


ANNUAL REPORT

2018-19

A stylized, dark grey silhouette of a suspension bridge, resembling the Golden Gate Bridge, spans the width of the image. The bridge's towers and cables are prominent against a background of a blue sky with soft, white clouds. The bridge deck slopes downwards from left to right.

BUILDING the **BRIDGE**

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

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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



Honoring our Past - Embracing our Future and The Journey Ahead

This past year God in Christ has blessed the seminary with many accomplishments for which we are thankful.

- We have gone through an extraordinary probationary review process with many challenges shared with us by the Higher Learning Commission. Our Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, consultants, and major stakeholders took immediate action to bring us to a successful review that reinstated the seminary to a fully accredited status.
- What an exciting time for our students with the improvements on both of our campus locations. The year began with the completion of renovations on the Kansas Campus and advanced technological equipment to both campuses to provide the best learning environment possible for our students. We look forward to sharing our continued improvements and innovations for both campuses.
- The seminary has seen extraordinary additions to our faculty, staff, and board with Mrs. Leanna Walkowiak, Director of Operations/Equity Compliance & Title IX Officer; Rev. Dr. Michelle Hatcher, Registrar and Director of Financial Aid; Rev. Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant

Professor of Preaching & Worship and Director of Contextual Education, and Dr. Anne Walker, Executive Director of Saint Paul Campus in Oklahoma and Adjunct Professor.

- We saw the changing of the gavel as Dr. Michael Parmely stepped down as Board Chair after 3 years of extraordinary service, and we welcomed faculty emeritus and donor Rev. Dr. Tex S. Sample as the new Board Chair. Please welcome them into the Saint Paul family as they enter their new roles.
- Saint Paul School of Theology was blessed with a transfer of a generous family donor advised fund in December. This gift resulted in the largest single cash gift in seminary history. The Board of Trustees wisely voted to add this gift to our endowment to help further the investment in scholarships and programs of the seminary. We are truly blessed by the continued generosity of others. May this gift touch us all in consideration of our personal generosity with gifts both large and small. And speaking of giving, our fiscal year ended on strong financial footing. We once again have a balanced budget because of all of you who give and give generously to the seminary. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!! Your prayers, time, talent, and treasure literally make it possible for persons called to ministry to afford seminary education.

Every year brings a new set of challenges and accomplishments.

We must remain vigilant to watch and listen where God will lead us as we build the bridge to the seminary's future. Every day Saint Paul School of Theology continuously strives to provide a seminary education that will continue to be Christ-centered, relevant, diverse, inclusive, and affordable for the next generation of ministry leaders. I invite you to come along on the journey ahead.

With my deep affection and appreciation to all of you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neil Blair". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Neil" and last name "Blair" clearly distinguishable.

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



The Reverend DONNA CLARK FULLER

Saint Paul School of Theology has always been dedicated to the contextual understandings of ministry. It is

a seminary that embraces praxis learning that hinges on identifying contextual nuances of community and discipleship and finding ways to express the Gospel and faith development within these frameworks. Our graduates find themselves in diverse settings – urban, rural, suburban churches, academia, or non-profits – and expressions of ministry are just as varied.

Yet, there are truths of spiritual leadership that transcend context and these tenets are underscored when crisis occurs. This year, across state lines, denominations, and settings, flooding did not discriminate and many of our alumni found themselves leading during devastation. Where the waters were high, our graduates found ways to be bridges and bring hope and

wholeness to those experiencing loss of security and stability. These are stories of our bridge builders.

If you sit in a room with Rev. Donna Clark Fuller (M.Div., '14), it takes little time to discern that she is a person of great thought and intention. She speaks with care and authority while conveying kindness and warmth. When she detailed her ministry settings – Rock Port and Watson in Northwest Missouri just east of the Missouri River – and the seemingly relentless rain and subsequent flooding in the area, you could feel the profound weight she and her communities have been weathering.

She spoke of the flood warnings that started in March and are still being issued in August, how the warnings manifested into rising water that eventually led to evacuations, property damage, and the washing out of the bridge on U.S. Route 136 between Rock Port and Brownville, Nebraska. She impressed the significance of the closing of the bridge: “We have congregates that live in Rock Port but travel to work in Nebraska and now have no choice

but add hours to their commute. Many are now only coming home weekends and are staying in hotels or with family during the week, which causes additional emotional and financial stress. We also have members that live in Nebraska and cannot make it to church regularly because of the closure.”

Rev. Clark Fuller takes a breath and remains silent for a few moments and then adds, “but as stressful as it can be, you see people doing what they have to do as well as find ways to help others during this crisis.”

Rev. Clark Fuller offered these insights on spiritual leadership during chaos. “The first priority is simply presence. You need to be a caring presence that will listen and acknowledge pain and just be there. People do not know what they need yet, but you can see the anxiety lessen as they talk and tell their story.” She also explains that needs

become evident through these stories and the second priority is collecting resources to help. Her church in Rock Port began to offer shelter and amass information and food and cleaning supplies in a central area. The church became a hub for resources and connection to other agencies that could help such as the Atchison Hope for Disaster Relief.

When Rev. Clark Fuller was asked how Saint Paul helped prepare her for such leadership, she did not hesitate to answer: “I have drawn upon the lessons of John Wesley. I have seen works of mercy and understand how they are means of grace. When we are focused and connected to God first, the rest we do is Church and this is especially true when we offer the greater community mercy which leads to hope.” This is relationship and living into being neighbor at its best.



The Reverend JEFF GOETZINGER

Rev. Jeff Goetzinger (M.Div., '16) is relatively new to rural ministry. His initial ministerial experience was in the urban center of Wichita, Kansas, but now he is appointed to Mitchell Chapel UMC in Hutchinson, Kansas and Little River UMC in Little River, Kansas, both of which are nestled amid farmhouses and planting fields. "I was used to working with the homeless and the working poor and often ran up against attitude of hopelessness, but now I am having to learn about the farming mindset, which believes, especially in crises, that there is always someone else worse off than you." He adds, "Farmers are proud, self-sustaining, and do not accept help readily," which has been a challenge as he began to assess need in the community and try to find the resources to not only help alleviate the devastation from the three floods that hit between Mother's Day and mid-June but also be accepted by those in need.



Rev. Goetzinger speaks with reverence about his congregates and asserts that the two main priorities he has had since moving to the area are these: listening and building relationships. "Saint Paul helped me understand the importance of and offered me practice in listening to others and keeping open that all have something to teach me. I also learned how important relationship is. Ministry at its most basic level is living in relationship." He credits being able to understand the needs of the community and getting them to accept help from the church as well as outside agencies to these lessons of listening and relationship. "Because I have been working since my arrival to listen and be genuine in seeking relationships with the community, trust has emerged between me and the farmers in the community," which Rev. Goetzinger states "has been important now that crisis surrounds us." Without the



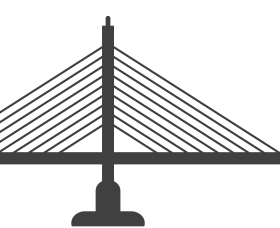
connection established before, he is positive that understanding "how to be the hands and feet of Christ when the water was high and now that the water has receded but saturated levels still threaten water wells and basements still seep" would have been hindered and help would not be as easy to offer.

Rev. Goetzinger also recognizes that another relationship - his involvement in the Great Plains Disaster Committee - has been a valuable resource for finding funds for rebuilding and repairs as well as assistance to families hit harder than others. He tells the story of how a family with a daughter with a rare genetic disorder that has left her with serious disabilities and a dire requirement of excellent air quality was left with little choice but to relocate when a backyard pond



flooded close to the house creating increase in mold nearby. He speaks of how heartwarming it was to see the Disaster Committee provide funds as well as other ecumenical groups stepping forward to help bring stability to their lives. Crisis has a way of blurring lines of distinction and we all simply become human.

Finally, Rev. Goetzinger wanted to thank Saint Paul, especially faculty and staff, for stressing the importance of self-care. It has been months since the initial floods and his communities are still faced with the possibility of more flooding as well as the aftermath of high water. "Without the commitment to care for my body, spirit, and family, I am not sure I would be able to lead at this point. I have had to have self-awareness that I am not super-human and I am thankful that I have those who will keep me accountable to self-care." It seems it is another practice of listening and relationship - with himself.



THE ROAD SO FAR . . .

Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2018-2019 academic year moving its Kansas staff and faculty offices to the Kansas Campus where classes are held. This move was the final step in the process of renovating classrooms with larger spaces as well as bringing Kansas faculty, staff, and students together.

ENHANCED TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES were made on both campuses with the launch of the new FLEX schedule and FOCUS week. We received a \$5,000 grant from the Missouri United Methodist Foundation to support our technology program for students. In an ever-increasing digital world, Saint Paul is constantly working to reach beyond its walls. **A NEW DOCTOR OF MINISTRY (DMIN) FOCUS,** Spiritual Leadership in Unsettled Times, was announced with courses beginning Fall 2019. The new DMin focus is offered in partnership with Church of the Resurrection, Gamaliel Network, and the Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity. Students can take a mixture of online and hybrid (blended online and on-campus)



courses to complete the required curriculum. **THIS YEAR MARKED THE CELEBRATION OF OVER 10 YEARS IN OKLAHOMA.** Since 2008, Saint Paul has prepared Oklahoma-area leaders for ministries that meet the needs of today's churches and society. In May, Saint Paul hosted a celebratory dinner with Oklahoma alumni, faculty, donors, OCU representatives, and members of the Saint Paul community to mark the occasion and give thanks of all the support we have received these last 10 years.

For Fall 2019, The Oklahoma Foundation, in partnership with Saint Paul School of Theology, offered **A THREE-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP** to educate future church leaders. An Oklahoma Foundation Fellow will receive 3 years of full-tuition and fees (covering 79 credit hours toward the Master of Divinity degree). Foundation Fellows will learn multiple ministry skills in areas such as worship, pastoral care, evangelism, and discipleship.

SAINT PAUL'S FACULTY CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACADEMY, CHURCH, AND SOCIETY. Dr. Elaine Robinson, Professor of Methodist Studies and Christian

Theology, worked along with co-editor Amos Nascimiento to solicit chapters from United Methodist scholars around the globe who could present an indigenous account of the history of Methodism in their own context. Dr. Jim Brandt, Professor of Historical Theology and Director of Contextual Education, wrote the lead article in the recently published book, *Schleiermacher and Sustainability: A Theology for Ecological Living*. As part of the Columbia Series in Reformed Theology, each chapter deals with a particular locus in Schleiermacher's systematic theology, focusing on its implications for sustainable living.



SAINT PAUL'S 2018-2019 LECTURE SERIES boasted several exciting key note speakers from across the United States to speak on a myriad of topics such as "10 Steps on the Path of Moral Leadership" and "Speaking of Jesus: Early Methodist Principles for Bearing Witness to the Christian Story in a Multi-Religious World". In October, Dr. Luke Bretherton of Duke University was the speaker for the Wayne E. Drake Peace Lecture. In February, the Foundation for Evangelism sponsored Rev. Dr. Jack Jackson of Claremont School of Theology to present this





year's Wallace Chappell Lecture. In March, Rev. Dr. David Gushee of Mercer University was the keynote speaker for the Slater-Wilson Lectureship on Spiritual and Intellectual Life.

For 2018, **SAINT PAUL RECEIVED A LEADERSHIP** from Kansas

Leadership Center (KLC) in Wichita, KS that allowed 20 people to experience KLC programs. Several faculty, staff, and alumni were able to practice KLC's approach to leadership. Those participants have reported being enriched and inspired by the program.



For 2019, Saint Paul received 40 slots for community leaders to attend KLC programs.

A REVAMPED MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY (MACM) was launched for Fall 2019 that changes the degree to a two-year, 38-credit hour program created to prepare students to explore and experience fully the way God is calling. The

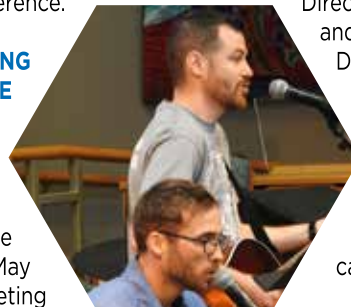
degree features two specializations, Prophetic Witness & Service and Deacon Ministries, and is ideal for part-time ministers, lay leaders and community leaders seeking to broaden their competencies to serve diverse populations.

SAINT PAUL COURSE OF STUDY (COS) SCHOOL

educated 299 students in Leawood, KS; Hays, KS; Oklahoma City, OK; Columbia, MO; and Springfield, MO. Saint Paul launched a part-time, accelerated pilot COS satellite program in Columbia, MO this year in collaboration with the Missouri Conference.

THERE WAS A CHANGING OF THE GUARD IN THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

with Dr. Michael Parmely stepping down as Board Chair, and faculty emeritus Dr. Tex Sample taking the mantle at the May Board of Trustees meeting at the Oklahoma Campus. We are grateful to Dr. Parmely for all his support during his tenure.



It was with mixed emotions that we announced that Dr. Angela Sims left Saint Paul School of Theology to join Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, NY as President. We are very appreciative of the work that Dr.

Sims contributed as both an administrator and as a faculty member for the seminary and wish Dr. Sims good luck in her future endeavors.

We also wish long-time Library Director and alumna Maggi Mueller well as she begins a new chapter in retirement. No one knows more about the history of Saint Paul and its students better, and we will miss her knowledge, helpfulness, and ever-present candy treats.

We ended the year with President Neil Blair, Director of Admissions Shannon Hancock '10, and Director of Alumni & Partner Relationships Dr. Melissa Pearce '15 **HOSTING ALUMNI FUNCTIONS AND BOOTHS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCES** for Great Plains, Missouri, Iowa, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Minnesota. Alumni who stopped by to say hello received a Saint Paul ribbon to wear. It was a great time to catch up and hear the stories of our alumni.

And ending on a high note, we were pleased to report that the Higher Learning Commission changed the seminary's status from "Accredited - Probation" to "Accredited".

FOR 60 YEARS, SAINT PAUL HAS SUPPLIED EXCELLENCE IN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

and our previous challenges have inspired us to strive beyond excellence.

We are excited to see what the future will bring as we build a bridge to tomorrow.



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WILL BE MEASURED BACK TO YOU.

Luke 6:38

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Mother Teresa

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of John Swomley

Anonymous

Anonymous

Rev. Gary A. '77 and
Mrs. Betty J. Beach

Rev. Carolyn L. R. Bittner '04

Rev. Letha R. Essinger '92

Mr. Max W. Evans in honor of
Laurence E. Hanna

Ms. Tiana Gatewood

Rev. Connie Gibson

Pastor C B. Gilbreath '65

Mr. Arthur R Good and Mrs. Diana D. Good
in honor of Laurence E. Hanna

Pastor Kelly Hansen '16

Rev. Susan Marie Hoover '09 and
Rev. David L. Hoover '09

Dr. Ronald P. Huff '72

Mrs. Cortney Inbody

Rev. J. P. Jackson '08

Rev. Pam Jackson

Rev. David D. Kell '69

Mr. John C. Korschot in honor of
Benjamin Korschot

Mr. E. Dean & Mrs. Betty Kurtz in
honor of Jeannie B. Kurtz

Mrs. Paula J. Lafferty '18

Margaret R. Lee Estate

Dr. John J J. McCabe '91 and
Mrs. Susan M. McCabe

Rev. Dee Ann Mezger '74 and
Mr. George F. Berlin

Rev. Carl W. '66 and
Mrs. Shirley A. Patterson

Dr. Melissa Pearce '15

Dr. Steven H. '79 and
Mrs. Nancy S. Pohlman

Rev. Louise Reed '93

Mr. Bill and Mrs. Jane Reeves in
honor of Jeannie B. Kurtz

Rev. Nelson '95 and
Mrs. Clara Reiber

Rev. Janet R. Rhind '83

Melanie & Micah Seybold in
honor of Jeannie B. Kurtz

Mr. Warren V Sims and
Mrs. Cristie L Sims in honor
of Laurence E. Hanna

Mrs. Jennifer M. Smith

Mr. Stephen S. and
Mrs. Martha N. Sparks

Mr. Larry and Mrs. Lou Thomas
in honor of Laurence E. Hanna

Dr. Anne Walker in honor of
Jerald C. Walker

Dr. John F., Jr. '92 and
Mrs. Joyce A. Walker

Mr. Daniel S. Wesley

Rev. Vida R. Williams '09

Ms. Donna R. and
Mr. John T. Wolfgeher

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND BEQUESTS

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Mr. Mark and Mrs. Debbie Faulkner

Ms. Sally A. Firestone

First United Methodist Church
Estate-Chanute, KS

Mr. Glenn Grove

Mr. Robert E. and
Mrs. Nadine S. Hardin-Miller

Dr. Michael and Mrs. Tari Parmely
Sias and Pippin Family Fund

Mr. Rogers Strickland and
Mrs. Peggy Strickland

Ms. Susanne Teel

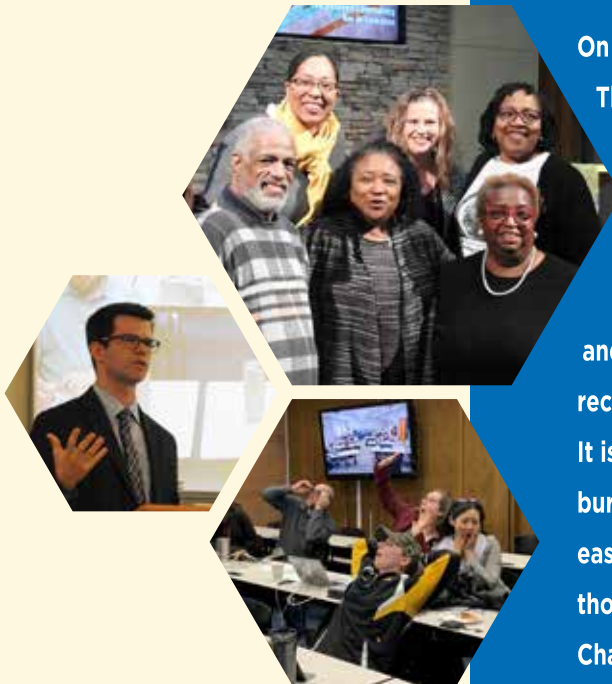
Mona and Melvin Winger Family
Foundation

BEQUESTS

Centralia United Methodist Church
in honor of William Reinhardt

Rev. Patsy A. '82 and
Dr. Scott Moore

Travis Campbell Estate



#GIVINGTUESDAY

On Tuesday, November 27, 2018, Saint Paul School of Theology, to support the seminary's mission, joined non-profit organizations around the world to collect donations on #GivingTuesday. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. For #GivingTuesday 2018, the seminary received almost \$4,000 via online and Facebook donations. It is through generous donors like you that make the financial burden of answering the call and being disciples for Christ easier on our students. We can't say thanks enough to all those who helped support the Saint Paul #GivingTuesday Challenge, and we look forward to joining this global giving movement again on Tuesday, December 3, 2019!

SAVE THE DATE
DECEMBER 3, 2019



WWW.SPST.EDU/SHARE-YOUR-STORY

SHARE YOUR STORY

At the heart of Saint Paul is its people! We invite you to share your stories of growth, perseverance, blessings, and accomplishment to serve as a constant reminder that Saint Paul School of Theology is more than a classroom...it is a community in the church, the city street, the country road, and the public square.

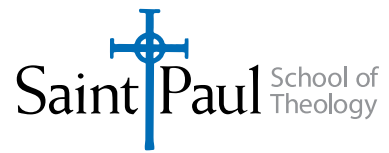
To share your story, visit us online at
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We can't wait to hear Where Theology Meets Life in your world!

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