholeness and liberation – really allowing us to follow Jesus and to participate in God's redemptive work in this world.

May God bless us, and our year ahead with vision for the Spirit's work, may we all trust in God's provisions, and may our passion for God's justice be ablaze.



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For now, I'll borrow President Krause's sign off: "In Outrage and Hope" we are Eden Leadin!

Please join as a community for Opening Convocation, Tuesday September 1 at 6:30 PM – it will be a beautiful worship event and kick off to our academic year with our new President offering inspiring words of hope, and a celebration of the faculty and their scholarship and teaching.

REV. SONJA B. WILLIAMS, PH.D.

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