



GRACE COMMUNION  
SEMINARY

# GCS NEWS

A Newsletter for Students and Alumni of Grace Communion Seminary

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## President's Letter



Summer for most is filled with all kinds of projects and activities. And for GCS it's no different. We had great enrollment for the summer term courses. We held a number of staff meetings getting ready for the Fall semester, making extensive preparations for the renewal of our accreditation and even planning ahead for our graduation ceremony in the summer of 2020! I was able to enjoy a family reunion in California (where I'm from) and also a two-week trip to the Philippines for GCI to help train our pastors and leaders for leading Bible study centered small groups. Cathy came with me and conducted half the sessions. About 200 attended on two weekends and we had a great time.

But summer always seems to go so fast. The GCS summer term is already wrapping up as I write this letter. I'm already getting ready for the Fall GCS Board meeting and my GCS class. I very much look forward to what's ahead. But I'm reluctant to let summer go!

Time is an odd thing. While we can act only in the moment, we can reflect on the past and anticipate the future. As creatures we are constricted by time—time bound. So, it's a good thing to know that our living God is Lord over time and space. Our Triune God is able to oversee it all, as well as work in it in ways he sees fit, and to guarantee a future hope of a new heavens and earth, where all will be put right through Jesus Christ and by the Spirit.

We summarize this theologically as God's providence. Without any need to control (in the sense of causing every event) God is able to guide and accompany us, and if needed intervene in and through our time according

to his wisdom as he sees fit. God has made time for us and makes time for us in personal communion by his Word and Spirit. And that gives us great hope.

While we endure many things, even grievous things, we do not do so as persons who have no hope (1 Thess. 4:13). The Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ and the sending of the Spirit has guaranteed that God's rule and reign will one day be fully established—upon the Incarnate One's triumphal return. And evil will be no more. That is a hope we can live by today, since that future is coming. And we can do so, not because we can or even need to predict the day, but because we trust in the nature, the character, the faithfulness of our Triune God to be true to his Word, true to his promise made in Jesus Christ—Lord of space and time.

GCS's mission is not only to help us all discover, perhaps for the first time, things made known in biblical revelation, but to be reminded of what we have already seen and heard—especially when our hearts and minds are tried and tested as we move through time with our limited human perspective. GCS not only offers accredited degree programs but also provides continuing education that can be taken one course at a time. So, as we move into “back to school” time, we hope you'll consider setting aside some time (about 12 hours per week for 13 weeks) to take a GCS course this coming Fall term. Our Dean, Dr. Mike Morrison, has already planned out a great line up of courses. Our Registrar, Georgia McKinnon, will be ready to hear from you!

Grace and Peace in Christ Jesus,  
*Dr. Gary Deddo*  
President

# How to Use the GCI Website for Research



As students do research for papers, sermons, or other needs, they sometimes want to know “What has GCI said about this?”

They go to the GCI website and find that it has been reorganized. It is being redesigned to make it easier for new people to find introductory articles, but this has the side effect of making it more difficult for pastors to find the more detailed materials.

For a list of articles organized by subject, go to <http://bit.ly/GCI-Articles>. If you remember the article title, you can usually find it in the “complete list” by scrolling down to the appropriate topic category. It’s a very long page, so it may be faster to use the search feature in your browser by pressing the Ctrl key and the f key

at the same time. This will enable you to search for a specific word or phrase in the article titles.

If you do not know the name of the article, but know a distinctive word within it, you can use the search feature on [www.gci.org](http://www.gci.org). In the upper right corner is a gold box labelled “online giving.” Just to the left of that is a large letter Q (it’s actually a stylized magnifying glass). Click on that icon, type in your search word and press enter on your keyboard. You will get a list of articles that contain that word. If your search word is in the article title, it will usually be one of the first listed. The search results will be more focused if you pick a distinctive word, or use quotation marks around a phrase, such as “image of God.” This search feature includes materials in several locations: [www.gci.org](http://www.gci.org), [archive.gci.org](http://archive.gci.org), [update.gci.org](http://update.gci.org), [resources.gci.org](http://resources.gci.org), and some portions of [gcs.edu](http://gcs.edu).

If all this fails, perhaps it wasn’t in an article at all—maybe it was said at a conference, or perhaps in a video that hasn’t been transcribed. Sorry, but we can’t provide any more help on that. But we do hope this short tutorial will help you navigate more easily through the resources developed over the years and assist you as you ponder Scripture, prepare for preaching, teaching or pastoral counseling, or seek better understanding of a topic, doctrinal issue or ethical concern that is in alignment with the renewal brought about by the Word and Spirit of our gracious Triune God.

*Dr. Michael Morrison  
Dean of Faculty*

**For a longer version of this article, go to: <http://bit.ly/GCIresearch>**



## Save the date!

**On July 31, 2020, GCS will hold its 3rd graduation ceremony as part of our denominational conference in Charlotte, NC.**

## GCS Accreditation



As you know, GCS has been accredited since 2012 by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC), a national accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Our present term expires in June of 2020. Our application for another five-year term has been accepted by DEAC staff. We now are working diligently

on the lengthy Self Evaluation Report and the relevant addenda that are required, and plan to submit the report by the end of September, along with the eight courses that the examiner has requested to review. Tons of paperwork for all the staff (or is that now considered weeks of computing?). We will host a visit from the DEAC accreditors this next spring, with a formal decision coming from the Commission in July 2020. Your part in this? The surveys you fill out after each course have three

questions about the value of the course for you and whether you would recommend the course to others; these are required elements of our report, and the results are used by the commission to evaluate student satisfaction. Other questions in the survey are used for other elements of the report, so we appreciate your time in filling them out each semester. Thank you!

*Dr. Russell Duke  
Liaison Officer*



## GCS Students Visit Home Office

In July, the GCI Home Office hosted a group of church pastors and leaders for a training seminar.

We took a photo of the GCS students who were in attendance. We are proud of our students and alumni and would love to see you if you are in the area.

## NEW YOU'RE INCLUDED INTERVIEWS

Four interviews have been added to our list of *You're Included* videos:

**Geordie Ziegler**

*"Trinitarian Grace and Participation."*

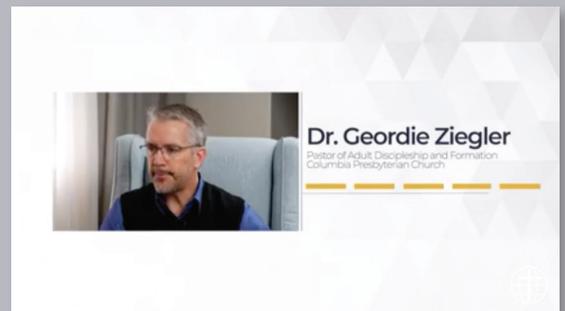
<http://bit.ly/YI-GZ1>

&

*"A Trinitarian Approach to Spiritual Formation."*

<http://bit.ly/YI-GZ2>

Dr. Ziegler is a pastor at the Columbia Presbyterian Church in Vancouver, Washington. He received a Ph.D. in theology from the University of Aberdeen.



**Jeannine Graham**

*"The Connection Between the Incarnation and Jesus' Saving Work."*

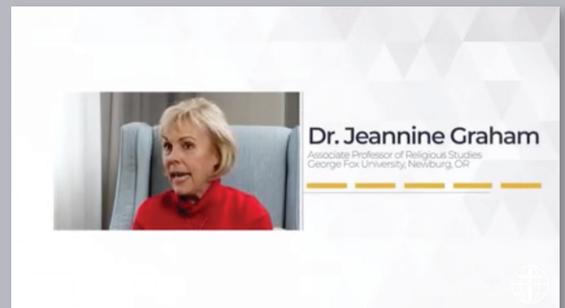
<http://bit.ly/YI-JG1>

&

*"Jesus' Exclusive Connection to Human Nature."*

<http://bit.ly/YI-JG2>

Dr. Graham is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at George Fox University, in Newburg, OR. She received her Ph.D. at the University of Aberdeen.



We now have 132 YI interviews. All are posted at: <http://bit.ly/GCS-YI>



## PARTNERS WITH GCS

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

If you have a passion for the provision of seminary training informed by an Incarnational Trinitarian faith, GCS is grateful for your partnership through prayer and financial support.

Donations to Grace Communion Seminary can be mailed to  
**3120 Whitehall Park Drive, Charlotte, NC 28273**  
or donate online at [gcs.edu/donate](http://gcs.edu/donate).

## From the Registrar



It's nearly time to register for our Fall semester. You will notice a different look for our registration page. We are utilizing a new system, which should improve the registration process. Watch your email for

more details concerning the process. Registration opens on August 26. As always, if you have any questions about registration, your course of study, or anything else regarding GCS, please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

— Georgia McKinnon, Registrar

### TUITION UPDATE:

In January 2020, tuition will be increasing \$20 per credit hour, bringing our per credit cost to \$220 which increases a 3-credit course to \$660.



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

BI501*	Hermeneutics	Mike Morrison	*Proctored final exam
BI524	Epistles of Paul	Mike Morrison	
CH501*	Church History: The First Millennium	Neil Earle	
CM507	Experiencing the Trinity	Larry Hinkle	
CM511	Homiletics	Dan Rogers	
TH503	The Spirit, the Church, and Eschatology	Gary Deddo	
FE501	Field Education 1	Randy Bloom	

## An Overwhelming Question



Sociologist Rodney Stark poses a riveting question: “How was it done? How did a tiny and obscure messianic movement

from the edge of the Roman Empire dislodge classical paganism and become the dominant faith of Western civilization?”

In a day and age when both Western civilization and Christianity seem to be under attack this point pulsates with relevance. One could go further and ask: “How could a Mediterranean-based religion sink deep roots from China to Greenland?”

Things don't just “happen” in history. These questions help frame the dynamic that propels the GCS course **CH501: The First Millennium** — now in its second decade.

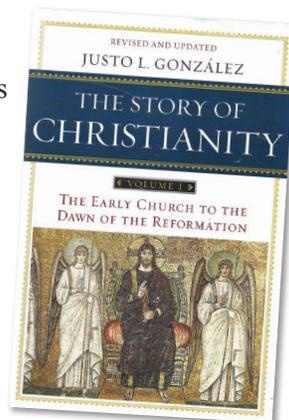
The course advances along a broad front emphasizing the interactions

between politics, theology, devotional study and evangelistic outreach.

Students will learn to discern the crucial unseen presence of the Holy Spirit driving the church forward through the challenges of persecution, heroism and betrayal, and a steady intellectual sharpening necessitated

by the profound challenges posed with the incarnation of Jesus Christ as the divine/human Savior of all mankind. With the help of our textbooks we study the inspiring record of names such as Perpetua and Felicitas, Boniface, Anskar and the more heralded Irish mission to Northern Europe.

We will trace out the implications of what Trinitarian theologian Thomas Torrance has seen as “the clue to history”— Christ crucified, the One



### FEATURED CLASS CH501 Church History: The First Millennium

whose living presence can still be discerned behind “the guilt and wrath of history and the veiling and unveiling of God’s kingdom in it all.”

This is a challenging but rewarding 12-week task as we survey what Mark Noll calls the “splendid legacy” and “tangled inheritance” of the Church’s first millennium. All roads lead back to that charge to the original disciples to bear witness to the nations of the good news of the appearance of God in the flesh to save us all. The story of how this was done, often at great cost and sacrifice, can inspire all who seek to walk in those first footsteps today.

Neil Earle  
GCS Instructor