



Church Divinity School of the Pacific

A Reflection from President Richardson

April 2018

Throughout our 125-year history located in the western United States, CDSP has learned from the church in our context. And now, steeped in this wisdom, we raise up leaders who will serve across the continent and beyond proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ in a changing world. As our nation becomes more culturally diverse, and spiritual practices among young people more varied, the adaptive quality of the church in the West continues to show relevance for our future.

This is why I ask you to support CDSP with a generous gift to our annual appeal. We, the West Coast seminary, are here to prepare for the future of your community and many communities like yours.

Western churches, in the vast territory we inhabit, know the value of extended interfaith and ecumenical relationships to amplify witness on behalf of the gospel. We find our own faith enhanced, not threatened, by this engagement. Here in the Graduate Theological Union, CDSP prepares leaders in the fertile soil of religious and cultural diversity. This can only be an important contribution to the society that is emerging.

Our curriculum today fits hand-in-glove with this context. We prepare students in a deep sense of God's mission, and in practices of discipleship and evangelism. We teach leadership skills such as contextual awareness, critical reflection and public conversation, and we also prepare students in community organizing. We deliver rigorous residential and low-residency theological education as well as distance learning programs with diocesan partners near and far.

When you invest in CDSP, you are supporting the future of the entire church. We hope you will feel this call to support new leaders by investing in the ministry of theological education here at CDSP.