



New Theological Seminary of the West

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December 2014

Issue Two



*I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?*

*I will make a way
in the wilderness and rivers
in the desert.*

Isaiah 43:19

A STATEMENT OF VISION

The New Theological Seminary of the West will be a teaching/learning community of choice for those seeking a transformational education rooted in the Bible and Christian spirituality in order to serve the world in love and justice.

WELCOME

We are pastors, church leaders, teachers, and theologians who are excited to be part of a new way of doing seminary - serving and building up the body of Christ by offering a theological educational resource in Southern California that can provide support for Master of Divinity students, lay leader education, continuing education to pastors, programming for churches, and independent study options.

Our focus is on spiritual formation, discipleship and the practical realities of ministry in our current times, and the intentional building of community among our students - coming along side them during their time in seminary and beyond.

This will be an adventure,
and we welcome you!
Join us!

MAJOR GIFT OF \$100,000

We are thrilled to announce our largest major gift--\$100,000-- received in early November. We thank **Trustee Jan Doak** for her faithful work in bringing this gift from a new friend of the seminary. In the next issue we will share more information. We see this gift as a visible stamp of approval of our vision and a challenge gift that will allow us to reach out to other donors.

MEET THE STUDENTS

"Imagine going to a seminary where you can tell them what you need?" **Ruth Mandernach**, an elder at First Presbyterian Church, Encino, writes, "This quick turning, flexible ecumenical institution is assisting me to use courses already taken at San Francisco Theological Seminary/Southern California so that within this first year of the new seminary's curriculum I will graduate with an M.A. degree in June."

Stayed tuned: in future issues of the Newsletter you will meet and hear from more students about their experiences at NTSWest. For those who give to the seminary, the stories of our students will show you the IMPACT of your giving.

NEW DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

Brian Gaeta-Symonds has been everywhere since starting as Director of Admissions on October 20—attending classes, meeting with each present student, and planning DISCOVERY events for prospective students. Seminaries typically hire their own alumni to do admissions—but they usually have no experience in the sophisticated vocation of admissions. Brian is both. A M.Div. graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary/Southern California, he brings six years' experience of admissions work in two colleges. Brian says his hope is "to partner and accompany interested students in their spiritual journey."

URBAN MINISTRY CONSULTATION

NTSWest was honored to be invited by **New York Theological Seminary** to host the Los Angeles Consultation on rethinking the teaching and practice of Urban Ministry. Thank you to Trustee **Ivan Pitts** who coordinated this two day event. Ten participants from across the nation joined twelve participants invited by NTSWest. Our twelve included urban pastors, professors from Fuller Seminary and Claremont School of Theology, our faculty members **Alexia Salvatierra**, **Rafael Reyes**, chaplain **Charles Marks**, trustees **Leon Fanniel** and **Ron White**, and student **Michael Martin**.

On November 19 participants visited the Cecil Murray Center for Community Engagement at USC, listening to a presentation of the Center's mission by legendary pastor **Chip Murray** and Director **Mark Whitlock**. Afterward, a dinner was hosted by the Reverend **Shane Scott** at the Macedonian Baptist Church. Trustees **Dave Tomlinson** and **John Kim** joined the conversation about ministry in Watts. The Consultation met at the Second Baptist Church of Santa Ana on November 20. **Dale Irvin**, President of New York Theological Seminary, keynoted the conversation about the manifold meanings of "ministry" when we speak of urban ministry.

JANUARY TERM CLASSES

We are pleased to offer two Jan Term Intensive classes by two outstanding teachers. Both of are professors and pastors.

Dr. Reinhard Krauss will offer:

JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM: INTERRELATED RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

This course will introduce the complex interrelatedness of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The aim is to present Judaism, Christianity, and Islam as living traditions whose historical origins, current interactions, and future development shapes the spiritual, cultural, political, and economic conversations in Southern California. The seminar will feature guest lecturers and conclude with a "Triologue" open to all of us on Saturday, January 31.

Dr. David Cortes-Fuentes will offer:

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW & CONTEMPORARY MINISTRY

This course will study the first seven chapters of the Gospel of Matthew paying special attention to how these chapters serve as samples of the whole message of Matthew. A special concentration will be how Matthew's Gospel is relevant to contemporary ministry in the multi-cultural society of greater Los Angeles. Topics for discussion will include worship, mission and social transformation.

Each Jan Term Intensive is for 2 credits. Audits are welcome. Please consult our website for dates, times, and locations.