



EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WHY EDEN NOW

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

JUNE 2023



APPLY NOW

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EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FACULTY



*Seminary President |
Professor of New Testament*
Rev. Dr. Deborah Krause

Dr. Krause is President and Professor of New Testament. Her teaching and scholarship focus on methods of biblical interpretation and their roots in critical theory, theology, and politics. She teaches courses in the gospels, early Jewish exegesis, the Deutero-Pauline and pastoral epistles, and feminist-womanist, post-colonial, and postmodern biblical interpretation.

Students engage scripture critically in Dr. Krause's classes to gain understanding of what the Bible has meant in the history of the church, and to gain insight into what it means and how they proclaim it today.

"My goal is for students to examine their assumptions, and to develop a sense of how their view of scripture coheres with their view of God, the church, and the mission of the church in the world. I also want them to be able to interpret other peoples' assumptions and views in order to help them navigate their contexts of ministry, and to be the most effective pastors they can be."

The wisdom of this world forms us in an imagination of scarcity. We think we make ourselves, our families, our communities, our nations safe by protecting our resources and holding them close. But of course, these practices drive isolation, inequity, grievance, and violence in our world.

The call of the gospel moves us to take a different path. In the Gospel of Mark, not long after saying "follow me," Jesus heads into the wilderness without provision and challenges his disciples to share their meagre supplies with a crowd of over 5000 people (Mark 6:30-44). Formed well by the imagination of scarcity, the disciples protest that they do not have enough to share. Jesus persists: "What do you have?" That question inspires a quick inventory of the crowd that when blessed, broken open, and shared feeds thousands. The lesson is clear. Sharing moves us from isolation and fear to joy in community. This is the imagination of the gospel, the way of faith, the power of sharing.

These last years of global health emergency, compounded by the rise in fascism, racism, transphobia, antisemitism and Christian nationalism and their attendant violence might have driven us to retreat into our caves to protect what we imagine is "ours." But the Spirit has been at work illuminating God's provision, mobilizing people and communities, forging networks of collaboration, participation, and sharing. With the church, and many other communities, Eden Seminary has been on this journey. As with the disciples, it is changing who we are and how pursue our mission, thanks be to God!

FACULTY



Assistant Professor of Contextual Education and Community Engagement | Director of Contextual Education
Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker

Dr. Dietra is a respected trainer and community leader who often consults and collaborates around her sustained work in community organizing, youth justice, detention/prison/jail, and faith justice movements.



Academic Dean | Professor of Worship and Preaching | Dean of the Chapel
Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy

Christopher’s teaching asks students to take God’s activity seriously. In preaching classes, he urges preachers to enter the pulpit with a combined sense of humility and collaboration, knowing that preacher, listeners, and the Holy Spirit will all be active helping to discern the meanings of scripture for today. In worship classes, he similarly emphasizes our collaborative work with God and the gathered community.



Professor of Pastoral Theology and Care (Harold Peters Schultz Professor of Pastoral Theology and Care)
Rev. Dr. Kristen Leslie

Dr. Leslie’s research has focused on intercultural pastoral theology; womanist and feminist pastoral counseling; pastoral theological implications of sexualized violence, particularly on pastoral counseling issues for survivors of acquaintance rape; and ministry in higher education with young adults. She has prepared and presented journal articles and public lectures on pastoral care, chaplaincy, and spiritual care after rape. She occasionally is called on as a consultant for matters related to clergy misconduct, religious intolerance, and sexualized violence.



Professor of New Testament and Womanist Biblical Interpretation
Rev. Dr. Raquel Lettsome

Affectionately known as “Rev. Raquel,” the Reverend Raquel S. Lettsome, Ph.D. is committed to excellence and loves to help people move forward in their lives and ministries. Building on her core values of scholarship, integrity, and authenticity, Dr. Lettsome informs and inspires congregants and classes through her preaching, teaching, writing, and online course and webinar experiences. Dr. Lettsome knows how to integrate the highest levels of academic biblical scholarship, life giving ministry practices, and the discernment of the Holy Spirit to equip and empower believers.

FACULTY



Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation
Rev. Dr. J. Clinton McCann

Clint McCann’s research and writing have focused on the Psalms. A noted biblical scholar, he served as chair of the Psalms Section of the Society of Biblical Literature for ten years. Dr. McCann frequently teaches beyond the Eden campus. Over the years, he has lectured or taught for church groups or academic gatherings in 27 states. Dr. McCann is also committed to attempting to practice what he teaches.



Professor of Constructive Theology
(Allen and Dottie Miller Professor of Mission and Peace)
Rev. Dr. Damayanthi Niles

Damayanthi Niles’ writing and research have been focused on constructive and contextual theology. She has taught courses on foundational theology, missiology, and post-colonial thought. She has also served as the research associate of the Christianity in Asia Project at the Centre for Advanced Religious and Theological Studies at Cambridge University, United Kingdom. Dr. Niles brings to her classes a unique perspective as a “true citizen of the world.” Having lived, worked, and studied in several countries, she can offer international insights and interpretations on theological issues.



Dean of the Seminary | Assistant Professor of Practical Theology
Rev. Dr. Sonja B. Williams

Dean Williams’ experience and extravagant compassion is an important resource to her theological interests and research, which includes practical theology, decolonization, and cultural truth ghettos. As a practical theologian, Dr. Williams examines and reflects on lived experiences within community and learning contexts, imparting her own brand of advocacy, teaching, and service that works for liberation, justice, and wholeness.

Congratulations to two Eden faculty inducted this year into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College

Rev. Dr. Sonja B. Williams,
Dean of the Seminary | Assistant Professor of Practical Theology
&
Rev. Dr. Raquel Lettsome,
Professor of New Testament and Womanist Biblical Interpretation

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Kristen Leslie for being installed as the *Harold Peters Schultz Professor of Pastoral Theology and Care* faculty chair during 2023 Spring Convocation!

#WHY EDEN



I love Eden’s commitment to the marginalized, and cannot imagine a more queer friendly institution.

ACTUAL STUDENT QUOTE



#WHY EDEN



I was blown away with how Eden stepped up, worked, advocated and protested in the community -- and put their bodies on the line in a social justice context -- like risking arrest and challenging systems to support those who needed it most.

ACTUAL STUDENT QUOTE



#WHY EDEN



I wanted to be at an institution that valued a liberationist point of departure in our theological reflection.

ACTUAL STUDENT QUOTE



EDEN STUDENTS AND ALUMNI: EXPANDING THEOLOGICAL IMAGINATION & PRACTICING PARTNERSHIPS

Dorian Hall calls Harold Aldridge “Pops.” This father-son duo is making an impact in the life of the church and world. Harold (recent Eden alum of 2021) and Dorian (current M.Div. student) credit their Eden education for bringing them closer together personally, broadening their understanding of God, and equipping them to put into action the community ministries they believe are vital for church outside the 4 walls of a building.

Before Eden, Dorian struggled to mesh his work-life in a university setting as director of a student center with his previously more conservative experience of church and theology. Eden classes, friendships and community life have enabled him to interact with people of different church experiences. Dorian’s understandings of God and of the church have “broken open.” Harold credits his own Eden education with broadening his horizons to make him more aware of the big picture of the world and of community. He believes that has changed his ministry.

For Harold and Dorian, an Eden education is a safe space to explore the fullness of God. Eden allowed Dorian to explore things of faith he previously had not considered, let alone discussed with others.

He has discovered new community organizations in the region and now has experienced those partnerships in action. Harold knows he has grown and is better able to meet people where they are. He understands more of God’s fullness and sees how that manifests in our lives. Both value that their Eden education helped them uncover what they already believed; to see it in action; and to grow in their leadership formation. Even Harold and Dorian’s relationship with each other is stronger now because of their Eden experience and the deep theological conversations that are now part of their lives.

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| <div>JUSTICE</div> <div></div> <div>IS THEOLOGICAL</div> <div>EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY</div> | <div>PRIDE</div> <div></div> <div>IS THEOLOGICAL</div> <div>EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY</div> |
| <div>THE ENVIRONMENT</div> <div></div> <div>IS THEOLOGICAL</div> <div>EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY</div> | <div>SOLIDARITY</div> <div></div> <div>IS THEOLOGICAL</div> <div>EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY</div> |

EDEN STUDENTS AND ALUMNI: NAVIGATING INNOVATION ACROSS THE MILES & DEVELOPING LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS

“For such a time as this.” These are times of tremendous change. Changes abound in the landscape of communities of faith in North America; in the social influence of those communities of faith; in the personal spiritual lives of people of multiple religious traditions and of no religious tradition. At Eden Seminary, our alumni, students, faculty and related congregations and community partners are navigating these changes. As we do so together, the values of an Eden education endure.

Recently, those values shone brightly as three of Eden’s students met in Eden’s Press building for the first time. Kendall, Karen, and Mark know each other well. They have been learning and being formed together for the past three years in Eden’s M.Div. program from their locations in Texas, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin.



They are among Eden’s most involved students. Attending at a distance, each is fully present in classes and chapel and contextual education sites.

With their own intentionality, they organize collective prayer times for all students to gather before classes each day. Along with other students and alumni, they have travelled across the country to each other’s homes for ordinations and celebrations and just to share a picnic.



The positive energy of their friendship is palpable as they share hugs and smiles and reflect on their experience as distance students at Eden.

Themes of newness emerge. Pandemic pivots in technology and faculty teaching modes made it possible during the past three years to respond to God’s call to ministry in real time. “This is our time.” (Karen). “It is precious time.” (Mark). They recognize that they have learned skills for the future. “These are skills I will use throughout my ministry.” (Kendall).

And yet, the conversation themes are timeless. Community is deep and abundant. “We are known here,” exclaims Karen as faculty, staff and other students see them on campus and pick up conversations just where they had ended on Zoom the previous day. Space is here at Eden for friendships. “Friendships are more than church. Seminary is more than school,” notes Kendall.

Mark, Kendall, and Karen feel they are called, confirmed and formed for ministry. “When God calls you and you lean in, what will your answer be?” (Karen). “Eden gave me the freedom to explore my own theology and to create my own experience.” (Kendall). “Seminary unfolds your faith. Eden made this happen. It is a treasure and gift.” (Mark).



ALUMNI IMPACT #EDENLEADIN'

Joining in God's Redeeming Work in the World

Eden alumni are making an impact that changes the church and world for the common good. They extend the impact of their seminary on all the places and people with whom they serve.



Rev. Margaret Ann Jessup (2014 M.Div), was featured as the Illinois Honoree for the USA TODAY's Women of the Year. This is a recognition of women who have made a significant impact in their communities and across the country.

The “Wooden It Be Lovely” ministry helps vulnerable women participate in their own healing. The nonprofit organization, where women recovering from forms of addiction, poverty or abuse have jobs refurbishing furniture, sewing or making candles, launched at Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church where Jessup serves as an assistant pastor. Jessup’s mantra is “Love Heals.” womenoftheyear.usatoday.com.

Margaret Ann credits her Eden Seminary Contextual Education experience as the inspiration for the “Wooden It Be Lovely” program, which also was featured in the Illinois Times in July of 2022. She says, ministry engaged with the local community is vital. Eden’s Contextual Education helps leaders to pursue it.



At Commencement 2023, Eden awarded the Samuel D. Press Service Award to Rev. Dr. Veronica Richardson, posthumously (2013 M.Div).

The Samuel D. Press Award of Eden Theological Seminary is given to recognize and honor outstanding service to Eden Theological Seminary and its mission. Rev. Dr. Veronica Richardson certainly offered outstanding service to Eden Seminary until her death December 21, 2022. Dr. Richardson served as a member of Eden’s adjunct faculty, leading our Baptist House of Studies for several years. She had a BN, RN, MDIV, DMIN and had earned 6 certificates. She was the Grace Hill representative of Athena Health and worked to extend low-cost/no-cost health care for Eden students in need. Dr. Richardson was responsible for getting all Eden faculty and staff members access to the Covid vaccine very soon after it was first made available. She created the precursor to what has become our Sisters Circle. Her service to Eden Seminary and its mission is recognized by this award.

Fairness For All

10th Annual Iowa Religious Freedom Day

The Value of Religious Freedom In Society

Dean G. Marcus Cole, Joseph A. Mason Dean and Professor of Law, Notre Dame Law School

Dean Cole was appointed the 11th dean in the history of the Notre Dame Law School. He is a leading scholar of empirical law and economics of commerce and finance. His extensive legal and scholarly endeavors have taken him to institutions around the world. On becoming the Dean of the Law School at Notre Dame, he founded the Religious Liberty Initiative to defend the fundamental human right to the freedom of religion or belief for all people. The initiative's clinic allows graduate law students to engage in advocacy through litigation at all levels of the judicial system. The initiative also sponsors an annual Religious Liberty Summit that brings together global leaders to discuss threats to religious liberty and opportunities to work together.

Advancing Religious Freedom in a Divided America

The Honorable Thomas B. Griffith, US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, 2005-2020

Judge Griffith is currently a Harvard Law School Lecturer on Law, Special Counsel at Hutton Andrews Kurth, and a Fellow at the Wheatley Institution at Brigham Young University. In 2021, President Biden appointed him to the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court. He served as the Senate Legal Council from 1995-99, advising Senate leadership and committees on investigations and other matters. As a respected appellate justice, Judge Griffith authored some 200 opinions on a wide range of matters such as congressional investigations, environmental law, and administrative law. He has long been involved in a range of law projects at home and abroad. He frequently lectures on the topics of civic charity and religious freedom.

Balancing Religious Freedom and Nondiscrimination

Reverend Marian Edmonds-Allen, Author and Executive Director, Parity

Reverend Edmonds-Allen has worked with youth and families in various denominations and settings throughout the country for more than 20 years, focusing on strength-based interventions and supports to affirm beliefs and faith practices for LGBTQ persons. Parity is a nonprofit in New York City that works at the intersection of faith and LGBTQ concerns. Marian also directs Blessed by Difference, a project that promotes understanding and healing, not despite faith, but because of it. Marian is a Doctor of Ministry candidate at Eden Theological Seminary (2023) with the topic of Communal Pluralism, Religious Freedom and Mission: Evidence for Healing the LGBTQ and Faith Divide.

Human Dignity in the Religion Clauses of the First Amendment

Professor Steven T. Collis, Bechtel-Loughlin First Amendment Center, Univ. of Texas School of Law

As the founding faculty director of the First Amendment Center and related Law & Religion Clinic, Professor Collis guides graduate law students in the study and defense of First Amendment freedoms. His scholarly works have been cited by Supreme Court justices and numerous law reviews. In addition to his law degree, he holds an MFA in creative writing and is the author of several books. On the topic of religious freedom law, he is sought after speaker to audiences across the United States and is often interviewed by national media outlets. He speaks to foreign diplomats on behalf of the US State Department. He serves as chair of the Law and Religion Section of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS).

These proceedings will be recorded for future potential sharing at iowareligiousfreedomday.org. Please note that your image may unavoidably be included in video recordings and photographs.

 CLE activity #393950 for legal professionals

Rev. Dr. Marian Edmonds-Allen (2011 M.Div, 2023 D.Min), Executive Director of Parity Inc. served as a panelist for the 2023 10th Annual Iowa Religious Freedom Day “Fairness for All.”

Communicating with Deceased Loved Ones with Julie Strassman

Have you sensed your deceased loved one?
Join Dr's. Gloria and Heidi Horsley and their guest Julie Strassman Spiritual Counselor and Bereavement Coordinator with Bethesda Hospice Care in St. Louis, MO. for a discussion of spiritual care to bereaved people who have had sensory experiences with deceased loved ones.

Tune in to opentohope.com Thursday

The Open to Hope Podcast with Dr. Gloria and Dr. Heidi Horsley



Dr. Julie Strassman (2022 D.Min) was interviewed on the Open to Hope podcast featuring her research on hospice work that was used as the basis for her Doctor of Ministry project with Professor Kristen Leslie.

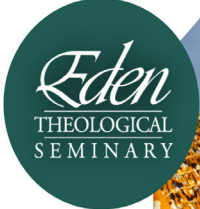


Gratitude for the ministries of those extending spiritual care through branches of the U.S. military. Many Eden students are veterans and graduates serve as military chaplains.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service featured Jenniqua Johnson (2023 MAPS) in their 2023 magazine, “The Journeys of Black Professionals in Green Careers.” Jenniqua credits Eden professor, Dr. Dietra Wise Baker, as mentor.

DEGREES AT EDEN




Eden Theological Seminary

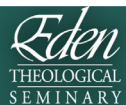
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AND INCLUSION**

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**COMMUNITY
ORGANIZING**

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Eden Theological Seminary

Enrolling Now!

Doctor of Ministry
Concentration: Ministry in the Public Square

Let's talk about
Hush Harbors and the Digital Church
with
Dr. Melva L. Sampson

Eden's doctoral program is born out of the necessity for practical Theology. "Practical theology" has emerged as a distinctive approach and discipline to the theological assignment before us - reflection on the praxis of faith in community and the digital church. This doctoral program is focused on the way theology is practiced in communities and embodied in religious leadership committed to human thriving and freedom.

<https://www.eden.edu/apply/>

#rootedinjustice #progressivechristianmovement #practicaltheology





Eden Theological Seminary

Enrolling Now!

Doctor of Ministry
Concentration: Urban Chaplaincy as Public Witness

Let's talk about Practical Matters and
Spiritual Entrepreneurship, and the
urgent need for Pastoral Care

Eden's doctoral program is born out of the necessity for practical Theology. "Practical Theology" has emerged as a distinctive approach and discipline to the theological assignment before us- reflection on the praxis of faith in community as the church. This doctoral program is focused on the way theology is practiced in communities and embodied in religious leadership committed to human thriving and freedom.

<https://www.eden.edu/apply/>

Dr. Irie Session #rootedinjustice #progressivechristianmovement #practicaltheology



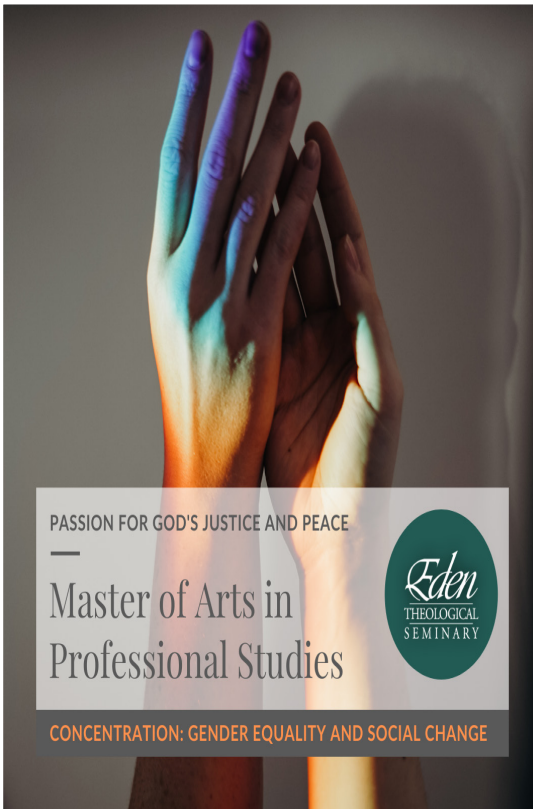


Develop Your Theological Imagination

Master of Theological Studies

Broadening your understanding of theological disciplines!


#RootedInJustice #RadicallyInclusive #ProgressiveChristianMovement



PASSION FOR GOD'S JUSTICE AND PEACE

Master of Arts in Professional Studies

CONCENTRATION: GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE



Clinical Pastoral Education

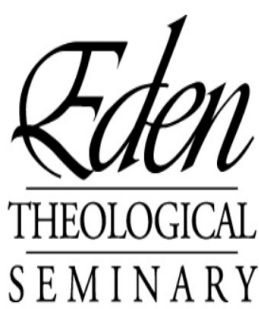
- ✓ ONLINE
- ✓ ACCREDITED
- ✓ DIGITAL MINISTRY PRACTICES
- ✓ SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTEXT

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APPLY NOW!



**Pathways for
Tomorrow Initiative**

**A Network Model
of Theological
Education**

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**EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT FROM
LILLY ENDOWMENT INC. FOR
PATHWAYS FOR TOMORROW
INITIATIVE**

“In the Network Model of Theological Education we are navigating a historic shift in the culture of higher education and of the church, and we are encouraged to do so in such good company and toward such good purpose.”

– President Deborah Krause

EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT FROM LILLY ENDOWMENT INC.

Eden Theological Seminary has received a grant of \$4,999,995 from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help implement a Network Model of Theological Education.

The program is being funded through the third and final phase of Lilly Endowment's Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. The Initiative is designed to help theological schools across the United States and Canada as they prioritize and respond to the most pressing challenges they face as they prepare pastoral leaders for Christian congregations both now and into the future.

Eden Theological Seminary's Network Model of Theological Education includes three initiatives engaging institutional, denominational, and congregational partners across North America to build capacity, increase demand, and expand access for theological education in service of congregations and ministries of the progressive Christian movement.

Theological Schools – Sharing faculty resources and courses to equip and empower leaders for the progressive Christian movement.

Undergraduate Colleges and Universities – Awakening vocations for social transformation and congregational ministry.
United Church of Christ Conferences – Supporting assessment and educational resources to form capacities for “Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers”

Drawing on over a half century of demonstrated impact in its Contextual Education program, Eden is adapting its curriculum centered on immersive,

experiential, mentored learning in diverse contexts of ministry to distance learning. We are collaborating with the church and its institutions of higher learning to create greater access for leaders to be formed and empowered for transformational ministries in the congregations and communities they serve. Far from seeing the theological school as a center to which the church and its leaders come for instruction, the Network Model positions the Seminary working collaboratively with other schools, organizations, and denominations, to equip and empower leaders the church needs for today.

Eden's President, Rev. Dr. Deborah Krause, gives thanks. “Lilly Endowment's challenge to collaborate with other institutions and organizations empowered Eden Seminary to resist habits of competition in our operation as a school to foster connections to join our resources with those of other schools and denominational bodies to strengthen and support the church and its leaders. In the Network Model of Theological Education we are navigating a historic shift in the culture of higher education and of the church, and we are encouraged to do so in such good company and toward such good purpose.”

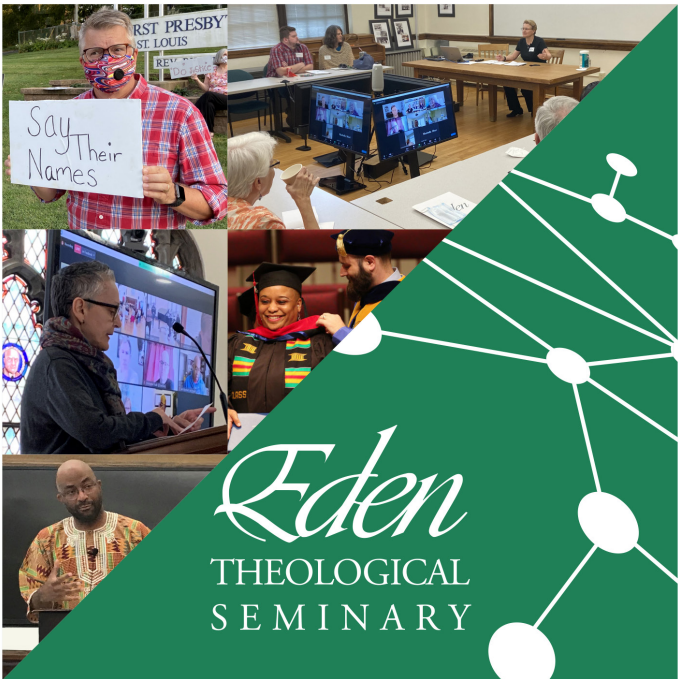
Schools and conferences providing letters stating their support of the collaborative initiatives include: United Theological Seminary, Chicago Theological Seminary, Christian Theological Seminary, Memphis Theological Seminary, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Canada, St. Andrew's College, Canada, College of Emmanuel & St. Chad, Saskatoon, Canada, Lakeland University, Tougaloo College, LeMoyne-Owen College,

Hawai'i Conference UCC, Rocky Mountain Conference UCC, Illinois South Conference UCC, Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC, Penn Central Conference UCC.

Eden Theological Seminary is one of 16 theological schools that has received grants to fund large-scale, highly collaborative programs through the Pathways initiative. Lilly Endowment believes these programs have the potential to become models for other schools as they seek to strengthen the way they educate pastors and other congregational leaders.

“Theological schools play an essential role in ensuring that Christian congregations have a steady stream of well-prepared leaders to guide their ministries,” said Christopher L. Coble, the Endowment's vice president for religion. “Many theological schools believe that their paths to the future depend on their abilities to form strategic partnerships with other schools and church agencies. These grants will help seminaries develop innovative and collaborative approaches to theological education that we believe will strengthen their efforts to prepare and support excellent leaders for Christian communities into the future.”

Lilly Endowment launched the Pathways initiative in January 2021 because of its longstanding interest in supporting efforts to enhance and sustain the vitality of Christian congregations by strengthening the leadership capacities of pastors and congregational lay leaders.



SEE
YOURSELF IN THE
NETWORK MODEL

Navigating the Shift:
A Network Model of Theological Education

networkmodel@eden.edu


SEE YOURSELF IN THE

NETWORK MODEL OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION


SEMINARY COLLABORATION


SHARING FACULTY & CURRICULAR RESOURCES

COURSE SHARING COLLECTIVE
Cross Registration for Select Courses



JOINT FACULTY FORUMS







SEE YOURSELF IN THE


NETWORK MODEL OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION


UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

**Imagining Vocation for
Social Transformation in Faith Communities
in the Public Square**


Campus visits with
Speaker Series


Summer
Contextual Education


Developing an accelerated
bachelor-masters degree

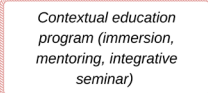


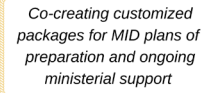
-CAPACITY
-DEMAND
-ACCESS


SEE YOURSELF IN THE


NETWORK MODEL OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

UCC CONFERENCES AND ASSOCIATIONS


Contextual education
program (immersion,
mentoring, integrative
seminar)


Co-creating customized
packages for MID plans of
preparation and ongoing
ministerial support


Self-Assessment Tool
for the Marks of
Faithful and Effective
Authorized Ministers



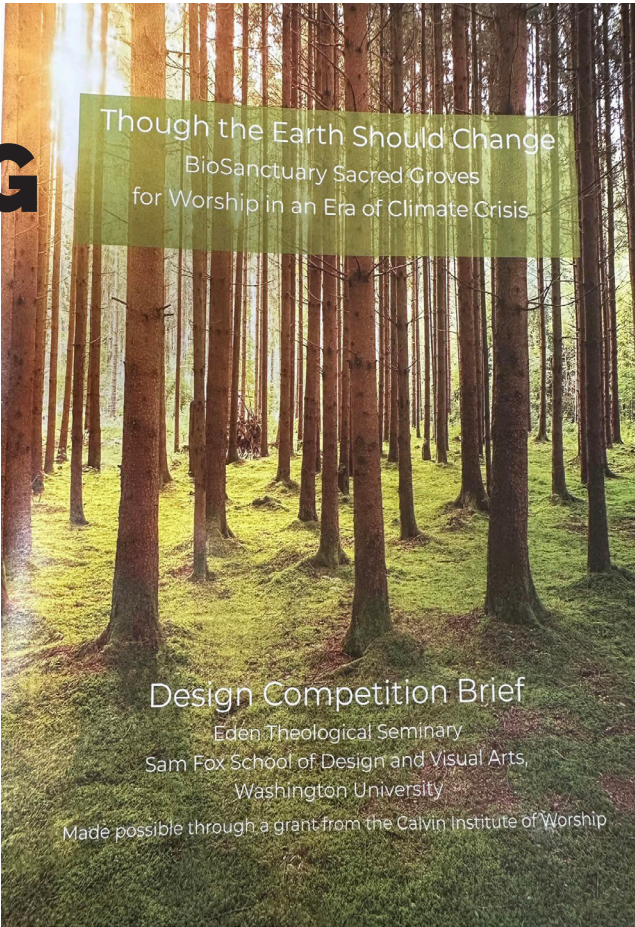
EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

SACRED GROVES

Students at Eden Seminary and Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts of Washington University engaged in a design competition as teams composed of students from each school. From an opening session with Erika Allen, founder of Urban Growers Collective and Green Era Sustainability Partners, to work together in teams composed of students from both schools, the imagination flowed. The student teams designed sacred groves for congregational worship. “Though the Earth Should Change: Biosanctuary Sacred Groves for Worship in an Era of Ecological Crisis.” A panel of landscape architects, pastors and a biodiversity scholar encouraged the students even as they influenced each other through the conversations.



SACRED GROVE DESIGN COMPETITION



Rev. Rodrick Burton
Pastor, New Northside Missionary Baptist Church



Alexandra Mei
Associate at Merritt Chase
Lecturer, Sam Fox School of Design, Washington University

AWARDS CEREMONY AND JURY PANEL



Irene Compadre
Principal, Antelope Studio
Lecturer, Sam Fox School of Design, Washington University



Dr. Jonathan Losos
Professor of Biology, Washington University
Director, Living Earth Collaborative



Rev. Mary Nelson
Transitional Conference Minister,
Missouri/Mid-South Conference,
United Church of Christ

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 6:00 P.M.



BRACKE PUBLIC LECTURE ON MINISTRY

Alumni, congregations and students in Eden’s Progressive Christian Leadership Seminar considered the latest trends from The Hartford Institute of Religious Research, about the state of the church, and about what ministry jobs will look like in the future.

EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Annual Bracke Public Lecture on Leadership
www.eden.edu (314) 961-3627

THE FUTURE OF CO-VOCATIONAL MINISTRY



REV. AARON ROGERS



DR. ALLISON NORTON



REV. RAQUEL LETTSOME, PH.D.

Join us to get an update on the latest trends from The Hartford Institute of Religious Research, about the state of the church, and what ministry jobs will look like in the future?

TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2023
TIME: 6:30 - 8:00 PM CT
ONLINE VIA ZOOM
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
THIS EVENT IS PART OF THE EDEN STUDENTS' PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

For more information & registration : www.eden.edu/events/co-vocational-ministries-seminar/

A NEW GARDEN OF EDEN: EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY'S GLEANING AND GARDEN PROJECT FLOURISHES

Eden’s Garden and Gleaning Project promotes food security through an on campus community garden and partnerships with farmers in Missouri and Indiana for gleaning fields. More than just a space to grow food, the seminary garden serves as a hub for local gardeners and community activists pursuing racial and economic justice. In 2022, through the efforts of dozens of volunteers and a handful of farmers, the project grew, gleaned and delivered over 14,000 pounds of fresh produce for distribution by feeding ministries and food banks in St. Louis. But the four-year-old project is about more than fresh veggies. It is about the restorative work of entire systems through relationship and collective imagination. What began as a simple garden now includes gleaning efforts with farmers two states away, as well as local community support through teaching new gardeners basic skills and providing supplies for simple container gardens. Its latest commitment is to support a pastor in nearby Herculaneum, Missouri, who plans to turn the site of her town’s historic racially segregated schoolhouse into a center for place-based witness and healing. Underlying all of this is a shared belief that local efforts by faith communities present a unique opportunity for relationships — to food, land and each other — to lead the way toward restorative justice in the mending of creation. (By Chelsey D. Hillyer, “Faith & Leadership” publication, May 2, 2023)



WORSHIP 2022-2023 BLENDED ONLINE AND ON CAMPUS

DINNER CHAPEL



ONLINE WORSHIP: MIDSTREAM MANNA WITH REV. DR. RAQUEL LETTSOME



REFLECTING ON MINISTRY IN A NEW STAGE OF THE COVID19 PANDEMIC

The workshop “Story Matters: Turning from Trials Toward Joy – A Day of Exploration through Story and the Psalms” with Valerie Tutson and Richard Bruxvoort Colligan led into Eden’s 11th Annual Festival of Psalms “Singing Our Stories.



Story Matters: Turning From Trials Toward Joy
-A Day of Exploration through Story and the Psalms

Are you a church leader looking for inspiration for yourself and your community? Are you noticing that people are struggling to find meaningful ways to re/connect and share their stories? Are you a Minister, Deacon, Lay Leader, Christian Education Director, Spiritual Seeker?
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Eden Seminary
This program is made possible through a Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. Grant Recipient: Ministry with funds provided by Lily Endowment Inc.

Eden LIFE
LEARNING INSTITUTE



Valerie Tutson
Storyteller



Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
Songwriter

EDEN'S CONTEXTUAL EDUCATION SHAPES LEADERS

“Where the church and the seminary come together to empower leaders for ministries of transformation in the church and the world.”
- President Deborah Krause

CERTIFICATES AND COMMUNITY LEARNING EXPAND RESOURCES FOR DIFFERENT MINISTRIES AND LIFE STAGES

Self-Assessment Tool
for the Marks of
Faithful and Effective
Authorized Ministers

A Self Assessment Tool for the United Church of Christ's Marks of Ministry reinforces the intent of the Marks to emphasize excellence in ministerial formation. The tool resources reflection on gifts and growth before authorization and throughout ministry. It is a resource for UCC Committees on Ministry and candidates.



**RE-IMAGINING
YOUR ELDERHOOD**
NEXT Steps

Ruth Frost Parker
CENTER for
ABUNDANT AGING
UNITED CHURCH HOMES

**Eden
NEXT
STEPS**

NEXT Steps is an online, cohort-based program for re-imagining elderhood. It is designed for those entering retirement, recently retired, or those whose retirement is on the horizon. Informed by current theological, philosophical and psychological insights into vocation and aging, NEXT Steps activities inspire self-discovery in creating a plan for one's next chapter of life.

HERITAGE SOCIETY

CLOUD OF WITNESSES

A Preacher and a Teacher-

Rev. Melvin F. Lichte & Alberta May (Grieshaber) Lichte

Rev. Melvin and Alberta May (Grieshaber) Lichte loved the church. Melvin served as pastor of churches in Kansas and in Missouri. Mel graduated from Eden in 1944 with a Bachelor of Divinity and in 1969 with a Master of Divinity in 1985. When concluding as pastor at St. Mark UCC in Arnold, MO, he shared with the Missouri UCC Conference newspaper that “the close contact with people” had been the most satisfying aspect of his pastoral career. Alberta taught school in Kansas and Missouri for 33 years. She especially loved to teach history and geography.

She nurtured generations of elementary children Alberta loved the church, particularly the music and women’s groups in local congregations. She played organ and piano. Alberta and Melvin traveled globally, visiting several countries.

When Melvin and Alberta were married in 1972, Alberta became loving step-mother to two (then) teenage children. Through the years, she also was very close to her grandchildren. Upon her death in August 2021, her family included great-grandchildren along with her

grandchildren, stepchildren and in-laws, and her two brothers and sister-in-law.

Rev. Mel and Alberta’s love of the church extended beyond the specific congregations they served. They saw the formation of leaders for other congregations and ministry settings as part of that church family and looked to their love of Eden Seminary to do that.

Through the years, Mel and Alberta found several ways to make a significant financial impact for the Seminary as they lived out what was important to them. It may have seemed ordinary for them at the time – as a preacher and a teacher – but it has left an extraordinary legacy that is only just beginning. Eden was an integral part of their estate planning. Annual gifts toward the Evangelical Chair of Biblical Interpretation support faculty. An annuity that offered them monthly sustaining payments also benefited theological education and formation through Eden. Alberta also named Eden as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy. Mel and Alberta’s gifts to the seminary will continue to multiply their impact on religious leaders for generations to come.

Eden is giving thanks to God for this preacher and teacher who made an impact in their lives and beyond.



Have you considered including Eden in your will?

Contact us at

advancement@eden.edu or 314.918.2691

HERITAGE SOCIETY

CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Connecting Across the Generations: Siebert Family Blessings

Generations of the Siebert family connect with Eden Seminary and make other connections possible.

In June of 2022, Leslie Siebert reached out to Eden Seminary to inquire about the status of a family scholarship she remembered hearing about. As a third generation Siebert, Leslie was in the process of doing her estate planning and was happy to learn more about “The Rev. Warner H. Siebert, Sr. Scholarship fund,” named for her grandfather, and established in 1982 by Mrs. Pauline Siebert, in honor and memory of her husband and their many years of ministry together. Leslie passed the information on to her mother, Mrs. Joyce Siebert, who passed the information on to other Siebert family members. Joyce and her family reignited passion for funding the family scholarship at Eden. “The Rev. Warner H. Siebert, Sr. Scholarship fund” became the connecting point.

Rev. Siebert, Sr. graduated from Eden in 1927 soon after the Seminary moved to its current Webster Groves location. The next generation Siebert, Warner Jr., earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from the seminary in 1978. The family tradition of ministry was well underway.

Eden’s commitment to equipping leaders for the church continued.

The Siebert scholarship fund, through the years, has supported the journeys of Eden students as they moved through their own journeys of theological education. Those students themselves made connections with each other. The connections made possible through this scholarship —with people whose names the family may not know — are significant in binding them together.

The Siebert family gained renewed energy this year around connecting with each other and with Seminary students through this Eden scholarship, making

additional contributions in memory and in celebration of husband and father, Warner H. Siebert, Jr.

Eden is giving thanks to God for the ministries of the Siebert family across the generations and for the love that connects them to each other, to the Seminary, and to the generations of students and the church that benefits. We are grateful for their inspiring family legacy of preparation and hope for the future.



THE CENTER FOR LIVED FAITH AND ORGANIZING

Build Communities



The Center for Lived Faith and Organizing at Eden Seminary offers a faith-based organizing certificate and courses designed to equip congregations with the foundational elements of transformational organizing within a faith lens. The program is a collaborative pilot project between the United Church of Christ and Eden Theological Seminary and made possible through a generous grant from the Fetzer Institute.

Rev. Traci Blackmon, UCC Associate General Minister, names this embodied discipleship. “The goal is to advance embodied discipleship toward a just world for all. Embodied discipleship is the discipline of using the missional call of Christ to all believers as our framework for socio-political engagement in the world. It is the ‘why’ that guides our proclamations and protests.” www.ucc.org

Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker, Eden’s Assistant Professor of

Community Engagement and Contextual Education and Director of Contextual Education serves as the founding faculty director. Rev. Justin Marshall Shamell is the Relationship Manager and Recruiter of Congregations. livedfaith@eden.edu

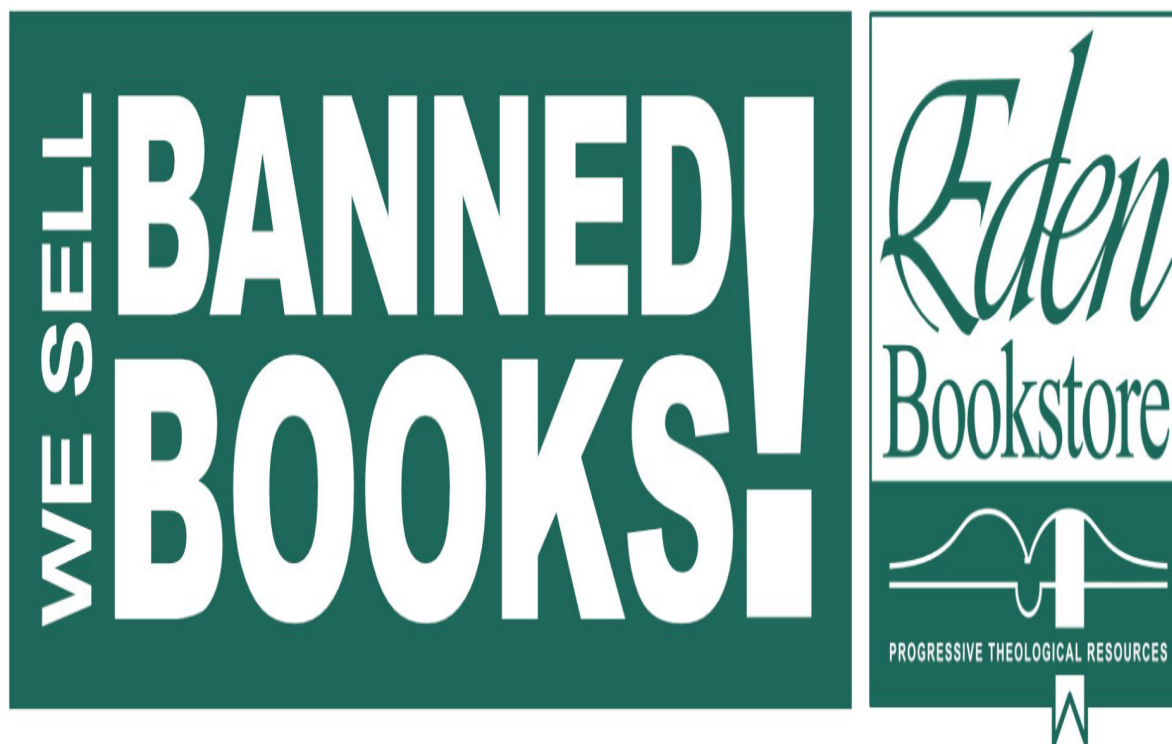
The Center for Lived Faith and Organizing at Eden Seminary supports people of faith engaged deeply in transforming the world through community and cultural organizing grounded in theology and faith. The Center exists to educate, train and connect leaders with local and regional partners for a long and sustainable ministry in organizing and justice work. It supports congregations, justice seeking community members, clergy and students.

Participants are encouraged to register as groups. Individuals also are welcome. Instructors are experienced, faith-based, grassroots organizers.

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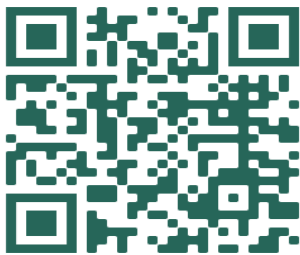
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Logo apparel and gift items—Sweatshirts, t-shirts, ball caps, stationary items, and drinkware displaying the Eden Seminary logo are available for sale in the bookstore and in the online Merchandise Shop.

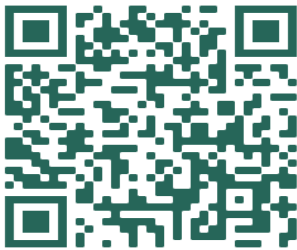
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