

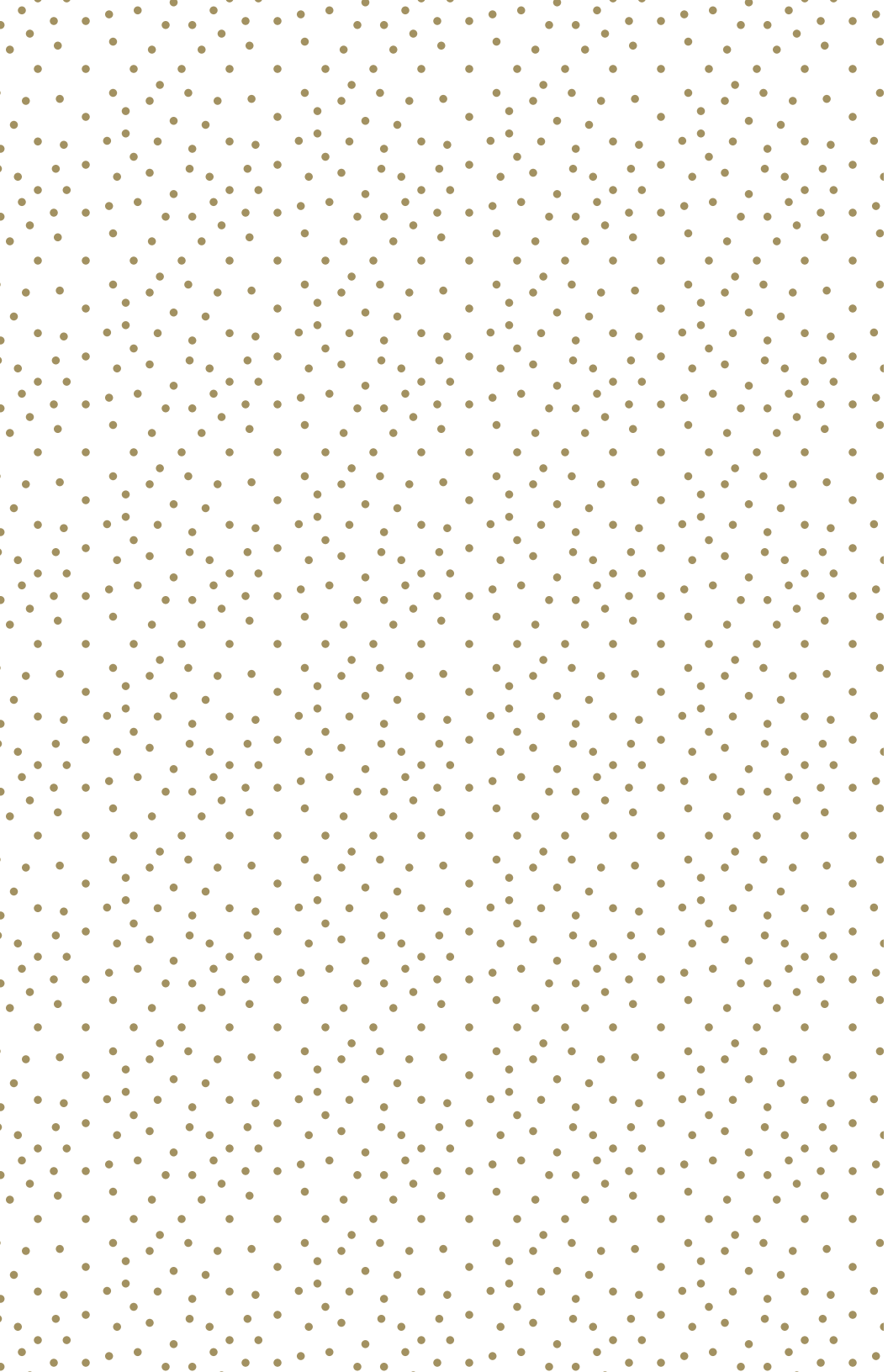


*The Fourteenth Annual*

# WESTERN SEMINARY COMMENCEMENT

Sacramento Campus

May 15, 2021



# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

**SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021 - BRIDGEWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

*The audience will please remain seated for the processional.*

## **PRELUDE & PROCESSIONAL**

### **GREETING AND INVOCATION**

Wes Ehrhart, M.A., *Executive Dean, Northern California*

### **STUDENT COMMENTS**

Kaleb Boas, M.A.C. *Addiction Studies Candidate*

*Introduced by Bev Wiens, Ph.D., Director of Counseling Program, Sacramento*

Stephen Sohnchen, M.A.(BTS) *Candidate*

*Introduced by David Nystrom, Ph.D., Professor of Biblical Studies*

### **CONGREGATIONAL HYMN**

"In Christ Alone," *written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend*

Diana MacNeill, M.A.M.F.T. *Candidate*

Daniel Yaangh, MDiv *Student*

### **SCRIPTURE READING - HAGGAI 1:7-9, MATTHEW 6:31-34**

Donna Greenhut, M.S.L.S., *Librarian, Sacramento*

### **INTRODUCTION TO COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**

Josh Mathews, Ph.D., *Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty*

### **COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

#### **"PUTTING GOD FIRST"**

Charles J. Conniry, Jr., Ph.D., *President*

### **PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES**

Lindsay McKinnon, M.A., *Director of Student Services*

### **CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

Charles J. Conniry, Jr., Ph.D., *President*

Josh Mathews, Ph.D., *Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty*

Cynthia Mathai, M.A., *Registrar*

Greg Prow, M.A., J.D., *Board Member*

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

David Nystrom, Ph.D., *Professor of Biblical Studies*

### **RECESSIONAL**

*Join us outside following the ceremony for light refreshments.*



## HISTORY OF WESTERN SEMINARY

Portland Baptist Bible Institute was organized in the winter of 1925, and the Western Baptist Theological Seminary was officially dedicated on October 4, 1927 to provide a theological education of greater depth in the Northwestern United States. Though its name has changed to Western Seminary, its focus continues to be on teaching a conservative and evangelical Christian doctrine, with a progressive philosophy of ministry in and alongside the Church.

Western Seminary has opened several extension campus locations in the Western United States to support residential studies in other major cities. The seminary came to Sacramento in 1991 subsequent to launching in San Jose in 1986.

After small beginnings, Western Seminary Sacramento Campus has grown to host over 100 students this past academic year. We thank you for participating today in our Fourteenth Annual Commencement. It is because of your support for these pastors, counselors, missionaries, chaplains, teachers, and more, that we are able to celebrate their accomplishments and futures today.

Commencement marks a significant milestone in these graduates' journeys, as they continue as new alumni equipped for gospel-centered ministry. Having passionately served our Lord during their experience at Western, they move into the future better equipped to meet the challenges of ministry before them. As you continue to pray for these graduates, you partner with spiritual leaders who will make a profound impact for the Kingdom, touching the lives of thousands through the years of their ministry.

# WESTERN SEMINARY

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

Western Seminary exists to glorify God by exalting His Son, Jesus Christ, in prayerful dependence upon the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Thus, all aspects of the Seminary's operations aim at enhancing the reputation of the Triune God. Furthermore, these efforts must be consciously guided by God's inerrant Word and empowered by His Holy Spirit to fulfill this high and holy calling.

## MISSION

Western Seminary serves as a catalyst and resource for spiritual transformation by providing, with and for the church, advanced training for strategic ministry roles.

## ACADEMIC REGALIA

The tradition of academic dress began centuries ago in chilly universities where cap, gown and hood were needed for covering and warmth. Subsequently, this has become a ceremonial costume with certain standardized features.

Sleeves in the bachelor's gown are pointed; in the master's gown, oblong with arms projecting at the elbow; in the doctor's gown, bell-shaped. The doctor's gown is faced with velvet with three matching stripes on the sleeves, and the hood is lined with the official colors of the degree-conferring institution.

Western Seminary's school colors are blue and gold. Graduates in Biblical and Theological Studies, Ministry and Leadership, and Divinity will receive a hood with red trim, while graduates in Counseling and Marital and Family Therapy will receive a hood with white trim.



## SCRIPTURE READING

“This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,’ says the Lord. ‘You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?’ declares the Lord Almighty. ‘Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.’”

*Haggai 1:7-9*

*New International Version (NIV)*

“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

*Matthew 6:31-34*

*New International Version (NIV)*

## ABOUT DR. CHARLES CONNIRY, JR.

Dr. Conniry has served Jesus in higher education since 1991. He taught for Bethel University’s Organizational Management program from 1991 to 1998. He has developed several innovative higher-education degree programs, including three doctoral programs for George Fox University, where he served from 1998 to 2018. In 2018, Dr. Conniry began the next chapter of his academic career as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Western Seminary. His responsibilities expanded to Provost on November 1, 2019, and on February 1, 2021, he became the thirteenth President of Western Seminary. Dr. Conniry married his bride Dianne in July 1982 and together they have three adult children, one daughter-in-law, and one (wonderful) grandson. Dr. Conniry and Dianne love the Oregon coast and enjoy playing Scrabble. Dr. Conniry can also be spotted riding his motorcycle to campus routinely.



# PLATFORM PARTY

Charles J. Conniry, Jr., Ph.D.  
*President*

Wes Ehrhart, M.A.  
*Executive Dean, Northern California*

Donna Greenhut, M.S.L.S.  
*Regional Librarian*

Doug Locke, M.A.  
*Addiction Studies Coordinator*  
*Adjunct Professor, Counseling*

Cynthia Mathai, M.A.  
*Registrar*

Josh Mathews, Ph.D.  
*Vice President of Academic Affairs and*  
*Dean of Faculty*

Lindsay McKinnon, M.A.  
*Director of Student Services*

David Nystrom, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Biblical Studies*

Greg Prow, M.A., J.D.  
*Board Member*

Bev Wiens, Ph.D.  
*Director of Counseling Program,*  
*Sacramento*  
*Professor of Counseling*



# GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020

## Honors Recognition for Master's Degrees

+ Honors (3.60–3.74)

++ High Honors (3.75–3.89)

+++ Highest Honors (3.90–4.00)

## Graduate Studies Certificate

Ty Lynn Shanholtzer  
*absentia*

## Master of Arts (Biblical and Theological Studies)

Konstantin Alekseev++

Thomas M. Goodnow+

Michael Scott Pagan+++

Michael Tan Sim+++

## Master of Arts in Counseling

Sarah Marie Anderson+

Monica Leigh Currier+++

Kimberly Ariana Garcia+

Dorothy Meunier Hilleary+++

Macie Ann Litchfield+

Julie Anne Mayfield++

Laura Catherine McCuan

Janelle Marie Norman++

Katelyn Marie Olson+++





## GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020

### Master of Arts in Counseling and Addiction Studies Certificate

Annabella Publico Boas+++

Kaleb Richard Boas+++

### Master of Arts in Marital and Family Therapy

Sherry Xianbin Fan+++

### Masters of Arts in Ministry and Leadership

Grant Martin Young++

*absentia*



# GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021

## Honors Recognition for Master's Degrees

*(based on Spring 2021 G.P.A.)*

+ Honors (3.60–3.74)

++ High Honors (3.75–3.89)

+++ Highest Honors (3.90–4.00)

## Master of Arts (Biblical and Theological Studies)

Timothy James Johnson+++\*

Zachary Michael Myers+

Stephen Alexander Sohnchen+++

## Master of Arts in Counseling

Katlin Nicole Boas+++

Kelly Jo Haakenson+++

Alison Glyn Hart+++\*

Amy Louise Johnson+

Yana Katsura++

*absentia*

John Michael Stauffer-Gomez+++

Elizabeth Anne Villanueva+++\*

Haneefah Tramice Walker+

Karyssa Nycole Yeo+++

## Master of Arts in Marital and Family Therapy

Diana Tiffer MacNeill

*\*Will receive degree upon completion of summer studies or internship*



# GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021

## Master of Arts in Counseling and Addiction Studies Certificate

Kristen Michelle Williams+++  
*awarded posthumously*

## Masters of Arts in Ministry and Leadership

Nathan James Cesaretti++\*

## Master of Divinity

Daniel Arroyo, Jr.+++\*

Matthew Scott McCleary+++

## IN MEMORIAM



**Steve Korch, D.Min.**  
**1950-2021**

Dr. Steve Korch went to be with Jesus in January of 2021 after having served faithfully from 1998-2020. He first came to Western as a student, earning his Master of Divinity in 1978 and later his Doctor of Ministry in 2011. After more than twenty years, he served as an adjunct faculty member, Executive Dean in San Jose, and for the last ten years as Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry at both California campuses. He taught many courses and wrote numerous books on the topics of spiritual formation and pastoral theology. He is survived by his wife Ruthie, three children, and seven grandchildren.

Kristen Williams was set to walk with the graduating class of 2021, but the Lord took her home in December of 2020. Words fail to capture the spirit and life Kristen brought to the campus while she pursued her M.A. in Counseling and Addiction Studies Certificate. As she left an imprint on many through her ministry to her family, church, and everyone who met her, she did the same with fellow students, faculty, and staff at Western Seminary. Today receiving her diploma is her husband of 27 years, David Williams. We count it a joy despite the sadness in our hearts to remember and celebrate Kristen this day.



**Kristen Williams, M.A.**  
**1964-2020**



# CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

## IN CHRIST ALONE

### VERSE 1

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This cornerstone this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My comforter my all in all  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

### VERSE 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

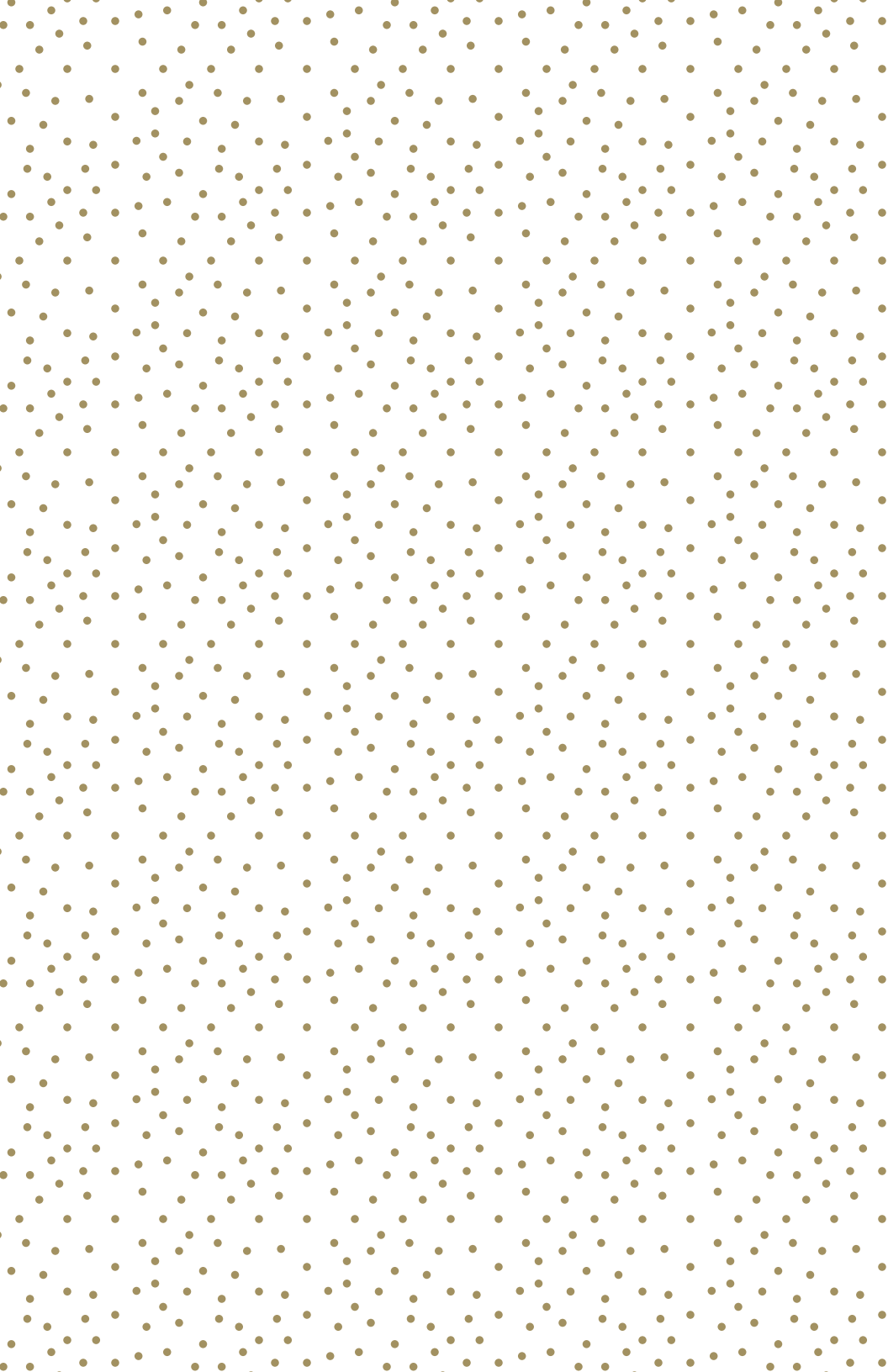
### VERSE 3

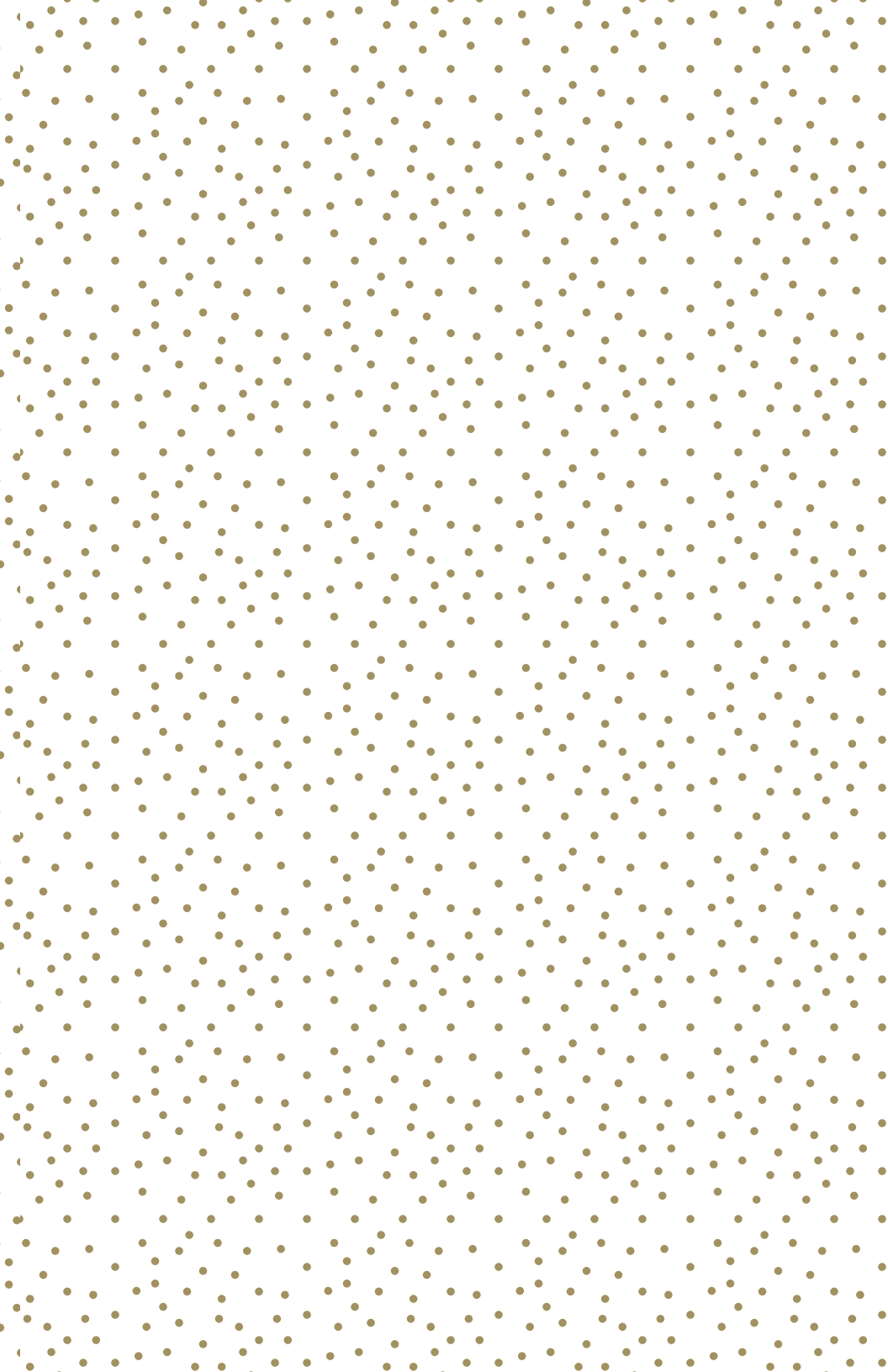
#### (GRADUATES ONLY)


There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

### VERSE 4

No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
'Til He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand







*Western Seminary serves as a catalyst and resource for spiritual transformation by providing, with and for the church, advanced training for strategic ministry roles.*

**PORTLAND CAMPUS**

5511 SE Hawthorne Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97215  
Est. 1927

**SAN JOSE CAMPUS**

1000 S. Park Victoria Dr.  
Milpitas, CA 95035  
Est. 1986

**SACRAMENTO CAMPUS**

290 Technology Way, Ste. 200  
Rocklin, CA 95765  
Est. 1991

**GLOBAL CAMPUS**

5511 SE Hawthorne Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97215  
Est. 2013