

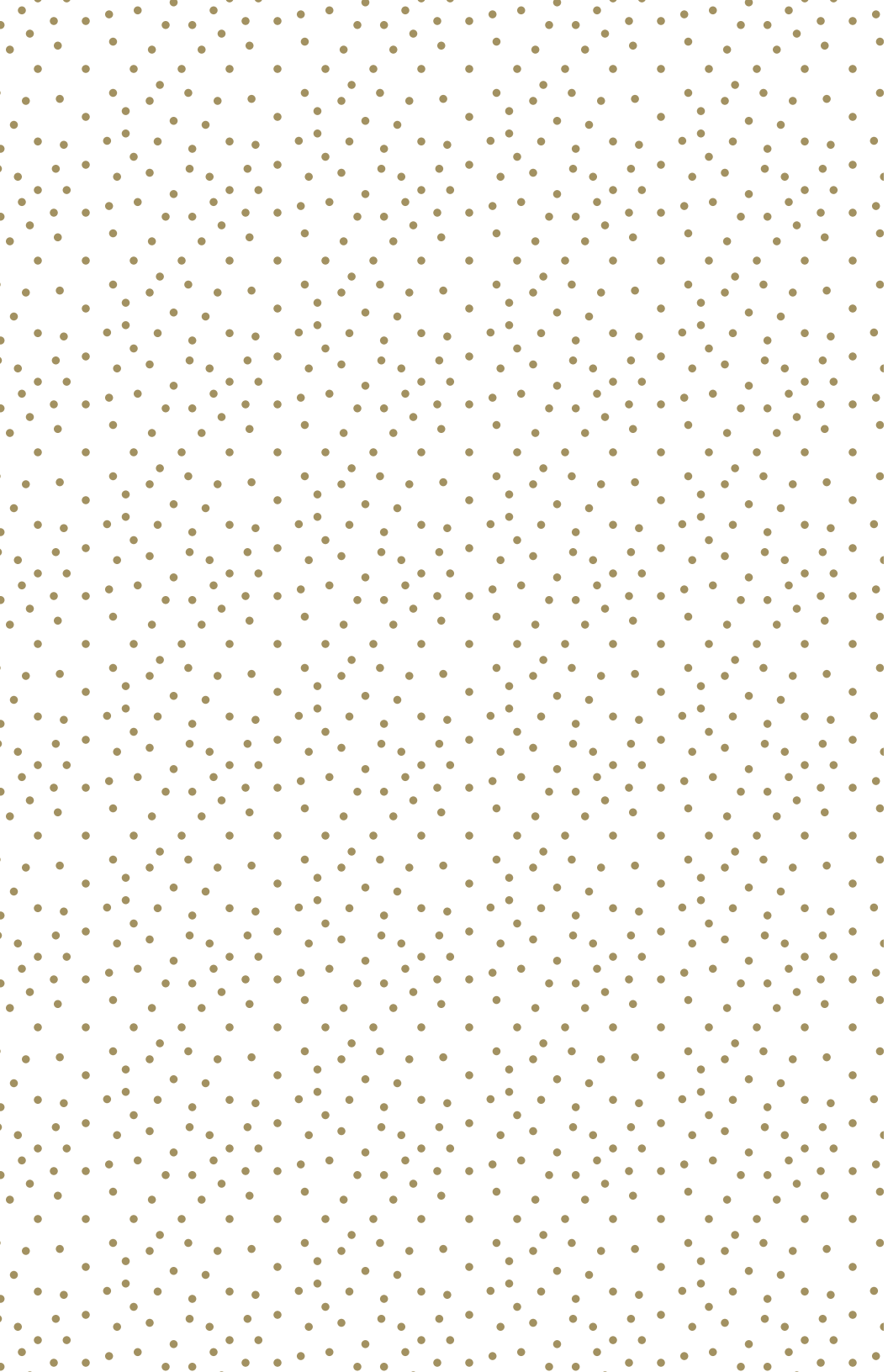


The Thirty-Second Annual

WESTERN SEMINARY COMMENCEMENT

San Jose

June 12, 2021







COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2021 - CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH MILPITAS

The audience will please remain seated for the processional.

PRELUDE & PROCESSIONAL

GREETING AND INVOCATION

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

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

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

Morene Chow, M.A.C. Candidate

Anna Jung, M.A.(BTS)/M.A.C. Student

Stephanie Peden, M.A.C. Student

STUDENT COMMENTS

Danielle Soong, M.A.(BTS) Candidate

Introduced by Gary Tuck, Ph.D., Professor of Biblical Studies

Jennifer Haya, M.A.C. Candidate

Introduced by Judy Richards, Ph.D., Director of Counseling Program, San Jose

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

Cynthia Mathai, M.A., Registrar

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

Williamina Purnama, Ed.D., *Executive Dean of Student Development*

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, J.D., Board Member

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Robert Jones, M.Div., *Senior Vice President of Advancement and Student Life*

RECESSIONAL

Join us outside following the ceremony for light refreshments.

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



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 San Jose in 1986 and Sacramento in 1991. Over the past three decades, Western Seminary San Jose has deployed well over five-hundred graduates as pastors, missionaries, counselors, and ministry leaders.

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 will receive a hood with white trim.



PLATFORM PARTY

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

Kay Bruce, Psy.D.
Counseling Program Chair
Professor of Counseling

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

Pali Gill, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Counseling

Robert Jones, M.Div.
Senior Vice Preseident of Advancement
and Student Life

Cynthia Mathai, M.A.
Registrar

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

Greg Prow, J.D.
Board Member

Williana Purnama, Ed.D.
Executive Director of Student Development

Judy Richards, Ph.D.
Director of Counseling Program,
San Jose
Professor of Counseling

Gary Tuck, Ph.D.
Professor of Biblical Studies



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.



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

David Paul Chang++*

Master of Arts (Biblical and Theological Studies)

Daniel Lee Huskey++*

Edwin Kangyang Lin+*

Michael Joseph Miller+++*

Leanne Marie Oberst++

Ryan Matthew Smith++*

Danielle Solis Soong++

Jeanne Yue+*

Master of Arts in Counseling

Alyse Culpepper++

Liqin Jiang+++

Allison Marie Kendrick*

Bassy Pui-Sze Lee+++

Andrea Wing Man Leung+

Katherine Dawn Meek++

Andy Huaen Zhou+++



GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020

Masters of Arts in Ministry and Leadership

Gregory Joseph Amundson+++*

Jeremy Rey Seisa+

Rebecca Claire Singley*

Master of Divinity

Eamonn Keung*

John Patrick Klobuchar+++

**Graduating in 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)

Graduate Studies Certificate

Jon Preston Drake+++*

Cynthia Lynette Woodall+*

Graduate Studies Diploma

Andrea Galindo+++*

Master of Arts (Biblical and Theological Studies)

Chad Alan Francis+++~

Stephen Thomas Kolesar+*

Megan Breanna Luper

James Ferrell Morace*

Master of Arts in Counseling

Michael Hoc Banh+~

Morene Pamela Chow+++~

Jennifer Cembrano Haya++

Brian Gene Kim++*~

Joshua Sunny Leung+++



GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021

Briana Victoria McCarthy++~

Chi Viet Tran+++~

Lauren Carol Werner+++~

Grace Yun-Jung Yeh+++

Masters of Arts in Ministry and Leadership

Jeffrey Bryan Cooley++~

Adam Austin Hillyer+++

Bush Ping Shu Lai

Xinjie Ng+++*~

Jason Wang++~

Kyle James Wilson+++

Master of Divinity

Andrew Given Hartman*~

Jun Man Kim+*

Patrick Thomas Lim++

Gregory Roger Prow+++

Albert James Vanegas+++~

**Graduating in absentia*

~Will receive degree upon completion of summer studies or internship

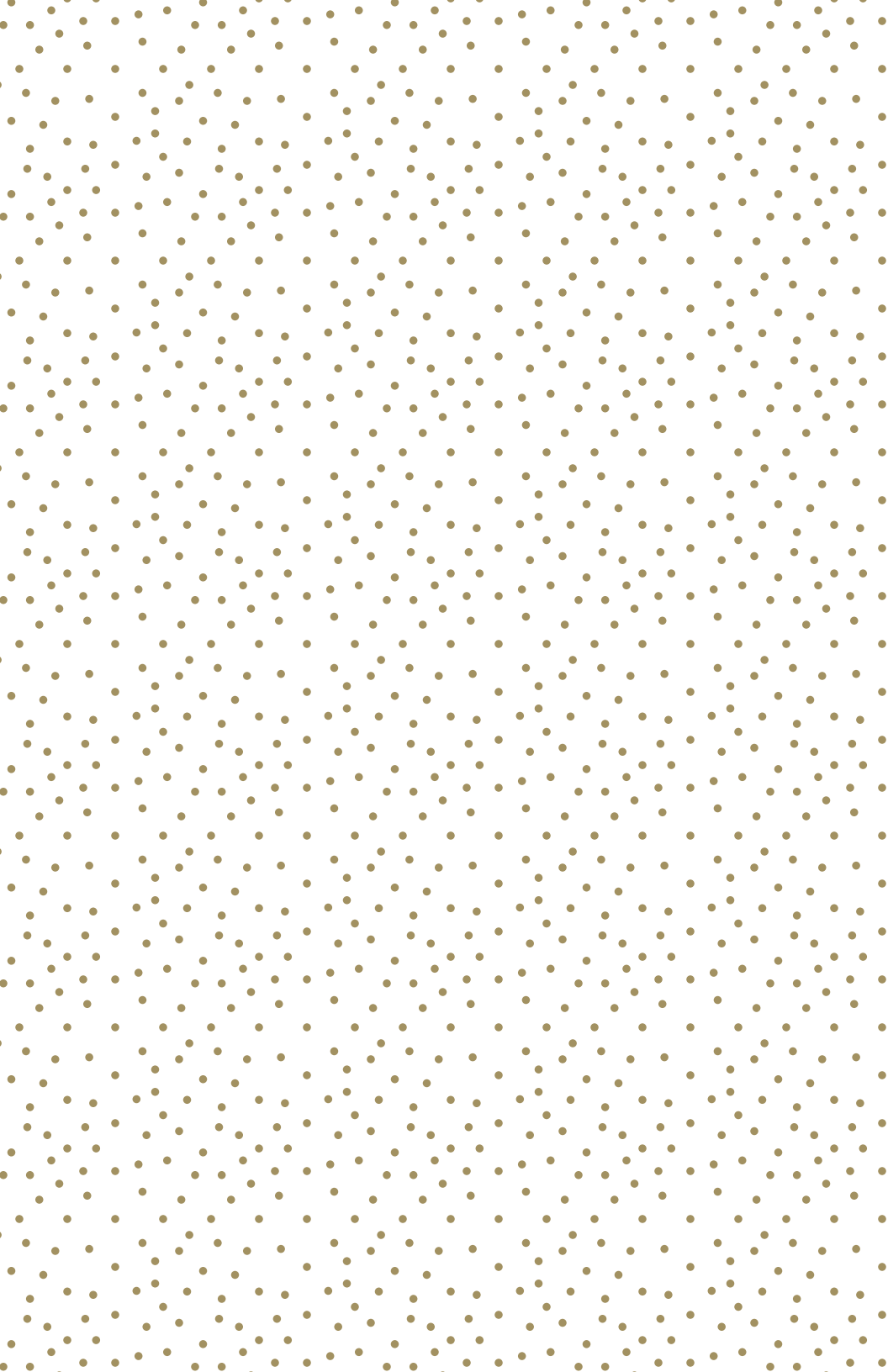
IN MEMORIAM




Steve Korch, D.Min.

1950-2021

Dr. Steve Korch went to be with Jesus in January of 2021 after having served faithfully at Western from 1998-2020. He first came 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.





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

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

SAN JOSE

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

SACRAMENTO

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

GLOBAL

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