



## Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Friends of CDSP,

Usually the summer months are a slightly slower time for the seminary. As with the rest of this difficult year, that has not been our experience in 2020.

In this edition you'll find an introduction to our newest faculty member, the Rev. Mark Chung Hearn, PhD, and a farewell honoring our longest-serving faculty member, the Rev. Susanna Singer, PhD.

In between we're sharing our plans for how we will re-open CDSP for the Fall semester under a hybrid teaching and learning model. I'm certain there will be many questions about what the Fall semester will look and feel like; this is just the beginning of several communications we'll be issuing over the summer.

I'm confident that this hybrid model will provide an enriching experience for all CDSP students, while affording us the flexibility to change plans if needed. I'm grateful to all of the faculty and staff of CDSP and Trinity Church Wall Street who have been involved in this planning, and to all of you who have put your trust in us. I'm looking forward to seeing how we adapt to this new reality together.

Faithfully yours,

The Very Rev. W. Mark Richardson, PhD  
President & Dean

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## CDSP Calls Director of Contextual Education



Church Divinity School of the Pacific has called the Rev. Mark Chung Hearn, PhD, to serve as associate professor and director of contextual education beginning August 1.

Hearn joins the CDSP faculty from Seattle University, where he has served since 2014 as director of contextual education and assistant clinical professor of contextual education and ministry. He is ordained in the United Methodist Church and holds a PhD in practical theology from Claremont School of Theology, an MTS from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, an MDiv from Asbury Theological Seminary, and a BA in religion from Point Loma Nazarene University.

"Primarily I see myself as a bridge builder between church, world, and academy," Hearn says. "But it always has to make sense within the concrete worlds in which I find myself and other people. My ministerial vocation is the healing and prophetic work that supports the flourishing of all creation."

In Hearn's research and teaching, these efforts have variously taken the form of supporting men working to deconstruct toxic masculinity, embracing teaching practices that educate for racial justice, and "trying to help the big-c Church birth anew for the twenty-first century."

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## Our Community's Reopening Plan

*The following letter was sent to members of the CDSP community on June 30.*

Dear CDSP Community,

On Monday, June 29, the Board of Trustees of CDSP approved a Fall reopening of the school's residential program, which will follow a hybrid model. We are very happy about the approval of this plan. We have worked hard to prepare for the safest on-campus conditions possible, and to create a residential experience which is satisfying, even enlightening, under constraints posed by current conditions. This itself will be part of the context of learning theologically as we face together the limitations during this public health phenomenon that the world is going through.

This hybrid residential model will allow for the teaching of all classes both in-person and remotely, most with both synchronous and asynchronous options. This provides flexibility for our residential students who do not feel comfortable attending in-person classes because of the pandemic. This model also addresses the changes in the occupancy rate of each classroom, which will be substantially limited due to physical distancing requirements. This hybrid model also allows us to pivot quickly to an all-remote learning format should a new shelter-in-place order be instituted. All students living in residence will be in safe housing: either Nichols, Easton Hall (newly outfitted), or Gibbs.

Within the good news there are also important conditions about which all of us must be aware. Safety and reduction of risk to all in our community is the central focus of this hybrid plan and all our reopening work. There will be strict protocols and guidelines that all must adhere to if we are to remain a safe in-residence community. We will not be asking any student, faculty, or staff member to participate in on-campus activities if they are uncomfortable doing so due to COVID-19.

I want to alert you to the fact that the on-campus experience for residential students, faculty, and staff will be very different from prior semesters. We will wear masks at all times when on campus, abide by appropriate physical distancing, accept a smaller number of students in each classroom, and eliminate all shared community meals and community Eucharist. All of these will change how this residential program will be experienced. Plans are being made to create new small-group gatherings for the classroom and for formation. We will learn about community life through constraints.

[Read More](#)

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## Celebrating the Rev. Dr. Susanna Singer

How do you sum up four decades of forming leaders for education and ministry? If you're considering the expansive and varied career of the Rev. Dr. Susanna Singer, who retired at the end of this summer's June intensive session at CDSP, there's no way to distill a singular theme. Perhaps the only way to accurately generalize about her ministry would be to talk about growth, change, and the constant discernment of God's will, which seems fitting for a practical theologian who has helped several generations of leaders learn to adapt to their diverse and rapidly evolving contexts.



When asked how she has discerned about each new area of focus in her work over the course of her career, Singer said this: "There must be some little piece of me that sees something and says, 'Why not?' I learned from my friend Tom Brackett to say, 'That's a fantastic idea, it might fail, let's try it.' It's about trusting that God is at work, and if something comes across the radar screen and keeps niggling away, then it's worth paying attention. And if you keep paying attention to it, then doors start to open."

Singer's career in Christian education began soon after she moved to the United States from her native England in 1981, after studying English literature at the University of Cambridge. She spent a total of 10 years at Grace Cathedral before and after her ordination to the priesthood before moving on to become the diocesan education coordinator for the Diocese of California. About those early years of her career, she says, "The 1979 Prayer Book was new, and we were just getting into baptismal ecclesiology at the time, and it was completely alien to everybody. We worked really hard to move people out of the curriculum model to a more holistic model of formation." Living into these new paradigms led to pioneering work in the field of family ministry, a focus on the connection between formation and worship, and time spent helping to develop the capacity of congregational leaders to adapt to their context.

Over time, these experiences with individual leaders and congregations led her to consider work in theological education. In a seminary, she imagined, she could make change more effectively than by helping congregations one by one: "I could really get some leverage, and, frankly, make a bit of trouble."

*For more on Singer's years at CDSP and plans for the future, click on the link below.*

[Read More](#)

## News Briefs from the CDSP Community

### Students

**Jana Sundin** has received a grant from the [Episcopal Evangelism Society](#) to develop a resource churches can use as they transform from program- and Sunday school-based formation to relationship- and worship-based formation for people of all ages and abilities.

### Faculty

Professor **Caroline McCall '15** published [Excellence in Supervision: Listening to Our Students](#) in *Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry*.

### Alums

The Rev. **Margaret L. F. Foote '16** has been called as associate rector at [All Souls Parish](#) in Berkeley, CA.

The Rev. **Laura Rezac '20** was ordained to the transitional diaconate on June 6 and in October will join [St. Stephen's Episcopal Church](#) in Charleston, SC, as associate rector for children and youth formation.

The Rev. **Elizabeth J. Smith, PhD, GTU '95** has been appointed Member of the Order of **Australia** for "significant service to the Anglican Church of Australia, and to liturgical scholarship."

The Rev. **Iain M. Stanford '16** has been called as rector of **St. Peter's Episcopal Church** in Redwood City, CA.

## Friends

The Rev. Dr. **Kwasi Thornell** has been named the **Bishop's Deputy for Special Ministries** by the Rt. Rev. Peter Eaton of the Diocese of Southeast Florida, where he will oversee anti-racism and racial justice ministries and work with ecumenical and interfaith partners.

To share your news, email [communications@cdsp.edu](mailto:communications@cdsp.edu) or use these forms:

[Update \(Alums\)](#)

[Update \(Friends\)](#)

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## In Memoriam

We have received word of the deaths of the following members of the CDSP community:

The Rev. Dr. Alexander (Alec) Blair, '57

Kathleen Scotto, wife of the Rev. Vincent Scotto, '74 - [obituary](#)

Francis I. Anderson - [obituary](#)

*Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

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