

Detail of "Heavenly Garden" by Julia Barkley, part of United's permanent collection currently on display in the McMillan Administration Center.





# O EDUCATE INNOVATIVE AND COMPASSIONATE LEADERS AND PERSONAL

Dear Friend of United,

In her new book *Grateful*, Diana Butler Bass writes of the transforming power of giving thanks. This Gratitude Report is all about being grateful for the good things that are occurring at United and the part you have played in moving this treasure of a school forward. You are essential to the mission of the school, and by providence, it is a time of renewal.

Enrollment is up—we are witnessing growth year after year! More donors are giving as they recognize that the local and global community needs a progressive seminary like United. Generous donors have provided a new faculty chair in World Religions and Intercultural studies, a catalytic gift that has encouraged faculty as well as other faithful friends. Cash flow is good, and the endowment has grown in the past year through the investment market, increasing the financial worth of the seminary during the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

United's five-year plan includes controlled growth of student tuition and donor projections, continuing to provide significant scholarships, while exhibiting cost control. This will allow United to show operating surpluses without the inclusion of investment income by the third year. Sustainability is on the near horizon, and holy possibilities abound. We have many reasons to be grateful.

In recent years, alums and other stakeholders have been concerned about the stability of the school, a well-placed concern. It is my privilege to speak of ways in which the board, donors, alums, faculty, and staff are securing the future through their investment of time, resources, good practices, and thoughtful engagement of urgent needs for churches, other faith communities, and the public good. We give thanks for this momentum.

Last year we invited the varied constituents of the seminary to reflect on what season it is at United through the scriptural lens of "For Such a

Time as This." You sensed that this is an opportune time in the seminary's history and chose to participate with generous giving, prayer, and grounded hope. As this report demonstrates, your involvement has made all the difference.

Gratefully yours,

Molly T. Marshall
Molly T. Marshall
Interim President



# Rev. Tara Parrish is a chaplain at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, MN, pictured here in the chapel.

Artwork in alcohol ink by Rev. Tara Parrish (DMin student, '12, '16)



# **MEET TARA**

Rev. Tara Parrish (DMin in Theology and Arts student; United MDiv, '12; United MA, '16) is an ordained minister and serves as a chaplain at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, MN. As a chaplain, pastor, and in her own personal life, Tara practices many art forms, including visual arts and writing. She is continuing her education at the doctoral level to grow in her chaplaincy work and arts ministry. Tara says the welcoming community at United was "the best teacher" as she prepared for ministry:

"The overarching memories I have from my time at United are primarily ones of being profoundly welcomed into the community. When I enrolled in 2006, I was one of the very few African American students, and there were only a handful of other students of color. At United, I was my usual authentic self, but this time the reaction I received was very different than what I was accustomed to.

"I didn't look like anyone else. I was welcomed anyway. I traveled in different social circles and came from a different neighborhood with different life experiences. I was invited anyway. I asserted myself unashamedly and had radical points of view on the gospel. I was accepted anyway...even embraced.

"This changed the way I saw the world. It opened me up to being with people who were very different from myself and walking with them through the sometimes soul-wrenching work of seminary. This was, perhaps, the best teacher for me in becoming a chaplain. I meet people every day who are nothing like me; who have had different life experiences than I've had; and yet, I am comfortable in meeting them wherever they happen to be. And, I can welcome, invite, accept, and embrace every single one of them."



Mason Mennenga (MA, Religion and Theology student) is no stranger to ministry and theology. As a former church innovation coach at Augsburg University and a youth pastor at Solomon's Porch in Minneapolis, Mason recognized a call to be a public theologian – that is, to do the work of theology more publicly, to reach audiences in new ways, and to meet people in the spaces where they can grow spiritually.

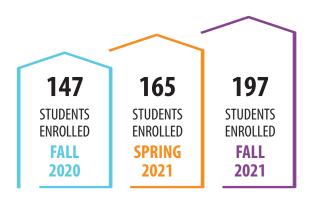
Mason started that work as the founder and host of *A People's Theology* podcast, which ranks in the top 1% of podcasts worldwide and features guest theologians like Diana Butler Bass, Monica Coleman, and Wil Gafney. But he recognized United would help him hone the skills needed to be effective in ministry in today's world.

"United is excellent at preparing students for ministry and spiritual leadership not for a world that existed 50 years ago but the world as it is now, so this is why I wanted to be a part of a seminary that prepares its students for cutting edge work in spirituality, justice, and the arts," he says.

Mason explains that the generosity of United donors makes it possible for the school to continue being a leader in progressive theological education for creative, compassionate students called to ministry and social transformation. "The generous gifts have meant that I can continue my education to pursue my dreams of sharing inspiring and liberating theology to the world," he says.

# **UNITED STUDENTS**

FY21 | JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021



In the Fall of 2020, 147 students were enrolled, followed by a total of 165 in the Spring of 2021. Currently, 197 students attend United -- all called to make a transformational impact through a variety of ministry and faith leadership positions throughout church and society.

# **28** FAITH TRADITIONS

United's radical hospitality and spiritual diversity welcomes a range of ages, genders, races, and life experiences. The four largest faith traditions in FY21 were: United Church of Christ (UCC), Unitarian Universalist (UU), United Methodist Church (UMC), and Baptist (varying bodies). This fall, students in the UCC, UU, Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), and UMC make up the top four faith traditions.

# **75%**+ STUDYING MINISTRY

Both last fiscal year and starting this fall, students enrolled in the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry programs accounted for over 75% of the student body. DMin students make up about 20% of the student body.

# 42 YEARS OLD

Students come to United after years of life experience and discernment in their calling. In FY21, the average age of our student body was 42.

# **60**%

United's mission and values are expanding across the globe via distance learning and experiential education. About 60% of our students are following their call to United from other states via our state-of-the-art distance learning technology, without having to uproot their lives. Distance learners report a strong interactive experience and feel present in the classroom. This fall, our students have mailing addresses in 34 states and four countries.

# UNITED DONORS

FY21 | JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021



**33**%

The total number of donors in FY21 increased by 33% over the previous year, giving our students the gift of an excellent education and the opportunity to graduate with minimal debt. Our donors are helping send transformational leaders into the world to serve with our shared values: radical inclusion, justice, and love for all.



36%

Alums gave generously; the number of donors increased by 36% over the previous year. In this way, our graduates are supporting the next generation of students who will be the innovative, bold, compassionate leaders needed for such a time as this.

# **95**%

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, more than 95% of our students receive some form of scholarship support from United. On average, 50% of tuition is covered by scholarships and financial aid packages to ensure that finances never become a barrier to a transformational theological education. Total tuition for a degree at United is \$23,940 (MA); \$31,920 (MAL); \$47,880 (MDiv); and \$23,940 (DMin).

# \$628,000

United students received a total of \$628,000 in scholarships in FY21. With many of our students heading into ministry, our goal is to make it possible for graduates to leave us with little-to-no student debt -- thanks to your contributions!

### **DONORS**

United's trustees, alums, friends, staff and faculty, along with churches, foundations, and members of the broader community gave generously in 2020-2021, demonstrating confidence in United's mission and a commitment to the work of educating leaders for church and society. Your gifts supported scholarships, faculty, academic resources, seminary operations, and more. Your gifts as donors, both large and small, are an act of faith. Thank you for supporting us *for such a time as this*.

Individuals, households, or organizations donating to both United and the Kaleo Center for Faith, Justice & Social Transformation (a self-sustaining, sponsored project of United) are marked with a circumflex (^). Those who donated solely to Kaleo are marked with a plus sign (+). We give gratitude for the lives of those who have died; their names are marked with an asterisk (\*). We have made every attempt to provide accurate information in these lists. If you see something that is in error or that has been omitted, please contact Andrew Fox at afox@unitedseminary.edu or 651.255.6110.

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The Joshua Society recognizes friends and alums who have provided outstanding financial leadership and support of the seminary's mission. Joshua members have contributed cumulative gifts of \$50,000 or more, and each year new Joshuas are recognized for their generosity and are presented with a replica statuette of "Joshua." We extend deep gratitude to these individuals whose generosity has had a lasting impact on the life and vitality of United.

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### **BOSSARD-WARD SOCIETY**

The Bossard-Ward Society honors alums whose cumulative giving in all categories totals \$10,000 or more. The society commemorates Jacob Bossard, a founder, faculty member, and president of Mission House Seminary from 1875-1885, and Joseph Ward, who was instrumental in founding Yankton College and Yankton School of Theology. We honor and thank alums who support the important work of United and commitment to the vision of Bossard and Ward.

Robert N. Alpers\* ('58, '71) Sarah S. Amos ('88) Theodore Bader ('51) Paul E. Baumer ('60) Audrey Benjamin ('84) Frank Bennett ('10) Priscilla Braun ('83) Thomas Breckenridge ('74) David J. Brown ('55) Lyn Burton ('06) Norma J. Burton\* ('78) Edna Mae Carlson\* ('80) William E. Carlson\* ('68) Thomas Caswell\* ('94) Vernon Clausing\* ('57) Sarah C. Conklin ('94) Molly Cox ('89) Arlene Dahl ('90) Kenneth V. Daniel ('81) Karen Dungan ('85) Sue K. Ebbers ('78) Victor Engelmann\* ('47) Frank Erdey\* ('39) Cary Eustis ('06) Charles H. Eversman ('60) Jeanne Felder\* ('82)

Cary Eustis ('06) Charles H. Eversman ('60) Jeanne Felder\* ('82) Charles E. Fix\* ('53, '72) Patricia Geadelmann ('04) Otto Gerber\* ('35) Jon Gunnemann ('66) Sheila Gustafson ('77)

Anne A. Hage\* ('80) Henry F. Heinbuch\* ('49) John M. Heinl ('61) Carolyn Hendrixson ('99) Mary Herbert\* ('15) Glen Herrington-Hall ('82)
Ruben Henry Huenemann\* ('36)
Norma Rae Hunt ('84) and Garth
Schumacher ('00, '03)
Marva Jean Hutchens ('80)
Bonnie Johnson ('90)
Andrea Johnson ('17)
Daniel Jonas ('63)
Judith Allen Kim ('89)
Ernest Klaudt\* ('43)

Ernest Klaudt\* ('43)
Walter Koch ('63, '72)
Rueben Koehler\* ('47)
Harold Koenig\* ('57)
Lynne Krehbiel-Breneman ('95)

John Krueger ('63) Howard Kusler ('56) Charles Leck ('66) Raymond Ley\* ('43) Robert Long ('59)

Katherine Austin Mahle ('78)

Julie A. Mall ('85) Cheryl S. McKinley ('90)

Mary Bigelow McMillan\* ('78, '89)

Kita McVay ('96, '09)
Philip C. Meili\* ('65)
Gary Miller\* ('68)
Jonathan Morgan ('00)
Margaret Z. Morris\* ('79)
Mary Ann Murray ('76)
Wilys Claire Nelson\* ('79)
Leslie Neugent ('12)
Christie Neuger ('80)
Steven Newcom ('80, '19)

Steven Newcom ('80, '19) Paul H. Olm-Stoelting\* ('46, '74)

Norman Pavey ('69, '74, '84)

Vonda Pearson ('98)

Frank L. Picard ('02) Harry C. Piper, Jr.\* ('74) Gary B. Reierson ('78, '86) Meredith Robinson ('84) Jo Anne Rohricht ('82) John F. Roschen ('84) J.C. Rosenau\* ('25)

Joyce Rosene\* ('73, '77) Mary Kay ('95) and Orville Sauter ('71)

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Richard Schmitz\* ('43)
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Donald L. Stoebner\* ('63, '72) W. Robert Strobel\* ('50) Albert E. Teske ('53)

Thomas N. Townsend\* ('60)

Robert J. Tripp ('65)
Daniel VanderPloeg\* ('62)

Kay Welsch ('89)

Betty S. Wentworth ('86)

Roger Wentz ('56)

Glenn Wernecke\* ('57, '73) Susan M. Wilhem\* ('81)

<sup>\*</sup> Deceased

<sup>\*</sup> Deceased

### **BARNABAS SOCIETY**

The Barnabas Society recognizes friends and alums of United who have included the seminary in their estate plans or made other deferred gifts. These individuals have chosen to include United in their wills, make life income gifts, or made the seminary the beneficiary of a retirement account or insurance policy. We greatly appreciate the long-term commitment of Barnabas Society members whose foresight will ensure the longevity and vitality of United.

Bernie Backman ('69) Lance and Gail Barker

Dan Batson ('84)

Gene ('70) and Susan Bauer

Paul E. Baumer ('60)

Mary Farrell Bednarowski and Keith

Bednarowski

Audrey Benjamin ('84)

Jean Boese ('83)

Priscilla Braun ('83)

Larry A. Bremer ('65)

Sandi Britton ('86)

Hildegard Bunge

Marion Bunge\*

Ann Buran

Eric Burnard ('85) & Kay Quinney

Burnard

Lyn Burton ('06)

Dawn Carlson Conn ('97, '17) and

Jim Conn

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Jaki Cottingham-Zierdt ('14)

Samuel ('88) and Gail Crecelius

Arlene ('90) and Mark Dahl

Kenneth V. Daniel ('81)

Virginia Davis

Richard ('06) and Carol Eick

Marilyn H. Evans ('94)

Doug Federhart ('84) and Stuart

Holland

Davitt A.\* and Jeanne\* Felder ('82)

Laura French ('87)

Patricia Geadelmann ('04)

Calvin Gerber ('62)

Richard J. ('72, '75) and Jane M.

Gerber

Julie Goranson ('14)

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Gail Griffin

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Glen ('82) and Barbara Herrington-

Hall

Richard\* and Beverly Jones

Heydinger

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Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn ('80)

Nancy R. Kapp ('83)

William R. Kiesel

Robert Kopp ('06) and Michelle

Miller ('06)

John ('63) and Patricia Krueger

Robert Long ('59)

Julie A. Mall ('85) and Darrell

Schmidt

Robert and Polly McCrea

Helen McEvoy-Freese ('80)

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Virginia L. Mills

Jonathan ('00) and Martha Morgan

Kent A. Mosebach ('66)

Norma K. Mossman ('82)

Mary Ann Murray ('76)

Kathryn A. Nelson ('86)

Thea M. Nicholas ('04)

Richard ('84) and Cynthia Nichols

Douglas Nielsen ('77)

Michael Obenauer ('77)

Jody Ondich ('84)

Jeff B. Palmer ('84, '95) and Cindy

Mueller

F. Dale ('78) and Debra Parson Norman Pavey ('69, '74, '84)

Linda Nyholm Pliska ('79)

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Ann Teel Rabe ('86)

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Philip Reller ('80) and Catherine

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Kathleen Remund ('06) and Diane

Light ('14)

Nancy B. Rohde ('80)

Jo Anne Rohricht ('82)

Linda Sanderman ('05)

Carolyn M. Saunders ('81)

Ralph ('65) and Linda Sayler

Judith N. ('90) and James Scoville

Julia K. Scoville

Richard Seaman ('66)

Lyta G. Seddig ('82)

Carol L. Shaffer ('92)

David ('85) and Susan Sickelka ('86)

Anne D. Simpson ('92)

Harold J. Spindler

Milton K. Staskal ('62)

Mark ('62) and Eleanor Steiner

Bundy Trinz ('10, '15)

Anita VanderPloeg

Richard D. Weis\* and Barbara J.

Rogers

Betty S. Wentworth ('86)

Roger ('56) and Frances\* Wentz

Jim Wilson ('85)

Donna M. Wolff ('72)

Charlene R. Wozny ('00)

Lew and Nicki Zeidner

\* Deceased

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Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology and Religious Studies Director of Advanced Studies

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (FY21)

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE TWIN CITIES' CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021, JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021

### **ASSETS**

\$13,313,000
1,175,000
10,868,000
165,000
250,000
190,000
\$665,000

### LIABILITIES

INDIEITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$36,000
Deferred Income	227,000
Accrued Expenses/Liabilities	307,000
Total Liabilities	\$570,000
Fund Balances	\$12,743,000
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$13,313,000

The Seminary enjoys a great cash position going into 2021-22 fiscal year with over \$3 million in liquid accounts and only \$340,000 in current and long term obligations.

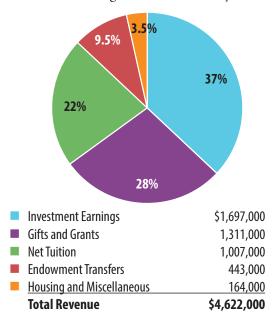
# **FIVE YEAR PLAN**

In May, seminary leadership -- including Interim President Molly T. Marshall, Chief Financial Officer Jeff Swenson, and the United Finance Committee, with approval from the Board of Trustees -- redesigned a sustainable five-year plan that includes a planned and controlled growth of student tuition and donor giving while exhibiting cost control. This will allow the seminary to show operating surpluses -- without the inclusion of investment income -- by the third year.

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

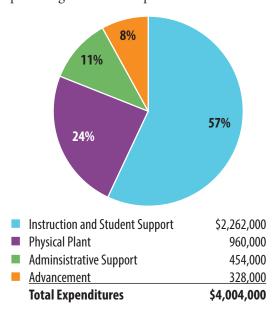
### **REVENUE**

Thanks to growth in student tuition and in its investment market, the seminary saw an increase in its worth during the 2020-21 fiscal year.



### **EXPENDITURES**

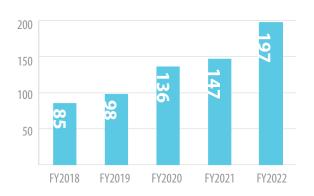
The seminary spends 62% of its funds on the direct student experience with another 21% on the technology and facilities that are associated in providing a central campus.



### STUDENT ENROLLMENT

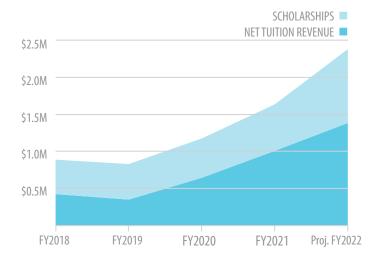
Enrollment continues to grow. The class seated in 2021-22 is a 101% increase over the student population experienced just four years ago (98 students in the Fall term of FY19 to 197 students in the Fall term of FY22).

Enrollment numbers as reported to the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)



### STUDENT TUITION + SCHOLARSHIPS

2020-21 gross tuition saw a growth of 39% over the past year with another 46% increase expected for 2021-22. The amount of scholarships have kept pace with the tuition increases, assuring that new and existing students enjoy affordable programming.





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