

# THE VOICE



THE  
*Not-So-*NEW  
NORMAL

Central Alumni Encountering a  
World of Bi-Vocational Ministry

LeAundra K. Stewart-Boyice MDiv '21 gives an alumni reflection at a meeting of the board of trustees.

# IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 A Word from the President
- 2 Celebrating Easter People
- 3 New Programs to Meet Today's Ministry Needs
- 4 New Ways Forward
- 6 The Not-So-New Normal
- 9 In Memoriam



## CENTRAL SEMINARY

6601 Monticello Road  
Shawnee, KS 66226-3513  
(913) 667-5700 | (800) 677-2287  
[www.cbts.edu](http://www.cbts.edu)

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Pam Durso, President  
[pdurso@cbts.edu](mailto:pdurso@cbts.edu)

Craig S. Doty, Director of Marketing  
[cdoty@cbts.edu](mailto:cdoty@cbts.edu)

## CONTRIBUTORS

Angela Barker Jackson, Director of Development  
[angela.jackson@cbts.edu](mailto:angela.jackson@cbts.edu)

Jessica C. Williams, Director of Alumni Engagement & Lifelong Learning  
[jwilliams@cbts.edu](mailto:jwilliams@cbts.edu)

## MAGAZINE DESIGN

Kathryn Gauer  
[kathryn.gauer@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.gauer@gmail.com)





## A Word from the President

### 리더십의 중심 센트럴, 센트럴에서 리더십으로

When I describe Central Seminary's learning community to friends and supporters, I invite them to imagine a Zoom classroom filled with students from around the globe and to imagine students studying in their heart language. At Central, our value of theological hospitality and our emphasis on cross-cultural, multi-language education is lived out every day as we seek to serve our 500+ students, who are citizens of 12 countries, who affiliate with 25 distinct denominations, and who study in Burmese, English, Kachin, and Korean.

At Central, we welcome this diversity in ethnic origins, theological perspectives, denominational connection, and faith experience, knowing that what unites us is our shared commitment to seeking and serving. We also welcome this diversity, recognizing the difficulties and challenges it brings but convinced that the best seminary learning experiences happen when our students learn from and with others whose experience with God is different than their own and when serious theological exploration takes place in a context of generosity of spirit and respectful dialogue. I am ever thankful for our students, faculty, and staff who have invested themselves in creating this learning community that reflects the beauty and diversity of God's kingdom.

센트럴 신학대학원의 학습공동체가 어떤 모습인지 궁금해하는 친구들과 후원자들에게 저는 수많은 다양한 나라의 학생들이 모여 자신의 모국어로 공부하고 있는 좀 강의실을 떠올려 보라고 권합니다. 센트럴은 버마어, 영어, 까친어, 한국어로 공부하는 25개 교파 소속, 12개국, 500명 이상의 학생들에게 매일 신학적 환대를 기반으로 다문화, 다국어 교육을 제공하고 있습니다.

이처럼 다양한 민족, 신학적 관점, 교파, 신앙경험을 지닌 학생들을 환영하는 것이 센트럴에서 가능한 이유는 하나님을 찾고 서로를 섬긴다는 공통된 헌신이 우리 학생들을 하나로 묶어주고 있기 때문입니다. 하나님에 대한 경험이 나와는 다른 학생들과 함께 학습하고, 관용과 존중가운데 진지한 신학적 탐구가 일어나는 곳에서 최고의 신학교 학습경험이 이루어 진다고 확신하기 때문에 우리는 다양성을 추구함으로써 겪게 되는 어려움과 도전 또한 환영합니다. 저는 하나님 나라의 아름다움과 다양성을 반영하고 있는 이런 학습 공동체를 만들기 위해 자신의 모든것을 투자한 센트럴의 학생들, 교수진, 교직원분들께 진심으로 감사를 드립니다. 🙏

**Pam Durso**



Clockwise from left: Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim addresses commencement attendees. The Kachin Family Graduates Choir performs a musical blessing. A graduate celebrates commencement with a loved one. Debbie Jean Buchholz DMin '22 signs a reading from Psalm 27.

## Celebrating Easter People

For the first time since 2019, Central celebrated with graduates and their families during an in-person commencement celebration. Hundreds watched online and hundreds more gathered at Westside Family Church with masks and socially distanced as nearly forty students crossed the stage on May 14, 2022.

With a musical blessing by the Kachin Family Graduates Choir, those gathered then heard from commencement speaker Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim.

Kim told students, “We are Easter people, and as Easter people we live in hope. God gives us hope and we are grounded in hope... We are going to work for justice and work for God, that is the hope we live in. The world teaches us that we need to see, and then we will believe... But we as Easter people, believe and then we will see. You believe and you will see God’s hand leading you day by day.” 🌿



# New Programs to Meet Today's Ministry Needs

Central continuously adapts program offerings to meet the needs of today's rapidly changing ministry settings. Embracing students' desires to complete programs remotely, most programs are now offered fully online. Innovative curriculum combined with affordable tuition rates, scholarship offerings, and individual payment plans makes Central a top choice for prospective students looking for high-quality, accredited theological education.

New programs include:

## **Doctor of Ministry in Missional Church Studies**

- Fully online
- Offered in both English and Korean

## **Master of Arts in Counseling**

- Clinical counseling focus
- First cohort of students have graduated and passed licensure exams

## **Chaplaincy Certificate**

- Fully online
- Credit and non-credit options

## **NEW! Certificate in Peace and Justice Ministry**

- Fully online
- Credit and non-credit options
- Launches August 2022

Learn more about these and all Central's programs at [www.cbts.edu/programs](http://www.cbts.edu/programs). 

- ▶ Watch the ceremony at Central's YouTube channel [youtube.com/c/CentralSeminaryKS/videos](https://youtube.com/c/CentralSeminaryKS/videos)
- ▶ Check out pictures of graduates at [cbts.edu/commencement/](http://cbts.edu/commencement/)

# YOU

## make Central's mission possible.

Join us in mission for the 2022-23 academic year!

When you give, we become partners in preparing leaders like Jonathan Clark MDiv '11 and Albert Samson MDiv '21, MATS '22, highlighted in this issue, for seeking God, shaping church, and serving humanity and all creation.

By giving today, you help students just like them to achieve their goals and live into their callings by providing critical scholarships and essential support services.

**Classes begin on August 29, and the need is great. Will you give?**



Simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera, or mail a check in the enclosed envelope.

**Thank you for giving generously!**



# New Ways Forward

By Jim Cook, chair of the Central Board of Trustees

This past May, Central's board met for our first in-person board meeting since November 2019. As we convened, I asked for a show of hands of those who were attending their first non-Zoom board meeting and many hands went up, including that of our president, Dr. Pam Durso. We welcomed key new senior staff in areas of finance, marketing, and development. It had been more than two years since we had met face-to-face, yet those opening moments reminded us that this has been an extraordinary season in Central's history, not because of how the pandemic has impacted Central, but because of how we have been able to grow and thrive during a difficult season.

Over the past two years we have witnessed many new things. We have seen that our embrace of technology and remote learning demonstrate that we can fulfill our primary mission of educating students, including adding a new counseling program that just celebrated its first graduates.

We have been working behind the scenes to prepare for whatever comes next. That has included working for nearly a year with consultants to review and revise our strategic plan so that we have clear goals and measures to guide us as we live into our revised vision and values. We have created a culture plan that expresses clearly what we value as a community and how we commit to working together. The board just recently approved revised bylaws that were written with the assistance of one of the premier higher education law practices in the U.S.

We don't know what comes next, but we do recognize that we constantly have to think in new ways. The past two years have taught us that our world can change quickly, and we must be ready to adapt. We face the future with hope and energy, confident we can continue to grow and serve in a new, ever changing world. 🌱

# THE *Not-So-*NEW NORMAL



Albert Samson MDiv '21, MATS '22, left, and Jonathan Clark MDiv '11

## Central Alumni Encountering a World of Bi-Vocational Ministry

Every aspect of church life is undergoing radical change. Attendance challenges have been well documented, and decreasing attendance has impacted operational funding. Limited revenue has resulted in some churches being unable to fund full-time ministerial support for their congregations. Instead of closing the doors, some of these churches employ their ministerial staff in a part-time capacity, which has in turn led to church staff embracing bi-vocational ministry: part-time pastor and part-time IT consultant, full-time insurance agent and part-time chaplain, part-time church musician and part-time barista, and the combinations go on.

### The Not-So-New Trend

Bi-vocational ministry may be seen by some as a new trend, but it is not. In some denominations, and in many parts of the world, it is the norm. Yet it has not always been viewed favorably. To some it has been viewed as a “less than” ministry position. Pastor and author Karl Vaters suggests, “Bi-vocational ministry is more than a pit-stop along the way to

‘real’ pastoral ministry. It’s as real as pastoring gets. And it’s becoming very common, very fast.”

While many are bi-vocational out of necessity, Vaters notes that some pastors are bi-vocational by choice. For some, (1) it allows more money to go to hands-on ministry, (2) it keeps pastors in touch with the unchurched and their real-world needs, and (3) it frees pastors from being trapped in the “ministry bubble.” Some pastors are so committed that they continue as bi-vocational even after their church has grown large enough to pay them a full-time salary.

Darryl Stephens, director of United Methodist Studies at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, in his research on bi-vocational ministry, observes, “Many bi-vocational ministers discover as a surprise that their ‘secular vocation’ enhances their ministry because they’re able to connect with people in the community. They’re also able to connect with people in their congregation on a different level. They have insight into the everyday struggles of the people. In many ways,

the idea of bi-vocational ministry is a natural balance that individuals can find in their own lives—how they balance the sacred and secular and how they understand God at work in the world and in the church.”

Central alum Jonathan Clark MDiv '11, echoes this observation: “Growing up in the home of a full-time pastor, and with both grandfathers being full-time pastors, I thought that was the [only] path for a pastor. You do it, and you do it full-time.” But Clark learned there was a different way that worked for him and his family.

Clark works full-time in the insurance industry and serves as pastor of Willard Avenue Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kansas. He says, “While bi-vocational ministry brings its own set of stressors, primarily related to seemingly constantly working to manage my time well, I’ve found it presents the benefit of providing an outlet from what might become something of a grind full-time ministry could entail. This likely became most clear to me during the height of the Covid Pandemic during 2020 and 2021. All pastors were asked to suddenly and completely transform the way they ministered—with no real return to ‘normal’ in sight. For some full-time pastors I know, the stress of that experience led them to seek ways of serving God outside of the pastorate. Though oblivious to it at the time, as I’ve reflected on the Spring of 2020 during which my church did not gather for ten weeks, I believe it was a time of renewal for me. As opposed to ministerial burnout, my work during the week provided (and continues to provide) balance for me as I serve bi-vocationally.”

In churches outside the United States, bi-vocational ministry is common. Based on his research, Stephens notes, “We have a full-time bias in graduate theological education [toward full-time ministry]. But the idea of a full-time, fully-funded clergy is really a product of white Christendom in North America. Bi-vocational ministry is the usual way to do ministry in most contexts outside of white mainline denominations.” Stephens continues, “When we look at immigrant communities, communities of color, particularly the black or Latino church, we see bi-vocational ministry as the norm.”

While bi-vocational ministry may be more common globally, it is still not without challenges in perception.

Two-time Central alum Albert Samson MDiv '21, MATS '22, is on a mission to address bi-vocational ministry in his home country of Nigeria. Many years ago, Samson had a vision to prepare ministers in Nigeria and all of Africa as well for bi-vocational careers. He knew to make this vision a reality he needed theological education, which led him to Central Seminary.

Samson believes that some ministers in Nigeria and other parts of Africa felt they had to be fully dedicated to their congregation, even though that congregation could not afford to pay them. As a result, some ministers employed questionable tactics to raise funds. He observes, “The economic pressure on the minister is so heavy that it is tempting, even to the good ones, to do things that are not right just to survive.”

**“If you plan your life properly and effectively you will be able to do something on the side that will not take you away from your calling. And church work is not only inside the four walls of the church.”**

**Albert Samson MDiv '21, MATS '22**  
Heartland International Ministries  
In-Country Director for Nigeria and Africa

Samson wants ministers to be able to survive without having to make difficult or ethical choices, and he wants them to feel good about being able to do both. “Bi-vocational ministry is not new in Nigeria, but it has been seen as a distraction, lack of commitment,” Samson notes. “If you plan your life properly and effectively you will be able to do something on the side that will not take you away from your calling. And church work is not only inside the four walls of the church. The community is there.”

### **The Role of the Seminary**

Many may ask, what are seminaries doing to prepare their students for a possible bi-vocational future? How can seminaries recognize and lift up bi-vocational ministry as a meaningful career choice? How can seminaries prepare students for bi-vocational ministry? How can seminaries support alumni who are already working in bi-vocational ministry?

Packard Brown in “Bi-vocational Ministry on the Rise” writes that seminaries should take specific action to support future bi-vocational ministry, and he highlights a few possibilities:

- Determine and develop leadership characteristics needed for pastors to be successful in bi-vocational ministry.
- Introduce students to bi-vocational ministry through internships or immersion experiences.
- Help students develop project and time management and volunteer recruitment and management skills.
- Teach students the pathways to sources of secondary income and help them develop job search skills for positions outside of ministry.
- Help students gain savvy in negotiating salary, time, and other boundaries with their congregation.

### Central's Approach

This not-so-new trend of preparing students for a possible bi-vocational future has been on

Central's radar for many years. We know that most Central students are already engaged in bi-vocational ministry work through employment for either financial reasons or as part of their degree course requirements. For many, their ministry work is part time, and is in addition to other employment and schooling. Those students are unknowingly developing the boundary setting and time management skills needed for successful bi-vocational ministry.

Central students and alumni are also supported through our Thriving in Ministry programs that includes opportunities to be paired with a mentor, who assists them in discernment of how best to use their gifts and strengths, advises them in ministry searches, and guides them in developing vocational skills sets needed in their area of calling and work. Our students and alumni are also offered opportunities, such as a training session on resume writing in which attendees learned how to translate ministry skills and experience into language for

positions outside of ministry, led last fall by our president, Pam Durso, and Jessica Williams, director of alumni engagement and lifelong learning.

Nathan Huguley MDiv '10, Central's student success advisor, works with students throughout their seminary journey and knows how important it is for us to be talking about bi-vocational ministry: “The idea of bi-vocational/bi-professional ministry is now part of everyday conversations around ministry formation. I talk to a lot of students who already are doing bi-vocational ministry or who know that they will need to supplement their income with other sources in order to afford to do ministry. There seems to be a baseline understanding among most students that full-time ministry isn't going to pay all the bills all the time for their whole careers.”

“The idea of bi-vocational/  
bi-professional ministry  
is now part of everyday  
conversations around  
ministry formation.”

Nathan Huguley MDiv '10  
Central's student success advisor

Because bi-vocational ministry is the current and future reality, seminarians must be able to access an affordable theological education. Most students cannot afford excessive educational debt, even for their calling, if that calling will not provide them with resources to pay for the cost of their education. Because

of this reality, Central continues to focus on affordability and accessibility as hallmarks of the student experience. Low tuition rates, generous scholarships, and individualized payment plans make it possible for most students to attend without obtaining loans. Even with low tuition, not every student can afford to attend, which is why scholarships are so important. Affordability and financial resources is an ever-present discussion among Central's leadership. The question is: how do we maintain high-quality educational standards, account for increasing costs, watch the trends in theological education, and provide the most affordable tuition rate possible?

If there is one thing we know for sure, it's that bi-vocational ministry is here to stay, and for many that is not bad news. After all, if bi-vocational ministry was good enough for Apostle Paul working as a tentmaker, perhaps it is good enough for any one of us. As Vaters writes, “bi-vocationality is not a problem that needs fixing.” It's a reality that needs facing. ✎

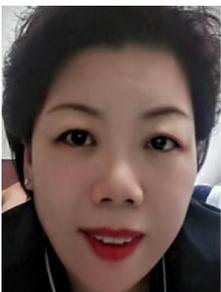
# IN MEMORIAM



## Larry Cornine

Larry Cornine, 81, passed away May 7, 2022, as the founding administrator of Central's counseling programs and professor of counseling. Cornine built Central's counseling program from the ground up including developing curriculum, hiring faculty, and recruiting students. He loved his students, and as Dr. Lindsay Bonebrake, director of the counseling program, noted, "He saw in them the potential to care well for others during their most difficult times." She continued, "The joy that Dr. Cornine exuded in all that he did is joy that is rarely matched in any person. He found good in everyone he encountered."

## Ea Soon An-Yoo



Ea Soon An-Yoo, alum and student at the time of her death, passed away April 14, 2022. Dr. Samuel Park, Korean program director, said, "I am saddened by

the loss of a dedicated and promising Central student - Ea Soon An-Yoo. She was an exemplary student. In 2020, she graduated from Central with Diploma in Christian Formation, receiving the Presidential Award for highest GPA. Following graduation, she enrolled in Central's Master of Divinity degree program. Unfortunately, her life and education were cut short by cancer. We all are encouraged and inspired by your life and fortitude, Ea Soon."

## Young Jun Kim



Young Jun Kim passed away May 17, 2022. He served as pastor of Atlanta Saint Presbyterian Church in Lilburn, Georgia and as a hospice chaplain in the surrounding area. In addition to his steadfast dedication to his community and church ministry, he will be missed as an important part of the Central Seminary family serving as a supplemental faculty member in the Korean program.

## Susang Han



Susang Han passed away on May 27, 2022. He served as pastor of New Presbyterian Church in Gilbert, Arizona. While serving his congregation and community faithfully, he also was part of the Central Seminary family serving as a supplemental faculty member in the Korean program. His dedication to his ministry and his students will be greatly missed.

# SHOW YOUR CENTRAL PRIDE!

ORDER YOUR  
SPIRITWEAR TODAY



[https://www.rokkitwear.com/  
school/56058-central-seminary](https://www.rokkitwear.com/school/56058-central-seminary)

