Finding peace when you are one of the pieces

Santiago Piñón
Associate Professor of Religion
Texas Christian University

Opening Chapel Service
October 5, 2020
Genesis 15:1-15

The scene is filled with anticipation. We are waiting for the birth announcement of Isaac. We are waiting for names to change from Abram to Abraham, from Sarai to Sarah. We anticipate the Exodus, when Israel will be led out of Egypt, where they had been enslaved.

As they are being led out of Egypt, they experience the majesty, greatness, and closeness of God. At Mount Sinai, they will reach a pinnacle in knowing God. God will reveal God-self through words. And, it is in these words that they will find the Word of Life.

It is a scene of great expectation as the covenant between God and Abram is established. All the characters are involved: God, Abram, Sarai, Israel. All, except one. Eliezer.

In Eliezer, as far as our text is concerned, we find the one who is not worthy of a covenant, who is excluded from the promises of God. With Eliezer, there is no anticipation; there is no expectation; there is no freedom from slavery. He is a slave born into the household of Abram, and will continue to be a slave. For Eliezer, there is no Exodus; there is no Mount Sinai. There is no Word of Life. All we see is exclusion, absence, and irrelevance.

To be honest, more times than not, I am able to relate more with Eliezer than with Abram, or Sarai, or Israel, or the community that has the Word of Life. There are moments when I feel excluded, irrelevant, absent, invisible, and outside of God’s promises. And, I know that you may have felt similarly.

We live in strange times. That we are holding DDH’s opening service via Zoom testifies to this strangeness. In “normal times,” we would be enjoying each other’s company, drinking wine, eating crackers and cheese. We would be engaging in conversations about the weather, the excitement of starting a new quarter, the anticipation of being in class with colleagues and professors. Some would be discussing your field work; others would be talking about your preparation for qualifying exams.

Some of us, who have been gone for a while, would walk to the library and recall the countless hours that we fell asleep on the
Letter from the dean

This year, the DDH Bulletin marks its own anniversary—its 90th year—with a redesigned look.

This issue provides a glimpse of what students and alumni are pursuing. As students learn to interpret ancient texts and ask new questions, and as they seek to do justice, care for the torn, heal, foster compassion and mercy, and find new ways of sharing bread, they are already creating new forms of ministry and scholarship. This issue also shows the latest results of the accessibility and welcome project. It celebrates extraordinary generosity. It sends forth our talented Associate Dean Yvonne Gilmore to her new work. And, it holds beloved alumnus and friends in memory.

Gratitude was alive among us as we celebrated friends in memory. We honored friends, ministers, and mentors; we imagined teaching, learning, and ministry for what is to come; and we prepared for future students.

Gratitude was a gift. I was reminded that we are here together and called to share the knowledge, experience, and talent of Jeanne & Richard Hunt, to Hoffman named for him.

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On October 31, Reformation Day, former resident Hannah Campbell Gustafson was ordained to the ministry in the United Church of Christ. She is Associate Chaplain for Christian and Interfaith Life at Carleton College. She also continues part-time as Outreach Coordinator at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis.

Cynthia Lindner (1978; trustee) preached.

In November, Ryan Haefke began a new part-time position as Development Assistant. He brings a background in nonprofit t work as well as an under-graduate major in finance and accounting. He also serves as a Resident Head in the University’s Housing System.

Vy Nguyen (2004; Trustee) was the preacher for the NAPAD Convocation on November 7, with the theme, “Resilient Faith.” He is Executive Director for the Week of Compassion.

Liv Gibbons (2008) has been serving as Associate Pastor of Pioneer United Methodist Church in Walla Walla, Washington.


In the courtyard of DDH’s Board, he worked in the University’s Housing System.

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**Martin Family endows scholarship**

The Martin family has experienced the impact of graduates firsthand. The family has endowed a scholarship to foster leadership and teaching that will enrich congregational ministry.

Jerry Martin, a Disciples minister, got to know the House and its students when he chaired the Illinois-Wisconsin Region’s Commission on Ministry. Donna Martin, a community college teacher and lay leader, especially appreciated the women graduates she met in the wider church. An inheritance from her parents, Roy D. and Mary Zoe Heath, allowed them to start the Martin Family Scholarship.

Their son, Chad Martin, became a trustee after serving with Kris Culp on the Administrative Committee of the denomination’s General Board. A graduate of Texas Christian University with an MBA from Stanford University and now a CEO of a software company, he brought financial and executive expertise to the Board of Trustees’ work. Over the last twenty years, he has served as its treasurer, president, and, most recently, chair of the 125th Anniversary Celebration and Campaign. Cristina Martin’s passion has animated the family’s commitment to women in ministry, congregations, and institutional leadership.

This summer, the scholarship that was begun more than twenty years ago reached full funding with a $250,000 endowment. Three generations of the Martin family joined the Board of Trustees remotely in October to celebrate the scholarship. Its first recipient is Joel Brown, a PhD candidate in Religions in the Americas. He studies how leaders of Black Chicago congregations shaped the Social Gospel movement.

**An epic hymn**

A new fund pays tribute to Teresa M. Gilmore and to the enduring power of sacred music, arts, innovation, and courageous congregations.

The family of Teresa Marlene Gilmore (1933–2020), a music educator and grand- mother of Yvonne T. Gilmore, has come together to create the fund and to celebrate DDH’s 125 years.

Teresa Gilmore grew up in Coffeyville, Kansas, and attended the University of Kansas, receiving a Bachelor’s degree in Music Education in 1955. In 1956, she married Wilfred Gilmore and moved to Sioux City, Iowa, where he was serving in the Air Force. They relocated to Washington, DC. Soon after their arrival, she met Arthur A. Azlein, a pastor who was introducing himself door-to-door in their neighborhood, and joined the new Michigan Park Christian Church. Mr. Azlein, a DDH alumnus, was a fellow Kansan.

Mrs. Gilmore was among the first African American members of the congregation, and became the director of the senior choir and a member of the Christian Women’s Fellowship. Her passion for music and education converged at Michigan Park, where she built the ministry of music for several decades. She was a music teacher in the DC Public School System for over thirty years, and co-directed the Region V Children’s Chorus.

She raised three children, Pamela, David, and Kesha, and, in time, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Teresa Gilmore was, in her granddaughter’s inimitable phrasing: “a church charter of the gospel of better not more, better living not more stuff, better eating not more food, better rising for we are all pho-nix / she outgrew straight lines before I ever learned to describe them / she was an epic hymn sung in rounds worth repeating.”

**A lasting legacy**

At the end of November, Yvonne Gilmore concluded her work as Associate Dean to take on a new challenge and opportunity in the Disciples of Christ. We are already missing her style, spark, humor, insight, and vision.

Since Autumn 2013, Yvonne T. Gilmore has invested intellect and imagination in DDH as its associate dean. She fostered conversation, shared worship, and inquiry as she collaborated with students to arrange chapel services and Monday programs. She multiplied gratitude as she worked with younger alumni and donors and with her own family to bring the Teresa M. Gilmore Fund into being. She has invited critical thinking and vision for the DDH community and the wider church.

The Constructive Theologies Project gathered emerging Disciples theological thinkers from across the US and Canada. It received grant support from the Oreon E. Scott Foundation and allowed her to partner with Sandhya Jha for a new project entitled, “Living Justice: An Anti-Racism Praxis.” These substantive initiatives have shaped the House and its future.

“Forty years, I have been my great honor to serve as Associate Dean,” she commented. “Furthereing the pioneering educational work and mission of Disciples Divinity House in collaboration with Dean Culp, the Board of Trustees, staff, students, alumnae, and friends has been my daily privilege and joy.

Partnering with emerging scholars, ministers, and ‘thought leaders’ at DDH to activate theological imagination, and working to launch and lead the Constructive Theologies Project have been rare gifts to me. I am grateful for the enduring cloud of witness and inquiry, baptismal audacity, capacious hope, and creativity that I’ve encountered at our House.”

On December 1, she became interim Executive Secretary of the National Convocation and National Missionary Convention, which are historic Black Disciples organizations, and Associate General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Even as we celebrate this important new work, we know she will always be a DDH alumna. In that sense, and surely in many other ways, she will always be part of “the House.” She has immeasurably enriched the work of DDH and its alumnae and students.
Promise and achievement
Disciples Divinity House Scholars are able to immerse themselves in learning without incurring significant debt. Regular awards provide for full tuition, housing, and stipendary support for MDiv and MA students. Eighteen individuals have been named DDH Scholars for 2020–21.

Eleven additional students received special recognition
The Edward Scranton Ames Scholarship for high academic achievement has been awarded to Mark Lambert, a PhD candidate in Theology. He is also the recipient of a Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship for his dissertation, “The Sacramental Sickness: The Aesthetic Interplay between Leprosy and the Eucharist in Historical Theology.”

The W. Barnett Blakemore Scholarship for ecumenical vision and academic achievement has been awarded to Benny Van der Burgh, a second-year MDiv student, DDH librarian, and co-convenor of Open Space, a weekly ritual gathering for students at the Divinity School.

The Alumni/ae Council selected PhD student Rachel Abdoler as this year’s William Daniel Copto-Islamic milieu, and passed her qualifying exams in November.

Landon Wilcox, a second-year MDiv student and Head Resident, is the Bernard F. and Annie Mae Cooke Scholar. The scholarship was established by a spirited lay woman from St. Louis, Missouri. Grey is also a Missourian; her home church is First Christian Church in Jefferson City, where Beau Underwood is pastor. She is a 2020 graduate of Carthage College, where she majored in Asian Studies and studied in Japan. A former HELM Fellow, she was to have been an XPLOR resident this year—before the pandemic accelerated her plans to study at Chicago.

First-year MDiv student Alexa Dava has been named the William N. Weaver Entering Scholar. She is part of the leadership team at Gilead Church, where alumna Rebecca Anderson is the founding co-pastor. A graduate of Wheaton College, she had been a parent educator at a Chicago nonprofit.

First-year MDiv students Ainsley Grey is the Oreon E. Scott Entering Scholar. Mr. Scott was a Disciples businessman and philanthropist from St. Louis. Ms. Grey is also a Missourian; her home church is First Christian Church in Jefferson City, where Beau Underwood is pastor. She is a 2020 graduate of Carthage College, where she majored in Asian Studies and studied in Japan. A former HELM Fellow, she was to have been an XPLOR resident this year—before the pandemic accelerated her plans to study at Chicago.

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Second-year MDiv student Ross Allen is the M. Elizabeth Dey Scholar. LaSalle Street Church is his field education site. In addition, he was honored by Central Woodward Christian Church as a recipient of an Edgar DeWitt Jones Scholarship.

Emily Springer, a second-year MDiv student, is the Drum and Tenent Scholar. Gilead Church is her field education site. Katherine A. Dey created this scholarship to remember dear friends and the M. Elizabeth Dey scholarship to remember her grandmother, and she provided for the gifts from her estate in 2017.

PhD candidate Joel Brown is the inaugural Martin Family Scholar (see related article, p. 6). This spring he will teach a course in the College, “Race and Religion in Chicago,” as the recipient of the Divinity School’s Alma Wilson Teaching Fellowship. He is now assisting DDH with publications and programs.

The Henry Barton Robinson Scholarship remembers an early DDH graduate and biblical scholar. Its recipient is Paige Spencer, a second-year MA student of the Bible and early Christianity.

The Roland and Laura Frances Sheafor Scholarship has been awarded to MDiv student Hriott Allen. A dual degree student, he is studying at the Harris School of Public Policy this year. Mr. Sheafor, who was the president of Church Extension and one of the founders of the Christian Church Foundation, held dual degrees himself—a MA and a JD.

Third-year MDiv student Sarah Zuniga is the recipient of the M. Roy and Phyllis Schulttz Scholarship which recognizes promise for congregational ministry. She works as a digital content specialist at Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training.

Last year, Annesah Ettriss became the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Genevieve and Mrs. Guenson Yu Scholarship, which recognizes promise for innovative pastoral and intellectual leadership, especially within multicultural contexts. Now a third-year MDiv student, she studies how museum spaces and Black art can serve “sacred attunement.”

Additional scholarship recognition
Five additional individuals have been named Disciples Divinity House Scholars for 2020–21: Monica Carnean, Andrew Packman, Ryen Park, Luke Soderstrom, and Virginia White.

Benny Van der Burgh and Annesah Ettriss are recipients of Walker Ministerial Scholarships for 2020–21. The award, administered by Brite Divinity School, recognizes outstanding promise in ministry, particularly in the area of preaching.
A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

Professor Clark Gilpin leads Julian DeShazier, White, Rebecca Anderson, and featuring Tim Kim, Virginia "Theology by storytelling," chef Luke Joyner and a forum, DDH gathers for dinner by February 3 and 17

YVONNEFEST!

approximately 40% of the usual number of students continue living at DDH while the State of Illinois shelters in place.

House programming goes virtual for Monday nights with "sherry hour" on Zoom and prayers by students.

April 6

As the spring quarter begins, Monday chapel services, dinners, and programs have been suspended. DDH's physical offices are closed for the time being. Yet, learning and community will continue in new forms and with special care.

A prayer by Ellie Leech and Victoria Wick

Social distancing, abstaining from hand washing, social distancing, and the careful observation of pandemic conditions on the first floor.

At its first-ever remote meeting, the Board of Trustees underscores its support for students during the pandemic. It decides to proceed with phase two of the accessibility project to address low-light conditions on the first floor.

June 8

We open ourselves to You as followers of Christ, of going anywhere but forward. Instill in us the confidence and fortitude we need to answer these calls from You with integrity. May we work to do so much more materially beyond naming racism as demonic. Help us act authentically to heal relationships where they feel impossibly strained. Help us be the church. — From a prayer by Benny VanDerburgh

June 12

Congratulations graduates!

DDH's 125th academic year ends with an online fanfare for the graduates, Kate Gerike, Kevin Gregory, Savannah Gross, and House Scholar Victoria Wick. Gerike and Wick are honored by the Divinity School as the recipients of the John Gray Rhind Award for excellence in academic and professional training and promise of significant contribution to public ministry.

March 2


April 6

Sarah Zuniga voiced this prayer:

The phrases social distancing and alone together have become household mantras for many. And for many others, they remain a privilege. Creator God, I pray that we, as a House community, now more than ever, continue to ask this question — What is to come?

June 4

An essay by Aneesah Eltess, "We Need Art to Help Us Heal. Now More Than Ever," offers an invitation to process pain and experience healing in the contemplation of contemporary Black art. It appears in the June 4 issue of Sightings on the protests in response to the police killings of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and other unarmed Black Americans, along with a letter from Sightings editor Joel Brown.

July

Contractors begin work on lighting in the Common Room and Chapel as the final masonry work to repoint and clean the courtyard face of DDH is completed.

October 24

We dedicate this house

The courtyard is dedicated in honor of longtime trustee James E. Stockdale, thanks to a magnific cent gift from the former University Christian Church in Seattle. An ingenious design provides barrier-free access to the first floor and Chapel of the Holy Grail, and creates a space of respite and welcome.

October 10

Ellie Leech's ordination service is held outdoors at the Christian Church of Arlington Heights with Allie Lundblad presiding.

October 23

A sculpture commissioned in memory of Thomas V. Stockdale is installed in the courtyard. It is created by renowned sculptor Richard Hunt.

November 2

Yvonne Gilmore preaches, "Complicate our lineage, limn the actual, and transform the landscape," on the eve of the election. After the service, students, alums, and friends join a virtual "Yvonnest" to celebrate her and her contributions as Associate Dean.

November 28

The House marks Advent with candle-lighting and carols, followed by a virtual holiday celebration featuring a gingerbread decorating contest. Peace, hope, love, and joy to all!

CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

"The generous response over the goal. The 125th Anniversary Chair Chad Martin announces. Campaign commitments totaled $5,045,800, exceeding the $4 million goal.

$5,045,800

"Grateful." our 125th Anniversary Report, tells stories of generosity and dedication—and shows the results of the campaign and the students who benefit.
Finding peace when you are one of the pieces

COVER STORY, CONTINUED

Of course, the simple answer is God. I am reminded of the words of the African bishop, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” But, as much as I love Augustine, this answer can be simplistic. We know, all too well, how Christianity has been used to justify all kinds of violence, starting with the genocide of Indigenous peoples, the justifcation for slavery in the United States, while supremacy as it was taught and preached from the pulpit in the name of eugenics, to the current immigration policies that separate children from their parents and place them in detention centers. How then do we respond to the restlessness? My response begins with radical monotheism, as found in H. Richard Niebuhr, but then it moves to the work of Gustavo Gutierrez, the father of liberation theology. Niebuhr argues that all people are directed at something. He refers to these directions as forms of faith, and he discusses henotheism, polytheism, and monotheism. Henotheism takes the shape of a closed society or a faith that is social in nature. It is the appeal to one particular god from among the many. It can take the form of nationalism, a love of country and all that it stands for. The henotheism that Niebuhr has in mind provides a mode by which we can distinguish between us and them. When allegiances are drawn to be exclusive in nature, henotheism prevails. On the personal level, the distinction between us and them takes the form of moralism. For example, radical pro-life groups that maintain a strong moralistic stance against abortion all in the name of life. This stance adopts the language of the biblical faith and uses notions such as love of God, love of neighbor, and love of life. There is also a henotheism of the left. The problem is not with the values and morals themselves, but rather that the left has abandoned the religious language found in the biblical text. Love of God, love of neighbor, and love of life should become part of our daily language to reach those who are suffering the most. Then can we do? How do we respond?

Living Justice: An Anti-Racist Practicum

Directed by Yvonne Gilmore and Sandhya Jha, this project equips leaders and communities to move beyond echoing the call to justice to active learning in relation with others that charts a course of action.

As calls for justice reverberate across the land, situated amidst a pandemic and in urgent appeals for active learning in relation to black and brown bodies, the Living Justice Practicum seeks to interrogate, identify, and activate ways to institutionalize justice by mining and connecting the lived theology of transformative leaders. It responds to the seismic shift in attention to policing and race as well as to the ongoing commitment of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to build an anti-racist, pro-reconciling church. How can we clarify and deepen our ritual and liturgical practices beyond marches and candlelight vigils? What does solidarity mean theologically, and how do Disciples from diverse communities practice it with integrity? Living Justice: An Anti-Racist Practicum is compelled by these questions and animated by DDH’s longstanding commitment to racial justice by mining and connecting the lived theology of transformative leaders. It responds to the seismic shift in attention to policing and race as well as to the ongoing commitment of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to build an anti-racist, pro-reconciling church.

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Robert Seare Bates (1950) died on December 8 in Indianapolis. He was 92. A graduate of Hiram College, where his grandfather had been president, he entered the University of Chicago as a Disciples Divinity House Scholar in 1950. He earned BD, MA, and PhD degrees in 1953. He married Margaret Sue Gillespie, and they went to India as mission co-workers, appointed by the United Christian Missionary Society. They worked alongside student Christian movements in Bangalore and Sri Lanka and taught at Leonard Theological College in north central India. They returned to the US in 1970, first to Nanjing, China in 1973, his father, together with fourteen others formed the International Committee for the Nanjing Safety Zone, which protected thousands of Chinese civilians while bearing witness to the atrocities by Japanese soldiers which resulted in the massacre of 300,000 civilians and the rape of thousands of women and girls. Their heroism and courage (together with others including Disciples Lewis Smythe, Minnie Veebret, and Robert Calumull) is memorialized in the Nanjing Massacre Museum. In 2008, Bob and Sue Bates, with their daughter and grandchildren, returned to Nanjing to pray for peace, celebrate Bob’s 80th birthday, and to visit the museum. Sue Bates died in March 2019. They are survived by daughters Karen and Kristin, and by extended family.

Robert L. Bromley (1935) died on May 2 in Marion, Iowa, under hospice care. He was 89. Born and raised in Palo Alto, California, he graduated from Chapman College (now University). He entered the University of Chicago as a Disciples Divinity House Scholar in 1953, and received his BD. Ordained in 1956, he served Disciples and UCC congregations in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska, including many intentional interims. Community involvement was an important part of Bob’s ministry. One highlight was being a police chaplain in Lincoln, Nebraska. He served on social welfare boards and developed the 1st Head Start and Day Care program in the nation in Missouri and Illinois. He wrote curriculum for CE/S, a multi-denominational project, and was president of the Congress of Disciples Clergy. More recently, he was chairman of the Linn County Board of Public Welfare and of the Democratic Caucus in Cedar Rapids, and he was involved in the Inter-Religious Council. A member of the Sierra Club, he did several work projects in California and Utah. He enjoyed travel and picnics, enjoyed theater, and was a voracious reader.

In 1981, he married Ann Seibold Stewart, who survives him. They traveled internationally and to all 50 states, often camping in the wilderness. He is also survived by the children of his 2nd marriage, Detore, Jeanette, David, and Tim; by Ann’s children, David and Christine; and by extended family.

Russell M. Fuller (1948), died at home in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on January 15, 2020. He was 95. For his entire life, he worked for peace and justice. “We’re not impossible to describe,” the pastoral experience of the Fuller’s son, Warren Fuller, said during the service. “You could see them wherever you went.” He and Barbara Fuller generated in our local and national landscape, co-workers, appointed by the United Christian Missionary Society. They worked alongside student Christian movements in Bangalore and Sri Lanka and taught at Leonard Theological College in north central India. They returned to the US in 1970, first to Nanjing, China in 1973, his father, together with fourteen others formed the International Committee for the Nanjing Safety Zone, which protected thousands of Chinese civilians while bearing witness to the atrocities by Japanese soldiers which resulted in the massacre of 300,000 civilians and the rape of thousands of women and girls. Their heroism and courage (together with others including Disciples Lewis Smythe, Minnie Veebret, and Robert Calumull) is memorialized in the Nanjing Massacre Museum. In 2008, Bob and Sue Bates, with their daughter and grandchildren, returned to Nanjing to pray for peace, celebrate Bob’s 80th birthday, and to visit the museum. Sue Bates died in March 2019. They are survived by daughters Karen and Kristin, and by extended family.

Adelle E. Lemon, widow of Robert Lemon (1944), died on March 7 in hospice care. She was 92. Adelle Ringstrom married Robert Lemon in 1950. He died in 2007. They had four children, David, Nancy, Mary, and Jennifer (formerly John), who survive them. In 1956, the family moved to the Bay Area. She wrote sermons for the Berkeley ekpekekeekeng, sharing with two novels, newspaper editorials, and many letters. In 2013, he established the John and Maxine McCaw Scholarship Fund for Prophetic Living, Teaching and Preaching, an endowed scholarship for seminarians which is administered by the College of Arts and Sciences. Later, he taught at the University of Louisville in the School of Pastoral Counseling, and then moved to Fuller Seminary, where he was an endowed Professor at Kentucky State University, he earned his BD as a House Scholar in 1964. He also earned in his PhD in Philosophy from Simon's College. He was predeceased by his wife, Marica Damon Starkey, in June 2018.

Richard E. Starkey (1934) died on April 20, in Massachusetts. He was 88. A graduate of Drake University, he earned his BD as a House Scholar in 1964. He also earned in his PhD in Philosophy from Simon's College. He was predeceased by his wife, Marica Damon Starkey, in June 2018.

John Emory McCarr (1939), who had been DDH’s oldest living alumnus, died on June 29 in Des Moines, Iowa. He was 94. He was born March 3, 1917, to C.C. and Mildred McCarr in the small town of Lomax, Illinois. He graduated from Drake University before entering the Divinity School as a Disciples Divinity House Scholar in 1939 and earning a BD degree. He was later a fellow at Union Theological Seminary and was awarded a Doctorate in Divinity by Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. In 1942, he married Marcia Mae Ganske, a concert pianist and music educator. They would share seventy years of marriage before her death in 2013. He returned to his undergraduate alma mater, became a Disciples Divinity House Scholar in 1950. He edited the Bible College to full accreditation as Drake Divinity School (now defunct) as its dean. He received numerous recognitions from Drake, including its Centennial Award, Dawson Award, Alumni Distinguished Service Award, and the Drake Medal of Service. His leadership to other organizations included the Des Moines School Board, a mayoral commission, Wakonda Christian Church, the regional and general church, and the establishment of the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center. He received the MA (1974) and PhD (1981) from the University of Chicago as a Disciples Divinity House Scholar. He was the author of numerous articles and co-author of the recently published, The Mind of Charles Hodge, which provides an updated, wide-ranging, and sustained critical overview of Hodge’s thinking, the kind of project not seen since [fill DDH alumnus] Eugene Peters’ landmark study half a century ago. An accomplished singer and musician, George was a band member of Copperfield, and later joined Louisville Brass & Electric (LBAE). He is survived by his wife Mary, daughter Kirstin, and extended family.

Marcia Ann Bailey Walters (1981) died November 20 in Indiana. She was 80. An advocate of civil rights, she was an ordained Disciples minister. She served as a pastor and chaplain throughout her career, including at Hendricks Regional Health as a Hospice/ Hospital Chaplain. Out of an awareness of the importance of recognizing grief for infants who died at birth, she helped establish a memorial to be maintained in a park in Avon, Indiana. She led grief groups and helped establish a national observance of infant loss awareness. A graduate of Eastern Illinois University, she attended the Divinity School as a Disciples Divinity House Scholar before earning her MDiv from Christian Theological Seminary in 1985. She is survived by her spouse, Ross Walters, and their children, Richard, Michael, Amy, Matthew, and Rebecca, and extended family. Marilyn Jean Cook Parish, widow of Harry B. Parish (1937), died at home in Durham, North Carolina, on February 26. She was 95. Born in Davenport, Iowa, she graduated from the Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago in 1948. Later she earned an MSW from UMC–Chapel Hill. In 1949, she married Mr. Parish. They lived in Chicago, California, England, and Switzerland, where she served with the World Council of Churches, before in 1964, when he joined the faculty at Duke University to teach History of Religions. He died in 2008. Affectionately known as “Cookie,” she was a tireless advocate for families in crisis, the elderly, the homeless, the mentally ill, and countless others in distress. As Director of Volunteers and Resources for the Durham County Department of Social Services, she shaped many programs, including the Emergency Energy Fund, Retired Volunteers Program (RiVVP), the Elder Neighbor/Elder Advocacy Program, and Share Your Christmas. A memorial service was held at Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Durham, where she was a member for over 50 years; senior minister Melissa K. Wood, a DDH alumna and trustee, presided.

A memorial service will be held in Oakland in early 2022—email adelelm@ gmail.com for notif cation.

Elaine A. Gierman (1995), a teacher of English and wife of Frank Hoss (1966), died in Urbana, Illinois, on April 20. She was 75. She was a cherished sixth-grade teacher at Campus Middle School for Girls in Urbana, part of a distinguished 47-year career at middle and high schools, and community colleges. She was a graduate of Northern Illinois University and the University of Illinois with a master’s degree in English, she returned to the University to pursue the MDIV degree at the Divinity School. She was a Disciples Divinity House Scholar in 1995. Elaine and Frank partnered in the ministry at Hope United Church of Christ near Armstrong, Illinois. They shared a love of travel and learning. She is survived by her husband, her sisters, nieces, and nephews.

Marcia Ann Bailey Walters (1981) died November 20 in Indiana. She was 80. An advocate of civil rights, she was an ordained Disciples minister. She served as a pastor and chaplain throughout her career, including at Hendricks Regional Health as a Hospice/ Hospital Chaplain. Out of an awareness of the importance of recognizing grief for infants who died at birth, she helped establish a memorial to be maintained in a park in Avon, Indiana. She led grief groups and helped establish a national observance of infant loss awareness. A graduate of Eastern Illinois University, she attended the Divinity School as a Disciples Divinity House Scholar before earning her MDiv from Christian Theological Seminary in 1985. She is survived by her spouse, Ross Walters, and their children, Richard, Michael, Amy, Matthew, and Rebecca, and extended family.

A memorial service was held in Oakland in early 2022—email adelelm@gmail.com for notification.
WE DEDICATE
THIS HOUSE—

To the glory of God and the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord; to worship and adoration, to prayer and praise.

To the joy of comradeship in a great cause; to the searching mind and the understanding heart, to a faith that is not blind and a hope that hath foundations.

To quickened response with those who are burdened by poverty, beset by temptation, or shadowed by grief.

To the enhancement of all life by the enrichment of art, through eloquence and song, through poetry and drama, through music and architecture.

To the feeding of souls that hunger for beauty, the guidance of those who seek truth, the satisfaction of those who thirst for God.

To a ministry to those who shall minister the things of the Kingdom of God. AMEN.

Adapted from the dedication of the building, October 21, 1928, and of the chapel, October 26, 1930, and affirmed on October 24, 2020.