

Annual Report

2018-2019



MISSIO
SEMINARY



"Entrusted with the gospel"

1 Thessalonians 2:4

Letter from the *President*

The 2018-2019 academic year was filled with excitement and change. We officially changed our name to Missio Seminary, secured a new location in Philadelphia, and received over \$1.77 million in donations! To say that we were busy would be an understatement!

Our Strategic Plan (2015-2020) called for us to move to Philadelphia by 2020 and we have achieved that goal! The new location, 421 N. 7th Street, is centrally located in the heart of Philadelphia, just west of the Ben Franklin Bridge, north of Old City, and east of Chinatown. The new campus also has nearby access to both bus and train transportation and a plethora of parking options (both free and paid).

The Lord has been with us every step of the way and he continues to bring inspiring men and women to the seminary who are fully committed to following Jesus into the world!

I am deeply grateful for the friends, alumni, faculty, and staff that make the important work of Missio Seminary possible. The 2018-2019 academic year was a monumental time in our history and it would not have been possible without the collective prayers, support, and work of so many.

Semper Reformanda (Always Reforming),



Frank A. James III, DPhil, PhD,
President

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MISSIO
S E M I N A R Y



Convictions Statement: Missio Seminary

Missio Seminary is a Christian seminary committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ and a generously orthodox Christian faith for the purpose of preparing missional leaders to serve the church. We are intent on maintaining the following convictions in the life and work of our community.

In 1971 Dr. Allan A. MacRae and Dr. John (Jack) W. Murray stood in the parking lot of a vacant elementary school and prayed for God's help in establishing a new theological school that would forward the vision God had laid on the hearts of both men. Dr. MacRae was a gifted Bible scholar and communicator, and Jack Murray a well-known evangelist with a knack for presenting the message of salvation. Together they represented two passions that would become hallmarks of Biblical Theological Seminary (renamed Missio Seminary in 2018) — a deep desire to search and understand the Scriptures and a keen interest in effectively reaching people with the hope of the gospel. We believe God heard their prayer. We aspire to continue manifesting God's answer to that prayer in our current endeavors, including through the unanimous adoption of this missional convictions statement.

- ***The missional character of the Christian church:*** *We believe the life and witness of the church should be thoroughly shaped by its participation in the mission of God to reconcile the world to Himself in Jesus Christ, and by the call of Jesus to be the people of God sent into the world to proclaim and live out the gospel.*
- ***The primacy of scripture for Christian faith and life:*** *We believe Scripture is inspired by God and as such is infallible and authoritative for the life and witness of the church throughout history and across cultures.*
- ***The indispensable significance of Christian tradition:*** *We affirm the summary of Christian faith taught in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed and are committed to seeking wisdom from the history and traditions of the church.*
- ***The necessity of cultural engagement:*** *We are committed to ongoing engagement with culture and the world for the sake of our witness to the gospel, and to continual learning from Christians in other cultural settings.*

Moving Daze

On the afternoon of May 2, 1971, Dr. Allan A. MacRae accepted Dr. John Weir Murray's offer of the presidency of a new seminary that was yet to be named. However, Dr. MacRae requested that no announcement be made until potential students and potential private contributors were contacted.

The location for the new school had not been determined and the issue of conferring degrees was not yet tackled. Another meeting was held on June 2 reviewing questions concerning staff, library, accreditation, name, publicity, faculty, curriculum, overall emphasis, doctrinal basics, and catalog. Starting the seminary was no small task but Dr. MacRae and Dr. Murray worked diligently.

FAITH



& COURAGE

Opening day for the new seminary was planned for September. Accommodations for faculty and students would have to be found within weeks. Finally, a suitable property was found in Hatfield, Pa. The former Hatfield Joint Consolidated School building was constructed in 1921 and was vacated by the township in 1970. Dr. Murray persisted in negotiations and was able to secure the building in July 1971, only two months before classes were slated to begin.

The school determined from the beginning to become a meaningful part of the community. Outreach programs were developed and on February 28, 1972 the school announced several learning programs designed for the general public.

The reputation of the founders, the quality of the faculty, and the school's desire to become involved with the community was recognized early, encouraging partnership and support from many sources.

Throughout its history Missio Seminary has been under the care of Divine Providence, as our needs have been met at every turn. As we establish the seminary in the city of Philadelphia we do so mindful of the passion, courage, and faith of our founders.



Remembering Dr. J. Robert Vannoy

On February 3, 2019 founding faculty member Dr. J. Robert Vannoy completed his earthly journey. He was 81 years old. Dr. Vannoy was a protégé of Dr. Allan A. MacRae (Old Testament scholar and the Seminary's first president). This tandem started the seminary with a powerhouse of Old Testament scholarship.

During his tenure Dr. Vannoy played a crucial role in creating an institution known for its adherence to Scripture and its concern for the well-being of its students. He taught for 34 years and contributed considerably to academic and curriculum development. In 2002 Dr. Vannoy was appointed the Allan A. MacRae Professor of Biblical Studies. Following his appointment he noted, "Wherever the Bible touches on a subject, its message should be accepted as final," but "if the Bible leaves certain question open, then Christians should do likewise."

Dr. Vannoy earned his ThD at The Free University of Amsterdam with his focus on the Old Testament. He was considered one of the leading scholars on the books of Samuel and Kings and wrote study notes on those books for the *NIV Study Bible*, published in 1985. Those notes were adapted and used in the *NASB Study Bible*, published in 1999. He also provided study notes for the *New Geneva Study Bible* (1995) and was a contributor for the revision of *The New Living Translation*, published in 2004. In 2009 he authored *1-2 Samuel, Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*.

Not just a biblical scholar, Dr. Vannoy was a devoted husband and father. He and his wife Kathe were married for 53 years and raised four children – Anna, Robert, Mark, and Jonathan – and were blessed with 16 grandchildren. Dr. Vannoy was also a faithful churchman. In the early 1980s he helped plant Covenant Presbyterian Church in Harleysville, PA where he served as a teaching elder, leader, and faithful parishioner to the end of his life.

Dr. Vannoy will be greatly missed.

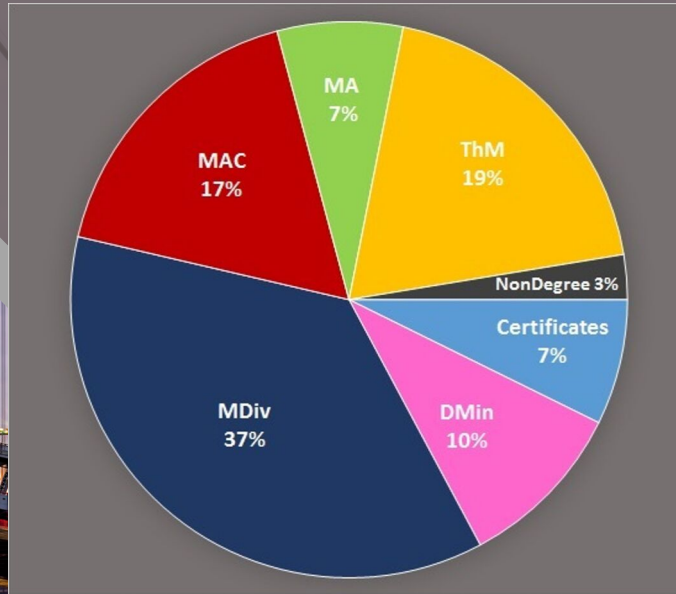
Contributions by Dr. R. Todd Mangum and Mr. Thomas D. Skinner

Missio at a Glance

Alumni: 2,077
Students: 274
Female: 33%
International: 31%
African American: 20%

Missio offers a wide variety of degree programs and certificates that emphasize rigorous biblical instruction, missional theology, and spiritual formation. Our classrooms serve as the training ground to prepare men and women to take the gospel into the world.

DEGREE BREAKDOWN



MISSIO

S E M I N A R Y

Missio welcomes Julie Cowen

Julie is the new director of Academic Services/Registrar for the seminary. A graduate of Fuller Seminary with an MA in Theology, she has completed coursework for the PhD in Higher Education Leadership at Azusa Pacific University. She is a Southern California native but has been in the Philly area for almost three years and most recently worked at Eastern University directing the first-year seminar and the associate of arts program. Prior to that she was at Vanguard University in California for over 10 years in a variety of roles. Julie lives in Ardmore and is actively involved with Six:Eight Vineyard Church in Bryn Mawr.





Missio Launches PULPIT

What is PULPIT?

PULPIT (Program for Urban Leaders and Pastors in Transition) is a monumental program for Missio Seminary and will equip pastors in the Philadelphia metro region with effective strategies to thrive personally and professionally. The program is led by Reverend Valerie Andrews and involves expert teaching and training developed by Dr. Kyuboem Lee and Dr. Taunya Tinsley.

PULPIT is funded through the Lilly Endowment's Thriving in Ministry initiative that supports a variety of religious organizations across the nation as they create or strengthen pastoral leadership in Christian congregations. This has been a grantmaking priority at Lilly Endowment for nearly 25 years. "Leading a congregation today is multi-faceted and exceptionally demanding," said Christopher L. Coble, Lilly Endowment's vice president for religion. "When pastors have opportunities to build meaningful relationships with experienced colleagues, they are able to negotiate the challenges of ministry and their leadership thrives. These promising programs, including PULPIT, will help pastors develop these kinds of relationships, especially when they are in the midst of significant professional transitions."

Why PULPIT?

- More than 1/3 of pastors are a high or medium risk of burnout (Barna Group, 2017)
- 43% of pastors are at high or medium relational risk in family, friendships, or other close relationships (Barna Group, 2017).



Rev. Valerie Andrews, MDiv, MA Director of PULPIT

As a staunch advocate of education, Rev. Andrews has worked with several institutions of higher learning including Cheyney University, Bucks County Community College, and Harcum College. Currently, she is pursuing her doctorate at Thomas Jefferson University in Management of Strategic Leadership. She also holds a Master's degree in Counseling Education from Millersville University and a Master of Divinity from Palmer Theological Seminary. Rev. Andrews serves as the Lead Pastor of Eternal Life Missionary Baptist Church in Philadelphia. Previously she has served at The Church of the Redeemer Baptist with Rev. Dr. Wayne E. Croft, Sr., and at Bible Way Baptist Church with Dr. Damone B. Jones, Sr. Rev. Andrews is the proud mother of three children, Joy, Jasmine and Ronald Jr. Her life Scripture is Isaiah 40:31. Her passion in ministry is to enhance leadership for the Kingdom of God by providing training and tools for church effectiveness!

Church and Alumni Relations

God continues to show favor to Missio in building relationships with our alumni and the broader church in Philadelphia and beyond. As we have continued to commit time and resources in an effort to serve, support, and encourage the work of the Kingdom, God has opened the doors for conversation, participation, and partnership with over 30 different groups across the region from Washington, DC to New York City.



As we look to the coming year, we are excited to add student relations to our department. We look forward to developing relationships, programs, and resources to help our students flourish personally, academically, spiritually, and professionally during their time at Missio and beyond. Thank you for your generous support and personal connections, which have enabled Missio to more fully engage with Kingdom work beyond the walls of the seminary through our alumni, students, and church partners.

Paul Zazzo, MDiv '02
Dean of Students
Director of Church and Alumni Relations

A student story: Greg Jackson



Enduring trials of many kinds built faith and birthed a calling in Greg Jackson (MDiv '21). He suffered with sickle cell disease until he was cured through a bone marrow transplant from his brother. In his college years, he experienced cardiac arrest and surgery to repair a collapsed lung before undergoing a lung transplant at the age of 29. For six weeks Greg waited for a new set of lungs in the hospital ICU while on life support. The very night doctors feared would be his last, God made a way and provided lungs through a donor. Greg felt a deeper meaning as a Christian and said, "The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ had a deeper meaning to me. For me to live, somebody had to die." During his recovery Greg held onto Jesus' exchange with Peter in Luke 22, "Simon, Simon behold Satan has asked to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail, and when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Greg felt as if Jesus was speaking directly to him through this verse and he prayed fervently that his "faith may not fail" and knew that if he survived he was called to "strengthen his brothers" through ministry.

News & Events



Founders Day October 6, 2018

Current and former faculty, alumni, students, and friends of the seminary celebrated Missio's 47th anniversary. Displays throughout the campus highlighted important events in the seminary's history. As plenary speaker, Emeritus Professor Dr. Newman addressed the attendees with a speech titled "Speaking Truth in a World of Fake News."



Teaching to Change Lives October 13, 2018

Dr. Shannon Lamb led a one-day seminar on effective teaching methods in ministry and the classroom. Jesus' approach to ministry and educational theories were used as models to illustrate the benefits of an active learning process. Colleges and universities currently use internships, service learning, labs, and practicums to help their students learn in a hands-on way. Dr. Lamb used this research to demonstrate how engaging people's whole lives can result in more effective and transformative ministry.

Connection and Conversation Night

February 28, 2019

Students and alumni attended a night of fellowship at the BRUNCH Café in Conshohocken on the evening of February 28. Missio faculty and students were encouraged to bring friends to share in the encouragement and community. Dr. Todd Magnum led the event, which included Bible trivia, testimonies of God's faithfulness, laughter, and lots of snacks.



Many former students and faculty members gathered together to celebrate Founders' Day, walk through the Hatfield campus, and connect with their fellow alumni and colleagues.

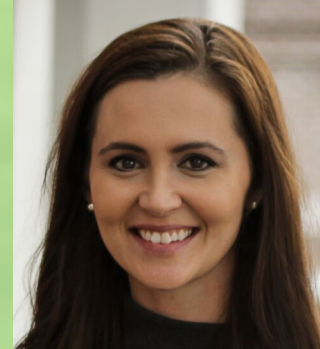
Missio welcomes Kim Baltimore

As director of operations, Kim brings a wealth of experience. She has worked at University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, and Eastern University. Having obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from UPenn and a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Eastern University, Kim looks forward to combining her years of experience in higher education coupled with her organizational leadership knowledge in working with staff and faculty to make Missio soar to its next level. Having been born and raised in Philadelphia, Kim is excited to be an integral part in transitioning the seminary to Philadelphia and back to her roots.



Graduate School of Counseling welcomes

Hannah serves as co-director of the Graduate School of Counseling and as assistant professor. She graduated from Missio's MA in Counseling Program in 2010. She also completed the Global Trauma Recovery Institute. Hannah served on the team that launched Cornerstone Counseling Ministries, a Christ-centered counseling center in Easton, Pa., and served as the executive director for a season. She continues to counsel there (with many other Missio grads!). She helped launch Restoring Hope Ministries—a ministry initiative in Congo focused on restoration, training, and asset-based community development—and led the communications team. Hannah is currently finishing up her PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision at Regent University. She is married to Josh and has four children—Rees, McKenzie, Joshua, and Zayn. Hannah and her family call Life Church home.



Hannah Wildasin



Nicole L. Hall LPCC-S, CTT

As a Certified Trauma Therapist, she works with victims of interpersonal violence. Nicole holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication Arts and Psychology from Cedarville University and a Master of Arts Degree in Clinical Counseling from Xavier University. She is finishing her PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision from Regent University.

Nicole serves as co-director of the Graduate School of Counseling and assistant professor. You will often hear Nicole talk about her love of the counseling profession's uniqueness in placing equal value on both the art and science techniques of treatment. She first learned this in 2001 as a foster care and adoptions case manager in Florida then at a mental health agency for children in Cincinnati. Since then, Nicole has worked as a counselor in a university counseling center, a community mental health agency and in private practice.

News & Events

Money for Ministries March 23, 2019

Missio held a morning seminar on the topic of Money for Ministries. This was the seminary's first seminar in its Pastoral Enrichment Series. Money management expert Thomas Skinner spoke on creating a culture of generosity in ministry. Skinner shared from his experience in a nearly 40-year career in nonprofit management and fundraising.



Church Planting Info Session May 7, 2019

Missio held a church planting informational session with church planting leaders from around the region for students and perspective church planters.

Living Missionally in the Everyday May 21, 2019

Michael Gonzalez, Gino Curcuruto, and Matt Murphy led a practical seminar on living missionally in the everyday. The topics of these sessions included: speaking the gospel on mission, spiritual conversations that allow for a faithful presence in relationships, and living on mission in the natural rhythms of life.



Faith in the Marketplace Conference May 24, 2019

Local business professionals and leaders gathered at the Indian Valley Country Club for Missio's 2nd Annual Faith in the Marketplace conference. The conference focused on the integration of faith and work for people in the secular workplace. Bob Doll, Chief Equity Strategist at Nuveen, was featured as the keynote speaker. The conference also included a panel discussion made up of several local businesspeople.



Missio welcomes Rachel McConnell

Rachel is the director of library services and receptionist. She has a wide range of work experience including school librarian and administrative assistant at a Christian school in Northeast Philadelphia. Rachel is a graduate of Bob Jones University (BA, Biblical Studies). She lives with her husband Ian and three children in West Philadelphia where she is active in ministry at Covenant Community Church.



Commencement

Missio held its 48th annual commencement on Saturday, June 8 at Church of the Saviour in Wayne, PA. Fifty graduates were honored for completing their academic programs. Graduates Brian Su Yung Bae (MDiv) and Barbara Renzi (MA) shared their testimonies. Dr. Dan Williams gave the keynote address and challenged the graduating class to be used by God and make a difference in their communities. Dr. Williams is a graduate of Missio Seminary and a former faculty member. He serves as the senior pastor of New Life in Christ Fellowship and is the State Representative for District 74 in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

A Note on Kingdom Partnership

At Missio Seminary we strive to train missional leaders who will follow Jesus into the world and further Christ's Kingdom. This important mission would not be possible without the faithful commitments of our ministry partners! On behalf of the faculty, staff, and the students preparing for ministry at Missio Seminary, thank you for your generous support. Together, we are preparing ministry leaders to reach the next generation!

Sincerely,

Charles D. Blachford
Vice President for Development & Strategic Initiatives



A Year of Blessing

fiscal year 2019

The year which ended on June 30, 2019 was a year of historic changes and tremendous blessing at Missio Seminary. We changed our name, sold our dorm facility, and successfully secured our new location (421 N. 7th Street) in Philadelphia! While it was extremely busy, the Lord graciously provided through it all. By God's grace, and the abundant generosity of our partners, our total gift income was more than \$1.77 million. This was our highest total gift income in more than 15 years and an increase of 120% over last year. As a result of the sale of our dorm and the generosity of our partners we were able to finish the year with a net surplus of over \$800,000! Here are how the last two years compared:

Revenue	*FY19	FY18
Tuition, net	\$1,363,278	\$1,739,034
Donations	1,776,223	803,449
Investment income	295,405	252,788
Other revenue	39,706	58,764
Gain on sale of dorm, net	666,828	
TOTAL	\$4,141,440	\$2,854,035
Expenses		
Academic/Student Services	\$1,501,844	\$1,493,779
Institutional support	968,027	1,094,586
Physical Plant	274,168	258,542
Development	239,407	302,355
Auxiliary Enterprises		
New site development	326,245	17,641
TOTAL	\$3,309,691	\$3,166,903
Net Gain (Loss)	\$831,749	(\$312,868)

*Pre-audit Numbers

We are grateful for the commitment, sacrifice, and dedication of our staff, faculty, board of trustees, and the hundreds of donors who make our work possible. This budget surplus provided the resources and encouragement needed to successfully transition to Philadelphia. The board of trustees and administration are proactively working and planning to ensure the 2019-20 year will also finish with a positive balance.

Missio Annual Report 2018-2019

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following Jesus into the world



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