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**REPORT OF
COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
TO THE FORTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

JUNE 2020

**Steadfast for the Gospel:
Celebrating God’s Faithfulness in a World of Change**

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Executive Summary

The purpose of Covenant Theological Seminary is to glorify the triune God by training his servants to walk in God’s grace, minister God’s Word, and equip God’s people—all for God’s mission.

16 The commitments underlying Covenant Seminary’s mission statement have guided our work
17 since our inception in 1956. How we go about our mission has grown and adapted to meet the
18 changing needs of Christ’s church over the last 64 years, but our basic purpose always remains
19 the same: to prepare **impactful gospel leaders** for the church and Kingdom who can **engage**
20 **compassionately** with and **proclaim God’s truth courageously** to a world in need of the
21 hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ. As always, we were **privileged to see again this**
22 **year the ongoing faithfulness of our awesome God** and to experience the joy of his provision
23 and blessing in so many ways, even in the midst of the constantly shifting landscape of
24 contemporary theological education and challenges brought on by the worldwide COVID-19
25 situation.

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27 By God’s grace, this year has seen:

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- The **flourishing of the new MABTS program** instituted last year, as our expanded
30 online/hybrid learning formats have drawn much interest from students looking for
31 flexible, accessible, and affordable theological education, along with continued
32 growth in both our MAC and flagship residential MDiv programs.
 - The conclusion of a **year-long celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Francis**
33 **Schaeffer Institute** at Covenant Seminary with a variety of events on campus and
34 other venues to mark the occasion, including a special issue of *Covenant* magazine,
35 a special edition book (*Firstfruits of a New Creation*) honoring founding FSI
36 Director Prof. Jerram Barrs, and the naming of Barrs to the recently completed
37 endowed Francis Schaeffer Chair of Apologetics.
 - Great generosity from our friends and supporters who have given faithfully to our
38 **Hope for the Future Capital Campaign**, which has already produced several
39 significant firstfruits, including the Francis Schaeffer Chair mentioned above, and
40 the establishment two years ago of the Philip and Rebecca Douglass Chair of
41 Church Planting and Christian Formation. We also celebrated the naming this year
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1 of Dr. Robert Kim as Dr. Douglass’s successor in the Chair, as well as Dr. Kim’s
2 appointment to oversee the Church Planting Track for our MDiv program, also a
3 result of the campaign.

- 4 • Promotions to positions of greater responsibility for several long-serving, faithful
5 members of our deeply biblical and Reformed faculty, with key additions to our
6 adjunct faculty and the appointment of Field Education Director **Jeremy Main** to
7 the additional role of **Director of the City Ministry Initiative (CMI)**.
- 8 • A **change of leadership in our MAC program** as current Director **Dr. Dan Zink**
9 requested a return to full-time teaching and more writing opportunities, and the
10 appointment of **Drs. Mark Pfuetze and Jeremy Ruckstaetter as Interim Co-**
11 **Directors** of the MAC for the coming academic year.
- 12 • The publication of several major works by faculty in print as well as important posts
13 by faculty and alumni on our *Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy* blog, focused on
14 theological issues and reflections from a biblical and Reformed perspective.
- 15 • The sophomore year of our **Professional Counselor Training Series**, designed to
16 provide professional counselors licensed in the state of Missouri with quality
17 continuing education units in which Covenant counseling faculty help Christian
18 counselors think christianly about important topics facing counselors, their clients,
19 and the church.

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21 These and other initiatives and activities detailed more fully in this report are evidence of
22 God’s ongoing grace as we seek to glorify him by preparing biblical and Christ-centered
23 pastors, church planters, counselors, youth and campus ministers, missionaries, and other
24 ministry leaders for service to his church.

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26 **ADDENDUM to Executive Summary:**

27 This report was written just before the COVID-19 crisis caused many institutions throughout
28 the country and the world to adapt to the situation in a variety of innovative ways. The
29 Seminary’s faculty and staff responded quickly by shifting the remainder of spring 2020
30 classes and all of the summer 2020 classes to an entirely online format, with built-in online
31 social interaction components to continue the campus experience as much as possible. Most
32 of the staff began working from home in mid-March to limit personal interaction on campus,
33 while a special cross-departmental COVID planning team met regularly to monitor the
34 constantly changing situation and prepare for our eventual reopening. The crisis forced the
35 cancelation of our in-person Commencement ceremony, but God’s grace enabled us to
36 provide an appropriately socially distant campus parade for graduates and a pre-recorded
37 online ceremony to honor their achievement. We are grateful for the Lord’s provision during
38 this time, and for the dedication and adaptability of our faculty, staff, and students. We will
39 provide more detail on these measures in our 2020–2021 report to the General Assembly.

1 **Steadfast for the Gospel:**
2 **Celebrating God’s Faithfulness in a World of Change**
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4 *The purpose of Covenant Theological Seminary is to glorify the triune God by*
5 *training his servants to walk in God’s grace, minister God’s Word, and equip God’s*
6 *people—all for God’s mission.*
7

8 The commitments underlying this statement and guiding the work we do at Covenant
9 Seminary have remained the same since our inception in 1956—commitments to the truth and
10 divine authority of God’s Word, the power of God’s grace to transform lives through the
11 gospel of Jesus Christ, and the necessity of living, learning, and worshipping together as a
12 community of believers for meaningful growth in the Christian life. How we go about doing
13 our mission has grown and adapted to meet the changing needs of Christ’s church over the
14 last 64 years, but our basic purpose has always been to prepare **impactful gospel leaders** for
15 the church and Kingdom who can **engage compassionately** with and **proclaim God’s truth**
16 **courageously** to a world in need of the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.
17

18 Over the past year, as we have continued to steward our resources and work faithfully at the
19 calling God has given us, we have been **privileged again and again to see the ongoing**
20 **faithfulness of our awesome God.** We have experienced the joy of his provision and blessing
21 in so many ways, even in the midst of challenges brought on by the shifting landscape of
22 contemporary theological education and the ongoing worldwide COVID-19 situation.
23

24 **A Year of Continued Educational Growth and Change**
25

26 **Flourishing Degree Programs, Expanded Field Ed, and Updated Systems**

- 27 • **New Degrees Thriving.** The new degree programs we reported on last year are in full
28 swing now, and the new **flexible, accessible, and affordable** delivery methods we
29 inaugurated at that time seem to be having a positive impact. The **MABTS** has proved
30 to be immensely popular, especially for students who desire to pursue all or part of
31 their seminary education through online or hybrid learning methods.
- 32 • **MDiv Strong.** The MDiv itself, which had experienced a bit of an enrollment
33 downswing a few years ago, is currently strong and healthy, and remains the mainstay
34 and standard of our training programs, and, with the advent of the online MABTS, is
35 now accessible in a hybrid format.
- 36 • **MAC Growing.** The MAC program continues to grow in numbers and reputation, and
37 has a strong enrollment.
- 38 • **DMin Cohorts Launched.** The DMin program launched a cohort in 2019 (to run
39 through 2021) focused on **Cultural Apologetics and Communication**, in which
40 Covenant’s Prof. Mark Ryan, Dr. Zack Eswine, and Dr. Tasha Chapman are helping
41 ministry leaders explore the challenges and opportunities involved in reaching today’s
42 world with the gospel. In the summer of 2020, the DMin will launch a **new cohort on**
43 **the topic of Leadership in Ministry**, to be led by **Dr. Tom Gibbs**, Senior Pastor of
44 Redeemer Presbyterian Church in San Antonio, Texas, and **Dr. George E. Schenck**,
45 independent organizational/leadership consultant and a PCA Ruling Elder. The cohort

1 will run from 2021 through 2023 and provide an opportunity for up to 20 seasoned
2 ministry leaders to delve into ministry leadership issues in a significant way. By
3 weaving a biblically informed and grace-based spirituality together with the best
4 practices of organizational leadership, participants will be better able to navigate the
5 many real-world challenges for which even the best seminary training cannot fully
6 prepare them.

- 7 • **MTC–Phoenix.** The Missional Training Center–Phoenix is flourishing in its efforts
8 to further train already-serving local ministry leaders and has grown to the point of
9 needing to consider expanding to two first-year cohort groups—alongside the existing
10 second- through fourth-year groups—to accommodate the interest.
- 11 • **Sites and Partnerships.** We continue to offer a variety of courses at our extension site
12 (Nashville) and are working to extend our reach and influence by expanding existing
13 partnerships with other ministries such as NEXT, NXTGEN Pastors, Edinburgh
14 Summer School (Chalmers Institute), and disability ministry expert Stephanie Hubach.
- 15 • **Field Education.** We have been working to **strengthen our Field Ed program** to
16 make it more comprehensive and more helpful for preparing students for ministry in
17 the real world. Field Ed Director Jeremy Main has been working diligently to expand
18 the number and range of field education opportunities for students through the
19 development of new partnerships with churches and ministry organizations and the
20 recruiting of more local pastors and other ministry leaders to serve as mentors and
21 internship supervisors for students doing experiential learning through field ed.
- 22 • **MyCTS.** Our IT department launched a **new behind-the-scenes system** called MyCTS
23 to streamline our internal processes and replace our old, outdated Portal system.
24 MyCTS offers a simplified one-stop login dashboard that provides students, faculty,
25 and staff with easier access to important information, tools, and resources needed on
26 a daily basis.
- 27 • **New Online Store.** Last year saw the launch of a new online store for the sale of
28 **Covenant-themed merchandise** like mugs, glasses, shirts, hoodies, caps, notebooks,
29 and many other items. Many faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters have been
30 wanting a way to show their Covenant spirit while also supporting the mission and
31 ministry of the Seminary, and the store provides an exciting opportunity to do so. In
32 time, we hope to expand the variety of items available to include resources for the
33 church. Shop at www.covenantseminary.edu/store.

34 **Continual Evaluation and Planning**

35 Part of our ongoing work is the continual evaluation of our programs and methods and our
36 adaptation to the changing demographics of our student body and the changing needs of the
37 larger church.
38

- 39 • **Coming Changes to Accreditation Standards.** This year we got word that our
40 accrediting organizations, the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and the
41 Higher Learning Commission (HLC) are both making changes in the standards by
42 which they measure success and effectiveness in theological education. These changes
43 reflect differences in the emphases of the two organizations, with ATS focusing more
44 on excellence of student/graduate outcomes and HLC focusing more on whether and
45

1 how educational institutions provide what they say they will provide. If approved, the
2 new standards will go into effect in July 2020 and may prove to be beneficial in that
3 the reporting process for both could be shorter. It may also mean that we would
4 potentially have the ability to allow more non-BA-holding students with ministry
5 potential into our academic degree programs.

- 6 • **Strategic Planning Process.** We are also in the midst of an extensive strategic
7 planning process, looking at where we are now and thinking about where we would
8 like to go over the next five years. We have been working with faculty, staff, and our
9 Board to gather input on major themes and areas on which to focus for the planning
10 process and will be working over the coming months to draft a plan for Board review
11 and approval.
- 12 • **Necessary Tuition and Fee Increases.** As we seek to faithfully steward financial
13 health at Covenant Seminary, we find ourselves needing to increase tuition every few
14 years. The revenue sources for the annual operating budget of the Seminary include
15 net tuition (after scholarships), endowment draw, and annual donor gifts. Thus, as of
16 last May, our tuition rose from \$495 per credit hour to \$525 per credit hour for all
17 classes other than ThM and DMin. ThM and DMin classes increased from \$590 per
18 credit hour to \$620 per credit hour. These increases keep us in line with but still very
19 competitive with peer institutions. (As a point of reference, our last tuition increase
20 was in 2017, when it went from \$480 per credit hour to \$495, and before that was
21 2011, going from \$460 to \$480 per credit hour.) We seek to keep tuition and fee
22 increases like these as low as possible. Please join us in praying for God’s continued
23 financial provision and our faithful stewardship of what he provides.

24 25 **Ongoing Training for Church and Community**

26 Our calling to train church leaders includes not only the teaching of theology and the
27 development of practical ministry skills, but also helping to equip those future leaders—and
28 other people in our own local community—in other significant ways.

- 29
30 • **Workshops and Webinars on Research and Writing.** Our Library and Scribe Writing
31 Center work throughout the year to help students fine-tune their skills in research and
32 writing by presenting a series of workshops and webinars on topics like “Planning Your
33 Research and Writing Process,” “Discerning Misinformation and Disinformation, and
34 Fake News,” “Basics of Biblical Research,” “Research Conversations in Church
35 History,” and many more.
- 36 • **Ministry Lunches.** The Student Life team continually brings in local, regional, and
37 national ministry leaders to speak during lunch gatherings to help students learn about
38 opportunities for ministry in a variety of church and other settings. Topics range from
39 mercy ministry, campus ministry, and prison ministry, to church planting, disability
40 ministry, internship opportunities, and others.
- 41 • **Fundraising Seminars.** Recognizing the necessity for many ministries and ministry
42 positions in today’s world to raise financial support—an area not usually part of a
43 seminary curriculum—the Seminary’s Development team has for the last few years
44 run a series of workshops for students on the basics of fundraising for ministry. The
45 three-part series also provides guidance on how to develop a full-blown fundraising
46 plan.

- 1 • **Church Planting Field Trips.** As the need for called and trained church planters in
2 the PCA and beyond continues to increase, the Seminary’s annual Church Planting
3 Field Trip, formerly led by Professor Emeritus Dr. Phil Douglass and now led by
4 Dr. Robert Kim, has become a vital part of the process of church planting preparation.
5 Any student is eligible to attend the trip, which usually takes place in the fall to one of
6 several ongoing significant church planting efforts. The purpose is to introduce
7 students to what it is like to plant a church, hear from those who have experience in
8 doing so, and hopefully spark interest and a heart for future church planting.
- 9 • **Men’s Leadership Breakfast and Tea with Jerram.** The Men’s Leadership Breakfast,
10 which meets bi-weekly on Tuesday mornings during the semester, provides a light
11 breakfast and Bible study led by Covenant faculty for men in the St. Louis business
12 community, while Tea with Jerram offers a venue for literary-focused fellowship and
13 discussion for area women. These popular and well attended activities have been
14 highly successful in building ongoing relationships with the business community and
15 others in our area who may not have been previously aware of the Reformed
16 theological resources available to them through the Seminary.

17 18 **A Year of Special Events and Celebrations**

19 20 **Completing Our Celebration of FSI’s 30th Anniversary**

- 21 • **The 2019 Schaeffer Lectures.** Our yearlong celebration of the 30th Anniversary of
22 the Francis Schaeffer Institute (FSI) in 2019 featured several events that were
23 summarized in last year’s report to GA. That celebration culminated in October with
24 the 30th Annual Schaeffer Lectures entitled **Advancing Through Adversity:
25 Speaking of Jesus in Our Secular and (Nearly) Post-Christian Setting**, which
26 addressed the challenges and opportunities of proclaiming the good news of Jesus
27 Christ in a culture increasingly disinclined to hear it. Featured speakers included
28 **Dr. John Dickson**, author of *A Doubter’s Guide to Jesus*; **Dr. Alan Noble**, Assistant
29 Professor of English at Oklahoma Baptist University and Editor-in-Chief of the online
30 magazine *Christ and Pop Culture*; and **Dr. Thurman Williams**, Church Planting
31 Pastor at New City Fellowship–West End, St. Louis, Missouri; as well as workshop
32 speakers **Mark Meynell** of Langham Preaching; **Vanessa Hawkins**, Director of
33 Women’s Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Augusta, Georgia; **Al Dayhoff**,
34 Executive Director of Evangelize Today Ministries; **John Inazu**, Professor of Law
35 and Religion at Washington University in St. Louis; and **Jessica and Zack Eswine** of
36 our own Schaeffer Institute; all led and organized by **Prof. Mark Ryan**, Director of
37 FSI. Audio from the lectures and other FSI events is available through the Resources
38 section of our website. The **2020 Schaeffer Lectures** are currently planned for
39 **September 25–26**, with a focus on **The Symphony of Mission** and featuring **Rev. Jim
40 Mullins**, Pastor of Theological and Vocational Formation, Redemption Church,
41 Tempe, Arizona; **Dr. Michael Goheen**, Professor of Missional Theology at Covenant
42 Seminary and Director of Theological Education for the Missional Training Center–
43 Phoenix; along with other speakers to be determined.
- 44 • **Endowed Francis Schaeffer Chair of Apologetics.** The Schaeffer Lectures
45 concluded with a special presentation to FSI Founding Director **Prof. Jerram Barrs**

1 announcing him as the first official occupant of the **newly completed endowed**
2 **Francis Schaeffer Chair of Apologetics**. Established initially in 1997 with a generous
3 gift from **Mr. and Mrs. John and Ann Albritton**, whose son James served as one of
4 FSI’s first directors, the Chair was completed through the Seminary’s *Hope for the*
5 *Future* Capital Campaign by another generous gift from **Mr. and Mrs. Ed and**
6 **DeAnn Harris**. The completion of the Chair ensures that an FSI teaching position will
7 remain a fixture at Covenant Seminary permanently, enabling the principles and
8 practices that undergird the ministry of the Schaeffer Institute to have a continuing
9 impact on the training and preparation of generations of future church and Kingdom
10 leaders.

- 11 • ***Festschrift* Honoring Prof. Jerram Barrs**. Also as part of the Schaeffer Lectures
12 program, we presented Prof. Jerram Barrs with a copy of a newly published volume
13 entitled ***Firstfruits of a New Creation: Essays Honoring Jerram Barrs*** (White
14 Blackbird Books, 2019). Edited by Covenant alumnus **Doug Serven**, the volume
15 features fourteen essays by friends, colleagues, and former students of Prof. Barrs that
16 illustrate the biblical principles and grace-filled approach to apologetics and
17 evangelism that have been the hallmark of Jerram’s life and teaching. The book also
18 includes reflections and stories of Jerram’s love and influence from many more who
19 have been blessed to know him over the years.
- 20 • ***Covenant Magazine Special FSI Section***. The 2020 issue of *Covenant Magazine*
21 includes a special section highlighting the history of FSI, the legacy of Francis
22 Schaeffer, and reflections on 30 years of FSI at Covenant from founding Director **Prof.**
23 **Jerram Barrs** and current Director **Prof. Mark Ryan**.

24 25 **Covenant Seminary Preaching Lectures: Reflections on Preaching**

26 Preaching is key to the mission and ministry of the church. Preparing good preachers is one
27 of our main goals at Covenant Seminary. In addition to our Christ-centered, grace-focused,
28 and apologetically oriented preaching curriculum, the Seminary each year invites recognized
29 leaders in the field of homiletics to speak on topics relevant to communicating God’s Word
30 effectively in today’s world. **The 2019 Preaching Lectures** featured **Rev. Scott Sauls**, Senior
31 Pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Nashville, Tennessee, and author of *Irresistible*
32 *Faith*, speaking on the theme **God Have Mercy on You: Reflections on Preaching**.
33 Rev. Sauls focused on the need for gospel preaching to be undergirded by gospel character
34 and Kingdom faithfulness in order for preaching and pastoring to be credible and effective.
35 Lecture titles included “The Preacher’s Weariness,” “Make Christianity Irresistible Again,”
36 “The Preacher’s Rest,” and “The Preacher’s Call.” **The 2020 Preaching Lectures** are
37 scheduled for **October 6**, and will feature **Rev. Dr. Thurman Williams**, Church Planting
38 Pastor, New City Fellowship–West End, St. Louis, Missouri. Audio from past Preaching
39 Lectures is available online in the Resources section of our website.

40 41 **The Austin Harrington Counseling Lectures: Learning From Unwanted Behaviors**

42 The Austin Harrington Counseling Lectures, sponsored by the Seminary’s Counseling
43 Department, each year brings in notable authorities in the field of Christian counseling to
44 provide additional instruction and resources for those training to serve God’s people as pastors
45 and counselors. For 2020, the theme was **Learning From Unwanted Behaviors**, featuring

1 **Jay Stringer**, a licensed mental health counselor and researcher, and author of the recent book
2 *Unwanted: How Sexual Brokenness Reveals Our Way to Healing*, which was named Resource
3 of the Year in Counseling and Relationships by *Outreach* magazine. Mr. Stringer explored
4 the ways in which studying our unwanted behaviors can lead to insights that help foster the
5 process of mental, emotional, and spiritual healing. His lectures included “The Stories We
6 Don’t Want to Tell: You Can Take No One Further than You Have Gone Yourself,” “How
7 Did We Get Here? Connecting the Dots between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adult
8 Unwanted Behaviors,” “Why Do We Stay? Understanding the Meaning of Self-Destructive
9 Sexual Choices and What Sustains Them,” and “How Do We Get Out? Best Practices and
10 Resources for Facing Shame, Developing Self-Care, and Creating Transformative Communities.”
11 The Harrington Lectures were also part of our Professional Counselor Training Series (see
12 below). Audio from the lectures will be available online in the Resources section of our
13 website.

14 **The Professional Counselor Training Series, Year 2: Family Stories**

15 Our Professional Counselor Training Series, designed to provide professional counselors
16 licensed in the state of Missouri with opportunities for quality continuing education credits,
17 entered its second year with a focus on the theme of **Family Stories and Your Work with**
18 **Clients**. In addition to our annual Austin Harrington Counseling Lectures (see above), the
19 series featured Covenant’s counseling faculty speaking on topics such as “Attachment and
20 Families” (**Dr. Dan Zink**); “Apologies and Families” (**Dr. Jeremy Ruckstaetter**); “My
21 Family Story: Reflections on Anxiety, Perfectionism, Resilience, Grief, Aging, and Grace”
22 (**Dr. Richard Winter**); “Bi-Racial Adoption and Families” (**Prof. Suzanne Bates**); and
23 “Sexual Addiction and Families” (**Dr. Mark Pfuetze**). Each lecture session met for 1.5
24 hours on a Friday afternoon, with 30 minutes for networking beforehand. The goal of the
25 series is to **help Christian counselors think christianly about important topics** facing
26 counselors, their clients, and the church.

27 **CMI Conference: The Importance of Storytelling for God’s Mission**

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29 In March, our City Ministry Initiative (CMI) hosted a weekend conference based on the
30 theme **Tell Me a Story: Orality, Storytelling, and God’s Mission**. Featuring speakers
31 from **StoryRunners**, a ministry of Cru, the conference explored the nature of storytelling
32 and its importance of orality for bringing the gospel to the approximately 5.7 billion people
33 in the world who are oral preference learners and communicators, more than half of whom
34 are among unreached people groups. The conference helped equip God’s people to
35 understand orality, grapple with its importance for mission, and develop skills for making
36 use of oral methodologies in evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development. Local
37 practitioners provided additional workshops for context-specific issues. Audio from the
38 conference is available online in the Resources section of our website.

39 **Theological Fellowship at Covenant Seminary**

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41 The Theological Fellowship at Covenant Seminary, a student-led group under the oversight
42 of New Testament Professor Dr. Bob Yarbrough, continues to flourish as a training ground
43 for future theological scholars and teachers. Each January, the group hosts a theological
44 conference on campus that includes paper presentations from Covenant students and
45

1 professors, as well as contributions of those from other area seminaries and theological
2 schools. In 2020, the Fellowship hosted plenary speaker **Dr. Brian Matz**, Professor and CSJ
3 Endowed Chair, Fontbonne University, on the topic of **Doing Theology in the (Not) Dark**
4 **Ages**. Last year, in April 2019 (too late to be included in our report), the group also hosted a
5 special visit to our campus by **Dr. Thomas Schreiner**, Professor of New Testament at The
6 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who spoke on the topic of “The Benefits of
7 Justification.” The Fellowship is currently planning for the 10th Annual Theological
8 Conference to be held in January 2021.

9 10 **Edinburgh Summer School: Transformative Learning in a Unique Setting**

11 Covenant Seminary continues to partner with the **Chalmers Institute in St. Andrews** to
12 deliver a **week-long summer school** combining the best theological resources with
13 application to the church’s discipleship and mission. Previously held in Cambridge, England,
14 the summer school shifted in July 2019 to Edinburgh Scotland. This unique opportunity for
15 pastors, scholars, and others to deepen their theological learning and insight helped students
16 gain a deeper understanding of who God is, what he has called us to do as his people, how we
17 can understand the Bible, and how to engage our neighbors with his life-giving message. The
18 2019 edition featured **Dr. Jack Collins** teaching a track on the **Psalms and Wisdom**
19 **Literature**, while **Prof. Jerram Barrs** and **Dr. Mark Stirling** (director of the Chalmers
20 Institute) led a track on **Engaging Contemporary Challenges to Christianity**. Unfortunately,
21 the 2020 edition of the Summer School has been cancelled due to concerns about COVID-19.

22 23 **Lunch with Recording Artist and Composer Keith Getty**

24 In December 2019, the Seminary provided a special treat for lovers of Christian music as we
25 were able to host a **limited-space luncheon** with celebrated hymn writer, recording artist, and
26 performer **Keith Getty**, who was already in town for an installment of “Sing! An Irish
27 Christmas” concert with his wife and hymn-writing collaborator, Kristyn, at the Stifel Theatre.
28 Mr. Getty spoke briefly about the history of hymnody and how he and his wife have created
29 a catalogue of songs that teach Christian doctrine while crossing the genres of traditional,
30 classical, folk and contemporary composition. The luncheon was a truly unique opportunity
31 to learn from one of the most influential Christian music artists of our time.

32 33 **A Year of Scholarly/Pastoral Service and Professional Transitions**

34 35 **Faculty Publications and Kingdom Service**

36 The Lord has blessed Covenant Seminary with a distinctive and distinguished faculty whose
37 academic excellence and pastoral focus make them uniquely qualified to prepare the next
38 generation of leaders for Christ’s church and Kingdom. Our faculty’s influence reaches far
39 beyond the classroom: professors mentor and disciple students, participate in the life of local
40 congregations, share their teaching and preaching abilities with the larger church in the U.S.
41 and around the world, and engage with our culture and the pressing issues of our day from a
42 biblically sound and gospel-centered perspective. In addition to the sampling of recent
43 publications and other activities listed below, several of our faculty, and some of our alumni,
44 contributed articles and reflections to the Seminary’s blog, *Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy*, which
45 debuted last year (see www.covenantseminary.edu/theology/).

- 1 • **Dr. Brian Aucker**, Professor of Old Testament, Director of ThM Program
 - 2 ○ Preached ordination sermon for Covenant graduate David Barnes at First
 - 3 Presbyterian Church of Prattville, Alabama, in November 2019.
- 4 • **Prof. Jerram Barrs**, Professor of Christian Studies and Contemporary Culture and
- 5 Senior Scholar-in-Residence for the Francis Schaeffer Institute
 - 6 ○ Preached for the 50th Anniversary of Grace and Peace Fellowship in St. Louis and
 - 7 spoke at the Speaking the Truth in Love conference celebrating Francis Schaeffer
 - 8 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in St. Louis.
 - 9 ○ Led a study tour to Israel for Seminary friends and supporters; taught week-long
 - 10 class in Edinburgh, Scotland, as part of our partnership with the Chalmers Institute;
 - 11 and preached for the Independent Presbyterian Church in Liss, UK.
 - 12 ○ Used sabbatical in fall 2019 to work on a book on the life and ministry of Francis
 - 13 Schaeffer.
- 14 • **Prof. Suzanne Bates**, Assistant Professor of Counseling
 - 15 ○ Published “The Need and Blessing of Reconciliation and Justice for the African
 - 16 American Single Mom,” as a chapter in *Co-Laborers, Co-Heirs: A Family*
 - 17 *Conversation*, edited by B. Smith and D. Serven (Storied Publishing, 2019).
 - 18 ○ Lectured on “Bi-Racial Adoption and Families” as part of 2020 Professional
 - 19 Counselor Training Series; spoke on parenting issues at a church in Richmond,
 - 20 Virginia; and served as a panelist in conference breakout sessions on anxiety and
 - 21 sexuality.
 - 22 ○ Serves on the Board of Restore St. Louis Ministries of New City Fellowship in
 - 23 St. Louis.
- 24 • **Dr. Hans Bayer**, Professor of New Testament
 - 25 ○ Published a reprint of his book *Apostolic Bedrock* (Paternoster, 2016) as *Peter as*
 - 26 *Apostolic Bedrock: Christology and Discipleship according to His Canonical*
 - 27 *Testimony* (Wipf & Stock, 2019); contributed comments on Mark for the *ESV*
 - 28 *Gospel Transformation Study Bible* (Crossway, 2019); and completed a
 - 29 commentary on Mark for the *ESV Bible Expository Commentary* (Crossway,
 - 30 forthcoming in 2021).
 - 31 ○ Co-authored (with Richard Winter) “Gradual Sanctification,” as a chapter in
 - 32 *Reformational Counseling: Confessional, Catholic, and Compassionate*, edited by
 - 33 E. L. Johnson and K. S. Whitfield (Crossway, forthcoming).
 - 34 ○ Working on a fourth, fully revised edition of *Das Evangelium des Markus*
 - 35 (Brockhaus/Brunnen, 2008; ²2013, ³2018) and a Russian translation of the book
 - 36 (both forthcoming), as well as a planned German commentary on 1 Peter.
 - 37 ○ Presented lectures for a 28-hour intensive course on The Life and Teaching of
 - 38 Peter in Kiev, Ukraine, and for a 45-hour intensive course on New Testament
 - 39 Theology at the German branch of Columbia International University in Stuttgart.
- 40 • **Dr. David B. Calhoun**, Professor Emeritus of Church History
 - 41 ○ Published “George Washington Carver (1864 –1943): ‘God Just Came Into My
 - 42 Heart One Sunday Afternoon,’” in *Presbyterion* 45, no. 1 (Spring 2019), and
 - 43 “William Tennent and the Log College,” in *The Banner of Truth*, Issue 675
 - 44 (December 2019).

- 1 ○ Submitted two books to Banner of Truth Trust for upcoming publication: *Swift and*
2 *Beautiful*, a collection of biographical sketches of faithful missionaries, and *A*
3 *Sheep Remembers*, an exposition of Psalm 23 combined with personal reflections
4 on Dr. Calhoun’s life.
- 5 • **Dr. David W. Chapman**, Professor of New Testament and Archaeology
- 6 ○ Published corrected American edition of his earlier *The Trial and Crucifixion of*
7 *Jesus: Texts and Commentary*, co-authored with Eckhard J. Schnabel (Hendrickson,
8 2019); also published “Crucifixion,” in *T&T Clark Encyclopedia of Second Temple*
9 *Judaism*, edited by D. M. Gurtner and L. T. Stuckenbruck (T&T Clark, 2019).
- 10 ○ Published reviews of Nijay K. Gupta, *1 & 2 Thessalonians*, in *Presbyterion* 45,
11 no. 2 (Fall 2019), and *The Language and Literature of the New Testament: Essays*
12 *in Honor of Stanley E. Porter’s 60th Birthday*, edited by L. K. Fuller et al., in
13 *Bulletin of Biblical Research* 29, no. 3 (2019).
- 14 ○ Together with Dr. Tasha Chapman, ministered to and encouraged missionaries and
15 their families in Japan for five weeks in summer 2019 through multiple sermons,
16 archaeological events, Bible study training, and a week-long class on 1 Thessalonians
17 at Christ Bible Seminary in Nagoya.
- 18 ○ Conducted Bible study training classes at local St. Louis churches and taught
19 classes on Biblical Geography, Biblical Archaeology, and NT Theology at Sangre
20 de Cristo Seminary in Westcliffe, Colorado, in July–August.
- 21 ○ Led a study tour to Israel for Seminary students and alumni in January 2019.
- 22 • **Dr. Tasha Chapman**, Professor of Educational Ministries
- 23 ○ Wrote article on oral Bible-study methods and exegetical issues (forthcoming);
24 and created devotional Bible studies on leadership and revised workshop
25 curriculum as supplementary material for the book *The Politics of Ministry*.
- 26 ○ Made preparations for fifth Covenant Women in Europe Retreat in Hungary in
27 June 2020.
- 28 ○ Together with Dr. David Chapman, ministered to and encouraged missionaries and
29 their families in Japan for five weeks last summer, including teaching a week-long
30 intensive course for Christ Bible Seminary on Resilient Ministry.
- 31 ○ Did podcast interviews on “Resiliency: What it Means to Thrive...Not Just
32 Survive” for CDM’s *enCourage* women’s ministry, and on “The Politics of
33 Ministry” for Generation 2 Generation at Grace Blue Ridge, North Carolina; and
34 an interview (along with Bob Burns and Donald Guthrie) with *byFaith* on “All of
35 Life is Politics: Learn to Navigate it Wisely,” based on book *The Politics of*
36 *Ministry*.
- 37 ○ Consulted with RBI Board on pastoral sustainability for new program
38 development; with MTW recruiting team on student barriers to going overseas for
39 mission; with Westminster Christian Academy in St. Louis’s Bible curriculum
40 committee; and with Dr. Dan Doriani for curriculum for Faith and Work Institute.
- 41 ○ Taught on “Resiliency in Our Christian Walk” and “Stewardship of Self” at
42 women’s retreats and other venues.
- 43 • **Dr. C. John “Jack” Collins**, Professor of Old Testament
- 44 ○ Published “How Does the Hebrew Bible Speak about God’s Actions in the
45 World?” in *Presbyterion* 45, no. 1 (Spring 2019); “May We Say That Adam and

- 1 Eve ‘Fell’? A Study of a Term and Its Metaphoric Nature,” in *Presbyterion* 46,
2 no. 2 (Spring 2020); and “The Place of the ‘Fall’ in the Overall Vision of the
3 Hebrew Bible,” in *Trinity Journal* 40 (Fall 2019).
- 4 ○ Published “The New Covenant and Redemptive History,” in *Faithful Ministry: An*
5 *Ecclesial Festschrift in Honor of the Rev. Dr. Robert S. Rayburn*, edited by M.
6 Rogland (Wipf & Stock, 2019); and “Freedoms and Limitations: C. S. Lewis and
7 Francis Schaeffer as a Tag Team,” in *Firstfruits of a New Creation: Essays*
8 *Honoring Jerram Barrs*, edited by D. Serven (White Blackbird Books, 2019).
 - 9 ○ Wrote several other articles soon to appear: “The Glass is Half Full: A Response
10 to Luke Timothy Johnson’s Miracles” (*Sapientia*); “Miracles” (Gospel Coalition’s
11 *Concise Theology*); “Divine Action in the Hebrew Bible” (forthcoming collection
12 edited by Dr. Collins).
 - 13 ○ Working on commentaries on Numbers (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on
14 the Old Testament) and Psalms (ESV Bible Expository Commentary).
- 15 ● **Dr. Dan Doriani**, Vice President at Large and Professor of Biblical and Systematic
16 Theology
 - 17 ○ Published “Exploring and Discipling Our Emotions,” in *Presbyterion* 45, no. 2
18 (Fall 2019); and “The Wonders and Dangers of Sports,” in *byFaith* (Fall 2019).
 - 19 ○ Published the books *Work: Its Purpose, Dignity, and Transformation* (P&R,
20 2019); *James: Portrait of a Living Faith* (P&R, 2019), co-authored with Jon
21 Nielson; and the chapter “I’m Under the Fire of Criticism,” in *Faithful Endurance:*
22 *The Joy of Shepherding People for a Lifetime*, edited by C. Hansen and J. Robinson
23 (Crossway, 2019).
 - 24 ○ Wrote multiple blog posts on various topics, was a guest on several podcasts and
25 webinars, and wrote several book reviews for *Presbyterion*.
 - 26 ○ Spoke widely on behalf of the Seminary and represented Covenant as a speaker or
27 in other functions all over America and often abroad a total of more than 90 times
28 last year.
 - 29 ○ Served on study committees at the Presbytery and General Assembly levels.
 - 30 ● **Dr. Zack Eswine**, Director of Homiletics and Scholar-in-Residence for the Francis
31 Schaeffer Institute
 - 32 ○ Published “Preaching Lament at Christmas” as part of Preaching Today’s Keeping
33 Christmas Sermons Fresh series; “What if Pastors Were More Like Doctors?” for
34 The Gospel Coalition; “How to Avoid Accumulated Fatigue,” for The Gospel
35 Project; the chapter “Faithful in Sorrow,” in *12 Faithful Men: Portraits of*
36 *Courageous Endurance in Pastoral Ministry*, edited by C. Hansen and J. Robinson
37 (Baker, 2018).
 - 38 ○ Published a Portuguese version of his book *The Imperfect Pastor*, a Spanish
39 version of his book *Spurgeon’s Sorrows*, and wrote study notes for the *ESV*
40 *Women’s Study Bible*.
 - 41 ○ Presented lecture on “Developing a Culture of Apologetics and Outreach in a Local
42 Church” with Jessica Eswine, Adjunct Professor of Integrated Apologetics, at
43 2019 Francis Schaeffer Lectures; and spoke regularly at conferences and churches
44 across the US and globally on issues related to pastoral ministry, leadership,
45 depression, and the hard questions of gospel and culture.

- 1 ○ Taught DMin classes for Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Phoenix
2 Seminary, and Western Seminary; and teaches annually at the Missional Training
3 Center–Phoenix.
- 4 ○ Served on Boards for Webster Groves Alliance for Interracial Dignity, Webster-
5 Rock Hill Ministries, and is a member of the Webster Groves Clergy Alliance for
6 Racial Equality.
- 7 ○ Continues to serve as Lead Pastor for Riverside Church (EPC) in Webster Groves,
8 Missouri.
- 9 ● **Dr. Michael Goheen**, Professor of Missional Theology and Director of Theological
10 Education at the Missional Training Center–Phoenix
- 11 ○ Published “A Conversation with N. T. Wright about a Missional Hermeneutic and
12 Public Truth,” in *Presbyterion* 45, no. 2 (Fall 2019); *The Symphony of Mission:
13 Playing Your Part in God’s Orchestra* (Baker, 2019), with Jim Mullins; and
14 translations of several previous works: *Introducing Christian Mission Today*
15 (Portuguese), *A Light to the Nations* (Chinese), *Christian Philosophy* (Korean),
16 and *The Drama of Scripture* (Farsi).
- 17 ○ Published book chapters: Qué es el evangelio? [“What is the Gospel?”], in *Un
18 Núcleo de Vida Evangélica para el Siglo XXI: Reflexiones y Desafíos a Propósito
19 de Los 150 Años del Presbiterianismo Chileno*, edited by J. Munoz (Iglesia
20 Presbiteriana de Chile Ediciones, 2019); and “God’s Mission: An Invitation to
21 Participate in the Redemption of Individuals and the Renewal of All Things,” in
22 *Whatever You Do: Six Foundations for an Integrated Life*, edited by L. Bobo
23 (Made to Flourish, 2019).
- 24 ○ Made numerous presentations on a variety of mission-related topics at conferences,
25 churches, and seminaries, and for other ministries and institutions across the US and
26 in Brazil, Chile, and Hungary.
- 27 ○ Involved deeply in Surge Network of Phoenix churches in a variety of ways.
- 28 ● **Dr. Robbie Griggs**, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology
- 29 ○ Faculty sponsor for Center for Pastor Theologians student fellowship group.
- 30 ○ Member, Henry Center Regional Fellowship Discussion Group.
- 31 ○ Co-led Israel study tour for Seminary students and alumni with Dr. David
32 Chapman.
- 33 ○ Served as Editor of Basics in Christian Ethics series for P&R Publishing.
- 34 ○ Served as backup preacher for Riverside Church in Webster Groves, Missouri, and
35 as a Board member for YoungLife in Kirkwood/Webster.
- 36 ○ Spoke at men’s retreats and taught Sunday school for several local churches, and
37 was a presenter at the PCA’s 2019 General Assembly.
- 38 ● **Dr. Robert Kim**, Philip and Rebecca Douglass Chair of Church Planting and Christian
39 Formation and Assistant Professor of Applied Theology and Church Planting
- 40 ○ Published the devotional *Jesus’ Parables on Justice: Philadelphia Pastors’
41 Reflections* in collaboration with American Bible Society.
- 42 ○ Spoke at various conferences throughout the year, including InterVarsity,
43 Reformed University Fellowship, and the 2019 Francis Schaeffer Lectures.

- 1 • **Dr. Brad Matthews**, Associate Professor of New Testament
2 ○ Published review of Scot McKnight, *The Letter to the Colossians*, NICNT, in
3 *Presbyterion* 45, no. 1 (Spring 2019); and “Triumph in Colossians 2:15: Christ’s
4 Victory in a Culture of Polarization,” in *Presbyterion* 45, no. 2 (Fall 2019).
5 ○ Spoke at several men’s retreats locally and nationally; and led Sunday school
6 ministry at South City Church in St. Louis.
- 7 • **Rev. Jim Pakala**, Library Director
8 ○ Published ongoing series of “A Librarian’s Comments on Commentaries” in
9 *Presbyterion* (Spring 2019—Judges; Fall 2019—Romans and Ruth), as well as
10 several book reviews.
- 11 • **Dr. Mark Pfuetze**, Assistant Professor of Counseling
12 ○ Presented lecture on “EMDR and Trauma” for the 2019 Professional Counselor
13 Training Series, and “Sexual Addiction and Families” for the 2020 edition of the
14 series.
15 ○ Working on an article on trauma/stuttering/EMDR.
16 ○ Serving as Interim Co-Director of the Seminary’s Master of Arts in Counseling
17 (MAC) program, with Dr. Jeremy Ruckstaetter.
18 ○ Attended Serge Missionary Conference in June 2020 to offer counseling support,
19 potential teaching, and encouragement.
- 20 • **Dr. Jeremy Ruckstaetter**, Associate Professor of Counseling
21 ○ Presented lecture on “Apologies and Families” as part of the 2020 Professional
22 Counselor Training Series.
23 ○ Serving as Interim Co-Director of the Seminary’s Master of Arts in Counseling
24 (MAC) program, with Dr. Mark Pfuetze.
25 ○ Leading the MAC program’s CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling
26 and Related Educational Programs) certification process.
27 ○ Working on articles on lament and counseling.
28 ○ Serving on the Board of Presbyterian Mission International, and as Support Group
29 Coordinator and on the worship team at Chesterfield Presbyterian Church.
- 30 • **Dr. Jay Sklar**, Vice President of Academics and Professor of Old Testament
31 ○ Completed *Numbers* for the Zondervan Story of God Commentary Series and
32 *Leviticus* for the Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament Series
33 (both forthcoming).
34 ○ Occasionally leads worship at Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church.
- 35 • **Dr. Michael Williams**, Professor of Systematic Theology
36 ○ Published “Story Summaries: Key Points for Understanding the Bible’s Big Story
37 and Our Place within It,” in *Presbyterion* 45, no. 1 (Spring 2019), and “‘For You
38 Are With Me’: Physical Anthropology and the Intermediate State,” in *Presbyterion*
39 45, no. 2 (Fall 2019).
40 ○ Served on committees for Missouri Presbytery.
- 41 • **Dr. Richard Winter**, Professor Emeritus of Counseling
42 ○ Published “The Pursuit of Excellence and the Perils of Perfectionism” as a chapter
43 in *Sport, Psychology, and Christianity: Welfare, Performance, and Consultancy*,
44 edited by B. Hemmings, N. J. Watson, and A. Parker (Routledge, 2019).
45 ○ Co-authored (with Hans Bayer) “Gradual Sanctification,” as a chapter in

- 1 *Reformational Counseling: Confessional, Catholic, and Compassionate*, edited by
2 E. L. Johnson and K. S. Whitfield (Crossway, forthcoming).
- 3 ○ Presented lecture on “My Family Story: Reflections on Themes of Anxiety,
4 Perfectionism, Resilience, Grief, Aging, and Grace” as part of 2020 Professional
5 Counselor Training Series.
- 6 • **Dr. Robert W. Yarbrough**, Professor of New Testament
- 7 ○ Serves as Editor for *Presbyterion*, the Seminary’s academic journal.
- 8 ○ Published *Clash of Visions: Populism and Elitism in New Testament Theology*
9 (Mentor, 2019), and wrote exposition for *Romans* in the ESV Bible Expository
10 Commentary Series (Crossway, forthcoming).
- 11 ○ Published “Salvation History” as a chapter in *God’s Glory Revealed in Christ:
12 Essays on Biblical Theology in Honor of Thomas R. Schreiner*, edited by D. Burk,
13 J. Hamilton, and B. Vickers (B&H Academic, 2019); as well as numerous book
14 reviews for *JETS*, *Bulletin for Biblical Research*, and others; editorials and other
15 items for *Presbyterion*; and various blog posts and newsletter articles.
- 16 ○ Taught classes for pastors in Hong Kong, South Africa, and Haiti; and conducted
17 men’s retreats, a wedding, taught adult education classes, and preached at various
18 local and regional churches, including the ordination sermons for two Covenant
19 graduates.
- 20 • **Dr. Dan Zink**, Professor of Counseling
- 21 ○ Presented lecture on “Attachment and Families” as part of 2020 Professional
22 Counselor Training Series.
- 23 ○ Was on sabbatical for part of the current academic year planning for projected
24 writing projects.

25 **Faculty / Staff Updates**

26 The Lord’s greatest gift to Covenant Seminary is the people who serve here as faculty, staff,
27 or trustees. We have been particularly blessed in this regard, as the following updates on our
28 personnel indicate.
29

- 30
- 31 • **Dr. Hans Bayer**, Professor of New Testament, who has been with the Seminary since
32 1994, announced last fall that he would be **retiring at the end of the 2019–2020**
33 **academic year**. Born and raised in Germany, Professor Bayer came to Covenant
34 Seminary after teaching for ten years at the German Theological Seminary at Giessen,
35 where he also planted and co-pastored a church. His expertise in critical scholarship,
36 commitment to the authority and unity of the Scriptures, and personal interest in world
37 mission and evangelism have made Dr. Bayer a wonderful example of our faculty’s
38 pastor-scholar model. Dr. Bayer lectures and preaches regularly in the US and Europe,
39 and has published English and German commentaries, monographs, essays, and
40 dictionary articles, primarily on the Gospels and the book of Acts. He has contributed
41 to the ESV Study Bible, produced video lectures on Acts for Third Millennium
42 Ministries, and is known for his expertise on the Gospel of Mark and the theme of
43 discipleship as portrayed by Mark through the testimony of Peter. Dr. Bayer’s kind
44 heart, gentle humor, excellent scholarship, and gospel-centered, pastoral focus have
45 shaped and influenced hundreds of church and Kingdom leaders over the last quarter

1 of a century. We will miss his warm presence on campus, but wish him and his wife,
2 Susan, well as they spend more time with family and begin the next chapter of their
3 life in service to the Lord.

- 4 • **Ms. Lindsey DeJong**, formerly with our Admissions team, became **Associate Dean**
5 **of Students** with Student Life in July 2019, where she now assists the Dean of
6 Students in a variety of ways, particularly by counseling and shepherding female
7 students. A 2012 graduate of the MAC program, Lindsey began her new role following
8 nine years in the Seminary’s Admissions office, first as an Admissions Representative
9 and later as Assistant Director. After earning a degree in English literature, she came
10 to Covenant for an MA in Counseling and is now a Licensed Professional Counselor
11 (LPC) in the state of Missouri.
- 12 • **Ms. Heather Gargis** joined our Admissions staff in fall 2019 as the **Campus Visit**
13 **Coordinator**. Heather is a 2019 graduate of our MAC program and hails originally
14 from Huntsville, Alabama. Before moving to St. Louis to attend Covenant, she worked
15 for Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) as an intern at Virginia Tech. In addition
16 to her work with Covenant, she is also a trauma therapist at Oasis Counseling Services
17 in St. Louis, specializing in somatic experiencing (a body-centered approach to healing
18 trauma). As Campus Visit Coordinator, she has the opportunity to dream with
19 prospective students and help them discern if the Lord is calling them to seminary.
- 20 • **Dr. Robbie Griggs**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology since 2017, was
21 named **Associate Professor of Systematic Theology** in January 2020. Dr. Griggs first
22 joined us in 2016 as Adjunct Professor of Theology. He holds a PhD in New Testament
23 from Durham University and has served as a tutor in biblical studies for the Lindisfarne
24 Regional Training Partnership. He also holds an MDiv from Covenant Seminary as
25 well as a BA in philosophy and a BS in finance from the University of Missouri-
26 Columbia. An expert in New Testament theology and early Jewish theology, his
27 research focuses on Paul’s theology of grace in Galatians in comparison with
28 contemporary Jewish theologies of God as “giver.” Prof. Griggs served as a pastor in
29 St. Louis for eight years at Central Presbyterian Church (EPC).
- 30 • **Dr. Mike Higgins**, who served as Dean of Students since 2011, moved to the newly
31 created role of **Seminary Chaplain** in July 2019. The position is designed to maximize
32 Dr. Higgins’s gifts in the area of pastoral care and counsel as he serves the Seminary
33 community, while also accommodating his lead pastor role in a local PCA church and
34 an increased speaking schedule as he meets with alumni and others in the
35 denomination. He also continues to teach occasional courses as an Adjunct Professor
36 of Applied Theology. Higgins (MDiv ’96, DMin ’12) came to Covenant in 1992 as a
37 student, then served as a PCA pastor in Tennessee and Georgia before returning to the
38 Seminary as Dean of Students in 2011. He is also a retired US Army Chaplain (with
39 the rank of colonel) who had an assignment at the Pentagon, among many other roles.
- 40 • **Dr. Robert Kim** was appointed to the Seminary’s **Philip and Rebecca Douglass**
41 **Chair of Church Planting and Christian Formation**, along with an appointment as
42 full-time **Assistant Professor of Applied Theology**, beginning in fall 2019. He also
43 assumed directorship of the Church Planting Track of our Master of Divinity program,
44 which had been overseen in an interim capacity by Dr. Murray Lee of Cahaba Park
45 Church after the retirement of long-time professor and church-planting mentor Dr. Phil

1 Douglass. Dr. Kim brings to his position a lifetime of ministry and mission experience.
2 In 2006, he planted Gracepoint Church in Philadelphia, serving as Lead Pastor for 12
3 years and overseeing daughter plant, Gracepoint North, in 2016. As Coordinator of the
4 Metro Philadelphia Church Planting Partnership, he provided church planters with
5 guidance for every aspect of church planting. He holds a BA in sociology from the
6 University of California, Irvine; an MDiv from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary;
7 a ThM in intercultural studies from Fuller Theological Seminary; and a DMin in
8 church development from Reformed Theological Seminary.

- 9 • **Mr. Jeremy Main**, Director of Field Education since 2017, was also named as the
10 new **Director for the Seminary’s City Ministry Initiative (CMI)**, assuming those
11 duties in the fall of 2019. He continues to oversee the Field Ed program and teach
12 classes as an Adjunct Professor of Educational Ministries. Main, a 2015 graduate of
13 Covenant’s Master of Arts in Educational Ministries (MAEM) program, brings to his
14 new role a wealth of experience in higher education, urban ministry leadership
15 development, and community partnership development. With three MA degrees—in
16 urban affairs (Saint Louis University), political science (University of Missouri–St.
17 Louis), and educational ministries (Covenant Seminary)—Main is also completing a
18 Doctor of Transformational Leadership (DTL) from Bakke Graduate University. His
19 dissertation focuses on seminary-community collaborations for urban ministry
20 leadership and community development. Main is a ruling elder at Midtown Church
21 (PCA) in St. Louis.
- 22 • **Mr. Mark McElmurry**, Associate Dean of Students for the past ten years, became
23 **Dean of Students** in July 2019, as former Dean Dr. Mike Higgins moved into the role
24 of Seminary Chaplain (see above). McElmurry, a 2009 MAC graduate, spent 15 years
25 in campus ministry with the Navigators before coming to Covenant. In addition to
26 overseeing Student Life and its activities, McElmurry continues to shepherd first-year
27 Master of Divinity students as they train for ministry, as well as oversee the cohort
28 group system that he helped to create. MDiv cohort groups help students pursue
29 emotional and spiritual growth alongside their work in the classroom. McElmurry has
30 a lengthy history of pursuing spiritual growth in others and loves to help strengthen
31 Christian leaders and their families to stay in ministry for a lifetime.
- 32 • **Dr. Mark Pfuetze**, Assistant Professor of Counseling, and **Dr. Jeremy Ruckstaetter**,
33 Associate Professor of Counseling, will serve as **Interim Co-Directors of the Master
34 of Arts in Counseling (MAC) program** beginning this summer as current Director
35 Dr. Dan Zink steps out of his administrative role to return to full-time teaching and
36 pursue more writing opportunities (see below). Dr. Pfuetze and Dr. Ruckstaetter are
37 both graduates of the MAC program and have taught at Covenant for several years,
38 Pfuetze since 2012 and Ruckstaetter since 2016. Both are licensed professional
39 counselors with extensive experience in helping clients deal with issues in many
40 different personal and professional areas. And both are PhD alumni of schools
41 associated with the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related
42 Educational Programs (CACREP)—the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Regent
43 University in Virginia Beach, VA, respectively—providing strong intercollegiate
44 connections that will benefit the Seminary’s own pursuit of CACREP accreditation.

- 1 • **Dr. Dan Zink**, Professor of Counseling and, since 2018, Director of the Master of Arts
2 in Counseling (MAC) program, will **step out of his director role at the end of this**
3 **academic year to return to full-time teaching** and pursue more writing
4 opportunities. Dr. Zink joined our faculty full-time in 1995 after five years as Adjunct
5 Professor of Counseling and Director of Student Services. He assumed the lead role
6 of the Counseling program on an interim basis in 2016 when the program’s founder,
7 Dr. Richard Winter, retired after 24 years at the helm, and became Director two years
8 later. As Dr. Zink anticipates his own retirement in the next three to four years, he
9 requested a return to full-time teaching in the department in order to focus more on
10 writing and “capture some ideas that have been percolating now for many years.”
11 Dr. Zink’s enthusiastic leadership of the MAC program and his heart for shepherding
12 and counseling those who shepherd and counsel others have left an indelible mark on
13 the MAC program and on the many students, faculty, and staff who are blessed to
14 interact with him on a daily basis. We praise God that even though he is stepping down
15 as Director, he will continue to teach and inspire us for a few more years.

16 **Board / Advisory Board Updates**

- 17 • No first-time members were added to our Board of Trustees for 2019–2020.
18 • Board members **Ron McNalley** and **Chris Harper** each completed a second
19 consecutive term of service and **entered a mandatory roll-off year for 2019–2020**,
20 during which they served on the Seminary’s Advisory Board. Board member **Craig**
21 **Stephenson** moved to Advisory status as well.
22 • Board members **Paul Stoll** and **Gif Thornton** returned to the Board of Trustees after
23 serving on the Advisory Board for a year. They were elected at GA in 2019 as the
24 Class of 2023.
25 • Board members **Hugh Barlett**, **Bill Bennett**, **Jonathan Seda**, and **Frank Wicks** were
26 nominated in 2019–2020 to continue for a second term to the Class of 2023.
27 • The Advisory Board added several new members for 2019–2020: **James Albritton**,
28 **Christine Gordon**, **Donald Guthrie**, **Clay Holland**, and **Jennifer Stegmann**, while
29 members **Susie Graham**, **DeAnn Harris**, **Tyler Johnson**, and **Jim Mullins** stepped
30 off.

31 **A Year of Financial Growth and Stability**

32 **Capital Campaign Firstfruits**

33 The *Hope for the Future* Capital Campaign continues to flourish and is rapidly approaching
34 the \$40 million campaign goal. Over the last four years the Lord has used the campaign to
35 grow the size of the Seminary’s endowment, which has already been an incredible support to
36 key areas within the institution through the four main “pillars” of the campaign: (1) equipping
37 students for future generations (2) through a faculty of pastor-scholars (3) for leadership and
38 service in God’s church and Kingdom (4) in the context of community. The campaign has
39 borne much fruit already, as noted in other sections of this year’s (and last year’s) report.

- 40 • The establishment of the **Church Planting Track of our MDiv** program and the
41 **Philip and Rebecca Douglass Chair of Church Planting and Christian Formation**
42 to ensure the continued training of called and qualified church planters for the PCA
43 and beyond. See last year’s report for more details.
44
45

- 1 • The appointment of **Dr. Robert Kim**, Assistant Professor of Applied Theology and
2 Church Planting, to the **Douglass Chair** in 2019 as the successor to Dr. Phil Douglass,
3 for whom the Chair is named and who served as the first to occupy it. Dr. Kim also
4 oversees the Church Planting Track as part of his duties.
- 5 • Completion this year of the **Francis Schaeffer Chair of Apologetics** and the official
6 appointment of **Prof. Jerram Barrs**, Founding Director and current Senior Scholar-
7 in-Residence of the Francis Schaeffer Institute, as the first occupant of the Chair.
- 8 • The campaign has so far **raised more than \$5 million to further support scholarship**
9 **assistance** for Covenant Seminary students, including the **establishment of several**
10 **permanent scholarships**, thus strengthening our ability to help students graduate and
11 transition into ministry without a heavy burden debt.

12 We look forward to reporting next year on more of the Lord’s many blessings to Covenant
13 Seminary through the generous donors to this campaign.

14 **Conclusion**

15 We are grateful to be the denominational seminary for the PCA and value greatly the
16 partnerships we have in ministry with our sister PCA agencies and churches. It is a joy and a
17 blessing to serve our denomination with them. We look forward to further exploring these
18 partnership opportunities and planning together for the future as we seek to foster greater
19 denominational unity for the good of the church and the expansion of the gospel. Our sincere
20 desire is to glorify the Lord together as we all seek to bless Christ’s people, grow Christ’s
21 church, and expand Christ’s Kingdom—all for Christ’s glory. Thank you for your support and
22 prayers, and thank you for sharing with us in the exciting things the Lord is doing in and
23 through the PCA and beyond.

24
25
26 Respectfully submitted,
27 **Dr. Mark Dalbey**,
28 President

29 **Recommendations**

- 30 1. That the General Assembly give thanks to God for the ministry of Covenant Theological
31 Seminary; for its faithfulness to the Scriptures, the Reformed faith, and the Great
32 Commission; for its students, graduates, faculty, staff, and trustees; and for those who
33 support the Seminary through their prayers and gifts.
- 34 2. That the General Assembly encourage the congregations of the Presbyterian Church in
35 America to support the ministry of Covenant Theological Seminary by contributing the
36 Partnership Shares approved by the Assembly, and by recommending Covenant Seminary
37 to prospective students.
- 38 3. That the General Assembly ask the Lord to bless Covenant Seminary’s President,
39 Dr. Mark Dalbey, and grant him and the Seminary’s leadership team, faculty, and Board
40 of Trustees great wisdom, biblical faithfulness, and clear vision as they seek to lead the
41 institution forward in training fruitful ministerial leaders.
- 42 4. That the General Assembly ask God to guide Covenant Seminary’s ongoing efforts at
43 recruiting new students, evaluating and strengthening our programs, and seeking to make
44 the Seminary a greater resource for the church both locally and globally.
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Covenant Theological Seminary – Report to 48th General Assembly

- 1 5. That the General Assembly ask God’s blessing on the Seminary’s planning and
2 fundraising efforts, and on its attempts to recruit a new generation of dedicated pastor-
3 scholars to train new generations of leaders for Christ’s church and Kingdom.
- 4 6. That the General Assembly continue to pray for the development of Covenant Seminary’s
5 existing strategic educational partnerships—in Nashville, Phoenix, and Edinburgh; with
6 NEXT; with NXGEN Pastors; and with Stephanie Hubach’s work in disability ministries—
7 and provide opportunities for new ones that might help us be a greater blessing to the
8 church and to those preparing to lead and serve faithfully wherever God calls them.
- 9 7. That the General Assembly pray for unity among the brethren of the PCA and ask the Lord
10 to work in all our hearts to foster a deeper desire to engage with one another and the world
11 in compassionate and gospel-centered ways, and that we might bear strong witness to the
12 truth and power of God’s redeeming grace.
- 13 8. That the General Assembly approve the minutes of the stated and called meetings of the
14 Seminary’s Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for the
15 year as follows:
 - 16 • *Stated Board Meetings*: April 26, 2019; September 27, 2019; January 31, 2020
 - 17 • *Called Board Meetings*: None
 - 18 • *Stated Executive Committee Meetings*: December 6, 2019; March 6, 2020
 - 19 • *Called Executive Committee Meetings*: April 25, 2019; September 26, 2019;
20 January 22, 2020; January 30, 2020
- 21 9. That the financial audit for Covenant Theological Seminary for the fiscal year ending
22 June 30, 2019, by Capin Crouse LLC, be received.
- 23 10. That the proposed 2020–21 budget of Covenant Theological Seminary be approved.