

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-18

REMODEL. RENEW. REJOICE.



**SINCE 1959, SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY HAS EDUCATED LEADERS
WHO RENEW THE CHURCH AND
TRANSFORM THE WORLD.**

OUR MISSION

Centered in Christ and rooted in the Wesleyan tradition, Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of intentional relationships committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry through rigorous academic life; the exploration of Scripture, tradition, and ministry practices; and diverse, contextual experience

ONE MISSION Two Locations

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Reverend Neil B. Blair '80

We are thankful at Saint Paul for the changes that have taken place in the last two years. The Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff have dedicated their time and energy to ensure students continue to benefit from a quality seminary education while constantly adapting the curriculum to reflect an ever-changing world. Change has not come easy, but the result paves the way for a bright future at Saint Paul School of Theology.

Let me name a few of our accomplishments:

- The decision by our board, and execution by our faculty and staff, to relocate our administrative offices to our Kansas Campus. We are a seminary with One Mission, Two Locations.
- At our Kansas Campus, our remodeling allows for students, faculty, and staff to share a common space. In addition, classroom renovations implemented new Zoom technology to allow students at both our Kansas and Oklahoma campuses to share in an enhanced learning experience from both locations.
- This fall we launched the FLEX schedule, an innovative distance educational system for students who can benefit from the flexibility of on campus, online, and hybrid learning.
- This summer, we redesigned the Saint Paul website, which includes virtual tours of both campuses and allows prospective and current students and alumni to stay connected with the Saint Paul community.

- We have established an entirely new system in institutional advancement that over the past two years has produced a 45% increase in donors who give \$1,000 or more which has led to a 27% increase in the annual fund.
- For almost 2 years, we have raised \$100,000 each month towards funds given for Annual Program & Scholarship as well as Capital and Endowment gifts.

Many years ago Dr. Ann H. Die, past president of Hendrix College, said to me "Private higher educational institutions are like hungry little animals that need to be fed every year." I have never forgotten her words and believe it is as true now as it was then. However, today the "feeding" required is more than money. We must not only raise the resources required, but we must also develop new and imaginative ways of functioning as a school of theology in today's culture. This work requires constant change and innovation!

In conclusion, I send my deep appreciation in the name of Christ for each one of you. We have been a seminary for almost 60 years, and it is your time, talent, and generosity that makes Saint Paul School of Theology possible.

Let us continue to remain faithful as children of God and as a community of Saint Paul School of Theology. We ask that you pray for our students and our seminary. And we invite you to join us to see Theology Come Alive in the miracles God brings about in the next 60 years as we work together to encourage, support, and raise up future leaders for service in our churches, communities, city streets, country roads, and the ever-changing world to come.

Sincerely to all of you,



Rev. Neil B. Blair '80
President, Saint Paul School of Theology



The Reverend APRIL MITSCHELEN

Second-year student, Rev. April Mitschelen understands the importance of identity. She walks into each seminary class with awareness of her ethnicity, her gender, and her spiritual background as each influences her faith and her call to ministry.

As a Native American with both Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole heritage, she often pushes her fellow classmates to consider course material with an understanding of the historical relationship between Native Americans and Christianity. In her Tradition II class, she voiced reminders about the atrocities committed against Native peoples in the name of Christ and spurred her colleagues to honor the Native perspectives and traditions that continue to inform the Christian Church. She spoke often of Native American oppression in Christian Ethics and connected Just War Theory

and Christian attitudes towards her people.

Beyond the classroom, she knows that her heritage informs who she is as a minister. She is a local licensed pastor in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, serving at Honey Creek United Methodist Church and Little Cussetah United Methodist Church. Both churches sing and pray in her

"...EACH
INFLUENCES
HER FAITH
AND HER CALL
TO MINISTRY."

native language, Mvskoke. April finds it "important to sing the Mvskoke hymns of her ancestors" and feels

blessed each Sunday to communally pray in her native tongue as it helps bind her to her heritage. She asserts that she is most excited about "helping my people see and know the love of Jesus".

When asked about obstacles in meeting her call to the pulpit, April points to her gender and her spiritual upbringing. "My paternal grandfather was a Southern Baptist minister" and in her teens when she felt called to the ministry, her father told her "women were not to preach". With her father's words in mind, she sat her call aside and entered college and obtained a Criminal Justice degree at Northeastern State University. As her call persisted to tug at her, she left the Southern Baptist church and found her way to the Methodist tradition. She reveals that she knows she is to be an Ordained Elder in the OIMC and that the journey



to this position is, and will be, full of

searching. She admits that "I really struggled

through my first year at seminary because I had not fully investigated for myself where I stood as far as doctrinal issues were concerned". She has had to confront her theological understandings so that she can "know what I believe is true and holy" and move towards the task God has placed in front of her.



The Reverend JACOB MARFORO

If you wanted to follow the highly disputed Presidential election in Zimbabwe this summer,

you could have scrolled through Rev. Jacob Marforo's Facebook posts. For weeks leading up to the vote, Jacob shared articles and news clips detailing the candidates, the issues, and the historic election of President Mnangagwa. Jacob's informational posts are now focused on the aftermath of the election – the protest riots that have left six dead and the calls for peace by top leaders of the country. He persists to educate his friends about the country he loves.

Sprinkled amid the posts about his homeland, are announcements for the Caldwell, Kansas churches he pastors, Caldwell First UMC and Corbin UMC, as well as photos of his family, including his wife, Virginia, and his daughters, Nyasha, and Shingai, and his son,

Tapiwa. What he shares on social media is a snapshot of where he has been, where he is now, and where he is to go. He stays connected

to his Zimbabwean roots while honoring his ministry and life in the United States.

Jacob was born at the Old Mutare Methodist Hospital in Zimbabwe. His father, Joshua, worked for the United Methodist Church and his family resided in a Methodist compound. Jacob detailed that even though he was born into a Methodist family and environment, he left the church for twenty years before rededicating his life to Christ and pursuing ministry. He shared his internal struggle spurred by trying to reconcile two worlds. "It was mindboggling how I was expected to strike a balance between my faith and our prevalent African practices". Living in the tension of two traditions, Jacob chose to temporarily push one aside.

However, before returning to his Methodist upbringing, he did not fully abandon

Christian ideas such as service and compassion: he pursued a certificate in the School of Social Work at the University of Zimbabwe and eventually became the

CEO and National General Secretary of the Zimbabwe YMCA. This work, along with mission work in Kenya, Zambia, India, and Botswana, opened opportunities for Jacob to fully immerse himself in ministry. It also brought lessons and peace about how to find life and light in the tension of his homeland and his faith.

Jacob earned his Master of Divinity from Saint Paul School of Theology in May 2018. He is currently appointed to two UMC churches. He is also employed at the Institute for Discipleship at Southwestern College where he coordinates the annual Building for the Future Conference.



"...OPENED
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
JACOB TO FULLY
IMMERSE IN MINISTRY."

alumni connection

NEW YEAR, NEW APPROACH

Recent changes provide greater
FLEXibility in course offerings

The commencement of each academic year brings new students and new ways of engaging the study of faith and ministry. The start of the 2018-2019 academic year is no different. New and returning students experience Saint Paul's innovative approach to providing quality theological education through our Flexible Learning EXperience (FLEX) which combines convenience and community opportunities with intentional academic scheduling.

Saint Paul School of Theology courses are now offered in three formats:

- On-campus - classroom learning connected via video between our Kansas and Oklahoma campuses.

- Hybrid - combines online learning with on-campus learning and community building two to three times a year.
- Online - academic lectures and course work are taken remotely via computer instead of on-campus.

Master of Divinity (MDIV) students, entering Fall 2018, follow a prescribed degree completion plan and can complete their MDIV in three years while coming to campus only one week each term under the new format.

Saint Paul recognizes that most students come to seminary with an already demanding life schedule. The goal is to make

the pursuit of theological education more convenient and accessible for commuter and out-of-state students. Providing multiple class options saves travel time, lowers the cost of seminary, and gives students the ability to adapt the way they attend seminary to fit their life situations. According to Dr. Jeanne Hoeft, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean, FLEX delivery meets the needs of a demanding life schedule, "by being very intentional about the time that we are together."





"...BEING VERY
INTENTIONAL
ABOUT THE
TIME THAT
WE ARE
TOGETHER."



Implementing the FLEX format required a commitment to remodeling our classrooms and significantly upgrading our technology. Learning spaces at our Kansas and Oklahoma campuses are newly equipped with PTZ USB cameras for full 1080p high definition video and ceiling mounted microphones

for clear, quality sound. Zoom software is used to provide an integrated learning experience between locations and one classroom includes white-board projections with 112" screens that allow a person to stand in the hallway (outside the classroom) and still be seen clearly by video conference participants.

Saint Paul School of Theology is compelled by one of our guiding values, "to use multiple platforms and approaches in academic life." The classroom remodel and technological upgrades strengthen the way Saint Paul lives out that commitment and continues to deliver quality education which

forms people for

transformational ministry in the church, the city street, the country road and the public square.

*Here's to a new year,
implementing a new
approach that makes
Theology Come Alive!*





renewal & growth

In 2019, Saint Paul School of Theology celebrates 60 years centered in Christ.

Meeting the needs of our students, Saint Paul School of Theology asked our students how we could better serve them and make their call to ministry more attainable.

RESPONDING TO STUDENT NEEDS

A large percentage of our students serve as licensed pastors, which can make balancing family, school and church challenging.

In response to supporting student needs, Saint Paul upgraded its educational technology and

launched a Flexible Learning EXperience that combines convenience and community with intentional academic scheduling.

This new scheduling offers:

- more online and hybrid learning opportunities,
- reduced amounts of time spent away from families and congregations,

- one focus week for students to learn face-to-face, participate in spiritual formation retreats, and select from a number of practicums on various practices of ministry.

Learn more: www.spst.edu/flex

The Reverend Neil Blair '80 said, "We must not only raise the resources required, but we must also develop new and imaginative ways of functioning as a school of theology in today's culture. This work requires constant change and innovation!"



Continued success of our students relies on the goodwill of our alumni, and every gift makes a difference in the life of a Saint Paul student.

Every cent makes a difference in the life of a Saint Paul student.

As we welcome students for the 2018-2019 academic school year, we know that students are filled with both excitement for the start of something new and trepidation about how to find a balance between school, work and family. At Saint Paul, our financial aid director does everything she can to find scholarships and grants to lower the financial burden our students may feel during their education; and it is donors like you that help make it all possible!

SUPPORTING THE CALL

The second area where Saint Paul students shared their challenges, involved financing and debt. To address this need, we have established a scholarship program where 100% of the funds collected will go directly toward making a difference for current and future students who are answering the call to ministry.

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FOR WITH THE MEASURE YOU USE IT
WILL BE MEASURED BACK TO YOU.

Luke 6:38

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Mrs. Carol A. Pember

Ms. Patricia Ponchur

Reverend Christine E. and
Reverend Jeff P. Potter

Ms. Deborah H. Rankin

Dr. Elaine A. Robinson

Reverend Shannon C. Rodenberg
'13

Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church –
Overland Park, KS

Ms. A. Patricia Ross

Ms. Anne L. Scahill

Mrs. Mavis Almquist Schmidt

Mr. John Schnake

Ms. Margaret Sharp

Rev. Sue-Ellen G. Sherman '09

Mr. Paul Spainhour

Rev. Jon C. Spalding '89

St Mark's United Methodist Church
Foundation – Lincoln, NE

State of Kansas Department
of Administration (Division of
Vocational Rehabilitation) –
Overland Park, KS

Ms. Stephanie S. Stephens

Lynn Sumerson

Ms. Vivian Swyden

Ms. Ida M. Tygart

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KS

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Ms. Kimberly Warren

Mr. Frederick L. Webb

Clifford S. Whitmore, II

Mr. Allan W. '67 and
Mrs. Teddy R. Wintersteen

Rev. Londa G. Wright '02

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Mrs. Sherrie Antholz

Ms. Sally A. Firestone

Anonymous

Rev. Lee Myane

generous

TUESDAY
**OCT
9**

Wayne E. Drake Peace Lecture

GUEST SPEAKER:
Dr. Luke Bretherton

Kansas Campus — Wesley Covenant Chapel
6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY
**APR
9**

Evangelical Society Lecture

GUEST SPEAKER:
Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson

Kansas Campus — Wesley Covenant Chapel
11:00 a.m.

TUESDAY
**FEB
12**

Wallace Chappell Lecture

SPEAKER:
Rev. Dr. Jack Jackson

Kansas Campus — Wesley Covenant Chapel
11:00 a.m.

FRIDAY
**MAY
17**

58th Commencement

Kansas Campus — Wesley Covenant Chapel
11:00 a.m.

TUESDAY
**MAR
5**

Slater-Willson Lecture

SPEAKER:
Rev. Dr. David Gushee

Kansas Campus — Wesley Covenant Chapel
6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
**MAY
18**

9th Commencement

Oklahoma Campus
Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel
11:00 a.m.



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