

## Calvin Theological Seminary – Fall 2022 Ministry Highlights

Since 1876, Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) has worked on your behalf to faithfully prepare leaders who can nurture disciples and serve the church. Calvin Seminary is a vital and hospitable learning community in the Reformed Christian tradition. Our desire is not just to train pastors but also to form church leaders who can cultivate communities of disciples for Jesus Christ.

Currently Calvin Seminary has around 270 students in various programs including our Latino/a Ministry Certificates. In addition, the school hosts a number of classes, weekly community events, chapel services, conferences, lectures, and other learning opportunities many of which can be viewed on the CTS Vimeo Channel.

### Board and Calvin Seminary Ministry Highlights:

- May 21, 2022, marked the first in-person, “normal” Calvin Theological Seminary Commencement date since 2019 because of COVID. We were able to celebrate the completion of a program for 61 graduates who came from Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea and the United States represented.

For comparisons, CTS had 61 graduates also in 2020 and 89 (with 27 in the Latino(a) Program) in 2021.

- Presented two faculty candidates to Synod for their successful interviews. Dr. Wilson Cunha is our new Professor of Old Testament. Dr. Yudha Thianto is our new Professor of History of Christianity and Reformed Theology. Dr. Cunha is originally from Brazil and Dr. Thianto is originally from Indonesia. Their journey to Calvin Seminary illustrates the global impact and reach of Calvin Seminary and Reformed Theology.

<https://www.thebanner.org/news/2022/06/synod-2022-appoints-professor-of-old-testament-to-seminary>

<https://www.thebanner.org/news/2022/06/synod-welcomes-yudha-thianto-as-seminary-professor>

Dr. Thianto has a new book that was recently released by IVP Academic on John Calvin. It is entitled An Explorer's Guide to John Calvin. <https://www.ivpress.com/yudha-thianto>

- The Board approved faculty openings in the field of New Testament and for a Director of Latino(a) Ministry. We urge the church to send nominations in to Calvin Theological Seminary by contacting the Academic Office or through the website at <https://www.calvinseminary.edu/about/employment>

- Calvin Theological Seminary was recognized by Lilly Endowment and received a million dollar grant in their Pathways for Tomorrow program. Calvin Seminary plans on using this resource in the areas of continuing education, Latino(a) ministry and Competency Based Theological Education as a way to come around and raise up more church leaders. The goal is providing theological formation and education in keeping with values of collaboration, flexibility, accessibility and practicality.
- The Board approved new curriculum, especially in the M.A. and M.Div. degree programs, in an ongoing effort to respond to needs of the church. This revision will allow for more elective space and the opportunity for students to concentrate in various areas of calling. In addition, this allows the current distance format for the M.Div. degree to be reduced in time to complete from five years to four years. The Board encourages Classis Ministry Leadership Teams to be aware of the distance learning delivery system (along with the traditional residential program)
- Recognized the work of new staff hires such as Director of Communications and Enrollment Management Annie Mas-Smith and Associate Director of Admissions Justin Den Ouden.
- Along with Calvin University, Calvin Seminary participated in the first ever commencement program for the Calvin Prison Initiative – CPI at Handlon Prison. CTS is anticipating that one recently released student will be continuing their studies at CTS this coming year.
- As we face the fall, we invite your prayers for the Board, faculty, staff and students. We would especially invite you to pray for international students some of whom are still waiting for their visas.
- We also gave thanks for the support given in a major building remodel that was focusing on increasing technology, flexibility and collaborative learning spaces for the purpose of community, education and worship. The Board invites all persons to take a tour of your seminary as you have the opportunity.
- Please continue to pray for the faculty, staff and students of the seminary as the new academic year begins. In closing, thank you for your partnership with the seminary, as together we work to form church leaders who cultivate communities of disciples of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

Rev. Mark Verbruggen & Brian Verheul

Your Calvin Theological Seminary Region 4 Board Trustees