

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



**UNITED**

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
OF THE TWIN CITIES

*Education for Transformation*



## **GENERATIONS OF GIVING**

### *Terry Gilberstadt, Hugh Schilling, and the Schilling Family*

United trustee Terry Gilberstadt is not the only person in her family to serve on the Board of Trustees. Her father, Hugh Schilling, was on the board from 1989 until 2001, and her uncle Paul K. Schilling was a trustee from 1989 until 1991. In fact, Terry is on the board because her uncle encouraged her to serve United as a trustee.

The Schillings became connected with United through their ties to Congregational churches and the United Church of Christ. Her mother's grandfather was a Congregational minister and missionary. While Terry was growing up, her family attended Plymouth Congregational Church. Now Terry is a member of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church. Hugh attends UCC churches in Minnesota and Arizona.

Terry said that her family appreciates United's values and the high-quality education it offers students. She noted the importance of well-educated ministers – both as people who teach others about their faith and as managers within churches. “My uncle saw firsthand a case of financial mismanagement in a church,” she said. “Church leaders need a good understanding of finances.”

Terry and her family are interested in spiritual leadership outside of the church, as well. “It's important to work with the needs of the community, offering outreach in contexts like hospitals and youth programs,” Terry said. “When you have chaplains who have a faith that isn't dogmatic, then people who feel like outsiders to a faith community can be brought in.”

Not only has her family supported United with their time, but their generous contributions have provided for student scholarships as well as an endowed chair on the faculty. M.Div. student and Schilling Scholarship recipient Kim Graff said, “I have four sons: two in college and two who will be within five years. I didn't want my education and call to impact their goals. This scholarship allows me to answer my call to ministry while continuing to care for the needs of my family. I couldn't be here without it.” (Kim's story is included in this report's student stories.)

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,



As church and community needs have changed, so have the requirements of future faith leaders. United's success and vibrancy hinge on more than solving the challenges of the institutional church. They require us to connect the ways that our core academic offerings and gifts prepare those currently seeking or receptive to theological graduate education to new types of church leadership.

Many of our students and prospective students have already adapted to changing spiritual needs. Our core curriculum must support those called to serve in a traditional and/or non-traditional ministry later in their lives. Our approach must support those who recognize a need for theologically grounded leadership skills to create fundamental changes in their communities. Our culture must support faith leaders who see the need for greater multi-cultural competence in their lives and ministries. We are responsible for our students having the skills to build progressive Christian worship spaces filled with engaged young people and families of many varied configurations. We welcome those who have felt marginalized or hurt by their historical experience of church and now want to re-imagine a faith community that is less traumatizing for those at the edges.

As was historically true, seminary education at United requires rigorous academic standards, disciplined motivation, and an openness to explore new ways of thinking and knowing. It continues to be deeply rooted in a long tradition of scholarship and interpretation but at the same time looks to value the diverse gifts, challenges, and requirements of today's students.

Today's United students value:

- an ability to actively participate in synchronous distance education with their in-residence peers;
- exploring spiritual experience through a wide diversity of denominational and non-Christian faith paths – not as a voyeur, but through an appreciation of roots of difference;
- working through aspects of their faith formation that may be underdeveloped or atrophied;
- exposure to the unique challenges and requirements of rural and bi-vocational ministries;
- the practicing of skills needed to inspire and create wonder for those to whom they will minister; and
- an environment that is more closely and intimately connected to a complex and diverse community.

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities is vibrant; the number of students enrolled in our degree programs is steadily increasing; the faculty and staff are passionate and excited about the work and United's future; and our graduates report that they are well prepared for their vocational aspirations. While we will grieve the memories and many aspects of our current campus, we are very excited about the potential of our new space, technologies, and community for meeting our mission.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to help United to use its glorious history and legacy of adaptation to meet the current needs of our students and the evolving human expressions of Church.

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lewis P. Zeidner". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Lewis P. Zeidner, Ph.D.  
President

# ACADEMIC INFO



**4**  
Degree Programs

**46**  
Faculty & Instructors

**6**  
Concentrations

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# STUDENT STATS



**29%**

Students of Color

**45/55**

Male/Female Split

**21**

Denominations and  
world faith traditions  
represented

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# STUDENT STORIES

## **Anthony Galloway**

Current M.Div. Student

*Seeking ordination in the African Methodist Episcopal Church*

“After graduation, I plan to use a socially critical hermeneutic to talk with people about Christianity in a way that isn’t Eurocentric. I also plan to write a book, which I’m calling *Before Jesus Was White*, that will explore how the message of Christ encountered the world outside of the European lineage of Christendom. I’m already engaged in research that includes an examination of oral traditions that have been preserved.”

“I received both the Sims scholarship and a needs-based scholarship. I couldn’t have come here this year without these scholarships.”

## **Kim Graff**

Current M.Div. Student, Future D.Min. Student

*Serves as the acting Program Manager for the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ (UCC).*

“I grew up in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. I was called to ministry during my teen years, but as a bisexual woman, I was told there was no place for me. Later I visited United, and it felt like home. I’ve seen kids who have been rejected by their families and are living in homeless shelters. As a Christian, I have a responsibility to make sure that not just my child is cared for, but every child is cared for.”

## **Amy Riesenberg**

Current M.Div. Student

*Seeking to become a hospital chaplain. Recently hired as a resident chaplain at Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital.*

“I love people and enjoy being a listener. When you meet with someone in despair, there’s a moment when they move into hope, and you can see a glimpse of what God does in the world.”

Amy is a single mom who receives the Dayton Scholarship, which covers 50 percent of her tuition. “I had to take some loans, but I took less than I would have without the scholarship. The scholarship also enables me to complete my degree in less time.”

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# DONOR STORIES

## Christianity That Is Thoughtful and Inclusive

*The Rev. Donald L. and Rosie Stoebner*

Don Stoebner '63 was a member of United's first graduating class; his first two years of pastoral study were at Mission House. After graduation, he began his service as a minister in South Dakota, first for parishes in South Dakota, then as an associate conference minister over youth and camping and West River churches. He later moved



to Maine, where he worked at Rockcraft Retreat Center. From there, he moved to Nebraska, serving parishes in that state for several years before retiring in South Dakota.

Both Don and his wife, Rosie, value the education that United offers. Don said, "It's important that United is scripturally founded but not a school that promotes literal interpretation. The seminary teaches students to interpret Scripture based on the situation during the time it was written. You're taught how to interpret, not what to believe."

For Rosie, United's inclusiveness is one of the most important things about United. "I appreciate how the school has taken a firm stand on gay issues," she said. "When you say you're a Christian, so many people interpret that to mean that you have a narrow bias. United demonstrates a different kind of Christianity."

## Honoring Parents With an Endowed Scholarship

*Julie A. Mall (M.Div. '85)*

Julie Mall recently established The Mall Family Endowed Scholarship in memory of her parents, Patricia and Robert Mall. "My mom died in March 2011, and my dad died in June 2017," Julie said. "When I considered how best to honor my parents, I reflected on how important education was to them. I greatly appreciate both the education I received at United, and also how United equips progressive church leaders and social activists and sends them out into the world. My parents also supported United, so it seemed like the best place to make a gift in their name. And it's also important to me that this endowed scholarship helps to sustain United as well."

Julie set up the endowed scholarship in the months before her dad died. This gave her the opportunity to share the news about the scholarship with him. "He was thrilled and deeply touched," she said.

"My parents taught me the importance of education and also of sharing what you have with others," Julie said. "It's personally fulfilling to support a United student annually. When I attended United, I was fortunate to have a sponsoring congregation, and so I know how helpful it can be to receive a scholarship that eases your financial burden."

The first recipient of this scholarship was named in January.

Julie agreed to be interviewed about her family's scholarship with the hope that her story would inspire others to give to United, and generously – and perhaps even to establish an endowed scholarship!

# YOUR GIFTS MATTER



ENDOWMENT

GIFTS RAISED

NUMBER OF DONORS

\$12.5 Million

\$1.8 Million

676

*Long-Term Investments includes funds held at RBC, which United has direct control over. In addition to these funds, United has \$5,042,821.12 in the Dayton Fund at the Minneapolis Foundation. United is the sole beneficiary of the quarterly distributions from The Dayton Fund.*

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# UNITED FINANCIALS

## OPERATING REVENUES

(July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)

Tuition & Fees	\$484.00
Contributions & Grants	\$1,817.00
Earned Income	\$157.00
Other Revenue	\$630.00
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$3,087.00</b>

*Values represent 1000s*

Operating Revenues



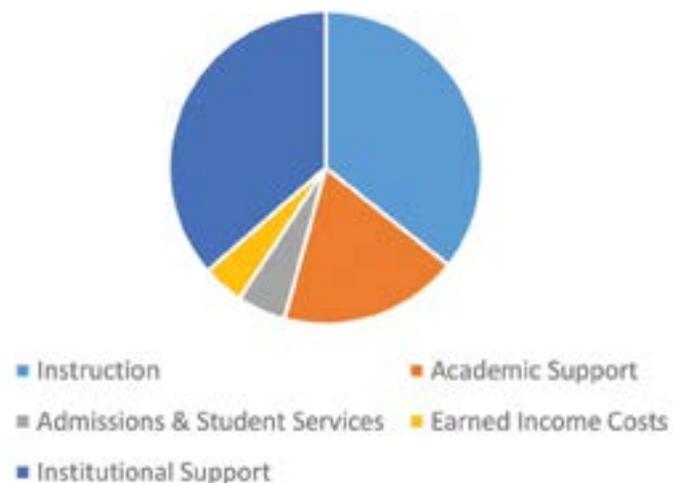
## OPERATING EXPENSES

(July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)

Instruction	\$1,458.00
Academic Support	\$759.00
Admissions & Student Services	\$206.00
Earned Income Costs	\$176.00
Institutional Support	\$1,488.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,087.00</b>

*Values represent 1000s*

Operating Expenses



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