



Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Friends of CDSP,

Our May newsletter comes to you in challenging times, but there is also much to celebrate in our life together at CDSP.

Below you will find a feature about a student and a recent graduate **adapting their youth ministry practices under social distancing**, stories of our partnership with Trinity Church Wall Street bearing fruit **for students and for theological educators**, **timely reflections** from several CDSP faculty and alums, and other news from our community.

We pray that you, your loved ones, and your churches are coping adequately, staying safe—and witnessing resurrection.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark".

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



Serving Stressed Families Online

"It's been difficult to figure out what it means to be a priest these days," said the Rev. Maria (Mia) Kano '19, reflecting on the strange turn taken in her duties as assistant rector at **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church** in Wellesley, MA.

Like counterparts in youth and family ministry at countless churches, Kano has been grappling with practical and theological questions about how to adapt to the limitations of COVID-19 lockdown.

She initially focused on providing continuity of connection.

"We were scheduled to have a board game night, so I decided I was going to figure out how

we could still do that online,” said Kano. “I actually spent a lot of time playing around with Zoom and **Steam**, trying different games.”

Among the college friends and seminary classmates she recruited for her impromptu play testing was Ethan Lowery '20, who in addition to his studies at CDSP serves as youth minister at **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church** in Orinda, CA.

Kano and Lowery have since leveraged the digital skills and interests of many of the young people they serve, hosting Pictionary-like games via the Zoom whiteboard and working with youth to lead online worship and create digital devotionals.

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Major Affordability Initiative Begins in June

“Even in the midst of hardship, our experience of the Risen Christ calls us to share signs of hope and new life,” Dean Richardson wrote in a message to the community.

“In this spirit, we announce the beginning of a new opportunity for CDSP students training to be leaders in ministry.”

The changes are aimed at helping students who are preparing for ordination with a bishop's approval to avoid incurring additional educational debt during their studies. Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, CDSP will provide **full-tuition scholarships to all qualifying new and returning students**, and residential students will receive a meal plan and free housing.

The full-tuition scholarship will also be available to new (June 2020) and returning students preparing for ordination **in the seminary's low-residence program**.

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Faculty Offer Timely Theological Reflections



"Social distancing makes us keenly aware of real absence and our yearning for the real presence of Christ, an experience we share with Christians through the ages."

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"We don't know enough from a God's-eye point of view to answer much of anything about this...except to trust that nothing separates us from the love of God."

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"What we found was a world lifted into inventive, spirited celebration, connected in ways most of us haven't fully explored."

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"As a church that prays in common, [we must] discern together ... ways to worship online that are theologically truthful and pastorally appropriate."

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We've also spotted or been sent some wonderful reflections and resources that members of the wider CDSP community have published elsewhere. Have one you'd like to suggest we share in a future email or on social media? Email us at communications@cdsp.edu.

- [Storytime with Shaneequa](#) by the Rev. [Isaiah Shaneequa Brokenleg '18](#)
- [Priesting in Pandemic](#) by the Rev. [Sarah Kye Price, PhD, '18](#)
- [Reassessing Embodiment and Its Role in Developing Digital Literacies for Ministry](#) by the Rev. [Stacy Williams-Duncan '01](#) and the Rev. [Kyle Oliver](#)

CDSP Helps Educator Workshop Make Pivot



Our partners at [Trinity Church Wall Street](#) have pledged to identify and equip emerging leaders, for the Church and for the world. It's that commitment that undergirds [Leadership Development](#) as one of the five strategic initiatives of the parish.

With that in mind, [Codrington College](#) in Barbados, a seminary that dates from 1745, and Trinity convened more than thirty people from around the globe from March 17 to March 20 in an online workshop called "Leadership Innovation for the Church and the World."

The workshop took place online due to the COVID-19 pandemic and utilized video conferencing and methods of online learning managed by CDSP. While the number of participants was lower due to the pandemic, countries represented included Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Uganda, India, Brazil, and the United States ...

Switching to a "virtual" workshop was made easier by the CDSP team members, assistance which Rob Garris, Trinity's Managing Director for Leadership Development, called "absolutely essential to our ability to pivot at the last minute."

"Because we have significant experience in this area, we were able to help the design team create a 'convening equivalent' that retained a great many of the elements that had been included in the in-person design," said the Rev. Susanna Singer, PhD.

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News Briefs from the CDSP Community

Students

[Jed Dearing '20](#) has accepted a call for a two-year clergy residency at [St. Francis Episcopal Church](#) in Springboro, OH, and will be ordained to transitional diaconate in the Diocese of Southern Ohio on June 6.

[Ryan Baker-Fones '20](#) is serving as chaplain at the [Episcopal Campus Ministry for the University of Oregon](#) and will be ordained to the transitional diaconate when it is possible to

gather again in sufficient numbers for ordinations in Oregon.

The Rev. **Jennifer Briggs Latham '20** has been accepted into the CPE residency program for [Pacific Healthcare Ministries](#) in Honolulu, HI, and will be ordained to the priesthood this summer.

The Rev. **Judith (Jude) Lyons '19** was ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Los Angeles in January and is currently serving as associate priest for adult Christian formation and the arts at [St. Francis Episcopal Church](#) in Palos Verdes, CA.

Faculty

Scott MacDougall, PhD, was a panelist for [Theology in the Time of COVID-19](#) co-sponsored by CEEP, Bexley Seabury Seminary Federation, and the Anglican Theological Review. He published [Making Memes as Public Theology in the Seminary Classroom](#) in the Wabash Center's *Teaching with Digital Media* blog.

Caroline McCall '15 is a member of the [Task Force for Church Planting and Redevelopment](#), which in response to the disruptions of COVID-19 is inviting every congregation to engage intentionally in redevelopment and is providing support for that process.

The Rev. **Ruth Meyers**, PhD, led a workshop with clergy in the Diocese of Michigan on eucharistic theology and practice during this season of social distancing. She was interviewed for [Episcopalians find ways to keep palms in Palm Sunday](#) and [COVID-19 sparks Eucharistic experimentation – and theological debate](#) at *Episcopal News Service*.

Alums

The Rev. **Beth Foote '06** is interim rector of [All Saints' Episcopal Church](#) in San Francisco, CA.

The Rev. **Vanessa Stickler Glass '01** is canon for transition ministry for the [Episcopal Church in Colorado](#).

The Rev. **Jane A. Gober '03** is rector of [Christ Church](#) in Ridley Park, PA.

The Rev. **Thomas Jackson '08** is priest in charge of [St. Luke's Episcopal Church](#) in New Haven, CT.

Lauren S. Lukason '14 is curate at [St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church](#) in Sudbury, MA, and [St. Peter's Episcopal Church](#) in Weston, MA.

The Rev. **Babs M. Meairs '79** and her husband, the Rev. Edward Busch, have been appointed as chaplains to the retired clergy in the [Diocese of San Diego](#).

The Rev. **Stacy Williams-Duncan '01** is rector of [Little Fork Episcopal Church](#) in Rixeyville, VA.

The Rev. **Timothy J. Yanni '16** is associate rector of [All Saints' Episcopal Church](#) in Phoenix, AZ.

Staff

Alissa Fencsik has been promoted to the new position of manager of operations and hospitality.

Bob Kramish has been promoted to the new position of supervisor of guest services and student housing.

The Rev. Kyle Oliver has been hired as communications and marketing manager and adjunct instructor in Christian education. He was interviewed for [Digital Worship: Congregations Find Hope in Unfamiliar Waters](#) in *The Living Church*.

To share your news, email communications@cdsp.edu or use these forms:

In Memoriam

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

The Rev. Dr. Andrea Bowman '01 – [Obituary](#)

The Rev. Peter Bridgford '68 – [Obituary](#)

The Rev. Canon Robert J. Brooks, DD, '73 '15 – [Obituary](#)

The Very Rev. Dr. William (Bill) Ellis, Jr. '82 – [News story](#)

The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris, DD, '02 – [Obituary](#)

The Rev. Guy H. Piltz '63 – [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.

COVID-19 Response Updates

The CDSP leadership team has been working hard to protect the safety of our students, faculty, staff, and neighbors. You can read more about our adaptations to the pandemic in these past updates.

- [CDSP Closes Dorm, Continues Online-Only Instruction](#)
- [CDSP Announces Decisions About Adapting Commencement, June Intensive](#)

Please pray for CDSP, for each other, and for all who need the healing, comforting presence of Christ in these difficult days. May we continue finding creative ways to share God's love with one another and the world.

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