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Today, we rejoice and are filled with hope. We are grateful for the opportunity to equip and empower leaders of the church for such a time as this. Dedicated to truth, and under the shield of God's knowledge and grace, we renew our commitment to work constructively to transform systems of oppression and injustice. The courage, character and resilience of the Eden community drives us to boldly lean into God's work. Thank you for being an important part of the community of Eden. We hope to see you soon at an upcoming event!

Don't miss this year's Bracke Public Lecture on Ministry, Tuesday, February 5, from 10:15-11:30 CT. The lecture, themed "*Leader as Midwife-Guiding What is New into Being*," highlights Rev. Dion Johnson, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. Worship begins at 10:15 CT, immediately followed by lecture and Q&A with Bishop Johnson. <u>Click here for details and registration</u> and receive a link for this highly anticipated virtual lecture!

Eden's next Alumni Virtual Gathering, follows the Bracke lecture on February 5 from 11:30-1:00 CT. Join us as we share reflections of Bishop Johnson's challenge. The gathering is open to the Eden community. <u>Register</u> <u>here to join the conversation</u> as we kick off Black History Month with this special event.

Eden celebrates Black History Month with virtual gatherings. All are invited to join the Eden Community and the Eden Black Alumni Association (EBAA) each week this month as we engage in critical analysis of theologies and contexts and

discuss how God's justice and love are at work in the world, and how we can join in that work. <u>Visit our Events page for details and registration.</u>

- Feb. 5 Bracke Lecture reflections
- Feb. 21 Panel Discussion: "Eden Seminary Before Black Lives Matter and Beyond"
- Feb. 19 Panel Discussion: "Storming the Capitol: The Prophetic Movement Response to the Progressive Christian Problem"
- Feb. 26 Eden Black Alumni Association Preaching and Worship Event: "What Shall We Say to These Things? Black Preaching as Radical Resistance"

All are welcome to be enriched and inspired by *LIFE* at Eden (*Lifelong Learning Institute of Faith Exploration*). Is the church an agent of hope, or has it become just another institution of the status quo? Answer this question and others as you learn how Christians understood Christ and God throughout history, as well as find new ways to understand where we are now. <u>Register</u> <u>now for the Jan. 22-23 *LIFE* course, "*How Did We Get Here? The Story of the Church.*"</u>

Check out the latest video in the *I Am Eden* **video series, featuring Rev. Dr. Adam Ployd**. Dr. Ployd, Assistant Professor of Church History and Historical Theology, explains why teaching at Eden provides the benefit of "teaching what you're passionate about in a way that matters." Dr. Ployd discusses the significance of rhetoric in Christian theology and how, although not inherently problematic, it can be inherently dangerous. President Krause asks Dr. Ployd about the role of Christian rhetoric in the Progressive Movement. <u>Click here to</u> <u>listen now.</u>

Eden's Walker Leadership Institute's "Insights For Leadership in Challenging Times," introduces Alan Cooperman, Director of Religion Research at the Pew Research Center. In an enlightening conversation as part of the series "What's Next for the Church?" Mr. Cooperman talks with WLI Director, Rev. Steve Lawler about issues facing American Religions now, and trends for the future of the Church. <u>Click here to listen now.</u>

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Leaving a meaningful legacy for you and your family while securing the future of Eden's mission does not require great wealth-just great vision! <u>Visit our</u> <u>website to find out about Heritage Society Member opportunities</u> or contact us at <u>advancement@eden.edu</u> for more information.

