



Disciples Seminary Foundation



After 60 Years in Claremont...

A New Chapter Begins



May 2021

From 1959-2021: Events, Memories & Hopes

1959

DSF's Beginnings

In July, organizers of "a Disciples Seminary Foundation" in Southern California recommend at a state convention meeting an affiliation with the School of Theology in Claremont (STC).

1960

DSF's Incorporation

DSF's first Board of Directors begins raising money and search for an Executive Director. DSF is incorporated on October 20, 1960.



1964 groundbreaking ceremony

1959

Remembering & Moving Forward *A Message from DSF's Interim President*



Rev. Belva Brown Jordan
Interim President of DSF since
January 1, 2020

Dear DSF Family,

The heart of Disciples Seminary Foundation for the first 60 years of its existence resided in Claremont, CA. For 22 of those 60 years, DSF called a building on the corner of West Foothill Boulevard and Yale Avenue home. Friends, students, donors, and supporters put their hard-earned resources into buying the land, working with architects to design the perfect building, and raising the roof of 300 W. Foothill Blvd., Claremont. And beyond the physicality of this project, they filled that place with prayer, for many years. Over and over again, asking God to bless that space and the people who crossed its threshold with a spirit of love, justice, peace, kindness, compassion, and open arms to embrace the brokenhearted and dance with the joyful spirits that entered.

This newsletter is intended to represent a few images and voices of those who visited or had offices in that building in Claremont: a building that is now sold yet filled with memories we do not leave behind. For in the memories is the essence of who we are as Disciples Seminary Foundation, faithful

followers of Jesus, the Christ. We know ourselves to be "in covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and in cooperation with ecumenical and educational partners" who serve God "through the formation and support of emerging theological leaders for diverse Christian communities."

Disciples Seminary Foundation is privileged to partner with the Pacific Southwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to share space in the Disciples Ministry Center in Fullerton, CA. We share this space not only with the PSWR but also with First Christian Church and Casa de Oración, Fullerton. **In this new place, we bring our prayer, asking God to bless the space and all who cross its threshold with a spirit of love, justice, peace, kindness, compassion, and open arms to embrace the brokenhearted and dance with the joyful spirits that enter.**

Much heart,

Rev. Belva Brown Jordan

Inside:

2-13 Timeline & Memories

14-15 Prayers

Acronyms used in this edition: Disciples Seminary Foundation (DSF), Certificate of Ministry Studies (CMS), Diploma of Ministry Studies (DMS), Christian Church (CC), Disciples of Christ (DOC), Pacific Southwest Region (PSWR) **Theological Schools:** Claremont School of Theology (CST), School of Theology in Claremont (STC), Pacific School of Religion (PSR)



DSF's first facility with apartments and office spaces

1965

DSF's First Building: A vigorous capital campaign helps DSF construct a building at STC. Dedication day for that property occurs on October 24, 1965, with nearly 750 persons participating in a service and walking through the 30 apartments, lounge, dining room, library, and office complex.



DSF's first facility was located on the STC campus

1973



DSF board members - 1965

1962

DSF's First Staff

Rev. Dr. Donald Reisinger is called as Executive Director. **Mildred Whitworth** is hired as a part-time secretary, and an office is established in the academic building of STC. Arizona Disciples join in support of DSF.

1973

Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Osborn is brought to the STC faculty by DSF. **Mary Anne Parrott** joins DSF staff.



Don Reisinger



Mildred Whitworth



Students on the STC campus, 1972



Mary Anne Parrott

“ There are many good memories I have of DSF. Some come from my days as a student, others from the days I served in congregations and would return to campus, and others while I served on the Board of Trustees. One memory is of Mildred Whitworth. She came from Indianapolis with Don as his administrative assistant. She was invaluable. Whenever a student entered the office, she had the most cheerful, gracious, welcoming smile. Organization was her strength as well. When I had an appointment with Don, everything needed was arranged on his desk. If I didn't have an appointment, it didn't take long for the necessary information to arrive. She always had time to listen, share a story, and wanted to know about family and the church we were serving at the time, and what class was giving us fits. She was a blessing. She kept in contact with several of us following graduation with an encouraging note and always a newsy Christmas card.”

– **Rev. Dr. Don Sarton** (CST/DSF Doctor of Religion graduate, 1972 • DSF Board Member 2009-11, Board Chair 2011-15)



Edwin Lindberg

“First, I remember DSF as a ministry that supported the clergy of the PSWR. For me personally, this included many learning opportunities for continuing education as well as the opportunity to earn degrees. In 1975, I received my D.Min. while serving Temple City Christian Church. ”

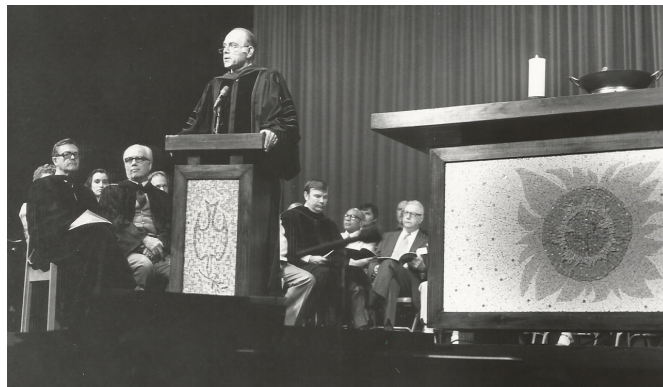
– Rev. Dr. Edwin Linberg (DSF/CST D.Min. graduate, 1975)

1977

Oregon, Northwest, Montana, Southern Idaho, Northern California-Nevada, and Utah regions of the CC(DOC) vote to support DSF. **IMPACT**, DSF's journal, is launched (1978-2002). Its non-technical material for lay and clergy reading is meant to inform and inspire.

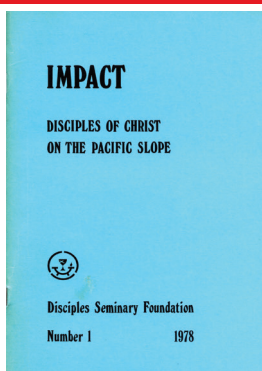
1980

DSF celebrates its **20th Anniversary** on October 20 at which time the mortgage is burned.



Mortgage burning for DSF facilities on CST campus

1974



1979

Rev. Dr. Rod Parrott joins DSF's staff in the capacity of Assistant Dean. DSF's endowment reaches its first goal of \$1,000,000. **Mildred Whitworth** retires.

“Second, I remembr DSF as a vital unit in the life of the PSWR.

In this phase of its life, I was privileged to be a member of its Board of Directors for many years (1979-1985) as well as to experience its presence as one of the units represented on the Board of Directors of the PSWR. The key players in this role, of course, were its presidents, initially Don Reisinger and later Mary Anne Parrott. Not to be overlooked was Rod Parrott, who provided great leadership in DSF's offering of many continuing education opportunities for clergy of this region, as well as the regions of Northern California and Arizona.”

– Rev. Dr. Edwin Linberg

1985

DSF celebrates its **25th Anniversary** with a series of dinner celebrations. The **Adopt-a-Seminarian program** begins as a partnership between DSF and the Christian Women's Fellowship of the PSWR. **Lester McAllister** begins teaching Disciples History and Polity for Claremont students; He leads DSF's first heritage tour after the General Assembly in Louisville, KY. Seminarians produce video taped historical vignettes of six Disciples founding fathers. DSF hosts a Campbell Bicentennial Lectureship.



Reisinger celebrates 25th Anniversary with DSF



1999 - Moving into the new DSF library



DSF Staff 1981 - from back row (left to right): Rev. Dr. Don Reisinger, Sharon Graff, Rev. Dr. Rod Parrott, Mary Anne Parrott, Diana Moore, Gary Lorenz



Empty lot at 300 W. Foothill Blvd. before DSF construction began



DSF's lease space prior to the completion of 300 W. Foothill facilities

1990

Rev. Dr. Joseph Driskill is named Assistant to the President at DSF's Berkeley office.

1992-1993

1992: Central Christian Church in San Diego closes and contributes its building to DSF for a "**Disciples Center** for education, ecumenism, and ministry."

1993: DSF moves from the STC campus to a leased facility two blocks away.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Driskill receives a joint appointment between PSR and DSF, serving as Instructor of Spirituality at PSR and Assistant Dean at DSF.

1999



Groundbreaking ceremony for the new 300 W. Foothill Blvd. facility



Construction underway at 300 W. Foothill Blvd.



Construction completed at 300 W. Foothill Blvd.

1998

Rev. Dr. Mark Parsons joins the staff as Director of Special Studies. **Mary Anne Parrott** is named Senior Vice President.

1999

DSF's new facility at 300 W. Foothill Blvd., Claremont, is dedicated in September 1999. Groundbreaking and construction began in 1997.

“Third, I remember DSF as an employer of a family member. After [my wife] Mariette and I retired from ministry and returned to the area following my last full-time pastorate in Kansas in 1999, she was hired as a part-time staff member by Don Reisinger. She had the privilege of working with both him and Mary Anne Parrott, who succeeded him as president. Her duties included secretarial work, overseeing the Disciplina collection in the library, as well as providing hospitality for the many events hosted by DSF for clergy and others in the PSWR. She had a wonderful experience as a member of the staff for several years. It will be very different not to visit the building [in Claremont], which has housed DSF for so many years. We extend our best wishes for the future of this important ministry in the PSWR as it continues its ministry in Fullerton.”

– Rev. Dr. Edwin Linberg



DSF celebrates its 40th Anniversary and Don Reisinger retires

“I remember being a student with two young children, attending graduate studies at the Graduate Theological Union. On this particular week, [my husband] John and I were under considerable financial pressure with our small church salary and paying for my dreams of a Ph.D. We had considered several options when a letter came in the mail from Mary Anne Parrott, president of the Disciples Seminary Foundation, filled with words of support and encouragement. Also included in the letter was a check covering precisely the amount we needed, and even a little more, in order to stay afloat as a family. Words cannot express the impact this kind of giving has on a person’s life and the desire to give back in service. Thank you.”

– Rev. Dr. Tamara Rodenberg
(DSF/GTU Ph.D. graduate, 2006)

2000

On October 20, DSF celebrates its 40th Anniversary and Rev. Dr. Don Reisinger retires. Friends and colleagues gather to honor Don and his wife Marjorie. Mary Anne Parrott assumes presidency on July 1. DSF receives a grant to send seminarians as church camp youth counselors. The largest gifts in DSF’s history are provided by Allan and Marie Brady of Tucson in trusts and gift annuities, totaling nearly \$2.5 million.

2000

2001

Rev. Dr. Huberto Pimentel is named Vice President; he assumes leadership of the new Certificate of Ministry Studies for Pacific School of Religion’s Southern California program.



Huberto Pimentel

2003

The largest Disciples class to date graduates, 21 with degrees and certificates. Rev. Young Sook Kim is hired as the Director of the Korean Church Studies program.



2006 DSF Staff Retreat - from bottom left: Mary Anne Parrott, Rev. Young Sook Kim, Gary Curtis, Rev. Dr. Joe Driskill, Rev. Dr. Tamara Rodenberg, Christina Hutchins, Nancy Ryther, Lori Ruff-Schmalenberger, Rev. Dr. Mark Parsons, John Rodenberg

“After Mary Anne Parrott became the president of DSF, she offered me the position of Director of the Korean Church Studies program, and my time at DSF under her incredible leadership will forever remain one of my greatest blessings. Mary Anne embodied the highest ideals of DSF in her thoughts and actions, and I learned so many invaluable lessons during our time together. I was deeply moved by her humility, wisdom, heart, how conscientiously she strived to be inclusive of other cultures, and how she took care of the people around her. She held many gatherings at her own home for Korean students, which provided great comfort and strength to them as they balanced school, family, and financial obligations far away from home in a foreign country.”

– Rev. Young Sook Kim
(DSF/SFTS M.Div. graduate, 2002)



Rod Parrott retires - 2005



Mary Ann Parrott retires - 2009

2005

Dean **Rev. Dr. Rod Parrott** retires. A new **Spanish language CMS** program begins in Southern California. DSF's Board of Trustees adopts a new strategic plan. **Rev. Dr. Mark Parsons** becomes a joint DSF/CST appointed faculty member "Assistant Professor of Religion and Music." Parsons is named to a faculty position at CST in 2008.

“With the support of the DSF scholarship, I was able to attend Quadrennial, where my husband and I started talking about the ordination/full standing process of the Disciples of Christ. After my husband and I became representatives of PSWR NAPAD, the DSF building, and its ministry, influenced much of our ministry. Through DSF, I was able to create opportunities to share information about the DOC with Claremont students and ministers. DSF also gave me the opportunity to begin my studies in the Worship and Arts Doctor of Ministry program. DSF was a meeting place for new ministers who did not know about the DOC, a place where we felt warm and comfortable. Living in Claremont, I am sorry to hear that DSF is leaving. I will remember many good memories whenever I pass the building.”

– **Rev. Dr. Young Lan Kim** (SFTS M.Div. graduate, 2004, DSF/CST D.Min. graduate, 2018)

2009

“The drive from Studio City to the DSF office in Claremont is not a short one. On my first drive out, I didn’t know what the outcome of this visit would be. **In 2007, I was in the process of becoming a Licensed Minister.** This particular day, I had an appointment with then DSF President Tamara Rodenberg to explore my options. As I drove east, my mind was awash with many thoughts about ministry, but what my next step was to be was still unclear. I arrived at the DSF building and something about it, even from the parking lot, seemed very inviting. Needless to say, I was intrigued. As I walked through the doors, it was apparent I was at a special place. Others had made the same journey I was about to undertake and the collective energy and vibration of those students from the past, as well as the collective hopes of those who would follow me, was greatly felt. This first meeting with Rev. Dr. Rodenberg would result in her encouraging me to go to seminary and making sure I had all the right introductions at San Francisco Theological Seminary in Pasadena, a place she felt would be good fit, while also assuring me that both she and DSF would always be with me for support. That drive, that walk into the DSF building for the first time, and that meeting were life changing. With the help of DSF, I graduated from SFTS in 2012. In years following that first entry into the building, there were many wonderful visits to DSF: meetings, workshops, the use of the library, and picnics on the roof. Each and every time I entered the building, the memory of that first time walking through the doors would always come to mind. The Foothill building became a symbol for new possibility that was forged through a collective desire of so many to do something good and positive for the world. When I think about the building, and imagine it in my mind, I can’t help but have a warm feeling made real by the dedication of all those who filled those rooms with the unconditional love of God.”

– **Rev. Jefferson Beeker** (DSF/SFTS M.Div. graduate, 2012)

2006

Rev. Dr. Tamara Nichols Rodenberg is named Dean, and **John Rodenberg** is named Director of Development. Both begin on March 1. Vice President **Rev. Dr. Huberto Pimentel** resigns effective March 31 to assume the position of National Hispanic Pastor for the CC(DOC).

2009

President **Mary Anne Parrott** retires; **Rev. Dr. Tamara Nichols Rodenberg** is named Interim President. The DSF Scholarship Campaign: Equipping Leaders for Ministry goes public.



Young Sook Kim



Tamara Nichols Rodenberg



DSF Luncheon at General Assembly in 2013



2012 - First Seed Planters program participants

2010

DSF celebrates its **50th Anniversary** with events in Northern and Southern California and with the publication of a 64-page edition of the DSF Report. Reaching its goal of \$1,125,000, the success of the DSF Scholarship Campaign is announced. **Rev. Young Sook Kim's** position is expanded, and she is named Director of Certificate of Ministry Studies. Interim activities include standardizing financial practices and office procedures.

2010

“In January 2012, it was with much excitement, enthusiasm, and gratitude that I joined the staff of Disciples Seminary Foundation as its Director of Student Life. I happily served in that capacity until 2020. The DSF building and the property on which it was conveniently located at 300 West Foothill Boulevard - at the corner of Foothill and Indian Hill Boulevard in Claremont - has proven to be welcoming and conducive to the multiple aspects of ministry that have taken place at that location over the years.

I rejoice immensely as I reflect upon just a few of my memories of events that took place in our DSF building. I remember the commitment, camaraderie, and congeniality of staff and other colleagues in working together, as we sought to fulfill the vision and expectations of the president, the Board of Trustees, and students. I remember the extraordinary diversity, giftedness, achievements, and faithfulness of our students in academically preparing themselves for the fulfillment of accomplishing their goals. I will always remember how we came together as a community when life challenges were imposed upon any of our students or staff members and their families.

I remember the special ministries: Seed Planters: designed for future church planters and new ministries, participation by special guests; @The Table: bi-weekly student fellowship gathering; DSF Revival: worship services planned at DSF and shared at the Kresge Chapel at Claremont School of Theology. I remember the new and returning student dinners, celebrations for graduates, families, and friends, and our established Prayer Chapel on the second floor of the building! The above and many, many more memories will reside with me.”

– **Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Bynum**
(DSF Director of Student Life, 2012-2020)

2011

Rev. Dr. Jon Berquist assumes presidency on February 1. **Rev. Dr. Mark Parsons** becomes Dean of DSF, Vice Dean at CST, and Vice Provost at Claremont Lincoln University. **David Coatsworth** is named Director of Development, and **Rev. Xosé G. Escamilla** becomes Director of Certificate of Ministry Studies. **Rev. Dr. Joseph Driskill** celebrates his retirement and is named Dean Emeritus at DSF Berkley.



Mary Donovan Turner, Joseph Driskill, Don Sarton

“For many years, DSF has held a summer intensive class for **DOC History and Polity**. I had the opportunity to join that class and share about the region as part of that class. We met in the main room and shared learning and time together. One year, the class was held on my birthday, so there was cake. It was always a comfortable and inclusive setting with new faces and new thoughts. I was blessed to be a part of life in the building for these events and so many others.”

– **Rev. Susan Gonzales Dewey** (Co-Regional Minister of the PSWR from 2007-2019, DSF Board of Trustees 2007-19)

2012

Rev. Dr. Mary Donovan Turner becomes Dean of Disciples Seminary Foundation in Northern California. **Rev. Dr. JoAnn Bynum** joins DSF as Director of Student Life, Claremont. After working for DSF on a contract basis, **Rev. Jenny Crosswhite** joins DSF's staff as Creative Director. Oreon E. Scott Foundation grant funds **Seed Planters Program**.



Xosé G. Escamilla



CST Graduation - Rios-Reyes, Crosswhite, Parsons

2014



Jo Ann Bynum & Young Lan Kim



Parsons honored as DSF Dean Emeritus, candle ceremony performed



Mark Parsons and Bill Thomas - CST graduation 2014

2014

On March 21, 2014, DSF and CST celebrate **Rev. Dr. Mark David Parsons'** work, and the board of DSF unanimously name him Dean Emeritus. Mark goes on medical leave. **Dr. Frank Burch Brown** becomes Dean of Disciples Seminary Foundation in Northern California. **Rev. Belva Brown Jordan** serves as Interim Dean of Disciples Seminary Foundation, Claremont. **Rev. Clarence Johnson** becomes Director at Disciples Seminary Foundation, Northern California. Claremont School of Theology begins online/hybrid masters' degrees. **Rev. Dr. José Morales Jr.** becomes Director of Pastoral Formation at Disciples Seminary Foundation, Claremont. **Jess Kim** is hired as Administrative Assistant.



2013 Spanish language Certificate of Ministry Studies graduates

2015

Rev. Dr. Mark David Parsons passes away. **Dr. Frank Burch Brown** retires as Dean of Disciples Seminary Foundation in Northern California. **Rev. Belva Brown Jordan** begins service as Dean of Disciples Seminary Foundation, Claremont. **Rev. Clarence Johnson** becomes Director of Pastoral Formation at Disciples Seminary Foundation, Northern California. **Rev. Laura Jean Torgerson** becomes Director of Education and Mission at Disciples Seminary Foundation, Northern California.



“This is an image of a DSF workshop led by **Rev. Pausa Kaio Thompson** and **RJ Lucchesi** on the topic of the **Mauna Kea Protectors Movement in Hawaii**. The triangle gesture in this photo is a symbol of our alliance with the protectors' movement and a commitment to justice through advocacy and being informed. Thank you to DSF for creating a space for us to engage, listen, and learn about this critical issue.” #MaunaKea #DSF #Protectors

– **Taulau Tupua** (DSF/CST M.Div. student)

2015

“My favorite memories are the **@The Table gatherings**. Those times of connecting with community over food and praying with each other helped to sustain me during seminary. I am confident that the sustaining and liberating presence of God will continue to journey with DSF as you all journey with students.”

– **Rev. Larry J. Morris III**
(DSF/CST M.Div./MTS graduate, 2019)

2016

Rev. Dr. Jinsuk Chun becomes Director of Mission and Peace Education at Disciples Seminary Foundation, Claremont. **Rev. Bentley Stewart** becomes Director of Student Life at Disciples Seminary Foundation, Northern California.



José Morales teaches Disciples History & Polity at DSF - 2016



Fall Welcome Students Dinner in Claremont - September 2019

“**Working at DSF** for the past seven years has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. It has been a privilege to work with our amazing students and graduates, many of whom inspired me to attend seminary, and I have enjoyed connecting with the wider DOC community. I am also grateful to my colleagues, past and present, who work(ed) tirelessly to promote the mission of DSF. While the church is not a building, I will forever cherish the memories of our time at 300 W. Foothill Blvd. in Claremont.”

– **Jess Kim** (DSF staff 2014-present, DSF/CST M.Div. Candidate, Class of 2021)

2017

Rev. Siobhan Lopez hired as DSF's Administrative Assistant. **Jess Kim** becomes DSF's Managing Director.

2018

Fall semester **Diploma of Ministry Studies** program begins, offering more advanced theological instruction for graduates of the CMS program.



DSF @The Table - February 2019

2019

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a NEW THING! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

– Isaiah 43:18 & 19

“They devoted themselves to the Apostles teaching and to fellowship, to breaking bread and prayer...they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. Praising God and enjoying favor of all people and the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved.”

– Acts 2:42, 46b & 47

“**The Holy Hub, The Grateful Walk, and Tables Prepared with an Abundance of Good Things.**

There were midday meals during Board of Trustees meetings. There were opportunities for bonding and fellowship rituals. There were roundtrip group walks across six lanes of fast-moving traffic, which were required for attending worship at CST's Kresge Chapel, adorned with magnificently colored stained-glass windows reaching from the floor to the high ceiling.

Hurriedly, joyfully, and safely crossing the wide thoroughfare in random groups, which invariably led to “Hopeful Hub-Huddling” around conversations about the city installing a crosswalk for our protection and comfort. Though the crosswalk was not constructed, hope springs eternal. Indeed, teamwork makes the dream work! There was also food along with great company at the board meetings. What a joy!!!”

– **Rev. Clarence L. Johnson** (DSF/SFTS D.Min. Candidate, DSF's Director of Pastoral Formation 2014-2020, Senior Pastor, Mills Grove Christian Church (DOC))

2019

Rev. Dr. José Morales Jr. serves as DSF's Acting President. **Rev. Siobhan Lopez** becomes DSF's Program Coordinator. DSF graduates largest seminary class with 32 seminary graduates. Seminary and certificate (CMS) graduates total 41.



Partial DSF staff photo 2019 - from top back (left to right): Jess Kim, Rev. Leah Laird, Cassandra Claudio, Nini Mejia, Rev. Siobhan Lopez, Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Bynum, Rev. Dr. José Morales, Rev. Dr. Jinseok Cheon



CMS classes offered at 300 W. Foothill Blvd. - 2018

Students and staff enjoy the Spring 2020 Welcome Dinner at 300 W. Foothill. One of only a handful of in-person events before the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began



2020

Rev. Belva Brown Jordan becomes Interim President of DSF on January 1. DSF celebrates its **60th Anniversary** with a lively virtual presentation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The **60th Anniversary Fund** is established, surpassing its goal and raising over \$70,000 to broaden DSF's ability to support expanded enrichment, educational, or service-oriented opportunities for students, alumni, and local pastors. **DSF graduates its largest overall class of students** with 60 graduates (35 certificate, 25 seminary).

2020



DSF's 2020 virtual seminary graduation celebration

We give thanks to all the staff and volunteers, named and unnamed, who have been a part of DSF's journey thus far. We are grateful for you. Some of them appear in the timeline/photo captions and others include: Rev. Dr. Kara Markell, Rev. Dr. Eric Smith, Bob Wilson, Vanessa Gorski, Rev. Dr. Katy Valentine, Rev. Yolanda Norton, Jean Makunga, Nancy Cordova Molina, Mariette Linberg, Jeremy Hamilton-Arnold, Carolyn Scott-Patterson, Rev. Sally Willis-Watkins, Eula Pagdilao, Bethany Hager, Rev. Miseon Choi, Rev. Dr. Aaron Park, Rev. Justin Floyd, Rev. Dr. Rafael Reyes III, Vanessa Rios-Reyes, Rev. Lorraine Cenicerros, Rev. Rob Blair, Rose Testa, Jung Ja Yu, Rev. Dr. Timothy Murphy, Rev. Caroline Hamilton-Arnold, Lucia Garcia, Rev. Samuel Ramirez, Dr. Julio Hernandez, Ruth Vazquez. **If you know of someone who is not named here, or elsewhere in this edition, please let us know by emailing info@dsf.edu.**

“Disciples Seminary Foundation is more than a building, it’s a family. Yet, with that said, every time I entered that sacred space, I was transformed through relationship, love, and empowerment by all those I encountered. As an alumna, a board member, and a general ministry partner, I stand in awe of the accomplishments of DSF and the countless ways that this particular ministry space has touched the lives of students and friends. We are called to continually move forward and look to new horizons. God is always doing something new; can’t we perceive it? In this celebration of moving from one ministry space to another, may we stop to let the memories steep, may be sip and savor that which we have experienced in the Claremont building, may we take time to grieve as that becomes necessary, and then may we look to that which is upon us. There are new possibilities, through new ministry space and partnership, and so much more yet to be discerned and lived into. No doubt, God is already at work! To God be all the honor and glory! ¡A Dios sea toda la honra y la gloria!”

– **Rev. Lori Tapia**, (DSF/CST M.Div. graduate, 2017, National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries, CC (DOC)

Disciples Seminary Foundation – Celebrating 60 Years



DSF celebrates 60th Anniversary virtually via Facebook Live and YouTube



Student events and classes move online due to the COVID-19 pandemic

“Personally, I have so many, many memories of events and relationships nurtured in the DSF building/space. After many years on the Board, I am aware that these memories are mostly about people! The DSF space brought faithful Disciples and UCC leaders together on the Board, who in business deliberations exchanged ideas, passions, and visions for the enriching of the journey of vocation for hundreds of seminarians. In our board meetings, we met people we never would have met and in meetings, breaks, and meal times, the Spirit bonded us across many borders of race, ethnicity, theology, LGBTQ+, education, etc. into a “Beloved Community.” Beyond the value of Board relationships, the opportunity to interact with so many seminarians was a gift and blessing. How thrilling to hear the words and feel the hearts and sense the souls of those who were already providing dynamic leadership, but we could see that the Disciples church and broader faith were in the hands of passionate and committed followers of The Way.”

– Rev. Dr. Ben Bohren (DSF Board Member 2004-??, 2012-Present)

2021

2021

On February 8, the building at 300 W. Foothill Blvd. in Claremont is sold and the DSF offices move to the Disciples Ministry Center in Fullerton, CA.

“I have so many way-making memories at Disciples Seminary Foundation in Claremont. For the better part of the last decade, it has been my community, my spiritual home. Truly, it has been my church. Memories woven together through the breaking of bread, through prayer, through celebration, through grief, through love.

One evening years ago, after sharing a meal in community, and with the building mostly empty, a classmate of mine and fellow DSF student stayed behind with her family after the dinner. Somehow, I was the only other student there as well. At the time, she was experiencing kidney failure, and in the midst of fighting for her life. At the prompting of, and together with her family, Rev. Dr. JoAnn Bynum and myself laid hands on my classmate and prayed prayers of healing. Today, I can happily say my now dear friend is healed and healthy, and we are partners in ministry on several projects. Building the Kin-dom of God, together. God is good, all the time.”

– Richard John (RJ) Lucchesi
(DSF/CST M.Div. Candidate, 2021)



DSF building at 300 W. Foothill Blvd. sold - Feb. 8, 2021



DSF offices move to 115 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, CA

Prayers of Deconsecration and Future Ministry

As you deconsecrate the sacred space at 300 W. Foothill Blvd., I share my prayers for the continued witness and support the Disciples Seminary Foundation provides for persons in formation for ministry. Leadership, in faith and service, is necessary in our world, as much as any time in recent memory. My prayer is for all the students who will benefit going forward from your new home at the Disciples Ministry Center and for your renewed vision and commitment to this ministry. Amen.

- Rev. Dr. Tamara Rodenberg (DSF/GTU Ph.D. graduate, 2006)

An Acrostic Upon Leaving the DSF Building in Claremont, 2021

We Depart in Peace

We have been nurtured and educated in this building,
Enlightened both by our professors and our companions.

Daily, this building beckoned as a welcoming
Environment, a stable place of solace,
Patiently witnessing our struggles, sorrows, and joys,
Always there on the corner
Reliably giving us shelter, both physical and spiritual,
To continue to learn to serve Christ for our world.

It is now the time—yes, now—
Now for us, led as good stewards, to move beyond this site.

Perchance those memories made right here will remain
Everlasting in our minds and hearts and very souls,
And we shall gaze with fondness upon this special place.
Called in the urgency of now to move on, we go in peace.
Ever grateful for our foundation here, we now depart.

- Dr. Richard J. Follett (DSF Board Member 2014-Present)

My prayer is that DSF carries these values [humility, wisdom, inclusivity, hospitality, stewardship, and vigilance] forward while overcoming its challenges in order to give birth to true disciples and shine the light of Jesus.

- Rev. Young Sook Kim (DSF/SFTS M.Div. graduate, 2002)

Creator God,

Our force of inspiration, we thank you for DSF, for its mission, for its nurture, and for its vision. **May what had begun on Foothill Blvd. in Claremont now continue to thrive in its new quarters in Fullerton.** May the same doors of inclusive welcome swing widely to welcome all who desire to serve you boldly. One chapter may be closing, but an exciting new chapter is just beginning. With thanksgiving for what has been and excitement for what is yet to be, we give you praise for the glorious witness that will unfold.

Amen.

- Rev. Jefferson Beeker
(DSF/SFTS M.Div. graduate, 2012)

I pray that DSF does not lose its great calling and passion in their new place.

- Rev. Dr. Young Lan Kim
(DSF/CST D.Min. grad, 2018)

Eternal God, our Creator,

For the marvelous light of **remembrance**, yes hindsight, we give you thanks!

For **encouraging friendships** established, yes insight and wisdom, we give you praise!

For all that is yet to come: mask wearing; working from home; observing social distancing; frequent handwashing; sheltering-in-place; so that DSF continues its distinctive ministry among emerging CC(DOC) scholars and preparing for its move to Fullerton we say emphatically, we give you an emphatic yes!!!

- Rev. Clarence L. Johnson, Senior Minister-Pastor
(DSF/SFTS D.Min. Candidate, DSF's Director of Pastoral Formation 2014-2020)

To read more reflections on the last 60 years, go to:
www.dsf.edu/claremontmemories

To make a donation to support DSF's ongoing ministry, visit:
www.dsf.edu/donate



Disciples Seminary Foundation

115 E. Wilshire Blvd.
Fullerton, CA 92832

Find out how YOU can support our emerging leaders!

call: 714-459-0976

donate on the web: www.dsf.edu/donate

email: info@dsf.edu

Do you want to learn about upcoming DSF events, read the latest news, and see pictures of DSF as things happen?



Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/DisciplesSeminaryFoundation



Follow us on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/user/DSFMedia



Follow us on Twitter:

https://twitter.com/DSF_1960



Follow us on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/disciplesseminaryfoundation/>



Sign up for e-news: <https://www.dsf.edu/news-and-events>

DSF Office: Southern California

115 E. Wilshire Blvd.

Fullerton, CA 92832

714-459-0976

info@dsf.edu • www.dsf.edu

Certificate & Diploma of Ministry Studies

California, Oregon, and Tijuana

For information, contact Xosé:

xescamilla@dsf.edu

Claremont School of Theology

www.cst.edu

Iliff School of Theology

www.iliff.edu

Pacific School of Religion

www.psr.edu

San Francisco Theological Seminary

www.sfts.edu