



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

FROM THE BOARD



Dear friends,

What an extraordinary year. For the Collegeville Institute (CI), it has been a year of **adaptation**. Like so many organizations whose core mission includes hospitality, the CI has had to find alternative ways to connect with program participants, friends, and the few Resident Scholars who were able to live onsite under Covid-19 precautions. You will see examples of these pivots later in the program highlights.

This was also a year of **renewal**, as we undertook an extensive renovation of the apartments. This was long planned, but the need to vacate the apartments in the spring turned out to match the pandemic moment. Thanks go to our staff, particularly Elisa Schneider, director of business operations, who spent untold hours with architects, contractors, and mess. The results are stunning.

Finally, this has been a year of **transition**. After 16 years, Don Ottenhoff announced his retirement in the fall of 2020. Much of the year was spent discerning our current and future resources, needs, and opportunities as part of the process of identifying the next CI executive director. The fruit of that work was

the appointment of Dr. Jacqueline Bussie as our fifth executive director, who officially began her duties on September 1. We are delighted to introduce her to you in these pages.

Taking stock led us to appreciate even more the ways Don broadened and deepened how the CI lives out its mission—its vocation—of bringing people together to build mutual understanding and respect across divides. Under his leadership we have grown our programming, adding vocational programs, research seminars, and writing workshops; expanded our global reach with more international scholars; and developed cohorts of faith leaders in rural ministry and multi-religious civic engagement. We are deeply grateful for his contributions to the life, work, and character of the CI. As an expression of our gratitude the Board has established the Donald Ottenhoff Fellowship, described in this report.

Speaking of legacies, this annual report also marks the CI founder Fr. Kilian McDonnell's centennial birthday (!). In his honor, we created The Kilian McDonnell Legacy Circle for planned gifts. This is but one part of our *Bricks, Glass, & More* campaign that will fund renovations and secure our programs into the future. We hope you will seriously consider being part of this effort in whatever way you can.

Thanks to you, we enter the next phase of our history on firm footing. The need for our bridge-building work is as great, if not greater, than it has ever been. We look forward to sharing that work with you and our new executive director, Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, whom we hope you will be able to meet in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Cahoy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bill Cahoy
Board Chair

On the cover: Apartment #10 at the Collegeville Institute. Photo by Paul Middlestaedt.

INTRODUCING THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On May 14, 2021, the Board of Directors named **Dr. Jacqueline Bussie**, an award-winning author, speaker, public theologian, and professor of Religion at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, as its fifth executive director. Dr. Bussie succeeds Don Ottenhoff and began her new role on September 1, 2021.

“We are excited that Dr. Bussie, our first female executive director, will bring her considerable gifts and passions to guide the Collegeville Institute,” said Bill Cahoy, chair of the Board of Directors. “The Collegeville Institute has been blessed with four outstanding leaders in its 54-year history and we are confident that Dr. Bussie will carry that tradition forward.”

“I’m overjoyed and humbled by

this appointment,” said Dr. Bussie in her address to the Board of Directors in early May. “This marvelous and mutilated world needs the gifts that the Collegeville Institute offers more than ever—world-transforming scholarship, soul-sustaining worship, bridge-building dialogue, and life-giving community.”

Dr. Bussie is a trusted regional, local, and national expert in interfaith relations. She is the founding director of Concordia College’s Forum on Faith & Life, an interfaith peace-building center that hosts a first-class signature speaker series. Since 2011, she has served as

Statement, as well as the “Rooted and Open” statement adopted by all 26 Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities (NECU), which maintains a core Lutheran faith identity while including others outside that tradition.

“In these times of deep division, the Collegeville Institute’s mission of bringing people together to bridge differences is crucial,” said Cahoy. “Dr. Bussie’s achievements and commitments prepare her well to lead us into the next chapter.”

Dr. Bussie is an award-winning author of books that translate academic theology for a more popular audience

“This marvelous and mutilated world needs the gifts that the Collegeville Institute offers more than ever—world-transforming scholarship, soul-sustaining worship, bridge-building dialogue, and life-giving community.” —Dr. Jacqueline Bussie

professor of Religion and, since 2015, as co-chair of Interfaith Studies at Concordia College. She was named the national Outstanding Ally of the Year in 2014-15 by Interfaith Youth Core.

Dr. Bussie is also a leader in interfaith efforts by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). She was a contributing author to their Interreligious Policy

including *Love Without Limits* (Fortress, 2018) and *Outlaw Christian* (Thomas Nelson, 2016).

She received her PhD in Theology, Ethics, and Culture from the University of Virginia, where she was the Graduate School Dissertation Year Fellowship Winner in 2001-02. Dr. Bussie also holds a MA in Religion from Yale University and a BA from Davidson College.

BRICKS, GLASS, & MORE COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN

Established in 1967, the Collegeville Institute continues to hold a critical place within the rapidly changing landscape of religion in America and around the world. In 2021, the Board launched a \$2 million comprehensive campaign that 1) renovates our facilities and makes them accessible, 2) expands our innovative multi-religious work, and 3) strengthens our international Resident Scholars Program.

To learn more about the comprehensive campaign or to make an online gift toward this endeavor, please visit our website at collegevilleinstitute.org/giving



Rendering of the original Collegeville Institute buildings

The comprehensive campaign funds the following priorities:

Capital Improvements

Renovate and refurnish the Collegeville Institute's historic facilities to maintain the original vision of renowned architect Marcel Breuer, but also to bring them into the twenty-first century. *Learn more about our apartment renovations on pages 12 and 13.*

Multi-Religious Work

Fund a second cohort of the groundbreaking Multi-Religious Fellows program, which brings together early-career Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, and Christian religious leaders. Participants learn how their distinct religious traditions can inform one another and contribute to a common public good.

International Scholars

The presence of international scholars at the Collegeville Institute provides rich theological and cultural diversity that inspires and expands our work. We seek to increase the financial resources available for international Resident Scholars, especially those who apply for a residency from developing countries.

Introducing the Donald Ottenhoff Fellowship



In honor of Don Ottenhoff's nearly 17 years of service as executive director, the Collegeville Institute's Board of Directors created an endowed fund to support Resident Scholar applicants whose projects advance the mission of the organization, with special consideration for international scholars.

To make a contribution now, please return the enclosed envelope or visit our website at collegevilleinstitute.org/giving

STAYING CONNECTED IN A PANDEMIC

For over 50 years, the Collegeville Institute (CI) has been a gathering place for people from diverse religious backgrounds. We invite scholars, writers, and faith leaders to come for a week, month, or even full academic year to work on independent projects. Participants often make new friends and discover unlikely conversation partners.

When the pandemic hit in 2020, the CI's staff was forced to ask: how can we live out our mission when we can't bring together people physically? Staff leaned hard on digital technologies to continue our work. Through a new virtual event series and podcast season about writing and activism, the CI created opportunities for past participants to reconnect with each other.

Collegeville Connections virtual events

In January 2021, we launched *Collegeville Connections*—a one-hour, weekly virtual event that features the work of CI alumni across the spectrum of past and current programs. Friends of the CI Zoomed into our events each week or streamed them on Facebook Live.

Each event—which ranged in topic from asset-based community development to Benedictine spirituality to poetry to parenting—encouraged participants to explore faith, ignite imagination, and renew community with the CI. This popular initiative drew new and established audiences and will continue monthly in the coming year.

View recordings of all past events on our website at
collegevilleinstitute.org/events



Photo by Allen Harris

On Collegeville Connections, former writing workshop participant Dr. Tia Noelle Pratt discussed her ethnographic research on race and identity in the African American Catholic experience.



Karen González, former writing workshop participant, was a guest on the Unlikely Conversations podcast, where she spoke about writing, faith, and immigration.

Unlikely Conversations Podcast

The second season of the *Unlikely Conversations* podcast, which ran from October 2020 to February 2021, hosted conversations with alumni of CI writing workshops. Host (and Collegeville Institute board member) Ellie Roscher facilitated lively discussions with writers of faith who are engaged in activism. Guests, including Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, Chanequa Walker-Barnes, and Karen González, spoke about how writers can change the world.

Listen wherever podcasts are found or on our website at
collegevilleinstitute.org/podcasts

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Collegeville Institute's one-of-a-kind **Fall 2020 Resident Scholars Program** wrapped-up just as it began four months earlier—over Zoom. While the 2020 Resident Scholars Program did not operate in the same way it has over the preceding 50 years, we had a wonderful group of short-term and full-time Resident Scholars who pursued their individual work under the circumstances

of the pandemic. We conducted scholar seminars and social conversations over Zoom while sheltering-in-place on campus. The scholars made use of the Saint John's University and College of Saint Benedict's library resources, worshipped with the monks (from a safe physical distance), hiked through the Abbey arboretum grounds, and searched the crisp, clear Minnesota skies for meteors, planets, and the northern lights.

In recent years, Collegeville Institute programming beyond the Resident Scholars program has broadly focused on three major areas: 1) vocation and calling, 2) developing writers of faith, and 3) strengthening

religious leaders to be public theologians.

Our summer writing workshops, both at the Collegeville Institute and in regional locations, have drawn on the expertise of a high caliber cohort of teachers to

promote writing that explores the ever-evolving definition of what it means to be a person of faith in the world. As workshops moved online, staff helped participants create environments at home that would assist them in their efforts.

July 2020 *Our Own Deep Wells* online workshop



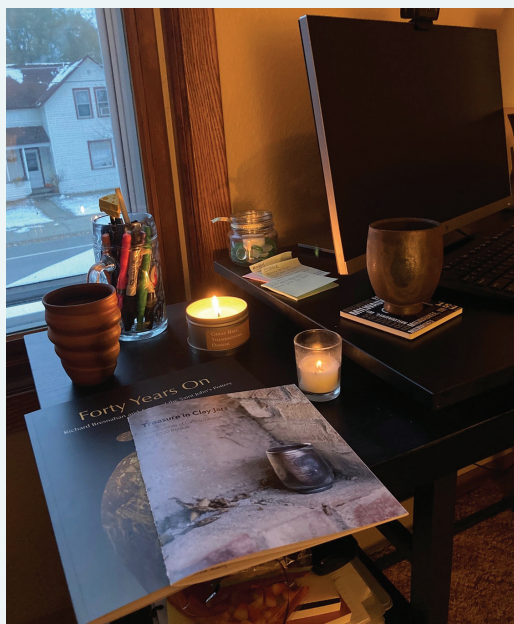
What our writing workshop participants are saying:

"I had so many 'ah-ha!' moments, I ran out of Post-it notes. That's a good thing!"

"[The instructor] is honest and kind, and I appreciated her candidness as she pushed us to flex our creative muscles."

"[The instructor] presented himself as an experienced fellow traveler who has learned much along the way and delights in passing it along."

"I'm barely holding onto it, but this is what I want to hold onto: that what I write can matter."



Faith leaders in the *Communities of Calling Initiative* met via Zoom in October 2020 for a virtual retreat about calling and discernment.

The 262 congregations participating in the Collegeville Institute's *Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative* and the 13 congregations in the *Communities of Calling Initiative* faced enormous challenges when the pandemic hit their communities. Religious leaders relied on their Collegeville Institute cohorts for support, connecting virtually for retreats and book studies, as they navigated new questions about the church's vocation during the global public health crisis.

What our *Communities of Calling Initiative* participants are saying:

"This pandemic year has caused me to ask very basic questions about meaning and purpose."

"People started leaving New York in droves, and we had to figure out how to keep our community together and move forward with questions about our calling."

In 2020, the Collegeville Institute added the yearlong **Emerging Writers Mentorship Program** to intensively cultivate four writers under the mentorship of Michael N. McGregor, with support from the editors of *Bearings Online*.



"I found the mix of high challenge and high support {in the Emerging Writers Program} to be energizing and encouraging—and all of this through a global pandemic!"

—Lea Schweitz, 2020-21 Emerging Writer



"The Emerging Writers Program has challenged me to think about who I am as a Christian, husband, father, writer, and public servant in new and different ways that have given me a fuller context of my place in Creation."

—J. Jioni Palmer, 2020-21 Emerging Writer

FINANCIALS FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

Support & Revenue

Grants	\$50,000
Contributions	\$1,321,136
Investment Income	\$2,179,410
Other Income	\$23,163

Total Revenue	\$3,573,709
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Expenses

Programs	\$1,229,942
Management and General Operating	\$258,827
Fundraising	\$202,635

Total Expenses	\$1,691,404
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*72.7% of our total expenditures
were program expenses*

Contributions

Restricted	\$644,953
Unrestricted	\$726,183

Total Contributions	\$1,371,136
Number of Donors	179

Assets

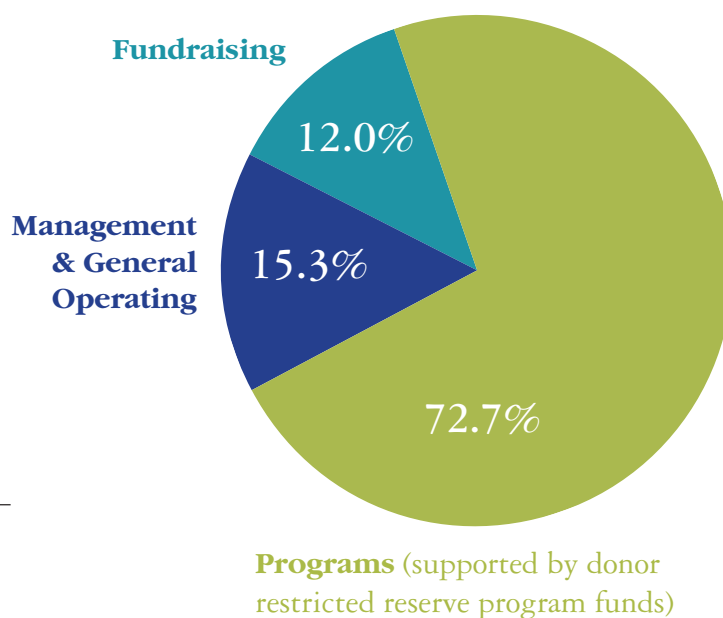
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$6,233,528
Investments	\$9,463,550
Fixed Assets	\$1,362,257
Other Assets	\$666,620

Total Assets	\$17,725,955
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Liabilities & Net Assets

Liabilities	\$140,108
Donor Restricted Net Assets	\$13,532,628
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$4,053,219

Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$17,725,955
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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.

DONOR PROFILE

Suzie and Bert Colianni have been active all their lives. Suzie ran a ski school for women, and Bert is the CEO for Pohlad Companies, where he has worked since the 1980s. They have four adult children and nine grandchildren who keep them busy as well, and in whom they have inculcated the value of giving and participation. “We’re joiners,” Bert said in a recent interview, “and we’ve gotten involved in many organizations around town. We’ve

and that people are supporting the comprehensive campaign with major gifts that support both renovations and programs.”

Suzie joined the Collegeville Institute Board in 2017, and Bert serves on the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library Board, a non-profit organization located at and sponsored by Saint John’s Abbey and University in Collegeville. “The more I learn about the Collegeville Institute,” Suzie said, “the more proud I am to be part of its work.

Education and cultural preservation have emerged as two areas where the Coliannis have given their time, talent, and treasure.

built relationships and a history with people and organizations, and that guides our giving.”

“We frame our philanthropy in what we’re passionate about,” Bert continued. Over the years, education and cultural preservation have emerged as two areas where they’ve given their time, talent, and treasure.

The historic significance of the Collegeville Institute also appeals to Suzie and Bert. “The Breuer architecture is cool,” Suzie said, “and we’re committed to the *Bricks, Glass, & More* comprehensive campaign. In presentations to donors, it was clear that the apartments need to be fixed and the midcentury modern aesthetic preserved. I’m glad the board decided to move forward with renovations

I love being there, hearing about what is going on, and I’m very excited about the future.” Suzie served on the search committee for a new executive director, and sees the Collegeville Institute as poised for growth in both expanded programs and increased reach. “The Board is open to change,” she said, “as long as it builds on what we have in place. Growth is what we’re looking for, someone who can expand and not lose the important things we already do. Working with our talented staff, Dr.

Jacqueline Bussie will be able to improve our current programs and look for other areas we can move into and do well.” That direction will be guided by Dr. Bussie’s passions, as well as the mission of the Collegeville Institute. “We will always be focused on cultural and ecumenical conversations, and I’m excited about the way we’ve moved into multifaith conversations, an area where Saint John’s Abbey has also been a leader, with our Multi-Religious Fellows Program.”

The Coliannis also have a long connection to Benedictine spirituality. Bert first encountered Benedictines as a teenager at the retreat center of St. Benedict’s Monastery in Benet Lake, Wisconsin. He and Suzie, who met and married while students at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, were married by a Benedictine priest. The Benedictine devotion to serious study, ecumenism, education, and writing, aligns with their interests and philanthropic priorities.





Founder Fr. Kilian McDonnell Turns 100

“I often tell guests that Kilian’s career is the embodiment of the Collegeville Institute in one black-habited frame: ecumenist, theologian, and poet,” said Don Ottenhoff in his farewell report to the Board of Directors in May 2021. On September 16, 2021, Father Kilian McDonnell, OSB, will have spent 100 years on this earth, a century spent in dialogue and the pursuit of truth, in a direction that began, as with so many Benedictines, from an assignment.

When in the late 1950s the theology department at Saint John’s University decided to teach its Catholic students Protestant theology, Kilian voted against the proposal, on the grounds that there was not enough time to teach Catholic theology. Someone needed to be sent off to study Protestant theology—and it turned out to be Kilian.

With financial support from the Butler Family Foundation in St. Paul, MN, Kilian went to Germany and earned his PhD from the University of Trier in 1964, with a dissertation on John Calvin’s theology of the sacraments. Although today this would not raise an eyebrow, back then it was almost unheard of.

Based on ecumenical institutes he’d seen in Germany, Kilian approached his patrons, the Butlers, with an idea. After consulting with his confreres, Kilian proposed the establishment at Saint John’s of a postdoctoral research institute, where scholars and their families from across the spectrum of Christian denominations would form a community of study and prayer. Thus, in 1967, the Collegeville Institute was born.

At age 75, Kilian began writing poetry. He eventually authored five published books of poems. Kilian writes about people who had big problems. “They had big problems with God, they had big problems with people around them, and they made terrible mistakes. People like us. Their relationship with God was not an easy one.”

In an interview with poet and librettist Michael Dennis Browne, he described himself at 86, as a poet, in this way: “Here I am, Kilian McDonnell, a neophyte, still struggling to stand on my own feet, sometimes succeeding and often not.” It fits his primary identity, that of a monk, following Benedict’s Rule, always a beginner in the school of the Lord’s service.

THE KILIAN MCDONNELL LEGACY CIRCLE



In honor of our founder's centennial birthday, the Collegeville Institute invites you to become a member of The Kilian McDonnell Legacy Circle. Members provide meaningful future support to the Collegeville Institute and inspire others to make a difference. Members are publicly recognized (with permission) for their philanthropic investment and join a permanent honor roll of generous donors. By making a planned gift through their estate, members leave a permanent legacy for future programming that reflects their deepest values.

Many individuals can find creative and wise options that meet financial goals and maximize the impact of a planned gift to the Collegeville Institute when working with an investment advisor. Leaving a future gift by naming the Collegeville Institute

with a bequest in your will, IRA beneficiary designation, donor advised fund, charitable

gift annuity, or life insurance policy often requires simple documentation.

Members of The Kilian McDonnell Legacy Circle

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Fritz West
(† Deceased)

Are you interested in joining The Kilian McDonnell Legacy Circle? Learn how you can make an estate gift by returning the contribution envelope enclosed in this report, by visiting our website at collegevilleinstitute.org/giving, or by contacting Amy Fistler, Director of Development, via email at afistler001@collegevilleinstitute.org or by phone at 651-353-6941.

RENOVATIONS



BEFORE

Looking through the frame of empty carports, or in an early construction photo showing only the fireplaces, the elegant bones of the Collegetown Institute are clear. And when one walks through any apartment door—wow. The views. The spaciousness. In the two- and three-bedroom apartments, multiple bathrooms! These are truly spaces for living that support study, research, work, prayer, and community.

For the 50-plus years since Breuer left the site, the apartments have housed Resident Scholars who came for a month, a semester, or a full academic year. Apartments have housed families with children,

couples, and singles. The campus of the Collegetown Institute has not just been a place for ecumenical conversations and serious scholarship, but also a place for making snowmen, hosting patio visits with adult beverages, welcoming family for Thanksgiving, sitting around fireplaces, and playing games. Families have taped hearts to the large windows for Valentine's Day. Scholars and their spouses and children have played guitars, stand-up bass, and harmonicas. They have sung songs, religious and secular, with monks and graduate students and campus community members—and each other.

DURING

In this renovation, which began in early 2021, our team has taken to heart that these apartments are residencies. It's the reason for the renovation in the first place, to update living spaces and keep them accommodating and comfortable as a place to support scholarship and creative work.

The dishwashers are quiet, and two apartments have bathtubs for bathing small children. Thought has been put into colors that will not show the dirt and couches that will be both stylish and comfortable. There are lamps for reading, and reading chairs. And of course, the fireplaces still dominate every living room, the stone walls out back are ready to receive bathing suits and towels after a swim in Lake Sagatagan, and the carports wait to house bikes, cross-country skis, and ice skates. The kitchens are stocked with cooking tools and simple dishes.

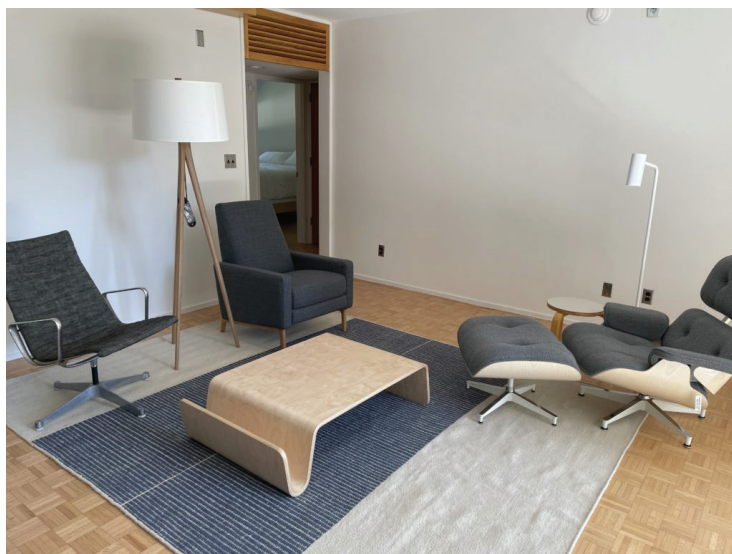
After the design choices were made and the architects and construction workers left the site, the Collegetown Institute staff attended to final details to prepare spaces that best support the work of our residents and program participants.



AFTER



The final phase of our renovation project will remodel the Butler Center and one apartment to meet ADA standards, making our facilities accessible to people with disabilities. To view more photos or to learn how you can support this important investment, visit our website at collegevilleinstitute.org/renovations.



Thank you for your gift to the Collegeville Institute.
We are deeply grateful for your support.

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Ways to Give

Cash, Check or Credit Card

Make an immediate impact with an online 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 gift, you can join The Kilian McDonnell Legacy Circle. 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 70½ 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 bene-

fits 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*

