



ANNUAL REPORT  
2022-2023

# FROM THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*The Collegetown Institute's Board of Directors named Martin Wells as Acting Executive Director while Executive Director Dr. Jacqueline Bussie is on a special leave of absence. Wells is a thoughtful, retired executive and Bishop who has extensive managerial and administrative experience in educational, church, and nonprofit settings.*

*He began his work in Collegetown at the end of June 2023, and was later joined by his wife, Pastor Susan Briehl. The Collegetown Institute warmly welcomes Martin and Susan to its expanding and forward-thinking community!*

Dear friends,

Grace and peace to you from your beloved Collegetown Institute! As the Acting Executive Director, I am happy to share this annual report with you that will update you on the financial health of our institution, inspire you as you learn more about the transformative impact of our programs, and inform you of the facility upgrades that will make our programming accessible for all.

I am proud to report that even within the context of high inflation and high interest rates, the Collegetown Institute operates out of a position of financial strength thanks to the many funders and donors who have invested in our mission. Additionally, we managed our financial resources well through the challenging pandemic years and now, on the other side, this wise management leaves us sharp and ready and strong—critical qualities for a thriving and evolving institution.

Nothing is more important to our mission than our programs. In the last five years we have offered significant leadership around the notion of Christian vocation through our *Communities*

*of Calling Initiative (CCI) and Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative* programs. (My home congregation in Spokane, WA, was part of CCI, and the Collegetown Institute's leadership around calling and vocation made a big impact in our congregation, both individually and collectively!). This is the closing year for these programs, and we're excited to see how the effects of this work continue to ripple outward (to learn more about these initiatives, see page 3).

In 2023 we successfully closed out two additional programs: between 2022–2023, our writers in the *Emerging Writers Mentorship Program* developed 15 interesting, creative, and challenging essays that were published in *Bearings Online*, and from 2021–2023, the *Rural Minnesota Fellows Program* brought together 11 seminary-educated pastoral leaders to learn, build a network of peer support, and develop new knowledge and skills to bring home to their communities.

In the last year we renewed our efforts around multi-religious programming and continued to roll out compelling *Ecclesial Literature Project*

writing workshop offerings that brought participants together to write, learn, and discover anew the call to be writers for the life of faith.

As to facilities, 2023 was an important planning year for us as we entered Phase III of our renovation work within the *Bricks, Glass, & More* comprehensive campaign. We imagined and envisioned and sketched what our essential operational components of space and technology could look like so that, in the years to come, we continue to support our programs and participants at the highest possible level. With the planning and prep work completed, demolition began in September.

In sum, I write in gratitude and thanks to you, our friends and donors, proud of our accomplishments, pleased with our programs, and poised for a successful future!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Wells".

Martin Wells  
Acting Executive Director

# SPOTLIGHT ON PROGRAMS: CALLED TO LIVES OF MEANING AND PURPOSE INITIATIVE, COMMUNITIES OF CALLING INITIATIVE, AND SEMINAR ON VOCATION AND DISABILITY

Collegeville Institute's significant leadership on the topic of Christian vocation and innovation is at a turning point. This year saw the final gathering of theological institutions involved in Lilly Endowment Inc.'s *Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative* in December—which impacted more than 400 congregations in the United States and Canada—and the final gatherings of the *Communities of Calling Initiative's* thirteen congregational teams at Collegeville in June.

External researchers and evaluators are engaged in gathering data on what we accomplished over the last five years and in interpreting what we learned about how congregants engage vocational practices both individually and communally. At this point, it is clear that a framework of vocational discernment, experimentation, and reflection provided strong support to congregations during and after the pandemic, setting them up to respond effectively to the needs and challenges of their people in their widely varied contexts.

Research teams, led by Drs. Roman Williams and Nancy Ammerman, presented the first phase of their findings at the *Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative* in Indianapolis in December 2022.



Pastors, congregational staff members, and lay leaders gathered in Collegeville for the final *Communities of Calling Initiative* meeting in June 2023.

The Collegeville Institute *Seminar on Vocation and Disability*, in partnership with Western Theological Seminary, continued its exploration of disability as a particular site of human vocation. The Seminar held two in-person meetings this year in Collegeville and Holland, MI, and sponsored a symposium for 150 attendees online and in-person in Holland in July that focused on disability and the callings of all the baptized into the inter-woven fabric of vocations in the body of Christ. In the next year, the Seminar is meeting for a writing week in Collegeville and sponsoring a series of in-depth interviews as a source for further reflection and writing.



Miriam Spies, pictured here on a visit to *The Saint John's Pottery*, presented at the May 2023 gathering of the *Vocation & Disability Seminar*. Spies is the co-editor in chief of *The Canadian Journal of Theology, Mental Health, and Disability*. Her research aims to challenge the church in how it views leadership and who it desires to fill those roles.

# BRICKS, GLASS, & MORE

## COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

This past year, the Collegeville Institute's Board of Directors announced the launch of Phase III of its renovation work within the *Bricks, Glass, & More* comprehensive campaign. This has been and continues to be a remarkable journey to transform the Butler Center into an accessible meeting and gathering space and to renovate Apartment #6 to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The renovations will ensure that everyone can enjoy the Collegeville Institute.

The commitment to accessibility began with a thorough audit of our property to identify areas in need of improvement. The Board engaged an ADA expert to assess everything from parking to doorknobs to bathroom facilities. The audit provided valuable insights as we next embarked on the architectural design phase.

In this phase, we drew sketches, reviewed designs, and finalized decisions. The Butler Center entrance, meeting space, common area, and bathroom will be reconfigured to accommodate wheelchairs and provide a more open and welcoming environ-

ment. The apartment renovation will include the installation of an ADA-compliant bathroom, while the kitchen will be equipped with lower countertops and accessible fixtures, providing our guests with a more comfortable and independent experience.

This journey toward creating ADA accessible spaces has not been without its challenges. Last summer a hailstorm did considerable damage to the roofs of our Collegeville Institute buildings. We therefore plan to replace the roofs and install much-needed air exchangers while we simultaneously conduct the ADA renovations. To adhere to accessibility standards while managing budget limitations required creative problem-solving and prioritization of each aspect of the project.

The renovation reflects our unwavering commitment to accessibility and inclusivity as we provide spaces that meet the needs of our guests. As we look toward the future, we are excited about the positive impact these completed projects will make in the experience of our guests and program participants.



Demolition in the Butler Center is underway!

# FINANCIALS FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

## Support & Revenue

Grants	\$0
Contributions	\$189,078
Investment Income	\$798,642
Other Income	\$104,055

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**Total Revenue** \$1,091,775

## Expenses

Programs	\$1,623,228
Management and General Operating	\$170,457
Fundraising	\$212,448

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**Total Expenses** \$2,006,133

*80.9% of our total expenditures  
were program expenses*

## Contributions

Restricted	\$46,510
Unrestricted	\$142,568

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**Total Contributions** \$189,078  
**Number of Donors** 101

## Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$3,602,423
Investments	\$8,397,025
Fixed Assets	\$1,534,136
Other Assets	\$79,790

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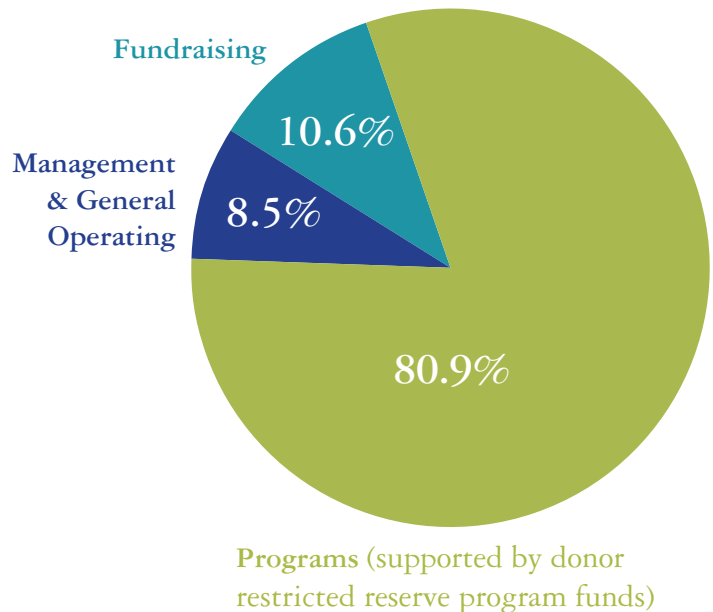
**Total Assets** \$13,613,374

## Liabilities & Net Assets

Liabilities	\$79,200
Donor Restricted Net Assets	\$9,277,605
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$4,256,569

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**Total Liabilities &  
Net Assets** \$13,613,374



*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](mailto:afistler001@collegevilleinstitute.org).*

*Thank you for your gift to the Collegeville Institute.*

**We are deeply grateful for your support.**

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Cynthia Gehrig	Nilwona Nowlin	Aaron Weininger
Dana Greene & Richard Roesel	Manley Olson	Fritz & Cynthia† West
Grant Grissom	Jane Patterson	Carolyn & David Wills
Patrick Henry	Garrett Paul	
John Hudson	M. Susan Peterson	(† Indicates deceased)
Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ	Mary Pickard	
Scott Hurd	Mary Lane Potter	

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2022–23)

James Alberts II	Harry Pappas
Mary F. Bednarowski *	Michael Patella, OSB #
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# COLLEGEVILLE INSTITUTE STAFF

Jessie Bazan – *Program Associate*  
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Kathleen Cahalan – *Senior Research Fellow*  
Claire Comstock-Gay – *Communications Assistant*  
Carla Durand – *Director of Program Services*  
Bernie Evans – *Program Director*  
Amy Fistler – *Director of Development*  
Connor Kockler – *Administrative and Program Assistant*  
Viv Krueger – *Administrative and Program Assistant (retired)*  
Jane Patterson – *Program Director*  
Elisa Schneider – *Director of Business Operations*  
Susan Sink – *Communications Associate*  
Martin Wells – *Acting Executive Director*

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## Ways to Give

### *Cash, Check or Credit Card*

Make an immediate impact with an online gift at [collegevilleinstitute.org](http://collegevilleinstitute.org), by phone at 651.353.6941, or through the mail to Collegeville Institute, PO Box 8000, 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 Roll-over, 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.

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To further discuss ways to give or for more information contact Amy Fistler, Director of Development at [afistler001@collegevilleinstitute.org](mailto:afistler001@collegevilleinstitute.org) or 651.353.6941

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*Scan this QR code with your phone camera to donate now to the Collegeville Institute.*

