



GRACE COMMUNION SEMINARY

GCS NEWS

A Newsletter for Students and Alumni of Grace Communion Seminary

GCS STAFF

PRESIDENT
Dr. Gary W. Deddo
gary.deddo@gcs.edu

DEAN OF FACULTY
Dr. Michael Morrison
dean@gcs.edu

REGISTRAR
Georgia McKinnon
registrar@gcs.edu

LIAISON OFFICER
Lance M. McKinnon
lance.mckinnon@gcs.edu

INSTRUCTORS

- Randy Bloom**
- Jeff Broadnax**
- Dr. Gary W. Deddo**
- Dr. Russell Duke**
- Neil Earle**
- Dr. Timothy Finlay**
- Dr. Larry Hinkle**
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CONTACT INFO:

3120 Whitehall Park Drive,
Charlotte, NC 28273
1-800-851-2611
or 1-980-495-3978
Fax: 1-844-350-3419

President's Letter



Dear Students, Alumni and Donors,

The gospel of Jesus Christ has never been more relevant than it is today. Nor has it ever been less relevant throughout all time.

The incarnation of the eternal and uncreated Son of God and his life, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension tell us not simply about some events which occurred to him. They reveal to us the cosmic reality of who he is and what he has done for us. They show us the true nature of our current need and life situation. And all this is good news indeed.

In times of stress and strain, tension and anxiety, fear and fragmentation, we are often driven to return to the “basics,” the “foundations,” the “sources.” That is what the gospel of Jesus Christ provides us. Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, shows us the heart, mind, character and purpose of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit. The self-revelation of God in Jesus Christ demonstrates to us and all that our Triune God is a Redeeming God.

By that revelation, we also come to recognize what all we need to be rescued and saved from—namely our fallen sin nature, an eternal death, and from the power of evil. The gospel of Jesus Christ makes it plain that we have no ability whatsoever to free ourselves from any of these. Our Triune God has done for us what we could never do for ourselves. All these enemies of humankind have been overcome in Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior.

He is the one and only Prophet, Priest and King over all creation, over all time and

space. His rule and reign alone will prevail over all the cosmos on behalf of the Father and through the Holy Spirit. Sin, death, and the powers of evil will be no more.

We can begin to share in his victory over them all. We can do so by putting our trust, our faith, in his continuing ministry extended to us by the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. Trusting in him, we can begin to receive the down payment of the benefits of his victory. Even though we live now in this “present evil age,” we can begin to live in hope of “the age to come,” the establishment of the new heaven and earth consummated upon his personal return. We can begin to pass on to others the agape love we have received by the grace of our Triune God. Amen.

Cont.



Cont. Before I close, let me offer a few words to update you on the activities of the seminary. First, as you may know, since there will not be an in-person GCI conference this summer, we have had to postpone our graduation ceremony. Although a public celebration will have to come later, those completing the requirements will still receive their diplomas and be graduates!

Second, registration for Summer courses is open:

<http://bit.ly/GCS21Summer>

Have a look and see if there is a course you might like to take.

Georgia, our Registrar, will be able to answer any questions you may have. You can also find a tentative schedule of courses being offered in the Fall and next Spring on page five of this newsletter.

Third, we are now enrolling students in our new Masters of Divinity degree. If you have taken courses previously or have even completed one of our two original degrees, you might want to look into it. It might be possible to roll-over previous course credits. Talk to our Registrar if you'd like to check out that possibility.

Grace Communion Seminary exists to serve the Triune Lord God of this gospel of Jesus Christ. We hope and pray that by the courses we offer, through the free resources made available and by your interactions with our staff, you have been (or will be!) strengthened and encouraged, built up, in this gospel of grace—especially in these challenging times.

By the grace and peace of Jesus Christ,

Dr. Gary Deddo
President

New Approach to Biblical Greek



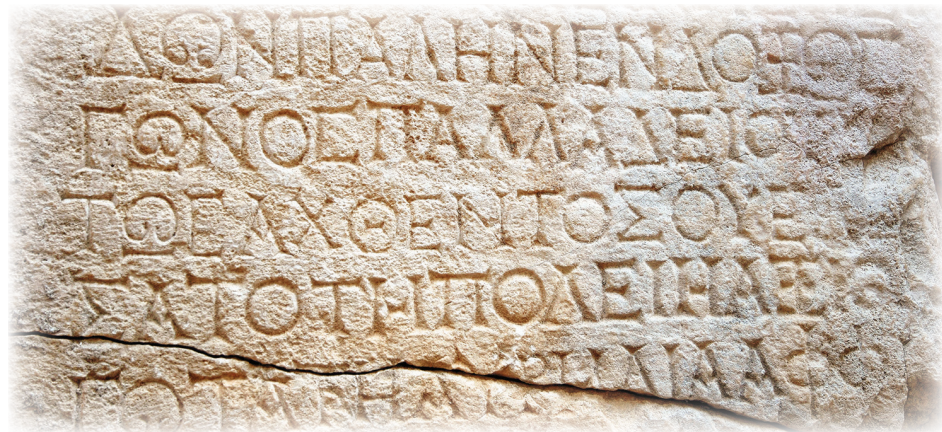
This fall, we will debut a new course: Using Biblical Greek Study Tools. The starting point for this course is the fact that Bible study websites

and programs tell you what the Greek words are, provide links to dictionaries to tell you what those words might mean, and give you information about parts of speech, verb tenses and noun cases. People have discovered that they don't have to memorize a lot of vocabulary and memorize how words change their spelling.

Websites and programs can inform you of word meanings, and even many of the grammatical details, but computers do not give much guidance on how those details are useful for understanding sentences. For example, if the verb is an aorist passive participle, or the noun is in the dative case, how can we use that information to study what the verse is saying? This course will try to pick up where the websites leave off.

We will not start by memorizing the ways that words are changed

according to their role in the sentences. Instead, we will start with John's first letter and use it to illustrate how Greek works; we'll



discuss features of Greek as we encounter them in the text. This is called an inductive approach – to start by looking at real biblical passages, rather than starting by memorizing Greek words. We will go slow at first, and we may cover only two chapters in the entire semester, because we'll encounter lots of things in Greek that aren't the way they are in English.

There will be some memorization – the most common words in 1 John, and the meaning of some grammatical

terms – but the focus is on putting the information together and using it in our studies.

I will be the instructor, and I am excited about the course. I enjoy developing most of my courses, but I am enjoying this one more than any other. I think many of you will, too.

For more information, see the short syllabus at:

<http://bit.ly/BI540-21>

Dr. Michael Morrison
Instructor in New Testament,
Dean of Faculty

New Diploma Award for GCI Ministry Avenue Champions



Grace Communion Seminary, in partnership with Grace Communion International, is happy to announce new diploma options

designed for GCI members who lead the ministry avenues of faith (discipleship), hope (worship), and love (witness). We plan to develop new courses for each of the three areas of ministry. We'll announce those when they are approved by our accrediting agency.

The GCS Diploma of Christian Ministry involves seven classes. For this diploma, six of the requirements are the same no matter which ministry a person is involved in; one class will be different based on the avenue of focus. The courses may be taken in any order, and at any pace, as fast as one course each semester, or only one course per year. Students are welcome to take one course without a commitment to take any others.

Not everyone will be able to keep to the same schedule, but we encourage the avenue champions (Faith, Hope,

or Love) to take courses together and to stay together as a group. Here is a basic sketch of the diploma program:

- One Bible course, either Biblical Interpretation or New Testament Survey (both taught by Mike Morrison)
- One theology course: The Holy Spirit, the Church, and Last Things (Gary Deddo)
- One additional Bible course or one additional theology course
- Three ministry courses: Practice of Ministry (Ted Johnston), Church Planting and Development (Randy Bloom), and Polity of GCI (Greg Williams and Mike Rasmussen)
- An additional ministry course chosen based on the ministry avenue:
 - For the Faith Avenue (discipleship): Pastoral Leadership, Trinitarian Youth Ministry, or a new course in Small Group Bible Study Leadership
 - For the Hope Avenue (worship): Trinitarian Youth Ministry or a future appropriate elective
 - For the Love Avenue (witness and outreach): a future appropriate elective

All courses are taught at a graduate level, discussions are held at a graduate level, and students are required to read several textbooks and to write papers. Each course will entail about 140 hours of work – about 12 hours each week for twelve weeks. Students who want to audit (to sit in on the class, but without academic credit) are still expected to read the textbooks and participate in the discussions.

Since the courses are at a graduate level, applicants should have a bachelor's degree.

For an application, see:

<https://www.gcs.edu/admissions/>

For more information, see:

<https://www.gcs.edu/academics/non-degree-study/>

or contact the GCS Registrar at registrar@gcs.edu with any questions.

*Dr. Michael Morrison
Dean of Faculty*





Randy Bloom

Help Us Welcome Our Newest Board Member

Randy Bloom will be joining the GCS Board of Directors.



CONGRATULATIONS to our newest Graduates

Completion of
Master of Theological Studies
(MTS):

Tim Wakeley

Completion of
Master of Pastoral Studies
(MPS):

Anthony Gregory

CTS Earned

Certificate of Theological Studies (CTS):

John Gent

Schedule of Courses 2021

All schedules are tentative

Summer 2021: Registration begins April 26. Lectures will be posted Mondays, May 10 to July 12. The GCI denominational conference will be held online July 23-25. All coursework is to be done by August 8.

BI521	New Testament Background	Mike Morrison
CM501	Pastoral Leadership	Russell Duke
CM505	Women and Men in Leadership	Mike Morrison
CM506	Trinitarian Youth Ministry	J. Broadnax & G. Williams
CM508	Church Planting & Development	Randy Bloom
CM511	Homiletics	Dan Rogers
FE502	Field Education 2	Randy Bloom
FE503	Field Education 3	Randy Bloom
TH507	Theology of C.S. Lewis	Gary Deddo

Fall 2021: Registration begins Aug. 23. The first lecture will be posted on Tuesday, Sept. 7. Subsequent lectures will be posted on Mondays, Sept. 13 to Nov. 8. All work is to be completed by Dec. 5.

BI501	Biblical Interpretation (Hermeneutics)	Mike Morrison
BI540	Using Biblical Greek Study Tools	Mike Morrison
CH501	Church History: The First Millennium	Neil Earle
CM507	Experiencing the Trinity	Larry Hinkle
CM510	Polity of Grace Communion International	Greg Williams
FE501	Field Education 1	Randy Bloom
TH501	Nature of God and Jesus Christ	R. Duke & L. McKinnon
TH508	Christology of T.F. Torrance	Gary Deddo

Spring 2022: The first lecture will be posted on Tuesday, January 18. Other lectures will be posted on Mondays, January 25 through March 21. All work is to be completed by April 11. Easter is April 17.

BI522	The Gospels	Mike Morrison
CH502	Church History: The Second Millennium	Neil Earle
CM504	Practice of Ministry	Ted Johnston
CM508	Church Planting & Development	Randy Bloom
CM512	Small Group Bible Study Leadership	Cathy & Gary Deddo
FE502	Field Education 2	Randy Bloom
TH502	Nature of Humans and Salvation	Russell Duke & L. McKinnon

If fewer than five students register for a course, it may be cancelled, at the discretion of the instructor. Capstone courses for the master's degrees are offered in all semesters. When Monday is a holiday in the U.S., lectures may be posted on Tuesday.

F O C U S E D O N

H O P E

GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

2021 VIRTUAL DENOMINATION CELEBRATION JULY 23-25

This year's denominational celebration for Grace Communion International will be a virtual event.

Registration is currently open. The focus for the event will be on the Hope Avenue, shaping our worship services to be inspirational experiences that center around our hope in the person of Jesus.

For more information and to register visit:

<https://www.gci.org/events/2021/>

Due to the cancellation of this year's physical gathering in Charlotte, NC the GCS Graduation will be rescheduled for the next denominational celebration.



PARTNERS WITH GCS

Financial support from alumni and friends like you has a profound impact on the seminary's mission of *"Equipping the Saints for Pastoral Ministry."*

If you have a passion for the provision of seminary training informed by an Incarnational Trinitarian faith, GCS is grateful for your partnership through prayer and financial support.

Donations to Grace Communion Seminary can be mailed to
3120 Whitehall Park Drive, Charlotte, NC 28273
or donate online at <https://gcs.edu/donate>.