The indelible imprint of JoAnne Kagiwada

JoAnne H. Kagiwada will conclude her service as a trustee at the end of the year. She was first elected to the Board of Trustees in 1984, making her its longest serving current member.

Ms. Kagiwada’s leadership, including as Vice President, member of the Executive Committee, and long-time chair of the Nominating Committee, has been transformative. She has helped to foster a collegial, future-oriented style of shared work and to recruit an enviably talented, diverse, and committed board. She had joined the board when its twenty-one members included only one other woman, Leverne Pfile; women students had first been admitted to DDH as residential scholars less than ten years before that.

She first came to know the Disciples Divinity House through her husband, the late David T. Kagiwada. An alumnus and BD graduate of the Divinity School, Mr. Kagiwada was an influential pastor and denominational leader. At the time of his death, he was Senior Minister of Crestview Christian Church in Indianapolis. The Kagiwadas were among the founders of what is now the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples.

A graduate of the University of California–Berkeley Law School, JoAnne Kagiwada’s distinguished
Celebration
(continued from previous page)
"Grateful for what is to come," which will echo throughout the weekend. Harvard professor and Christian Century columnist Stephanie Paulsell will respond. What are our responsibilities to a future that cannot be fully known? How can gratitude for past and present communities ready us to move onward with courage and vision? How might art, worship, community engagement, theology, and preaching attune us to the demands of the future? Divinity School faculty members W. Clark Gilpin and Susan Schreiner, together with other scholars, will explore “gratefulness and timefulness.” Innovative practitioners will invite thought and action towards what is to come.

Disciples minister and writer Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson is planning morning prayer for the quiet of the extraordinary Chapel of the Holy Grail. Opportunities for focused conversation with practitioners and scholars will be offered on Saturday afternoon and again on Sunday morning.

A gala dinner will take place on Saturday evening at the Quadrangle Club, with Dean Kris Culp, Board President April Lewton, and 125th Anniversary Chair Chad Martin. Trustee Gaylord Yu and actor Drew Powell (of TV series Gotham, Ponderosa, and Malcolm in the Middle) will serve as Masters of Ceremony—they became lifelong friends as Disciples preachers’ kids.

On Sunday, Teresa Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will preach at University Church. An alumna of the Disciples Divinity House and former Dean of Students at the Divinity School, she offers a compelling message for these times. The 125th Anniversary Celebration will conclude with a reception and special announcement after the worship service.

Family-friendly activities are being planned, with childcare for the youngest children throughout the weekend, and activities for older children on Friday evening and Saturday.

The celebration will be immediately preceded by a Divinity School and DDH Ministry Alumni/ae Reunion, featuring reflections by Cynthia Lindner on “Multireligious formation as a perspective on ‘public ministry,’” with responses by faculty and alumni/ae from varied religious traditions.

The 125th celebration will be followed by the Second Amy A. Northcutt Lecture. The event remembers Amy Northcutt, a former DDH Board President who was CIO of the National Science Foundation at the time of her death. The program, hosted by Craig Middlebrook and their children, will focus on women and transformative leadership in society.

At a time when the future may seem particularly uncertain and may provoke anxiety and despair, critical awareness of the past and present is especially crucial. For if the past is acknowledged with recognition of the unexpected gifts and hard-won knowledge that constituted it, and the present received as an opportunity to respond with gratitude for these past gifts, then the challenging unknown of the future might elicit sage and courageous ministry, scholarship, and leadership. The point is not to be more optimistic, but rather to engender gratitude, thought, and action.

Registration is now open at ddh.uchicago.edu/news-events/125th-anniversary. The weekend’s events are supported by the Hoover Lectures, so registration costs have been minimized. Student scholarships are available.

Chad H. Martin is the Chair of the 125th Anniversary. A member of the Board of Trustees since 1998, he served as its President from 2010-15. He is the Chief Financial Officer of Meridian-Link. A lifelong Disciple, he is a graduate of Texas Christian University (BS) and of Stanford University (MBA). Chad and Crista Martin live in California and are the parents of two children.
A new endowed scholarship will honor Dr. Geunhee Yu and Mrs. Geunsoon Yu, two remarkable individuals whose intelligence, faith, love, and leadership have profoundly shaped the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and their own family.

The Dr. Geunhee Yu and Mrs. Geunsoon Yu Scholarship will help ensure full tuition, stipend, and housing for Disciples Divinity House students and make possible opportunities for extended internships and study-travel.

From 1992 until his retirement in 2011, Dr. Yu served as the inaugural Executive Pastor of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD). He had been the first among the NAPAD community to earn a PhD in Religion. Under Dr. Yu’s leadership, the number of new congregations grew exponentially, many new cultural and language groups became part of NAPAD, diverse young leaders were nurtured, and educational initiatives were created.

Dr. Yu carried forward and imaginatively extended a legacy passed on to him from the founders of NAPAD, David and JoAnne Kagiwada, Soon-gook Choi, and Harold Johnson. Among the young leaders that Dr. and Mrs. Yu encouraged were Sandhya Jha, April Lewton, Timothy Lee, Vy Nguyen, and John Donggook Roh, all DDH alumni/ae.

For decades, the mission of the Disciples Divinity House has been entwined with NAPAD’s and that of its predecessor organization, American Asian Disciples (AAD). David Kagiwada, one of the founders of the organization and a DDH alumnus, was instrumental in connecting Geunhee Yu with AAD and bringing him into denominational leadership in Indianapolis. JoAnne Kagiwada has served on the DDH Board of Trustees since 1984. Another founder, Soongook Choi, also served as a trustee.

“I arrived at the Disciples Divinity House as a young NAPAD member,” recalled current Board President April Lewton, who serves as a vice president of the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). DDH provided a generous fellowship, a vision of wider church leadership, and a community of colleagues including Vy Nguyen and Sandhya Jha.

The new scholarship was announced at the twentieth biennial NAPAD Convocation, which met in Portland, Oregon, August 8-11, 2018. Gaylord Yu, a current trustee of the Disciples Divinity House, and his brother Gideon Yu were inspired to establish the scholarship to honor their parents, to celebrate the long partnership between DDH and NAPAD, and to ensure innovative pastoral and intellectual leadership for future generations.

Dean Culp commented, “Dr. Yu became Executive Pastor during my first year of deanship. He has been an exemplary colleague, teaching me and many others what leadership can make possible for NAPAD and for the whole church. We do not know what the future of the church will look like, but we do know that leaders like Dr. and Mrs. Yu make a difference. This scholarship will honor them by helping to prepare compelling leaders into the future.”
“Captured by the vision”: Scholarship to honor Jim and Peggy Powell

In October, Jim and Peggy Powell came to Chicago for the DDH Board meeting—Mr. Powell has been advising the trustees on plans for the 125th Anniversary. Unbeknownst to them, three of their children and three grandchildren also traveled to Chicago that same weekend. Jim was shocked to tears when the group walked into the DDH library at the end of the meeting to announce their goal of endowing the Jim and Peggy Powell Scholarship at the Disciples Divinity House.

Reflecting on Jim and Peggy Powell’s legacy, their love and encouragement of their children and the church, and their ministry over the past forty plus years, spurred the Powells’ children to act. Their dad’s life-threatening heart event two years ago and subsequent bypass surgery further motivated their efforts.

Drew Powell and his great friend, Gaylord Yu, consulted with Jim and came up with the plan to endow the scholarship. Peggy agreed whole-heartedly, and then Than, Laura, Elizabeth, and their families joined in. “We have been captured by the bold vision and rich history of DDH,” Jim and Peggy explained.

The scholarship will honor them, and it will encourage emerging leaders for the church and world by helping to ensure full tuition, stipend, and housing support and providing for internships and other tailored learning experiences.

“Much of Jim and Peggy’s ministry was spent with Church Extension helping start new churches and fund the buildings and infrastructure of our denomination,” explained Drew, Than, Elizabeth, and Laura. “With this scholarship we hope to help further support the church by training the leaders who will serve in those churches.”

Jim Powell’s formal work with the Disciples Divinity House began after his retirement as President of Church Extension, but the relationship goes back many years. In fact, an uncle and a cousin, both also named James Powell, were DDH alumni.

He explains, “When I began working with Dean Culp as she and the board made plans for DDH’s future, I knew that this is the place that epitomizes how leaders are cultivated and trained for their calling to lead in faithful and educated ways. As Peggy and I look at what will serve as a culmination of our lifelong desire to find, support, and educate leaders for the church to serve the world, we know it to be housed with the women and men who live and study at the Disciples Divinity House and learn from their professors at the University of Chicago Divinity School. We delight in the fact that this scholarship will make it possible over time for new leaders to be educated and nurtured into their faith and leadership and that it will happen with them having the possibility of doing so without debt.”

Drew, Than, Laura, Elizabeth, and their families invite others to join them in honoring their parents and funding the scholarship. They are well on the way to their goal of celebrating its first recipient next spring. Please contact Dean Kris Culp for more information.
Disciples Scholarship Awards

Endowed scholarship funds allow Disciples Divinity House Scholars to immerse themselves in learning without incurring significant debt. Scholars receive a stipend, free housing or use of a study, and, through shared funding with the Divinity School, full tuition for graduate preparation for ministry and scholarship at the University of Chicago. Student promise and achievement have been recognized with additional awards:

The Edward Scribner Ames Scholarship for high academic achievement has been awarded to Mark Lambert, a PhD candidate in Theology. His dissertation considers leprosy, “the sacramental sickness,” as a medieval theological symbol interconnected with Christ and eucharist. He addresses “how the construal of theological symbols affects the ethical status of people with an acutely stigmatizing—and theologically freighted—illness such as leprosy” and probes “the capricious role of perception in the experience of illness.”

The William Barnett Blakemore Scholarship has been awarded to Jack Veatch, a third-year MDiv student, for ecumenical vision and academic achievement. An alumnus of Kent State and member of the First Christian Church of Stow, Ohio, he has been formed by interfaith work as an NBA Xplor resident, and with the Ohio-based Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America. He is president of the DDH’s House Council, and chapel coordinator.

Andrew Packman, a PhD candidate in Theology, is the Bernard F. and Annie Mae Cooke Scholar. His dissertation, entitled, “When I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand’: A Theological Inquiry into Moral Motivation, Affectivity and the Recaltrance of American Racism,” attempts to better understand and address racism’s peculiar staying power within American society. An MDiv graduate and ordained minister, he has taught Christian Ethics at Loyola University.

MDiv student Devon Crawford is the recipient of the M. Elizabeth Dey Scholarship, which was established by Katherine Dey in memory of her grandmother. A graduate of Morehouse College and the president of Alchemy in Color at the Divinity School, he is also the Rev. Addie Wyatt-William Lucy Fellow for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference.

The Henry Barton Robison Scholar is Rachel Abdoler, a second-year PhD student in History of Christianity and an MDiv alumna. Her work focuses on medieval Christian communities in majority Muslim contexts whose texts were often written in Arabic. She will present her work on a panel at the next meeting of the American Society of Church History. She is also a Resident Head in the University’s undergraduate House System.

Second-year MDiv Victoria Wick is the recipient of the M. Ray and Phyllis Schultz Scholarship, which recognizes promise for congregational ministry. Ms. Wick’s home congregation, the Christian Temple in Baltimore, Maryland, was once also Mr. Schultz’s. She is DDH’s Head Resident, treasurer of the Divinity Students’ Association, and president of the Divinity School Women’s Caucus. She is completing her field education at the Union Church of Hinsdale.

Joel Brown, a PhD student in Religions in America, was awarded the Rolland and Laura Frances Sheafor Scholarship. He studies race and racism in American Christianity. He is the current editor of Sightings, a bi-weekly online journal published by the Martin Marty Center at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He served as acting administrator of Disciples Divinity House this summer, and he is currently a teaching assistant for the Senior Ministry Project Seminar at the Divinity School.

For the Cobb Alumniæ Scholar, the Drum & Tenant Scholar, the Oreon E. Scott Entering Scholar, and the William N. Weaver Entering Scholar, see “Entering Scholars” on page 6.

Congratulations to Disciples Scholar and MDiv student Hannah Fitch, who will graduate at the end of the autumn 2018 quarter. She is headed for ministry in Houston, Texas. Congratulations also to Hyein Park, a PhD student in Theology, who passed her doctoral qualifying exams this quarter, and who continues to pursue interests in psychoanalysis and theological anthropology.
Four individuals were named entering Disciples Divinity House Scholars for the 2018-19 year.

Hiatt Allen, who is this year’s Oreon E. Scott Entering Scholar, plans to pursue a joint MDiv and MA in Public Policy. He is a 2017 graduate of American University in Washington, DC, where he studied politics, communications, and economics. A native of Kentucky and a seventh generation Disciple, he comes after a year internship at Crestwood Christian Church in Lexington, Kentucky. While in high school, he co-founded the Student Voice Team, a youth-led group working to involve students in education policymaking.

Luke Soderstrom enters the PhD program in Religious Ethics. She studies how globalization and neoliberalism can “render the adjudication and claiming of responsibility irreducibly complex and easily avoided,” and asks how ethical thought might be reoriented to address these realities. She has also been assisting DDH’s Board and Alumni/ae Council to prepare for the 125th Anniversary. A June MDiv graduate, she is the interim associate pastor of Root and Branch Church in Chicago. She is the recipient of the Drum and Tenant Scholarship, which was created by Katherine A. Dey to remember her dear friend and fellow lay leader, Florence Drum, and Flo’s mother, Eleanor Tenant.

Sarah Zuniga is the William N. Weaver Entering Scholar and an MDiv student. A native of Illinois and a 2018 graduate of Eureka College, she is pursuing interests in ecological ethics and religious leadership. Last summer she spoke and led workshops at church camps in the US and Canada as a Disciples Peace Intern. She previously interned with the Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries in Washington, DC, and at the Hong Kierkegaard Library in Northfield, Minnesota. She was introduced to the Disciples while in college, and was active in Disciples on Campus and the Eureka Christian Church.

Virginia White enters the PhD program in Religion and Ethics. She studies how globalization and neoliberalism can “render the adjudication and claiming of responsibility irreducibly complex and easily avoided,” and asks how ethical thought might be reoriented to address these realities. She has also been assisting DDH’s Board and Alumni/ae Council to prepare for the 125th Anniversary. A June MDiv graduate, she is the interim associate pastor of Root and Branch Church in Chicago. She is the recipient of the Drum and Tenant Scholarship, which was created by Katherine A. Dey to remember her dear friend and fellow lay leader, Florence Drum, and Flo’s mother, Eleanor Tenant.

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Kagiwada (continued from page 1)
career focused on non-profit organizations. As Executive Director of the Legislative Education Committee of the Japanese American Citizens’ League, she helped to ensure passage of a $1.25 billion redress program on behalf of Americans of Japanese ancestry who were unconstitutionally deprived of their civil liberties and incarcerated in concentration camps by the US government during World War II. From 1978-88, she was Director of International Affairs for the Christian Church. She has served on numerous nonprofit boards, including as a vice president of the National Council of Churches. She is a regular volunteer at the Oakland Peace Center.

She has also made indelible contributions as a mentor to emerging leaders, including graduates Sandhya Jha, April Lewton, and Vy Nguyen, and trustee Gaylord Yu. Each of them offered remarks for a luncheon in her honor in October. Her daughter, Stacy Kagiwada, was present, representing also her sister Stephanie and brother Scott.

“I have known JoAnne since I was six years old,” April Lewton recounted. “I recall heavy discussions about how and can our Disciples church welcome and work alongside first- and second-generation immigrants from Asia and the Pacific Islands.” Kagiwada and others were poring over census demographics, trends in refugee resettlement, and federal immigration policies.

“As a leader, JoAnne has been participating in institutions that are about building healthy and meaningful communities for a long time,” Ms. Lewton observed. “In her lifelong service across the church and in wider society, these are commitments that she makes known and encourages others to consider and actively do: that as a whole, we must do good, and, always, we must mentor and accompany our young people.”

Ms. Lewton, who is President of the Board of Trustees, spoke on its behalf: “We are humbled, inspired, and so, so grateful for the leadership and wisdom that you have given over the years to this board and to the DDH community of scholars, alums, and our wider church community. We strive to continue to carry your commitments of healthy systems, mentoring, and caring deeply for others in all that we do. We offer, give, and speak aloud our deep and blessed thanks.”

JoAnne Kagiwada will serve, with Clark Williamson, as Honorary Co-Chair of the 125th Anniversary Celebration in May 2019.

Bell-Haynes and Wood join Board; Karunas concludes service

Joan Bell-Haynes and Melinda Keenan Wood have been elected to the Board of Trustees, effective January 1, 2019. Both are ordained Disciples ministers, and they are alumnae of the Disciples Divinity House.

Joan Bell-Haynes is Executive Regional Minister of Central Rocky Mountain Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). From 2005-17, she led the United Christian Parish in Reston, Virginia, an ecumenical congregation comprised of four denominations. She was the First Vice Moderator of the General Assembly of the Christian Church from 2013-15.

A recipient of the Capital Area’s Bridge Builder Award, Ms. Bell-Haynes has been active in interfaith work. She has served on the board of the Christian Church Foundation and Disciples Church Extension, and as secretary of the National Convocation. She is originally from Georgia, where she was a founding member of Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur. She was married to the late Oscar Haynes.

Melinda Keenan Wood is the immediate past president of the Alumni/ae Council. In September 2017, she became the senior minister of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Durham, North Carolina. From 2002-17 she was the senior minister of Pershing Avenue Christian Church in Orlando, Florida.

Ms. Keenan-Wood’s service to the wider church includes chairing the Week of Compassion Committee and extensive engagement in the Florida region. A member of the DDH entering class of 1997, she came to her MDiv studies with a background in nonprofit work. With her spouse Lanny, an educator, architect, and STEM advocate with PLTW (Project Lead the Way), they have one adult child, Thompson.

Michael E. Karunas will conclude service as a trustee at the end of 2018, after completing a three-year term. He is Senior Minister of Central Christian Church in Decatur, and a MDiv graduate. He previously served congregations in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Centralia, Illinois. He and his spouse Amy Zeittlow, a fellow Divinity School ministry alum, are the parents of three children.

He was raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he was mentored by Russ and Barbara Fuller. Mr. Karunas, in turn, has been a mentor to current students Andrew Packman and Hannah Fitch. We are grateful for his commitment, including service to the Development Committee, as a member of the student-trustee delegation to Heidelberg, Germany, and, previously, on the Alumni/ae Council.
Annual Report:
A recognition of generosity

The Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago is deeply grateful for gifts received from the following individuals, churches, and foundations between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018.

Annual gifts from individuals totaled $87,421.06. Additional annual support of $40,824 came from the Disciples Mission Fund, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Contributions from foundations and corporations totaled $7,308, and additional gifts from churches totaled $7,870.97. Contributions to permanent funds totaled $121,420.88 last year.

These gifts are a reflection of the remarkable lives, visionary leaders, partnerships, and steadfast commitments to theological education that activate and extend the ethos of Disciples Divinity House. New funds have been established this year that recognize historic relations, friendships, and growing possibilities for innovative learning and leading, and that support the flourishing of the House. These generous gifts help to foster excellence in ministry, leadership, and scholarship.

Yvonne Gilmore, Associate Dean

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Paul and Susan Blackman  
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Larry D. Bouchard and Peggy L. Galloway  
Susan M. Brook and Robert Johnson  
Cecil E. and Shirley M. Brownlee  
Patricia Bryant  
Susan and David Cabot  
Donald J. Camp  
P.J. and Karen Cochran Carlson  
Royal W. Carson, III  
Christine A. West Cataldo  
Chamber of Marine Commerce,  
Ottawa, Canada  
Alison Chisholm  
Timothy L. and Pamela J.L. Commerford  
Rob L. and Karen S. Cowden  
Melissa H. Cragin  
Kristine A. Culp  
Roger L. and Beverly S. Dahlin  
Mary Lynn Dell and David J. Vandermeulen  
Matthew Dinkel and Ann Keeler  
Nancy E. Doellgast  
Marvourneyen K. Dolor  
Ann R. Dominick  
Daniel Drolet and Thomas Taylor  
Mrs. Harl Dubben  
Ann Dunkin  
Barbara and Marshall Dunn  
Clifford and Teresa K. Essig  
Leroy J. Essig  
Carol Eyermann  
Fednav Limitée, Montreal, Canada  
Matthew Fletcher  
Dru and Peter Foster  
Melissa Freilino  
Bijan Gilanshah  
Ana and Tod Gobledeale  
Rhonda Godwin  
Mark S. Grossman  
Curt C. and Marguerite J. Haensel  
John Lindsey Hagood  
Chris Halka  
Anthony Hack  
Emily and Greg Hall  
Diane M. and M. Scott Hedden  
Russell H. Hillberry  
Martha Horne  
Eugene F. and Doretta G. Hubbard  
George E. and Sara C. Hutchinson  
The Interlake Steamship Company  
Heather Ireland and  
Christopher Hegedus  
Caitlin Jacobs  
Janette and Sunil† Jha  
Franklin Johnson  
Verity Jones and William S. Wagon  
Catherine Joyce  
Deneb Karentz  
Andy Klenklen and Kirk Bellman  
David L. and Krista L. Knight  
Michael E. and Elizabeth B. Kolmstetter  
Fae L. Korsmo  
Brent and Julie A. Kuenzler  
Carrie and Thomas LaVigne  
G. Kay Lehman and Michael S. Hassell  
Rachel Leslie  
Douglass and Shirley Lewis  
Lincoln Ballston, LLC  
Robert C. Lockerman  
Chad and Liza Lorenz  
The Lutheran Church of the  
Reformation, Washington, DC  
John H. Lysnkey  
Harold R. Mace  
Kirsten Martin  
Shirley McBeath
The Gertrude Gary Sutcliffe Society

Established in 1994, the Sutcliffe Society recognizes individuals who ensure the mission of Disciples Divinity House by providing for a gift through their estate. It is named in tribute to the woman whose vision and gifts built the original endowment, furnished the building, and completed the chapel. The Society encourages others to follow her example and honors those who carry forward the tradition of vision and action.

Polly Scribner Ames†
Arthur A. and Norma Jane Azlein†
John R.† and Julia P. Bean
Miriam Bellville†
Don S. and Carol L. Browning†
Benjamin F. † and Ann W. Burns
L. Del and Ann† Butterfield
Gene R. Cleveland†
Annie Mae Cooke†
Robert W. and Elizabeth Crowe
William E. and Patricia V. Crowl
Kristine A. Culp
Katherine A. Dey†
Burrus Dickinson†
J. Marshall and Barbara J. Dunn
F. McDonald and Jean Ervin†
Malcolm S. and Ruth M. Ferguson†
Samuel F. Freeman, Jr.†
Dan and Frances U. Genung †
W. Clark and Nancy Gilpin
Elizabeth H. Guonjian and Joseph S. Petit
John W. Harms†
Harvey C. and Ruth S. Hartling†
Isabelle Havens†
Willbur S. Hovevoll†
Mildred Holzhauen†
Dorothy Hunter†
Lewis G. Joachim†
JoAnne H. Kagiwada
Leslie L. and Elizabeth M. Kingsbury†
Maurice F. Knott†
Edward H. and Mary Ruth† Kolbe
Ned R. † and Sibyl M. Lavengood
Ralph E. Lindner†
C. Harvey and May Sweet Lord†
Frank C. and Winifred A. Mabee†
John and Maxine† McCaw
Holly McKissick
Dorothy Coffman Messenger†
Craig H. Middlebrook
Bonnie J. and Mark Miller-McLemore
K. Everett and Virginia L. Munson†
Kay L. Northcutt
B. Ernest and Judy C. O’Donnell

Angela E. Pfile and Douglas Job
Leverne and Rolland G. † Pfile
Marjorie Powell†
Thomas and Jane Quigley
Jack V. and June E. Reeve†
Lester and Mary Catherine
Rickman†
Paula K. Ritchie
Carl B. † and Esther L. Robinson
Edward M. and Charlotte Romine†
Melvin Ray and Phyllis Ann Schultz†
Wayne A. and Geneve R. Selsor†
Rolland H. and Laura Frances
Sheaford†
George W. and Marsha Shields
Ellen M. and Clyde Curry Smith†
Mareta J. Smith
Paul A. Steinbrecher
Thomas V. † and Patricia A. Stockdale
James E. and Patricia G. Stockdale
Robert and Frances Sulanke†
Charles H. Swift, Jr. †
Marlin E. † and Janice I. Thomas
Robert A. and Marjorie M. Thomas†
Joseph J. and Irene Van Boskirk†
Paul G. and Ruth S. Wassenich†
Woodrow W. and Marie Wasson†
Norman A. and Katharine M. Wells
John Norton and Grace Lord Williams†
Ruth M. Wollesen†

(continued on page 12)
Remembering the saints: Jean and Don Ervin

A new fund honors Jean L. and F. McDonald Ervin. Pillars of University Church and agents of change in the Hyde Park and Woodlawn communities, Jean and Don were also longtime friends of the House.

Prior to coming to Chicago, both studied at the University of Michigan. Jean completed Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Education. Don, a veteran of World War II, pursued a Bachelor’s in Geology, supported by the G.I. Bill. After discovering a deep interest in social dynamics, he later completed a Master’s degree in Social Psychology at Michigan, and went on to pursue doctoral studies at Northwestern University. They met each other in the Disciples and Congregational student ministry, Guild House, led by DDH alumnus H.L. Pickerill.

Upon arriving in Chicago in 1951, the couple took seriously their wedding vows to be a special partnership, ever seeking to expand the Kingdom of God by pursuing lives of public and community service. They were involved in many community organizations including the Hyde Park Co-op, the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference, and Woodlawn Development Association. Jean taught in Chicago public schools on the South Side, and participated in the movement to desegregate the schools in the early 1960s. Don worked in public administration and was very active in the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club, which focused on anti-discrimination and racial integration efforts.

Don and Jean became lay leaders of University Church, where fellow Guilders and House alumni Russell and Barbara Fuller were then serving on staff. Jean served at University Church as a board chair, Sunday School superintendent, and coffee hour hostess. Don served as board and social action chair, and was particularly passionate about housing issues. They were founding members of University Church’s Covenantal Community in Woodlawn.

Over the years, a number of House Scholars served as youth ministers at University Church or directors of CYF summer conferences, and worked closely with Don and Jean’s three children Bruce, Rosemary, and Thomas. These young ministers’ commitment to youth and to racial and social justice impressed Don and Jean, inspiring them to become more involved with the House.

In retirement, they would become regular attendees at Monday Night Dinners and enthusiastic supporters of Disciples Divinity House scholars. “When they were present,” said Dean Kris Culp, “we felt the saints of the church were with us.” The gift establishing this fund is a bequest from their estate and will be used to generate scholarship funds for future generations of students.

Jean and Don’s relationship to the House continues through their son, Bruce Ervin, a Disciples minister. Bruce spent a six-week sabbatical at the House in 2008, and he recently organized a reunion at DDH to mark the fiftieth anniversary of a Chicago Disciples Union Chi Rho Camp and the lifelong friendships that were formed there—alumnus Ruben Cruz and trustee Claudia Highbaugh had served as counselors. Bruce organized this gift on behalf of his beloved parents.
Permanent Funds

The following represent gifts to the endowment fund or to build, furnish, or renovate the building of $10,000 or more ($5,000 or more before 1975). These gifts sustain the mission of the Disciples Divinity House.

Endowment Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
<th>Year established</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ellen M. Thomas Fund</td>
<td>1901</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Endowment Fund</td>
<td>1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. A. Long</td>
<td>1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ella L. Ford</td>
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<td>Nell B. Ford Torrey</td>
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<td>Stella D. Ford Schlottman</td>
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<td>W. S. Brannum</td>
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<td>E. MacDonald Bowman</td>
<td>1906</td>
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<td>New Endowment Fund</td>
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<td>Philip H. Gray</td>
<td>1913</td>
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<td>Gertrude Gary Sutcliffe</td>
<td>1930</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Henry Hoover Lecture Fund</td>
<td>1945</td>
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<td>Lizzie K. Schermerhorn Memorial Fund</td>
<td>1949</td>
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<td>Harry R. Moore</td>
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<td>Arthur Burton Keller Memorial Fund</td>
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<td>Hugh T. Morrison</td>
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<td>W. Barnett Blakemore Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>Henry Barton Robison Scholarship</td>
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<td>Edward Scribner Ames Scholarship</td>
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<td>M. Elizabeth Dey Scholarship</td>
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<td>Melvin Ray and Phyllis Ann Schultz Scholarship</td>
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<td>Drum and Tenant Scholarship</td>
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<td>Oreon E. Scott Entering Scholarship</td>
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<td>William N. Weaver Entering Scholarship</td>
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<td>William F. Rothenburger Memorial Scholarship Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois-Wisconsin Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>1989</td>
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Established as part of the Centennial Endowment 1993-96

- John R. and Julia P. Bean Fund
- The Browning Family Fund
- David and Margie Bryan Fund
- Solomon and Victoria David Fund
- H. Robert Gemmer Fund
- Gordon W. and Anne Hoerner Hagberg Fund
- Wilbur S. and Marcia Hovevoll
- K. Barton Hunter Fund
- David T. and JoAnne H. Kagiwada Fund
- Clarence E. Lemmon Fund
- Frank and Winnie Mabee Fund
- Eugene May Fund
- Lotus M. Mclemore Fund
- Chester I. and Lois Miller Fund
- Thelma Vaden Northcutt Fund
- Kunihiko and Rebecca Onishi Fund
- Jack V. and June E. Reeve
- Dennis and Mary Lou Savage Fund
- Rolland H. and Laura Frances Sheafor Scholarship Fund
- James E. and Patricia G. Stockdale
- Robert A. and Marjorie M. Thomas
- Paul G. and Ruth S. Wassenich Fund
- John Norton and Grace Lord Williams Fund
- S. F. and Mary Elizabeth Freeman, Sr. Fund 1998
- Barbara and Clark Williamson Fund 1998
- Lloyd V. and Vera G. Channels Memorial Fund 1999
- The Martin Family Fund 1999
- Jo M. and Rebecca M. Riley Fund 1999
- Arthur A. and Norma Jane Adein 2000
- Mable Topping and Samuel F. Freeman, Jr., Fund 2000
- Clyde Curry and Ellen M. Smith 2002
- Charles H. Swift, Jr. 2003
- P. Hunter Beckelhymer Fund 2003
- Robert and Frances Sulanke 2004
- Bernard F. and Annie Mae Cooke Scholarship 2004
- Orchard Street Christian Church Ministerial Education Fund 2004
- G. L. Andy and Dorothy Coffman Messenger Fund 2005
- Lewis G. Joachim 2005
- The Baringer-Butterfield Fund 2005
- Norman A. and Katherine M. Wells 2005
- John and Maxine McCaw 2010
- Rolland G. and Levere B. Pflie Fund 2011
- William E. and Patricia V. Croll Fund 2015
- Woodrow W. and Marie T. Wasson 2015
- Kristine A. Culp Fund 2017
- Amy A. Northcutt Scholarship 2017
- Jean L. and F. McDonald Ervin Fund 2017
- Dr. Geunhee Yu and Mrs. Geunsoon Yu Scholarship 2018
- Jim and Peggy Powell Scholarship 2018

Building Funds

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Myrtilla A. Colbert Jones</td>
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<td>William Darnell MacClintock</td>
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<td>Samuel Sweeney MacClintock</td>
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<td>William Henry Hoover</td>
<td>1923</td>
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<td>Gertrude Gary Sutcliffe</td>
<td>1928</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois-Wisconsin Capital Funds Appeal</td>
<td>1965</td>
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<td>Burrus Dickinson</td>
<td>1992</td>
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<td>L. Del and Ann Butterfield</td>
<td>1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoover Foundation</td>
<td>1995</td>
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<td>Herbert L. Willett, III</td>
<td>1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapel 75th Anniversary Renewal</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Area Library Refurbishment</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
News

Find more news and more details at ddh.uchicago.edu and on Facebook


The Design at 50, a symposium at Brite Divinity School on January 14, 2019, will mark the 50th anniversary of The Design for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses. Brite President Newell Williams collaborated with Chuck Blaisdell (1976) to create the event. Blaisdell, Kris Culp (dean; 1982), and Bill Lee are the featured speakers. Tim Lee (1986) is among the respondents.

Jonathan Cahill (2015) is serving as a chaplain at Hillcrest Hospital, a community hospital affiliated with the Cleveland Clinic, while completing a CPE residency at the Cleveland Clinic. He has been approved for ordination by the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin, with the service planned for January 2019 at University Church in Chicago.

Brandon Cline (1999) is now the Upper School Latin Teacher at Trinity Valley School in Fort Worth. He enjoys being back in the classroom.

Heidelberg, Germany, to mark the 100th anniversary of the Theologisches Studienhaus (TSH) of the University of Heidelberg on October 31. TSH dean Heike Springhart and EKD prelate Dagmar Zobel will travel to Chicago in May for DDH’s 125th Anniversary.

On November 19, Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson (2009) became Minister of First Congregational Church of Loveland, Colorado.

In October, current scholar Hannah Fitch and her mother, Karen Merrick, Senior Minister of First Christian Church, Peoria, made a pilgrimage to sites in Germany associated with the twelfth-century Benedictine abbess, theologian, composer, and polymath Hildegard of Bingen.

Adam Frieberg (2006) is now a PhD candidate in the Northern Illinois University Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences. His dissertation develops a method of spatial analysis and a dataset to account for congregational-level changes to the US religious landscape.

Yvonne Gilmore (2001; associate dean) and Sandhya Jha (2001) were the keynote speakers for the 2018 Capitol Area Regional Assembly.

Tabitha Isner (2005) was featured in the October 17 New York Times Magazine article, “Struggling to Bring the ‘Blue Wave’ to Deep Red Alabama.” It portrays her as pursuing “a calling to be in the race,” even if a win was “nearly impossible.” Against formidable odds, she garnered 38.5% of the vote for the Alabama 2nd Congressional race.

Sympathy to Sandhya Jha (2001) and her mother, Janette Jha, on the death of her father, Sunil Jha, in Annapolis, Maryland, on December 1. Dr. Jha, who was born in 1936 in the village of Tildanga, India, became one of the world’s foremost noise and vibration specialists and was uniformly admired for his generous, intelligent, and gentle humanity.

Michael Karunas (1995; trustee) performed the Gospel of Mark at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago on October 14.

Ken Kline (1979) was installed as Senior Minister of St. John’s UCC in Mokena, Illinois, on September 23.

In September, Mark Lambert (current scholar) presented “Holy Host, Holy Sores: The Franciscan Connection between Leprosy and the Eucharist,” at a conference on Leprosy and the ‘Leper’ Reconsidered at McGill University, Montréal, Canada.

In her Christian Century review of Faithful and Fractured: Responding to the Clergy Health Crisis (September 5), Cynthia Lindner (1978) commends the book’s research, but says greater attention is needed to discernment as theological work. She calls for “a theological model for what we must yet become: fearless and future-leaning.”

Colton Lott (2015) was installed as the Senior Minister of First Christian Church, El Reno, Oklahoma, on September 9.

Congratulations to Bethany Watkins Lowery (2006) and Joseph Zielinski who were married at Central Christian Church in Indianapolis on December 1. Jordan Berry (2005) was a member of the wedding party.

Former resident and recent graduate Josh Menke is a pastoral intern at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva, Switzerland, until August 2019. This summer he participated in the FASPE program (Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics).
Lee Hull Moses (2001) will join the Office of the General Minister and President (Disciples of Christ) as Chief of Staff in 2019.

Vy Nguyen (2004), Executive Director of the Week of Compassion, led a group of young Disciples clergy leaders to Myanmar in November. Allie Lundblad (2012), pastor of First Christian Church of Arlington Heights, was among the delegation.

Teresa Hord Owens (1999) and Sandhya Jha (2001) were honored as inaugural recipients of the University of Chicago Divinity School Alumni Citation by the Divinity School’s Alumni Council. Owens’s citation recognized the excellence of her ministerial leadership and the significance of her election as the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which made her the first woman of color to lead a mainline Protestant denomination. Jha’s citation notes her work as founder and director of the Oakland Peace Center and her multiple publications, which are emblematic of her commitment to intellectual curiosity and excellence, interdisciplinary research, and service to community.


David Vargas (trustee; 1971) was honored with the Somos Uno award at the Obra Hispana assembly in July.

Kristin Van Heyningen (1995) became Chaplain for Mayo Hospice in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in October. Ayanna Johnson Watkins (2000) has been named the first lead organizer of MICAH (Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope), a new “coalition of faith-based and community organizations joining together to give a more powerful voice for issues of justice in Memphis.” She has been Director of the National Benevolent Association’s Incubate Initiative.

Sarah West (1994) was installed as Senior Minister of First Christian Church, Wadsworth, Ohio, on Sunday, October 21.

Looking back and planning ahead:
Grace Lord Williams and John Norton Williams

The John Norton and Grace Lord Williams Fund, planned for at the time of DDH’s Centennial through provisions from their estate, came to fruition earlier this year through a gift from the estate of Grace Lord Williams.

Grace Lord Williams died at the age of 98 in 2017. She and John Norton Williams, a member of the Disciples Divinity House entering class of 1971 and a leading Disciples minister, had married in 1971. They enjoyed 25 years together before his death in 1996.

Mr. Williams served churches in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio, and with the Arkansas Council of Churches and the Christian Church in Indiana. His BD dissertation, Some Problems Concerning the Doctrine of the Church for the Disciples of Christ, later became a resource during the 1968 Restructure.

While serving as executive director of the Arkansas Council in the 1960s, he was honored by Senator J. William Fulbright, who published his position paper, “Moral Implications Concerning America’s Involvement in the Vietnam War,” in The Congressional Record. The Black community of Little Rock, Arkansas, included him as the only white representative on the platform at its Martin Luther King, Jr., memorial service in 1968.

Grace Elizabeth Lord Williams was born in Malden, Massachusetts, and raised in New Castle, Indiana. Mrs. Williams worked at the Chrysler Corporation during World War II and later at the IRC&D Motor Freight Co. in Indiana until her retirement. At the time of her death, she was living in Florida.

Looking back over his career, John Norton Williams observed, “I feel that I owe much of my success in Christian ministry to years of association at the House and the Divinity School.” In planning for the gift from their estate, they said they felt “both grateful and privileged to be able to stand among that great ‘circle of friends and visionaries’ committed to continuing the excellent ministry and mission of his alma mater in perpetuity.”
Nominations Sought:
Distinguished Alumnus/a and Alumni/ae Council members

Make a nomination by writing Alumni/ae Council President Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, c/o The Disciples Divinity House or online at ddh.uchicago.edu.

125th Anniversary Celebration
May 24-26, 2019

Register now to attend the 125th anniversary celebration of Disciples Divinity House. Go to ddh.uchicago.edu for the schedule, information about accommodations, family-friendly activities, and the latest updates.