



Stay up to date with the exciting things happening at Eden!

The resilience and faithfulness with which Eden leaders pursue their callings was evident at the UCC General Synod last week! Testimonies of ministries of social justice and compassion at local, national, and international levels filled virtual spaces within worship, plenaries, gatherings and meetings. "Thank you," to everyone that stopped by Eden's "virtual booth" during the week. It was so good to "see" you! If you missed it or were unable to attend, we invite you to read on and be inspired by the "Synod edition" of this week's *Friends of Eden* newsletter.

Eden's special *virtual event* on July 12th was a wonderful time of connecting and sharing for the Eden community! President Krause, the Deans, faculty, alumni and friends gathered to share news and updates, enjoy time together singing and discussed vocational resilience as it relates to ministry impact. We invite you to be lifted up and encouraged [by clicking here to watch now!](#)

Eden's "Photo Campaign"-*"The Church We Are Called To Be,"* launched at GS33 on July 12th. The seminary began collecting stories of ministry impact at the virtual Eden gathering last week, and the response has been amazing! You

will soon see how Eden's experiential education through the years has impacted the capacities and qualities of ministries that are changing communities, through pictures that speak volumes! If you are a graduate of Eden and would like more information, contact us at advancement@eden.edu. [Click here to see how some demonstrate "The Church We Are Called To Be."](#)

A big shout out goes to Eden graduate, Rev. Traci Blackmon, reelected on July 18th as the United Church of Christ Associate General Minister, Justice and Local Church Ministries. Rev. Blackmon will continue leading the work of doing justice, seeking peace and building vibrant faith communities that are welcoming to all, in this second, 4-year term. [Listen now to Traci's powerful candidate speech from the Wehrli Chapel.](#)

Eden 2009 graduate, Shantha Ready Alonso, appointed this year to the Biden-Harris administration as the Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, gives a testimony of Eden's impact on ministry and sends a special greeting. [Click here](#) to watch Shantha's greeting to the group at the Eden *Virtual Event* last week.

Rev. Dr. Sonja B. Williams and Dr. Jill Baker demonstrated #EdenLeadin at GS33! The *virtual version* of the United Church of Christ Polity and History course was taught during General Synod. The course highlights how our formation influences our practices, creating a structure reliant on covenant. Thank you Rev. Dr. Williams and Dr. Baker!

Professor of Preaching and Worship and Associate Dean of the Chapel, Christopher Grundy's original song "By the Stream" was featured in a new arrangement in GS33 worship. Rev. Dr. Grundy's song was highlighted as part of a "water" theme during a midweek worship service. [Check out the song here!](#)

Alumni...don't forget...you have special access to EBSCOhost databases and other library services, via the Eden/Webster library. For more information and credentials for logging in to the Eden/Webster library, visit [Eden's Alumni Group Facebook page](#).

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! [Visit our website to find out about Heritage Society Member opportunities](#) or contact us at advancement@eden.edu for more information.



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