



ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020

FROM THE BOARD



Dear friends,

“My time at the Collegeville Institute changed my life.” That’s a message we hear frequently from participants in our programs. In a time of disruption, the Collegeville Institute remains a place dedicated to creating communities of good will and creativity in which renewal and healing takes place.

If your ideal setting includes a quiet lakeside apartment, praying the Liturgy of the Hours with the monastic community at Saint John’s Abbey, acres of woods and protected arbore-tums to explore, access to a world-class library, and life giving conversations with fellow scholars, artists, and faith leaders—**then you know what makes this place so special.** For many of us, it is rare to find a place apart to imagine, think, work, rest, and create.

But the Collegeville Institute would not be what it is without you—the donors, program participants, board members, and so many more who share our belief that religious ideas can be

a force for good in the world. **Your investment in this place makes it possible for us to continue our work.**

We thank over 107 donors who showed their appreciation for the Collegeville Institute this year by making a financial donation. Together, you gave over \$161,000, which goes a long way to sustaining this place.

Thanks to your support, we concluded our first cohort of the Multi-Religious Fellows program, launched the *Unlikely Conversations* podcast, hosted over 100 participants in our writing workshops for people of faith, convened 82 congregational leaders in our vocation programs, and hosted 24 Resident Scholars from 9 countries this fiscal year. Even when the coronavirus pandemic hit Minnesota in March, we were able to move our new Emerging Writers Mentorship Program, elements of our Resident Scholar program, and several summer writing workshops online.

That’s the power of the Collegeville Institute which, for over 50 years, has continued investing in people of faith despite uncertain times. Thank you for helping us bring people together across religious divides—whether virtually or in person. We could not do it without you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Darrell Jodock".

Darrell H. Jodock
Board Chair, 2015–20



MISSION STATEMENT

The Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research is a place of scholarship, worship, dialogue, and community immersed in the Benedictine rhythm of work and prayer. The Collegeville Institute, rooted in Christian tradition, brings together people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives to foster the world's healing through the power of religious ideas, insight, and practices.



WHO WE ARE

For over 50 years, the Collegeville Institute has worked to overcome religious misunderstanding and discord. We believe that mutual respect and understanding among members of diverse religious traditions is essential for the world's healing.

Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research:

- was founded in 1967 by the monks of Saint John's Abbey through the vision of Fr. Kilian McDonnell, OSB, and generous funding from Patrick and Aimée Butler.
- is a meeting place and residential center where a diverse mix of people from different faith communities, including scholars, writers, professionals, ministers, artists, and corporate leaders, gather to connect faith to the world and its pressing social issues.
- is a campus of 10 apartments and a central meeting space, the Butler Center, located on the grounds of Saint John's Abbey a place of stunning natural beauty amid the lakes and forests of central Minnesota.
- engages people and communities from around the country and globally in our work of leadership development and multi-religious cooperation.
- is rooted in the rich heritage of Saint John's Abbey and University and Saint Benedict's Monastery, and shaped by the Benedictine tradition of work, study, and worship.
- is a leader in innovative Christian thought and collaborative religious exploration.
- provides space and time for the creative intersection of multiple disciplines and professional practices, diverse worlds of experience, and unlikely conversation partners.
- practices civility, offers hospitality, and forms communities of respectful encounter.
- embodies an experience and understanding of religious belief and practices as a force for hope for the flourishing of the earth and its inhabitants.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Resident Scholars Program:

Our Resident Scholars program brings together scholars, academics, clergy, church leaders, thinkers, artists, musicians, and writers who are seeking to discern and communicate the meaning of Christian identity

and unity in a religiously and culturally diverse world. The first scholars arrived in 1968. To date, the Collegeville Institute has brought together over 450 scholars, including such notable theologians and thinkers as **Henri J. M. Nouwen**, **Don E. Saliers**, **Joan D. Chittister, OSB**, **Parker J. Palmer**, and **Kathleen Norris**. Each resident scholar engages in his or her own rhythm of study, reflection, and writing, while also gathering weekly for seminars, prayer, and communal meals. The balance of independent research and writing, within a community of prayer and dialogue, creates an atmosphere in which diverse traditions, cultures, disciplines, and projects intersect and bring forth fresh and sometimes unexpected insights. Of course, the Resident Scholars program always presents some surprises. This year, it was the challenge of building community while wearing masks in the midst of a pandemic.



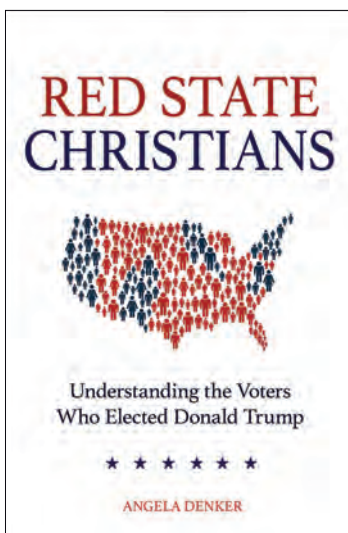
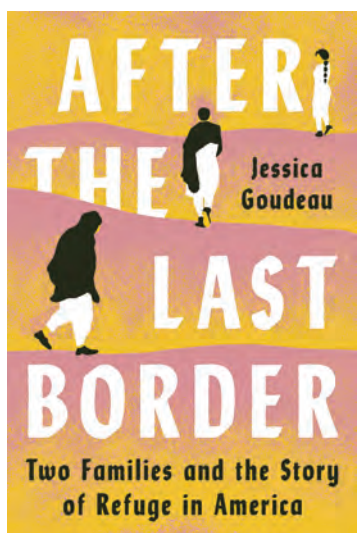
The spring semester 2020 resident scholars continued to gather while observing appropriate coronavirus pandemic protocols.

Fellows Program:

The Collegeville Institute Fellows Programs brings together groups of gifted Minnesota religious leaders with the goal of strengthening their sense of themselves as civic leaders and public theologians. By connecting these faith leaders to professionals from other sectors of Minnesota society (in education, business, health care, criminal justice, and social services), our Fellows Programs aim to foster a vision of religious leadership for the good of Minnesota, for the good of our faith communities, and for a common good greater than both.



Rural Minnesota Fellows Cohort (2017-2019) comprised of 12 pastors from around the state.



These are three books, among many, that were published throughout the year by Collegeville Institute-affiliated authors.

Ecclesial Literature Project:

Each summer, the Collegeville Institute opens its doors to pastors, ministers, lay leaders, writers, and other thinkers for week-long, intensive writing workshops geared toward various levels of writing skill, genre, and interest. Each fall, the Collegeville Institute partners with other institutes, seminaries, or churches to coordinate regional writing workshops. Participants, taught and guided by such prolific writers as **Chanequa Walker-Barnes**, **Richard Lischer**, **Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove**, **Lauren Winner**, and **Renita Weems**, come together to write, learn, and discover anew (or perhaps for the first time) the call to be writers for the life of faith. The books and other resources produced by our alumni have a vast ripple effect as they inspire readers and edify the church.

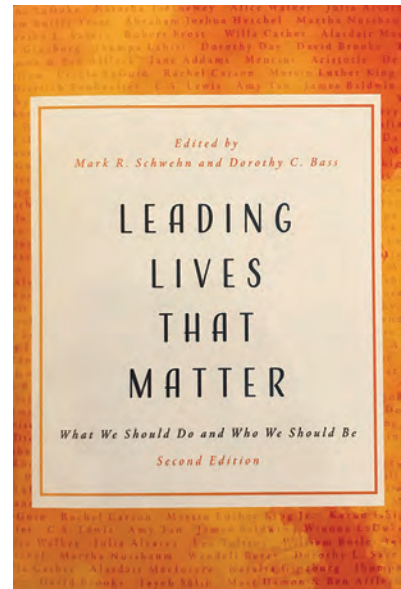
Emerging Writers Mentorship Program:

Our Emerging Writers Mentorship Program, born from the Ecclesial Literature Project, is designed to help early-career writers develop and publish work that engages with the world from a religious or spiritual perspective. In collaboration with the editors of Collegeville Institute's online journal, *Bearings Online*, the program's mentor helps these emerging writers engender and refine ideas for articles and essays, turn these ideas into structured and compelling prose, and revise and shape the resulting works into publishable pieces. Find these essays at collegevilleinstitute.org/bearings/

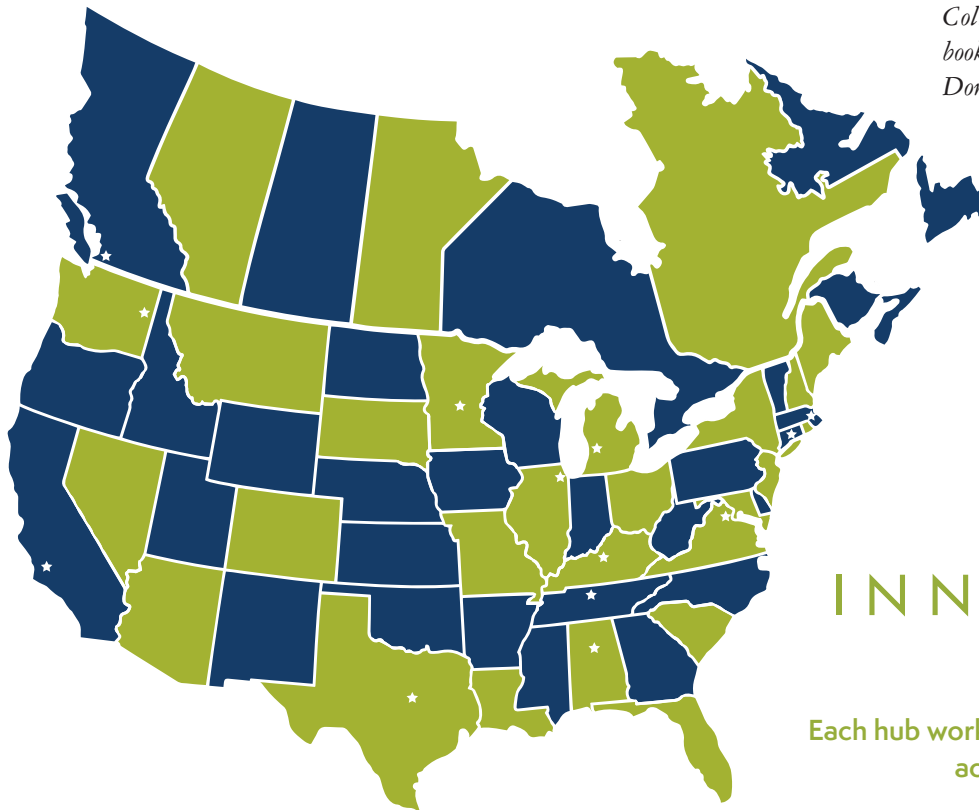
Vocation Programs:

We believe vocation is a central Christian belief: that God calls each person. But the concept of calling needs to be rediscovered and renewed for the church today. Our **Communities of Calling Initiative** invites congregations to design new projects or enhance existing ministries to help Christians discover and deepen their sense of God's

calling in their lives. The Collegeville Institute serves as the hub where our partner congregations gather to learn from each other throughout the 5-year program. Our **Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative** works with 13 innovation hubs from across North America. The coordination effort helps these hubs work with some 350 congregations in launching ministries that help Christians discover and claim how God is calling them to lead lives of meaning and purpose.



Leading Lives that Matter is one of eight books published on vocation between 2015 and 2020 through the Collegeville Institute. This influential book was edited by Resident Scholars, Dorothy Bass and Mark Schwehn.



INNOVATION HUBS

Each hub works with some 350 congregations
across North America

American Baptist College – Nashville, TN
Baylor University – Waco, TX
Boston University School of Theology – Boston, MA
Collegeville Institute – Collegeville, MN
Fuller Theological Seminary – Pasadena, CA
Hope College – Holland, MI
Louisville Seminary – Louisville, KY

Regent College – Vancouver, BC
Samford University – Birmingham, AL
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc. – Chicago, IL
Vibrant Faith – Cheshire, CT
Virginia Theological Seminary – Alexandria, VA
Whitworth University – Spokane, WA

MULTI-RELIGIOUS PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

We live in a religiously dynamic time. Religious diversity is increasing within the U.S., and that very diversity is creating tensions and puzzlement within local communities and the national body politic. In such a time it's imperative that religious people and communities across faith traditions understand one another and seek avenues for cooperation. When some seek to exclude and diminish others on the basis of religious identity, the Collegeville Institute encourages the virtue and art of listening in order to open doors to religious understanding.

To that end, the Collegeville Institute intends to continue our innovative multi-religious work. Our groundbreaking **Multi-Religious Fellows Program** brings together 10 Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, and Christian religious leaders to learn how their distinct religious traditions can inform one another and promote the common public

good. As with other Collegeville Institute Fellows programs, the Multi-Religious Fellows meet with leaders from a variety of civic and commercial institutions—government, business, education, health care, criminal justice—to help them better understand these complex sectors of the society in which their religious communities are embedded. This program combines immediate multi-religious encounter with an effort to prepare participants for action in the public arena.

Specifically, we ask participants in the cohorts to develop a practical project that will have an impact on their communities. In one case a Collegeville Institute Fellow led the effort to build and open the “Brooklyn Avenues” shelter for homeless youth in Brooklyn Park, MN, by building a coalition of faith leaders, elected officials, businesses, government agencies, and funders. And this is only one example of many concrete projects developed by program participants.



Multi-Religious Fellows Cohort, 2017-2019

INTRODUCING THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

We're delighted to introduce **Amy Fistler**, the Collegeville Institute's first director of development and the most recent addition to our staff. Amy, who began work for the Collegeville Institute in the summer of 2019, is an accomplished development professional with an outstanding record of over 34 years of experience in fundraising, organizational development, strategic planning, and building constituent relations. She has worked in private and public universities, philanthropic foundations, and nonprofit organizations. She is currently a board member of the Bach Society of Minnesota and the Episcopal Homes of Minnesota.

"I'm delighted to be serving the Collegeville Institute by building a strong foundation for philanthropy," said Amy. "This is an important organization that has deeply impacted the lives of some of my favorite writers and theologians. There are phenomenal people in the Collegeville Institute community, and I am glad to have a role in helping Collegeville Institute invest in the next generation of faith leaders."

She has hit the ground running. Amy has already begun implementing a comprehensive development plan that will play a key role in fostering private giving. She has also identified several donor constituencies and established strategies, goals,

and measurements for soliciting gifts. According to Amy: "People have different reasons and capacities for giving to an organization. You must identify where people fall in the universe of giving, but even more importantly, building and enhancing relationships with donors is vital in development work. Plans give you a guide for the overall program, but the key is developing and sustaining relationships."

Amy notes that "in fiscal year 2020, the Collegeville Institute spent close to \$1.5 million on programs with previously received funds. **While the need for program support never goes away, neither does the need to expand fundraising efforts for necessary general operating revenue.**" Amy intends to strengthen such giving by broadening the base of support for the Collegeville Institute and initiating a major gift and a legacy giving program.

"It's important to note that the past fiscal year was the first year—the first step—of a comprehensive effort to garner gift support for the Collegeville Institute," she said. "The focus of the effort is to build a pipeline of giving over the long haul. It takes time to initiate a full development effort and requires an upfront investment to build a program." Amy also added that "it's exciting to build a new program from

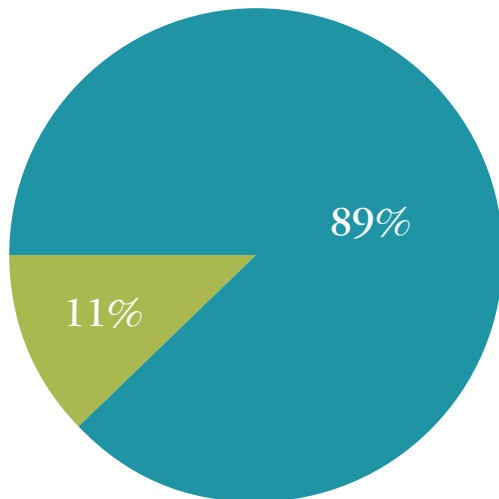


the ground up and to educate and inspire our constituents."

Of all the organizations Amy has worked in, she declares that "the Collegeville Institute is by far the most unique." She has found the Collegeville Institute's culture to be collaborative—one that fosters respect and inclusion. "The Collegeville Institute lives its mission to promote the sharing of ideas, writing, and learning from diverse people who share common goals," Amy observes.

Amy is married to Jack Fistler, himself an accomplished fundraising consultant. They have two daughters and are the proud grandparents of three granddaughters. They reside in St. Paul, MN.

2019 / 2020 FINANCIALS



Contributions

Restricted = \$18,065 (dedicated to programs)

Unrestricted = \$143,363 (general operating)

Total Dollars = \$161,428

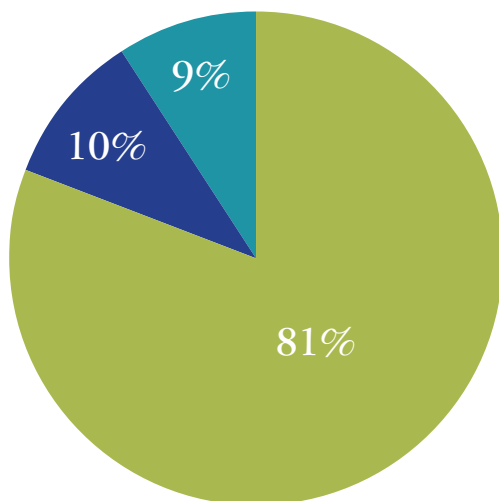
Number of Donors = 107



FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For over 50 years, the Collegeville Institute
has been a wise steward of donor funds.

During FY 2019/20, 81% of our total
expenditures were program expenses.



Expenses by Percentage

Program services (supported by donor
restricted reserve program funds)

Management and general
Fundraising

The Collegeville Institute is audited annually by an outside CPA firm. Complete copies of the audited financial statements, audit reports and financial reports are available upon request. For more information please contact Director of Development, Amy Fistler at afistler001@collegevilleinstitute.org.

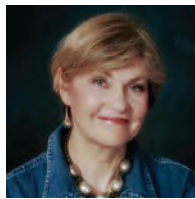
SMALL ORGANIZATION, GLOBAL IMPACT

The Collegeville Institute's work impacts people in a variety of places around the world. This fiscal year, our website alone reached 75,517 users around the globe.

In addition, the Resident Scholars program brings in scholars from around the world. This same fiscal year we hosted 15 domestic scholars and 9 international scholars.



Sarah Lane Cawte
United Kingdom
United Reform Church



Mary Frances Coady
Canada
Roman Catholic



Lucia Greskova
Slovakia
Roman Catholic



Hans Harmakaputra
Indonesia
Presbyterian



Mersha Mengistie
Ethiopia
Ethiopian Orthodox



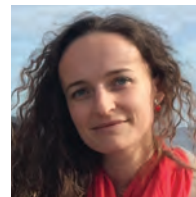
Natalia Percherskaya
Russia
Russian Orthodox



Camilla Russell
Australia
Catholic



Thomas Schönberg
Sweden
Lutheran



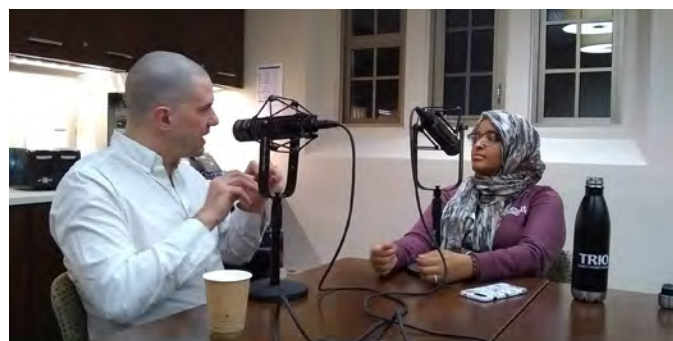
Jana Trajtelová
Slovakia
Catholic

NEW PODCAST



We often inhabit spaces in person and online where we only interact with folks who primarily look, think, act, and practice faith like we do. In 2020, the Collegeville Institute launched *Unlikely Conversations*, a new podcast that breaks through our echo chambers by exploring civil discourse as spiritual practice across religious difference. In its first season, each episode featured two participants in our Multi-Religious Fellows program. Board member Ellie Roscher hosted the conversations, facilitating lively discussions between diverse Twin Cities faith leaders as they tackled thorny topics like racial justice, youth spiritual formation, and religious stereotypes. The guests on *Unlikely Conversations* model how to have brave and hopeful conversations in an era of religious polarization.

Find *Unlikely Conversations* wherever you listen to podcasts or at our website at collegevilleinstitute.org/podcasts/



Genjo Conway (Zen Buddhist) and Fardosa Hassan (Muslim) discuss issues of race in interfaith spaces.



Andrea Roske-Metcalf (Christian) and Pooja Bastodkar (Hindu) discuss faith formation in the next generation.

DONOR PROFILE

In 2010, when Barbara Melosh first came to the Collegeville Institute, she didn't consider her primary vocation to be writing. It's not that she hadn't written before; in fact, in her early career as a college professor, she published several academic books on topics like art and history. But that was before she "shocked everyone" by pursuing a second-career vocation to ministry. Ordained in the ELCA in 2005, Barbara did most of her writing for weekly sermons and church newsletters.

But a week at the Collegeville Institute changed that. She attended a writing workshop led by Richard Lischer, who was at work on his own spiritual memoir *Stations of the Heart*. Barbara credits it as "the spark" she needed to write her own pastoral memoir, which she developed at two additional *Apart, and Yet A Part* Collegeville Institute summer writing workshops. In 2018, Barbara published the mem-

oir *Loving and Leaving a Church: A Pastor's Journey* that she worked on at the Collegeville Institute.

"There is a seriousness that is accorded to writing at Collegeville," she said. "I am a pastor and I still do pastoral work, but my primary vocation is writing, and the Collegeville Institute helped me to claim that."

Barbara credits the Collegeville Institute for fostering generative relationships that have helped her create the structure, accountability, and support to continue writing. She hit it off with Jane Willan, with whom she shared a Collegeville Institute apartment, and they have become writing partners. Every two weeks, they exchange pages and talk on the phone for one hour. Barbara and Jane have also gone away on writing retreats for two summers where they write intensively together. Jane has since published two mysteries set in Wales featuring Sister Agatha, an Anglican nun.

"There is an energy that comes from being around other people who are writing, or struggling with writing, alongside you," Barbara reflected.

In 2011, Barbara's mother suffered a stroke. Barbara and her husband Gary Kulik cared for her until her death in 2012, an experience that prompted them to reflect on and revise their own will. At the time, they met with a gift planner who asked them a poignant question: "How have you been blessed?"

"It was a great question," said Barbara. "It made us ask ourselves:

what are some of the things that we really care about? Collegeville Institute was one of those."

Barbara and Gary decided to include a legacy gift to the Collegeville Institute in their estate plan. They also made a commitment to not just make financial contributions, but to become actively involved in the organizations they support. In the last year, Barbara agreed to advise the Collegeville Institute on its feasibility study to raise capital funds that will restore and preserve the historic Breuer buildings for future generations to enjoy.

"When I first came to the Collegeville Institute, I was incredibly moved by the whole place," she said. "I have never encountered an institution that was so coherent in its mission. I love the care that is given to every part of the environment. Everything is simple yet abundant."



Legacy Giving

With a Legacy Gift you help to build the Collegeville Institute's future and your gift will help to inspire others to consider a planned gift commitment.

Q & A WITH BOARD MEMBER

JAMES ALBERTS II

James Alberts II is the pastor of Higher Ground Church of God in Christ in St. Cloud, MN, and, since 2009, a member of the board of directors of the Collegeville Institute. He also serves on the board of ISA-IAH, a coalition of faith leaders fighting for racial and economic justice in Minnesota.

In June 2020, following the killing of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis, Susan Sink, Collegeville Institute Communications Associate, interviewed Pastor Alberts for *Bearings Online*. Below is an abbreviated version of their conversation. To read the full version, visit: <https://collegevilleinstitute.org/bearings/people-need-to-do-the-work/>

What do you think is different about this moment with the murder of George Floyd and the response across the country?

We have been here before, but this moment is different. In Minneapolis, we have had the killing of Philando Castile and before that the killing of Jamar Clark by police. There was video in both of those cases, but it didn't show the whole story. There were gaps that left enough room for people to look at the situation and blame the victim. White people looked at the situation and said, "he should have done this," or "he shouldn't have done that." The protests at the time were dismissed as Black rage or a problem Black people have with police.

But when we look at what happened to George Floyd, we all ask the

question: "Do you see what I see?" And we are all seeing the same thing. America finally got the chance to view and say: "I see the same thing you're seeing." White Americans, Hispanic Americans, all Americans came to the same conclusion, that what happened to George Floyd is wrong, is disgusting, is racist, and should never happen to a human being. [...] And America got angry.

Would you share with us what you're saying to your faith community as pastor of Higher Ground Church of God in Christ?

Nope. What I'm telling my folks is fundamentally different from what I'm saying in interviews and to outside organizations. [...] I'm getting calls for peace, and we're not answering those phone calls anymore. People say, "Come back to the table." Nope. It's not the time for that. [...] A whole race of people have been systematically lied to for years. I know there are those with good intentions and who have worked to make good on some of the stuff we talk about, but I don't want to have the talk so the non-minority population can feel better.

What is called for at this point?

Do something. Do it. Pass the laws. Make things happen. You don't need to talk to me anymore about what we need to do. We don't need to sit down. You know what to do. You see what is happening. [...] People need to do the work. Minnesota is a nice place for a lot of people, but



it has, historically, some of the most rigid, racially motivated legislation in the country.

What I would say to people is that if you can look at something and say that it's wrong, say it. That's important. Say it. Ask yourself, "Would this happen to a white guy for any reason? For ten minutes?" If the answer is no, then it is not a far-flung conclusion or wishful thinking for the Black person to simply want equal treatment. If you see it, say it.

Commitment to Anti-Racism

Black lives matter to the Collegeville Institute and we see anti-racism work as imperative to our mission.

Thank you for your gift to the Collegeville Institute.

We are deeply grateful for your support.

Victoria Barnett	Steve Hogberg	Jane Patterson
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Erika Helgen	Oluwatomisin Oredein	Greg & Ellen Weyandt
Donald Helgeson & Sue Shepard	Steven Ostovich	David & Carolyn Wills
Patrick Henry	Paul & Lynn Otto	Rebecca Youngblood
Katy Herzog	Harry Pappas	(† deceased)

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Ways to Give

Cash, Check or Credit Card

Make an immediate impact with an on-line gift at collegevilleinstitute.org, by phone at 651.353.6941, or through the mail to Collegeville Institute, PO Box 2000, Collegeville, MN 56321.

Recurring Gifts

By setting up a recurring monthly, quarterly, or annual gift you provide a reliable source of funding for the Collegeville Institute. Simply select the appropriate option in the drop-down menu in the Gift Information section. You can spread your gift out over 12 months, quarterly, or once or twice a year.

Charitable Gift Annuities

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) provides guaranteed payment to you and your beneficiaries age 65 or older for the payee's lifetime. The

remainder then goes to support the Collegeville Institute programs of your choice.

Planned Gifts

With a Planned or Legacy Gift, you can help to build Collegeville Institute's future. Planned Gift arrangements enable you to blend your financial and estate planning goals with your charitable objectives. A planned or legacy gift of any size may have important financial benefits for you, your heirs and the Collegeville Institute. Give to what has inspired you.

Gifts from your Traditional IRA

Current tax law now affords the opportunity for those who are 70 ½ or older to give up to \$100K per year to the Collegeville Institute through the IRA Charitable Rollover, also known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

Stock or Security Gifts

Giving a gift of stock also benefits the donor. By donating highly appreciated shares directly to the Collegeville Institute, the holder can avoid paying capital gains tax by giving it as a gift. Contact us for more details on how to give a stock transaction.

Donor-Advised Funds

You can use a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) to make a gift. Direct a grant from your DAF to the Collegeville Institute by contacting your advisor. If needed, the Federal Tax ID is 41-6057644.

*To further discuss ways to give
or for more information contact*

*Amy Fistler, Director of Development
at afistler001@collegevilleinstitute.org
or 651.353.6941*

