

## **Calvin Theological Seminary – Fall 2021 – Updates**

### **Graduation Updates**

COVID-19 has obviously affected our global village as well as our ongoing formation and education programs at Calvin Theological Seminary. We are grateful for the investment made many years ago in an online delivery system of education, which was so needed as we moved back and forth to being “flex” where we offered in person classes as well as an online option in addition to our usual “online” distance classes throughout the entire academic year.

On May 21, 2021, Calvin Theological Seminary conducted a 2020 and 2021 Commencement Program to honor the graduated 61 students from 2020 and 89 students from 2021, including 27 students who graduated from our certificates and program offered in Spanish. A viewing of the ceremony can be found on Vimeo here – <https://vimeo.com/554417377>

The international reach and scope of the ministry of Calvin Theological Seminary was again illustrated by graduates from the following locales: Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, Rwanda, South Korea and United States.

### **Distinguished Alumni Awards at Commencement for 2020 and 2021**

Rev. John DeVries (founder of Bibles for India, now known as Mission India) and Rev. Stanley Jim (regional director for CRC Home Missions from 2000-2016 and longtime pastor in Classis Red Mesa) were recognized as Distinguished Alumni Award recipients for 2020, but their contributions could not be publically recognized in 2020 due to the pandemic.

For 2021, we also included Rev. Emmanuel Bileya to be recognized as a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient following his death (and that of his wife and unborn child) in Nigeria. During this past year, Rev. John DeVries also died, but we were able to honor him posthumously at the 2020/2021 Commencement.

Three separate videos on the ministry and testimonies of Rev. DeVries, Rev. Jim and Rev. Bileya were prepared and can be viewed here –

Rev. John DeVries: <https://vimeo.com/554390728>

Rev. Stanley Jim: <https://vimeo.com/554390143>

Rev. Emmanuel Bileya: <https://vimeo.com/554390480>

### **Updates on Staffing and Programs**

This past year, the Board had the opportunity to interview and then reappoint Dr. Danjuma Gibson as Professor of Pastoral Care and award him tenure as a faculty member of Calvin Theological Seminary.

Notices for open positions are being shared in the area of Old Testament (because of the appointment of Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen to being Director of Safe Church Ministry at the

CRCNA) and History of Christianity (precipitated with the upcoming retirement of Dr. Lyle Bierma.) We welcome your nominations and prayers!

Calvin Seminary recently launched a new, completely online certificate program in cooperation with Christian Schools International (CSI) and we just had our first graduate from this program. We are now offering a Certificate in Bible Instruction, a 15 credit-hour program with required courses in “Integrating Faith and Teaching” and “Teaching Bible,” along with 11 hours of other seminary courses. All of these credits will count toward a master’s degree in ministry leadership or a master of divinity degree at CTS.

In addition, we have an agreement with the Calvin University Education Program that all of these credits will count toward a master of education degree at Calvin University. We see this certificate as a service to Christian schools binationally and as a gateway to encourage students to consider further CTS Education (<https://calvinseminary.edu/academics/certificate-in-bible-instruction> ).

Calvin Seminary has been approved by the Association of Theological Schools to offer a doctor of ministry (D.Min.) degree and we are ready to welcome our third cohort next summer. A previous synod asked CTS to investigate this degree program as part of a continuing education report—and we are glad for the ongoing support for the church and church leaders. (<https://calvinseminary.edu/academics/doctor-of-ministry> )

### **Building Renovation/Remodel Update**

Finally, Calvin Seminary is undergoing a major renovation/remodeling project that was planned before the pandemic which focuses on the classrooms, Student Center and Chapel for the purpose of upgrading technology, providing flexibility in use of space and developing collaborative learning environments.

This project will mean we are updating parts of the building that have not been updated since 1959 and for other areas not since the last major renovation in 2004. We give thanks for the support that has been received above and beyond our annual operating fund. You can see pictures of this remodel through this site - <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/TRN5DiMx>

**Thank you again for your prayers, support and encouragement!  
We are glad that we are C.T.S. - Called to Serve!**