



GRACE COMMUNION
SEMINARY

GCS NEWS

A Newsletter for Students and Alumni of Grace Communion Seminary

GCS STAFF

PRESIDENT

Dr. Gary W. Deddo
gary.deddo@gcs.edu

DEAN OF FACULTY

Dr. Michael Morrison
dean@gcs.edu

REGISTRAR

Georgia McKinnon
registrar@gcs.edu

LIAISON OFFICER

Dr. Russell Duke
russell.duke@gcs.edu

INSTRUCTORS

Randy Bloom

Jeff Broadnax

Dr. Gary W. Deddo

Dr. Russell Duke

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Dr. Timothy Finlay

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President's Letter



Dear GCS students, staff, faculty, alumni, donors and board members,

Having welcomed into the world two additional grandsons (Caleb and Augustine) this year and having spent time with these two infants together at Thanksgiving has reminded me of the miracle and gift of life. What a wonder newborns are. What a wonder to contemplate how, under the grace of God, they'll grow up and what they will become.

At Christmastime we celebrate the wondrous birth of a child. But this is not any child—it is the Child of God. And he was born among us not to pursue a range of possibilities, but to be our Lord and Savior as Prophet, Priest and King. He assumed the whole of our human existence stretching from conception and birth to death, leaving not one moment out, to be our Redeemer from within our human nature and condition. He came down to raise us up with him, in him, to him. This Child shows us what it is to be a child of God. This Child is The Way for us to be and become the children of God.

This Wonder of Wonders is well expressed in the lyrics of one of my favorite Christmas carols, "Of the Father's Love Begotten." Apparently it is the second oldest one known. Its words were written by Aurelius C. Pudentius (AD 413) and sung to a 12th century tune. Let me leave you with these words to assist you in pondering the wonder of the Christ Child. You can listen to it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOF9JLJkPis>

Every blessing to you in Christ Jesus,
— *Dr. Gary Deddo, President*

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom Heaven-taught singers
Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the Long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

Status with SARA

(State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements)



In October, GCS applied to participate in SARA, which we hoped would allow us to enroll students in all 50 states. However, our participation was denied, since our legal entity is incorporated in the state of California.

California is the only state that chooses not to participate in SARA. It was our understanding that we would be approved after our move to NC, but we were informed that we would need to dissolve our CA corporation and start

a new corporation with a new EIN in order to qualify. We would have to be domiciled in a SARA approved state to qualify for participation.

What does this mean? We are able to continue operating as we are without major difficulties. We are registered in North Carolina and have been granted exempt status, which allows us to offer hybrid courses in North Carolina and to deliver our courses, to grant degrees, and to deliver online programs to those states in which we are qualified.

On the negative side, we are unable to

enroll students in five states (Alabama, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan and Oregon) due to financial requirements of these states. These states require up to a \$50,000 bond and an annual fee of up to \$1,000.

Further investigation of options will continue in early 2019. It is likely that we will continue with our current status through our reaccreditation in 2020.

— *Dr. Russell Duke, Liaison Officer*

Update on Courses



There were 53 enrollments in fall 2018, the most we've had in six years. We are pleased at the enthusiasm of our students, and we enjoy the lively discussions that are possible with more students in each course. Fifty-seven students enrolled in at least one course during 2018.

This spring we will offer one new course: Seminar in Theological Ethics, taught by Gary Deddo. We may have

a new "field education" course in the fall, if we receive permission to offer the M.Div. degree.

For students who start their studies in 2019, CM504 Practice of Ministry will be required for the Master of Pastoral Studies degree. If you started before 2019, the course is not required, though it is highly recommended (and scheduled for summer 2019).

We hope to stabilize our schedule of courses, with required courses being

taught once each year, always in the same semester. For example, BI501 Hermeneutics will be taught every fall semester, CM501 Pastoral Leadership every fall semester, and TH501 The Nature of God and Jesus Christ will be taught every spring semester. It will take a few semesters to align some of our courses to this pattern.

— *Dr. Michael Morrison, Dean of Faculty*

On the Horizon...

On September 13, GCS participated in a Virtual Recruitment Fair. This event was specific to students seeking a graduate level seminary degree. Attendance was lower than we had hoped, but we are planning

to participate in the Spring Virtual Recruitment Fair as a trial run. If you know of anyone who is considering seminary, please encourage them to visit us at the Spring Virtual Fair on March 28.



CONGRATULATIONS to our 2018 Graduates



Patrick Quinn

Jeffrey Swartz

Bonnie Ivey

Jean Leprohon

Mark McCulley

Anthony Walton

Welcome to our 19 new students this year!



Thank You **FOR PARTNERING WITH GCS**

As the year draws to an end, we look back with grateful hearts for those whose passion and enthusiasm for GCS have moved them to partner with us through financial support and prayer. Your sharing with us is a blessing for the seminary to be a blessing to those we serve. We pray God's grace and blessing for you in the new year.

WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER GCS IN YOUR YEAR-END GIVING

Financial Support from alumni and friends like you has a profound impact on the seminary's mission of
"Equipping the Saints for Pastoral Ministry."

Every gift is God's provision for his work in Grace Communion Seminary.



Donations to Grace Communion Seminary can be mailed to
3120 Whitehall Park Drive, Charlotte, NC 28278
or donate online at gcs.edu/donate.



Tribute to Dr. John McKenna

By Al Barthelmy

impact on the early church. John also had a profound impact on my understanding of scientific theology. John was to me what Gamaliel was to the apostle Paul.

John wrote this famous saying, “We contend that modern cosmology and physics provides the potential for a real understanding between the cosmos the universe is, and the basis of the world as the Creation of God according to the confession of Moses and the Christ of the New Testament.” Another of John’s famous quotes reads, “Man as the IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD has been given existence and life and breath on the Earth under the Heavens in God’s Creation with intent and purpose that comes from who He truly is with us. We are thus given to bear witness to this One and no other that is the Great I-AM He is as the LORD AND GOD (Redeemer-Creator) of a Cosmos whose Universe is His Creation.”

Soon, I will be informing the Dean of GCS of my Theological Thesis for TH519. I had already taken the decision to ask the Dean of Faculty to assign John as my “mentor” for my Thesis, but my request shall be no more. My dear John, I am indeed thankful that the “I-AM” (I am using your favourite term for the “Lord”) was able to use you in a powerful way. I will surely miss you. I had to pour what is in my heart to you posthumously. May the good Lord continue to bless the efforts of the GCS faculty and may our Professors continue to impact positively on the lives of students through interactions with one another.

We were informed in the Fall 2018 GCS newsletter that one of GCS’s faculty members, Rev. John McKenna, Ph.D., passed away this year. It was a major surprise to me. John, my brother in Christ, was my Professor for the GCS course TH504: The Scientific Theology of T.F. Torrance. Dr. Gary W. Deddo, President of GCS, so aptly states, “He will be very much missed.” John and I developed a special relationship. I suppose the relationship blossomed because of my background and one of my major interests, “the wonders of the cosmos of the universe” – the Triune God’s revelation to humanity.

John shared quite a few theological science papers with me, the latest was, “A Proposal for a New Theory of the Physics of the Cosmos of the Universe that is God’s Creation.” During the time John and I interacted, both during the GCS course and thereafter, the memoirs of the apostle Paul being taught by the Jewish elder Gamaliel was implanted in my soul. Gamaliel was a well-respected teacher, so was John. Indirectly, Gamaliel had a profound



Who AM I? I am not the I-AM, but I was created in the Image and Likeness of the I-AM. I am a student being taught by the great I-AM, to know who He truly is, using Professors such as the Rev. John McKenna (Rest in Peace).



Spring 2019 – From the Registrar



Registration for Spring Semester opens January 2 and runs through January 10. If fewer than five students enroll in a class, it may be canceled at the discretion of the instructor. We encourage you to register early so we may know as soon as possible if a class will meet this minimum. An email has been sent to all current students with further details

and the registration link. Our classes on average require 12 hours of study per week, including reading and written assignments. I am happy to assist with any questions you may have about the classes offered, your personal course of study, or any issues you may have with registration or the website.

Do you know of anyone interested in taking classes with GCS? Please share your experiences with them,

and direct them to our website to find an application, a course schedule and much more helpful information. I am happy to answer any questions from potential students as well. Just give me a call at 980-495-3950.

It is our prayer that the classes you take at GCS are a blessing to you personally and in your ministry. If I can be of service to you in any way, don't hesitate to let me know.

— *Georgia McKinnon, Registrar*

Schedule of Courses 2019

All schedules are tentative

Spring 2019: Registration begins Jan. 2. The first lecture is posted Tuesday, January 14; subsequent lectures are posted Mondays, January 21 to March 18. (When Monday is a holiday, lectures are posted on Tuesday.) All work is to be completed by April 8.

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|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| BI520* | New Testament Survey | Mike Morrison |
| BI521 | New Testament Background | Mike Morrison |
| BI523 (=NT503) | Acts of the Apostles | Dan Rogers |
| CH502* | Church History: The Second Millennium | Neil Earle |
| TH501* | Nature of God and Jesus Christ | Russell Duke |
| TH510 | Seminar in Theological Ethics | Gary Deddo |

Summer 2019: Registration begins April 29; lectures posted Mondays, May 13 to July 15. No assignments are due July 1-7. All work is to be completed by August 12.

| | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------|
| BI502 | The Prophets | Tim Finlay |
| CM504 | Practice of Ministry | Ted Johnston |
| CM505 | Women and Men in Ministry | M. Morrison & C. Osborne |
| CM506 | Trinitarian Youth Ministry ¹ | G. Williams & J. Broadnax |
| CM508 | Church Planting & Development | Randy Bloom |
| CM510 | Polity of Grace Communion International | Greg Williams |
| TH502 | Nature of Humans and Salvation | Russell Duke |
| TH508 | Christology of T.F. Torrance | Gary Deddo |

Fall 2019: Registration begins Aug. 26; lectures posted Mondays, Sept. 9 to Nov. 11. All work is to be completed by Dec. 2.

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|--------|---|---------------|
| BI501* | Hermeneutics | Mike Morrison |
| BI524 | Epistles of Paul | Mike Morrison |
| BI541* | Introductory Biblical Greek | Shep Shepherd |
| CH501* | Church History: The First Millennium | Neil Earle |
| CM501 | Pastoral Leadership | Russell Duke |
| CM507 | Experiencing the Trinity | Larry Hinkle |
| CM511 | Homiletics | Dan Rogers |
| TH503 | The Spirit, the Church, and Eschatology | Gary Deddo |

If fewer than five students register for a course, it may be cancelled, at the discretion of the instructor.

TH519 and TM501 (capstone courses for the master's degrees) are offered in all semesters.

¹ CM506 will require face-to-face meetings in Charlotte in late July / early August.

*Proctored final exam