2021-2022 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE:

# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?





Denver Seminary prepares men and women to engage the needs of the world with the redemptive power of the gospel and the lifechanging truth of Scripture.





# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Where do we go from here?"

As the 2021-22 school year began, we were beginning to come out of the darkest days of the pandemic. We had survived the acute phase of the crisis and were beginning to live into the "new normal" it had created. As the past school year went on, we realized not only had we survived the crisis, but we had grown, and we had seen more clearly what we must do to fulfill our mission moving forward.

And by God's grace we pushed ahead into that future, as our Board and administration made two strategic decisions this past year that will shape us for years to come: the sale of Seminary housing and the "Any" Initiative.

- Sale of Seminary Housing. In February we closed on the sale of our ninety-three-unit apartment complex for \$27,850,000. Through the sale of these units, we were able to create a more sustainable financial model with more liquidity and resilience for handling possible economic downturns in the future. This kind of financial model is better suited for the changing enrollment patterns we see with our students, the strong majority of whom will not relocate to Denver to complete their degree.
- Any degree. Anywhere. Any Time. Although we have had online courses and degree programs for a few years, this year we made the commitment to make every degree program fully accessible both online and in-person. Enrollment patterns during the pandemic reinforced our sense that accessibility is the major concern that keeps students from being able to enroll. Our goal must be maximum accessibility, and to that end we launched a major renovation of the learning resource center that includes two new cutting-edge recording studios. These studios will increase our capacity to produce more online courses and greatly enhance the quality of our online learning. I don't know of another seminary that has made this kind of significant commitment to both quantity and quality of online education.

There is so much more to tell you about the ways God is blessing Denver Seminary. Some of that is found in the pages ahead. Please take the time to digest this report carefully. It will warm your heart and might even illicit a "Hallelujah!"

Grateful for you, and C Mark Young

President





#### Our Core Commitments

Denver Seminary maintains our commitment to Biblical Authority, Charitable Orthodoxy, Vigorous Scholarship, Redemptive Relationships, and Global Concern.

# COMMITTED TO SEMINARY EDUCATION

Seminary education in the United States has undergone a striking transformation. Traditionally seminaries existed for the training of professional ministers who would serve their denominations and churches in pastoral, missional, or academic roles. A seminary degree is no longer required for these roles by many churches and mission organizations. Because of this, it falls upon us now more than ever to demonstrate why a seminary education is imperative to a healthy, engaged ministry. Thus, we continue to strengthen core disciplines such as biblical and theological studies, spiritual formation, and apologetics, while addressing and defining vocational pathways and ensuring that the curricula include meaningful vocational counseling.

Moreover, accessible and affordable education continue to be among the most critical ways that seminaries need to adapt. Whereas in the past seminaries would require students to create a life around their seminary education, today's students require seminaries to make the educational experience fit into their work, ministry, and family lives. Students rely on greater flexibility in course scheduling, delivery mode, financial aid, and location to complete their degrees. The students at Denver Seminary share this necessity, with growing families, established homes, and jobs in ministry or in other areas of service. And as we move toward the future, we are poised to meet these challenges and needs.

Today, Denver Seminary is thriving in Littleton, Colo. and Washington, DC, as well as globally online. Our mission is being fulfilled in communities locally and across the globe with nearly 6,500 graduates who work to engage the needs of the world with the redemptive power of the gospel and the life-changing truth of Scripture.

# THE CAMPUS OF THE FUTURE

Changes in enrollment patterns for Christian higher education are being felt across the globe. At Denver Seminary we are working to ensure that we are financially sustainable and that we are prepared to continue to meet students' needs—providing education on-campus or online—so they can make the choices that best suit them, while garnering a seminary education that prepares them to engage the needs of the world.

#### Sale of Seminary Apartments

In February, Denver Seminary closed on the sale of our ninety-three unit apartment complex for \$27,850,000. Through the sale of these units, the Seminary has created a more sustainable financial model with more liquidity and resilience for handling economic challenges. For students who continue to enroll in our vibrant on-campus courses, our relationship with Switchback on Platte, the former campus apartments, provides a convenient and affordable housing opportunity in a community adjacent to the Seminary.





### **Chapel Livestreaming Opportunities**

In the fall of 2021, Denver Seminary upgraded its chapel audio/visual equipment to develop its livestreaming capabilities and to grow and enhance the opportunities for inviting more people to events. Today, we offer events via livestream and in-person. The Gospel Initiative conferences, Community Worship, *In Perspective* panels, and other events have taken place in-person and via livestream, allowing us to grow our reach locally and nationally. Livestreaming capabilities make it possible for the Seminary to invite speakers from anywhere there is Internet access to join us online.

### Renovations to the Paul and Marjorie Lewan Learning Resource Center

#### State-of-the-Art Recording Studio

In 2021-22, through strategic investment in educational technology, the Seminary laid the groundwork to create a campus that lets us reach more audiences, educate students who need or desire virtual educational opportunities, and prepare more men and women to engage the needs of the world. The studios will increase accessibility for students and ensure that our faculty have the capacity to create professional, leading-edge resources, and produce higher-quality academic courses with more creative and personalized content.





#### **Library Renovations**

Renovations to the Carey S. Thomas Library created more inviting spaces and enhanced opportunities for relationship building and meeting students' needs. Staff offices were moved near the entrance to better welcome and engage students and staff. Office space was provided for initiatives to ensure they are more publicly connected to the Seminary. A new conference room—the Tuesday Morning Bible Study Conference Room—and the Vernon Grounds Reading Room provide new and updated spaces to meet. An additional conference space was created in the Student Center.

#### **Denver Counseling Center**

The Denver Counseling Center underwent renovations. These changes help to ensure clients feel welcome and well cared for while working with Denver Seminary's students.



# EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



Our highest priority is always our students and the education they receive at Denver Seminary. The following are just a few ways we demonstrated our commitment to their education now and in the future.

The DR. CRAIG L. Endowed BLOMBERG Chair of New Testament



Dr. Joseph Dodson



Dr. Craig L. Blomberg

Dr. Joseph Dodson Named the Dr. Craig L. Blomberg Chair of New Testament

In January, Denver Seminary announced Dr. Joseph Dodson as the Dr. Craig L. Blomberg Endowed Chair of New Testament. Dr. Dodson joined Denver Seminary as associate professor of New Testament in 2019, after serving on the faculty at Ouachita Baptist University since 2008. He earned his PhD in New Testament from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland and studied at the University of Tübingen in Germany.

The Dr. Craig L. Blomberg Endowed Chair of New Testament was established to honor the legacy of Dr. Blomberg, who served as distinguished professor of New Testament, and to continue to build on his academic excellence. Dr. Blomberg retired in 2022 and currently serves as professor emeritus.

Endowed chair positions are valuable for higher education institutions, not only to recognize the distinction of outstanding faculty, but to provide additional support for the chair to use in research and teaching. The Dr. Craig L. Blomberg Endowed Chair of New Testament affirms Denver Seminary's core commitment to biblical authority.

Make a donation or learn more about the Dr. Craig L. Blomberg Endowed Chair of New Testament at DenverSeminary.edu/Blomberg.



Dr. Dodson is an outstanding teacher of biblical truth. He is equally at ease in the highest echelons of scholarship and in the local church's youth group, garnering rapt attention and profound appreciation in each setting. He also brings a wonderful sense of humor and a serious commitment to live out what he teaches."

Dr. Craig L. Blomberg Professor Emeritus of New Testament



### **Lilly Endowment Grants**

In December 2021, Denver Seminary received \$1 million from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. for the Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative and \$1.25 million for the Young Adult Initiative. Through the Pathways Initiative, the Seminary will study the community and educational needs of the Black and Hispanic communities and churches, and then partner with Black and Hispanic scholars to design, develop, and deploy educational programs, which equip pastors and ministry leaders to serve the kingdom as their authentic selves within their ministry context. The Young Adult Initiative will use funds to expand on information gleaned through the initiative's first phase and to share the findings with a broad audience. Additionally, the Young Adult Initiative intends to deepen and expand its work with congregational ministries focused on young adults in both the Denver metro and Washington, DC areas.

### Urban Initiative's Lay Ministry Program

Denver Seminary's Urban Initiative, led by John Moreland, introduced eighteen ministry leaders to higher learning in theological education through the Lay Ministry Program in DC and Denver during the 2021–22 academic year. Though designed for students of color and those who do not hold an undergraduate degree, the program provides a foundation for anyone who desires to know God better and deepen their understanding of Scripture. Topics range from research and writing, to sermon preparation and delivery, to Christian ethics. Several students who went through the Lay Ministry Program subsequently enrolled in Denver Seminary's graduate program.







# EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



### **New Faculty**

The following faculty members joined Denver Seminary during 2021-22

- Dr.Teri Elliott-Hart, assistant professor of Training and Mentoring
- Dr. Elizabeth Norris, assistant professor of Counseling
- Dr. Cheryl Smith, associate professor of Counseling
- Dr. Eric Suddeath, associate professor of Counseling
- Dr. Michell Temple, assistant professor of Counseling

### **Faculty Publications**

Dr. Craig Blomberg, professor emeritus of New Testament, and Dr. Darlene Seal, assistant professor of New Testament

From Pentecost to Patmos: An Introduction to Acts through Revelation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Dr. Douglas Groothuis, professor of Philosophy

Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Aaron Johnson, associate dean of Educational Technology

Mystery In Rocky Mountain National Park

Dr. David Mathewson, associate professor of New Testament

Uncovering the Treasures of the Apocalypse: Keys to Unlocking the Mysteries of the Book of Revelation and Voice and Mood: A Linguistic Approach (Essentials of Biblical Greek Grammar)

Dr. Angie Ward assistant director of the Doctor of Ministry Program (editor)

When the Universe Cracks: Living as God's People in Times of Crisis

(Dr. Marshall Shelley, director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, contributor)

Kingdom and Country: Following Jesus in the Land that You Love

(Dr. Ryan Tafilowski, assistant professor of Theology, contributor)

Dr. Mark Young, Denver Seminary president

The Hope of the Gospel: Theological Education and the Next Evangelicalism

#### **Denver Seminary Accreditation Update**

During the 2021-22 academic year, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) both reaffirmed Denver Seminary's accreditation for ten years; CACREP (Council on Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) renewed accreditation for the Clinical Mental Health and the School Counseling programs. Working through the accreditation process is challenging. Thank you to all the staff, faculty, and Board members who worked on this.



## ENROLLMENT



### Master's-Level Enrollment



### **Enrollment by Degree**



# REVENUE & EXPENSES

As a percentage of total income, tuition and fees represented 44%. Keeping this percentage down has offered our students a more affordable education. Temporarily restricted contributions represent the next largest segment of total income at 32%. The Seminary spends only 23% of its budget on institutional support and fundraising, exhibiting a high level of efficiency and commitment to academic and student programs (66%).



## ENDOWMENT GROWTH



**Denver Seminary Endowment Growth** 



Denver Seminary is thankful for support from Amazon Smile Foundation, America's Charities, The Anschutz Foundation, Bellevue Heights Church Foundation, Benevity Fund, Charities Aid Foundation of America, The Chatlos Foundation, Inc., Community First Foundation, The Crowell Trust, El Pomar Foundation, Kroger Company, Lilly Endowment, Inc., Network For Good, New Horizons Foundation, Inc., Thrivent Financial, U.S. Bancorp Foundation, Windgate Charitable Foundation, and others. Grants, gifts, and matching funds from these foundations and sponsors help to provide scholarships for Denver Seminary students and support the Seminary's academic programs and new initiatives.



To view the 2021-22 audited financial statements, please visit DenverSeminary.edu/PresidentsReport.

## ENGAGING **THE WORLD**

Denver Seminary's events and resources provide an opportunity to explore faith, evangelicalism, and a variety of cultural and social issues.

### **The Gospel Initiative**

The 2021–22 academic year served to help launch The Gospel Initiative's in-person and virtual conferences. Throughout the year, the Compelling and Credible Witness series focused on human sexuality, sexual identity, and gender identity.

Plenary speakers included Dr. Mark Yarhouse, director of the Sexual and Gender Identity Institute at Wheaton College, and Dr. Preston Sprinkle, president of the Center for Faith, Gender, and Sexuality. Panelists included Dr. Dennis Hollinger, president emeritus and distinguished professor of Christian Ethics at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Dr. Elizabeth Norris, assistant professor of Counseling; Dr. Joseph Dodson, the Craig L. Blomberg Endowed Chair of New Testament; Mrs. Sadie Dodson, family care manager with Project 1.27; and Dr. Julia Sadusky, licensed clinical psychologist and adjunct professor.

Resources from The Gospel Initiative research can be found at DenverSeminary.edu/TGIResources.These resources are intended to help pastors and ministry leaders navigate through the complexity of these issues and imagine new strategies for gospel engagement.



### Women Engage Gatherings



Denver Seminary hosted two Women Engage events during the 2021-22 academic year.

#### **Open Hands, Willing Heart**

Vivian Mabuni, author, speaker, and member of the Seminary's Board of Trustees, shared about surrendering when life does not go as planned.

#### Vivian Mabuni

#### God's Gift of Grace: Resilience by Faith

Dr. Michell Temple, assistant professor of Counseling, led a discussion on how faith informs our responses to life's inevitable hardships and what resiliency resources are available for image-bearers of Christ.





Dr. Michell Temple



# InPerspective:

#### **In Perspective Panel Discussions**

#### How Did We Get to this Point? The Historical Roots of the Current State of Evangelicalism

This panel explored how we can accurately assess our Evangelical roots and what needs to change to redefine a movement in crisis.

Panelists: Dr. Kathleen Mulhern, Pastor Brandon Washington, Dr. Scott Wenig

Moderator: Dr. Mark Young

#### The Emotionally Intelligent Leader

The world deeply needs emotionally healthy and intelligent leaders. Guests explored how emotional intelligence can be used to improve team dynamics and work outcomes.

Panelists: Mr. Steve Cuss, Dr. Glenn Packiam

Moderator: Dr. Angie Ward

#### **Deconstruction – A Gospel Conversation**

Panelists addressed the assumptions, pitfalls, and opportunities existing within the concept of "deconstruction."

Panelists: Dr. David Buschart, Dr. Ambrose Carroll, Mr. Anthony Pierri

Moderator: Dr. Angie Ward

Explore our *In Perspective* discussions: DenverSeminary.edu/InPerspective.



### Engage360 Podcasts

**Dr. Mark Young**, Denver Seminary president Episode 85: Theological Education in the Future of Evangelicalism

Dr. Young discusses major historical crises in the evangelical movement, the value of the term "evangelical" in light of current political and cultural associations, and the critical role theological education must play in reshaping and redefining the future evangelical movement.

**Dr. Michell Temple**, assistant professor of Counseling

Episode 88: Redemptive Counseling

Dr. Temple shares her passion for narrative identity, resilience, and the use of imagination in counseling. This conversation brings Dr. Temple's extensive academic insight into our experiences of hardship, healing, and encouragement.

**Dr. Walter Kim**, president of the National Association of Evangelicals

Episode 91: Shaping the Next Evangelicalism

Is it possible to reclaim what it means to be part of the evangelical movement? Dr. Kim discusses this challenging topic and explores the opportunities to proclaim Jesus in a fresh way.

**Rev. John Moreland**, director of Denver Seminary's Urban Initiative

Episode 95: Racial Reconciliation

Rev. Moreland explores the opportunity for Christians to engage in racial reconciliation to pave the way for connection and change.

Listen to more than one hundred episodes of *Engage360* podcasts at DenverSeminary.edu/Podcast.

# CELEBRATING SUCCESSES



### **The Junction Project**

Initiated and led by Dr. Wilmer Ramirez, associate dean of Diversity and Programming with Ethnic Communities and director of Hispanic Initiatives, the Junction Project is an intercultural meeting space through which students, staff, and faculty from different cultural and ethnic groups meet, interact, and reflect on the Seminary experience and how to transform it into a nurturing space for diverse groups. During the 2021–22 academic year, the project hosted twenty-three lunch meetings.

# Denver Seminary Student:Brandon Young

For Denver Seminary student Brandon Young (MA, Leadership), a former Army Ranger who served four rotations in Afghanistan, understanding moral injuries and supporting military personnel and veterans who live with moral injuries is paramount. Moral injuries are emotional injuries that result from trauma, engaging in activities, witnessing acts, or participating in immediate decisionmaking that violates their values or ethics.

In November 2021, he created *Proximity: Caring for Those Wounded by War,* an event hosted in person and online, at Mission Hills Church in Littleton, Colo. Attendees heard from veterans who have been impacted by moral injury and learned how they can better understand moral injury and play a role in the healing process.

#### Learn more about Brandon Young and his work with military personnel and veterans.

Engage360, Episode 78: The Experience of Moral Injury

Engage magazine, Fall 2021: Caring for the Nameless and the Ashamed: Ancient Truths for Modern Challenges

9News Denver: Veteran wants people to be aware of an issue called 'moral injuries'



Veterans need a community of loving relationships and pastoral care providers to walk with them as they process their moral injuries...The community's role is critical and simple: show up and love others."

> Brandon Young MA Student



#### Commencement

On May 14, approximately 130 students participated in Denver Seminary's 2022 commencement ceremony at Mission Hills Church in Littleton, Colo. Rev. John Jenkins, senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Glenarden and member of the Board of Trustees, gave the commencement address, titled We Shall See What Shall Become of Your Dreams. Rev. Jenkins was awarded an honorary doctorate at the commencement.

At the end of 2021, Denver Seminary's Washington, DC extension campus celebrated the graduation of the first ten students, who completed their degrees in 2019–2021.

### **Faculty Retirements**

Two of Denver Seminary's longtime faculty retired in June 2022—Dr. Howard Baker, former assistant professor of Christian Formation and chair of Christian Formation, and Dr. Craig Blomberg, former distinguished professor of New Testament. Both now serve as professor emeriti. They are faithful servants of Christ who served His kingdom through their commitment to Denver Seminary's students and our mission.





Dr. Craig L. Blomberg

Dr. Howard Baker

Listen to Dr. Blomberg's Farewell Reflections on Episode 87 of Engage360.



#### Dr. Jan McCormack Honored with National Citizenship Award

In October 2021, Dr. Jan McCormack, associate professor and chair of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Programs, was awarded the National Citizenship Award by the Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America.

This prestigious award is presented annually to recognize an individual or individuals who make a significant contribution in public service and who support the values and needs of US military members and their families.

As a retired Air Force chaplain, McCormack was one of the first generation of women who served as a military chaplain. She helped redefine military chaplaincy as an inclusive profession, and her collaboration and contributions over the years paved the way for many to follow. In addition, McCormack produced *The Work of the Chaplain*, which has served as a foundational overview and introduction of chaplaincy. She was also instrumental in developing and implementing one of the first Master of Divinity programs with an emphasis in chaplaincy.

We are honored to celebrate Dr. Jan McCormack. Jan's work has been critical and influential in the field of chaplaincy, and the transformative effects of her service will reach across the nation for decades to come."

> Denver Seminary President Dr. Mark Young

You can honor Dr. McCormack by donating to the Chaplaincy Clinical Pastoral Education Fund at DenverSeminary.edu/GiveCPE.



## GIVING



### Day to Give

Denver Seminary faculty, staff, alumni, and others came together to raise more than \$27,000 for the Student Scholarship Fund on May 3 during the third annual Day to Give: Reaching Further Together. Day to Give is a one-day fundraising event that brings the entire Denver Seminary community together in support of current and future students. We are continually grateful for the support of our generous donors. The next Day to Give will be held on May 2, 2023.



#### Marshall Fire Compassion Fund

In response to fires that ravaged areas of Boulder County, Denver Seminary created the Marshall Fire Compassion Fund. In total, the Seminary received over \$45,000, and partnered with four churches served by alumni—Calvary Bible Church, Discovery Church, Rock Creek Church, and The Well Church—that were engaged in relief efforts within the affected area. One hundred percent of the gifts received went to various relief efforts through these churches, including providing housing, food, counseling, prayer, and financial resources to the affected families.



#### Nineteenth Annual Golf Tournament

On October 11, 2021, 125 golfers turned out at the Seminary's nineteenth annual golf tournament at the Club at Rolling Hills. We raised nearly \$78,000, with proceeds going to the Student Scholarship Fund.

If you'd like to make a donation or learn more about these or other giving options, please go to DenverSeminary.edu/donors or contact:

Chris Johnson, VP of Advancement: Chris.Johnson@DenverSeminary.edu or 303.762.6924

James Rider, Director of Donor Relations and Legacy Giving: James.Rider@DenverSeminary.edu or 303.762.6941

Ryan Dougherty, Director of Donor Relations: Ryan.Dougherty@DenverSeminary.edu or 303.762.6989

### OUR MISSION

Denver Seminary prepares men and women to engage the needs of the world with the redemptive power of the gospel and the life-changing truth of Scripture.

Through our educational programs and mentoring process, the Seminary challenges students to grow spiritually, intellectually, and professionally, in order to lead God's people in the accomplishment of His mission in the world.

### **OUR VISION**

We commit ourselves to being a school that is more widely recognized as a leading institution in evangelicalism.

We commit ourselves to being a school that is impacting a broader spectrum of God's people with theological training.

We commit ourselves to being a school that is committed to valuing and nurturing diversity in our community.

We commit ourselves to being a school that is growing each year in all key institutional indicators.

We commit ourselves to being a school that is intentionally and regularly pursuing improvement and innovation in every area of operations.

We commit ourselves to being a school that is attracting and retaining exceptional students and employees.

# Learn more about our accreditation at DenverSeminary.edu/accreditation.



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