



GCS News

A Newsletter for Students and Alumni of Grace Communion Seminary

August 2017

Dear GCS Students, Alumni and Donors,

Greetings, all. I have been reflecting on our denominational conference in Orlando held just a few weeks ago. We had a marvelous time catching up with people we've made acquaintance with in the past and meeting new folks as well. The time was significant because both U.S. and international churches were represented. We came together as brothers and sisters in Christ from 29 countries. Taking communion together was particularly meaningful since we were united as diverse members of the Body of Christ from around the world.

Another highlight of the conference was conducting the second graduation ceremony of GCS. While students officially graduate at the time they complete their degree requirements, we hold our graduation ceremonies in conjunction with our denominational meeting that is held every three or four years. Our first ceremony was held in 2013 and we celebrated eight graduates who completed their program. Four years later, on August 3, we celebrated the graduation of forty (yes, 40!) of our students. That surely marks a milestone in GCS history. Many family members of the graduates were in attendance, and having the ceremony at this time and venue made it possible for several hundred other GCI members to join in. That added up to quite an exuberant celebration.

If you weren't able to attend, or if you did attend but would like to re-live it a bit, video and photos of the event will be posted at our [gci.org](https://www.gcs.edu/course/view.php?id=53) website. Go to <https://www.gcs.edu/course/view.php?id=53>. The program included a graduating student address given by Jeffrey Broadnax and a message by your GCS president. You'll enjoy seeing many of your favorite people, such as GCS chairman Joseph Tkach, dean Michael Morrison and vice-president (and former GCS president) Russell Duke and our GCS Board of Directors dressed up in academic regalia, something you'll only get to see every few years.

Another development this year was that we awarded two degrees. We were able to add a second degree, the Masters in Theological Studies, to our program and had our first graduates complete it. We are hoping to add sometime in the not-too-distant future a third degree, the Masters of Divinity Degree. This is a three-year degree and includes advanced courses in pastoral theology, counseling and the practice of ministry. We will be able to offer this degree once submitted and approved by our accrediting agency, the Distance Education Accrediting Commission.

You will also be pleased to know that due to financial support of the Seminary by individuals and GCI, we are able to continue to offer partial scholarships to current GCI pastors and also GCI interns. In addition we have taken initiative to welcome and provide scholarship support for internationals who have been recommended by the Mission Developers who oversee GCI congregations in their respective countries or continents! This, too, is an exciting development.

Registration for fall semester began on August 28, and classes begin September 11. There is a possibility we might have a couple more graduates by the end of the year! Please join me in praise and thanksgiving to our Lord and God for all his provision for GCS. We solicit your continuing prayers and financial support as we

dedicate ourselves to train and support our denominational leadership as they are called and appointed to “equip the saints for the work of ministry.”

As I close, let me remind you that you are our best representatives and recruiters. If you know of someone who might benefit from studying with GCS, taking just one or two courses or aiming for a degree, direct them to our website and send them to the Registrar! We’d love to welcome more students to join us.

Be assured we appreciate your prayers for GCS and all those involved, of course, including me. Donations are also appreciated to support international and pastoral scholarships. Please give as you are able to Grace Communion Seminary by mail to PO Box 875, Glendora, CA 91740 or donate online at gcs.edu/donate

I’m thankful for your participation and partnership as students, alumni and donors to Grace Communion Seminary.

Every blessing in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Deddo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Gary W. Deddo
President
Grace Communion Seminary