

# the messenger

Mid-America Reformed Seminary

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## THE IMPORTANCE OF SEMINARY EDUCATION

p. 7



p. 5: Incoming Students

p. 6: The First of its Kind: A CME Internship

# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

## “GETTING TO KNOW ME AS INTERIM PRESIDENT”



As I assume the responsibilities of President of Mid-America Reformed Seminary (in this interim period), I would like to heartily thank my predecessor, Dr. Cornel Venema. Dr. Venema has served with distinction over the decades as a systematic professor and our chief administrator. It will be odd not to have him as regularly among us, and he will be greatly missed in his vital leadership role. We are truly grateful for his work among us and look forward to the Lord's blessing upon his writing, preaching, and occasional teaching here as he continues in kingdom service.

I think most of you know that I've labored here in various capacities for twenty-five years, chiefly as a professor of church history. I intend to get to know many of you much better than I have as I assume my new presidential role, and I look forward to that, hoping to “get out” even more into the churches and homes of our friends and supporters. I pledge to all of you to do everything within my power to serve you faithfully, as I took vows to do so, administered by Dr. Venema in May, in the presence of the whole Board. I look forward to a public expression of that on August

28 in my installation at the opening convocation for the 2024-2025 opening year. I will seek to be faithful, first, to the Word of God. It alone is a direct, divine revelation from our Lord God, enjoying verbal, plenary inspiration, being infallible and inerrant.

The Word alone serves as our foundation, the source of all our doctrine, and the guide for life. Thankfully, the Lord has not given us this Word and left us without illumination. He has graciously, by the Holy Spirit, given light to His church rightly to understand the Word, and the church has expressed its understanding in the ecumenical creeds and the Reformed confessions and catechisms. To these, I also pledge my undying commitment: these expressions of the church's faith serve as the expression of my own personal faith. My commitment to God and His Word has been and remains rock solid, as does my affirmation of the church's creeds and confessions/catechisms. My desire is not to modify the precious tenets of our faith but to live more fully in accordance with them, to be more faithful as a Reformed and Presbyterian churchman.

This last point highlights that as to the doctrine of the church and her polity, I am a committed Presbyterian, ministerial member of the Presbytery of the Midwest of the OPC and an associate pastor in a local church, First Orthodox Presbyterian Church (South Holland, IL). All of us are Reformed and Presbyterian in some sense: Reformed in our doctrine and Presbyterian in our polity. I am fully committed to the Reformed and Presbyterian Church Orders. While there are some differences between the Reformed and Presbyterian bodies, we have far more in common than separating us, and I pledge to work with the URCNA, OPC, PCA, RCUS, and all other bodies that are the natural constituents of Mid-America Reformed Seminary. I've been, for instance, in countless URCs in the U.S. and Canada for preaching and conferences and am quite drawn to those churches in their doctrine, worship, etc. I look forward to visiting old friends and making new ones in these churches. We have so much to offer these churches, and I hope soon to be reminding or sharing that with many of you.

I am a Reformed and Presbyterian churchman not out of convenience but out of the conviction that this is the fullest and truest expression of the Christian faith, or, as Warfield put it, “Christianity come into its own.” I firmly believe that what our sinful world needs more than anything is the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Reformed faith is, as has been said, but a nickname for the gospel. That is what I pledge, together with all my colleagues, to seek to inculcate in all our students—this passion for the gospel, the good news that Jesus Christ has come to save His people from their sins. I solemnly vow to do all within my power to help the churches fit those they see as graced and gifted for gospel ministry to develop those gifts to be used in the mission of the church as it evangelizes and disciples in every people group (nation) throughout the world. This, together with training for other kingdom service (teaching, translation work, etc.), is what I am committed to doing in this new venture together, carrying on the legacy of Dr. Venema as we go forward, seeking to serve more faithfully than ever the calling and commission that is ours as a Reformed theological seminary.

It is truly my joy and delight to labor with all the faculty, administration, and staff as we go forward in service together, seeking to wash the feet of the saints so that all may serve to the fullest. Soli Deo Gloria!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan D. Strange". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

**Dr. Alan D. Strange**  
Interim President of Mid-America Reformed Seminary

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

## NEWS

- 4 Development Report: “That’s a Wrap”
- 5 Incoming Students
- 6 Foundation for the Future: Already but Not Yet
- 6 The First of its kind: A CME Internship

## FEATURE

- 7 The Importance of Seminary Education

## ALUMNI

- 11 Casting a Wider Net: A MARS Alum’s Calling

# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

We live in a time when people have become increasingly suspicious of established institutions –federal or local governments, schools, seminaries, and even the church. One doesn’t have to think long to come up with recent examples of fraud and scandal in our institutions to understand why. Higher education is no longer trusted like it once was, primarily because of progressive agendas and rising costs. Sadly, this attitude can affect how some view seminary education. I’ve been to more than one Christian conference exhibiting for the Seminary and have heard expressed from attendees that attending seminary isn’t necessary for an effective ministry. Our Interim President, Dr. Alan Strange, takes on this line of thinking in our feature article and presents biblical, denominational, and historical justification for an educated ministry. It’s encouraging to read Dr. Strange’s perspective on this critical issue, particularly as he begins serving our school as our most senior administrator.

Thanks for reading. Turn the page and enjoy!



Michael B. Deckinga  
Vice-President of Advancement



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### Editor

Michael Deckinga, Vice-President of Advancement

### Contributing Writers

Dr. Alan D. Strange, Interim President  
Michael B. Deckinga, Vice-President of Advancement

Jared Luttjeboer, Director of Marketing  
Brian Blummer, Director of Enrollment Management

Rev. Mark Vander Hart, Professor Emeritus

### Layout and Design

Rachel Luttjeboer, Secretary of Media & Publications; Assistant to the Registrar

### Our Mission

Mid-America Reformed Seminary seeks to serve Christ and His church by assisting in the formation and preparation of servants for the Kingdom of God. Our primary purpose is to train men for the gospel ministry of Jesus Christ. Guided by this focus, we are also committed to providing solid theological training for others among God’s people whose life calling may be enhanced by theological education.

### Website

[www.midamerica.edu](http://www.midamerica.edu)

### Address

Mid-America Reformed Seminary  
229 Seminary Dr.  
Dyer, IN 46311

### Phone:

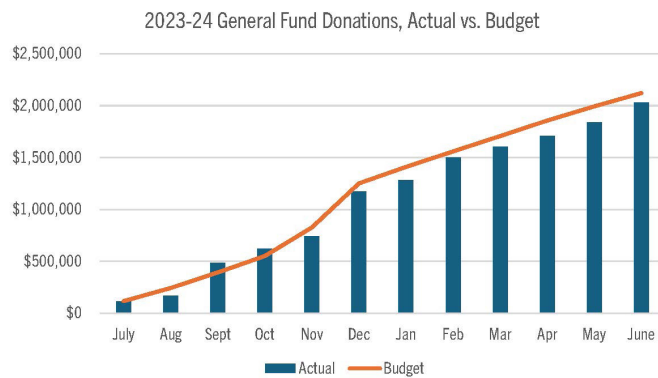
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# DEVELOPMENT REPORT: “THAT’S A WRAP”

By now, I’m sure you’ve come to expect a “Happy New Year” development report in the September issue of *The Messenger*. I don’t have to spend much time explaining that the Seminary operates within a fiscal year from July 1 to June 30. That’s old news. It’s essential, though, that as we progress into our new fiscal year, we take a moment to reflect on the year that has come and gone in the Lord’s providence, and in particular, regarding our finances.

We’ve asked a lot from you over the last couple of years now – not only in light of inflation and program enhancements driving our General Fund budget higher and higher but also working to fulfill the needs of our capital campaign, “Foundation for the Future.” We’ve asked a lot, and I hope our communications have remained humble and that your support is joyful.

I want to lay out in graphic form our General Fund donations against our budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year.



As you can see from the illustration, our actual number failed to meet the budgeted requirements for the year. This is the first time in the last half-decade that this has happened. I’m not grouching – I don’t begrudge your giving this year. On the contrary, there are many “wins” to celebrate, even though we missed the target by nearly \$100,000.

First, God has again been pleased to sustain this institution and provide faithful instruction for the next generation of men to boldly and effectively proclaim the gospel. He has kept our Board, Faculty, administration, and staff laser-focused on our mission and has equipped us to deliver. Were it not for the Lord’s providential care, we’d have nothing to show. The glory belongs to Him!

Second, I am happy to report a record amount of Canadian support this year! Kudos to our friends in the Great White North. For many years, our Foundation in

Ontario has been underfunded, and dollars from U.S. donations have been used to offset the discrepancies. Not this year. Canadian gifts totaled nearly \$1,070,000 (CAD) this year – roughly double last year’s. That number funded our general operating costs and the capital campaign, but still, wow. Praise God. You’ve encouraged us greatly. Thank you!

Third, our building project is progressing 100% on schedule (more of that in our news article on the pages ahead). We are thankful for adequate funding coinciding with payouts, safety for our workers, and for a capable committee of Board members, staff, and members of the community at large who have given countless hours of their time to deliberate and make decisions, always acting in the best interest of the school.

Fourth, kingdom causes are expanding across North America, particularly Christian day schools. We’ve witnessed this tremendous blessing here in Northwest Indiana, and I know it’s true elsewhere. Kingdom resources are being stewarded in many directions, limiting our share but undoubtedly blessing others.

Finally, we are thankful for the Lord’s provision of leadership during a season of administrative transition. With the retirement of Dr. Cornelis Venema from the presidency, Dr. Alan Strange assumes the duties of Interim President. Our fall convocation will ceremonially acknowledge his new role.

And now, a look ahead. The 2024-25 budget includes only a 4.2% increase over last year. That’s down nearly 75% from the previous years. It’s good to see things stabilize some. We’re off to a good start! July’s contributions were \$267,000, and the Foundation was fully funded, so we’re currently ahead of our budget by \$187,000. Praise God!

As we look ahead to this year, we humbly acknowledge our dependence on the Lord and are mindful that He uses you to sustain us financially. Please keep our operating and expansion needs in mind when deciding how to steward the resources the Lord has entrusted you. We’re partners in this – building and expanding the Lord’s kingdom for the sake of the lost, the sanctification of the found, and ultimately for God’s glory!

**Michael B. Deckinga**  
Vice-President of Advancement

To make or plan for a gift today, contact Michael Deckinga, VP of Advancement, at [mdeckinga@midamerica.edu](mailto:mdeckinga@midamerica.edu).

# INCOMING STUDENTS



## Andrew Baugh

(M.Div.; OPC) grew up the son of an OPC pastor and missionary. He is married to Cassie. And their children include Savannah and Matthew,

Christian (born to Jesus), and a fourth they expect in early 2025. Andrew formerly was a “heavy hauler” truck driver, then completed courses online at Liberty University. He is a spokesman for Hope for La Gonâve, and ministers the gospel at truckstops.



## Micheal Hakze

(M.Div.; URCNA) married Jacoliene after university and began helping his father-in-law’s chicken farm. (Chicken farming “blurred and

stretched” his political science studies in every way.) Micheal and Jacoliene arrive from Ponoka, AB, Canada, and they have two children: Elizabeth and newborn Hannah. Jacoliene remains a Dutch citizen, though Micheal was born and raised in Alberta where the two met.



## Nathan Korten

(M.Div.; URCNA) studied Global Great Books at Huron University and graduated in 2023. He is married to Madeline,

and they have two daughters: Avery and Joanna. The Kortens come from London, ON, Canada, where Nathan served as elder in the URCNA and led their congregation’s university “Campus Fellowship.” Previously Nathan flew as an air ambulance pilot and served as elder in another Reformed congregation of Hamiton, ON.



## Henry Marin

(M.Div.; URCNA) discovered reformed convictions, and started commuting nearly an hour every Sunday to a

church that matched. For work, Henry assisted in his father’s pizzeria in Carbon County, PA, and meanwhile he endeared himself to the ushering ministry of his congregation, assisting members and visitors alike of Pocono Reformed Bible Church. Henry is returning to the classroom after some time away, having completed undergraduate and some seminary online. He cherishes a dog and two cats.



## Kelvin Morales

(M.Div.; URCNA) and his family are members of Messiah’s Reformed Fellowship in New York. Kelvin was born in Puerto

Rico and grew up in New York City. He grew up as a nominal catholic and came to saving faith in his latter high school years. Shortly after becoming a believer, he came to a reformed understanding of Christianity. Kelvin is married to Joanna, and they have three children: Owen, Paul, and Lucy. Kelvin worked as a Digital Production Manager for National Review.



## Abraham Niranjana

(M.Div.; independent-India) is the eldest of four children and the son of a pastor. Abraham completed undergraduate

studies in 2022 at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Dehradun, India, and since has been assisting his father’s ministry in Vella, Andhra

Pradesh. He began to introduce the Westminster Shorter Catechism, particularly to the children’s ministry in Vella.



## Jared Strong

(M.Div.; Reformed Baptist) graduated in 2024 with his bachelor’s degree in Pastoral Studies from Moody Bible Institute. Jared is engaged to Emily, his

college sweetheart, and the two plan to marry in 2025 when Emily graduates. Ministry was already on Jared’s heart while searching for a college, and he has had several opportunities since then to preach and serve other ways, confirming his inner sense of call. Jared has done street preaching with a few MARS students in Chicago, and his pastor is Stephen Corbitt, a 2023 MARS graduate.



## John Waldrop

(M.Div.; PCA) paused his Ph.D. studies in Philosophy to begin undertaking seminary. John grew up on the mission field. He graduated

from Calvin College in 2019 studying Philosophy, and entered the Ph.D. Program at California-Irvine before transferring to University of Notre Dame. John is a member of Michiana Covenant Presbyterian near Notre Dame. He hopes to maintain some Ph.D. and church responsibilities while commuting and studying at Mid-America.

## Brian Blummer

Director of Enrollment Management

# THE FIRST OF ITS KIND: A CME INTERNSHIP

Most summer internships take Mid-America students to a North American community. But for Bryce Klassen, Europe has been the location of his summer ministry. He has done two internships in Lithuania (2022, 2023); this year he has been serving in Italy with Rev. Andrea Ferrari, a URCNA missionary and church planter in Perugia, Italy. Bryce's ministry activities include exhorting every Sunday, participating in prayer meetings, meeting with congregants, and spending several hours a week with Rev. Ferrari going through a lecture series on pastoral theology. Additionally, Bryce spent two months attending the Università per Stranieri di Perugia (lit. University for Foreigners) which offers intensive, world-class Italian

language courses, which has proven itself fertile soil for witnessing to other students, and even teachers. Although Bryce is not yet fluent, learning a language is a critical aspect of ministering in a different country and culture.

Italy presents a great challenge to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Not just because of the Roman church, but the move away from religion in general. Many younger Roman Catholics have become disillusioned with the financial and sexual scandals in the Roman church, and so many have left the church and embraced a spirit of secularism. People might find it hard to believe, but secularism is as powerful and active a force here as it is anywhere. In this environment, the great challenge that Bryce and Rev. Ferrari face is bringing the good news of the gospel to those in Perugia and the surrounding areas.

Bryce has enjoyed his ministries in Lithuania and Italy, two countries that are quite different in history and temperament. The possibility exists that Bryce might be called upon to return to Italy to continue aiding Rev. Ferrari in his labours, as well as building a ministry in the city's center and catering to the university crowd of both Italians and non-Italians. Whatever the future holds, we pray that the Lord would grant His Spirit to those faithful ministers in Italy so that the gospel of His free and gracious salvation in Jesus Christ might spread powerfully throughout the country.

**Rev. Mark D. Vander Hart**  
Professor Emeritus

# FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE: ALREADY BUT NOT YET

As our summer progresses quickly, so does our construction progress! Our campus expansion plan, "Foundation for the Future," is nearing a new milestone. By August 16, the interior renovations and the administrative/cafeteria addition will be completed - just in time for the students to return to their seminary studies. Since the beginning, the project has remained on schedule. Having this many different trades working together without significant setbacks is remarkable. Praise be to God! Our chapel addition still has work to be done, and we expect that portion to be completed by the end of March 2025.

We're also thankful for your continued support. We still need to close a \$2,000,000 gap in funding to see the project through

to completion. As quickly as the summer went, so will the next several months into the end of the calendar year. Start making plans now to support our expansion efforts with your year-end giving. It will sneak up on you if you let it. We have enjoyed the support from many of you and ask that you joyfully support us with gifts of any amount - they all add up! I encourage you to contact me to discuss creative giving options to maximize tax benefits for you and bless the project through to completion. We've seen many gifts of stock, gifts given through donor-advised funds, and RMD gifts through 401K /retirement plans. There are ways to achieve larger gifts than you think you can afford right now - perhaps a multi-year pledge is right for you. Let's talk: [mdeckinga@midamerica.edu](mailto:mdeckinga@midamerica.edu).

**Michael Deckinga**  
Vice-President of Development



# THE IMPORTANCE OF SEMINARY EDUCATION

by Dr. Alan D. Strange

FEATURE



The historic Reformed and Presbyterian Church Orders require, in addition to college or university training for those who would be Ministers of the Word and Sacraments, seminary training for such men, ordinarily a Master of Divinity degree. The M.Div. is the degree that is considered the vocational or professional degree for ministers, similar to a law school degree obtained by one who would be admitted to the bar.

To sample a church order of one of the churches supporting Mid-America, the *Form of Government* (FG) of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, as is true of the church orders of the URCNA, PCA, RCUS, etc., requires seminary training for men who would be licensed, declared a candidate, or ordained to preach.

The OPC FG (XXI:3) puts it this way: “It is highly reproachful to religion and dangerous to the church to entrust the

preaching of the gospel to weak and ignorant men. The presbytery shall therefore license a candidate only if he has received a bachelor of arts degree, or its academic equivalent, from a college or university of reputable academic standing, and has completed an adequate course of study lasting at least one year and a half in a theological seminary.”

FG XXIII:3 further requires for

ordination “an adequate course of study in a theological seminary equivalent to that required for a regular three year theological degree.”

Are the constituent churches of Mid-America Reformed Seminary justified in requiring seminary training for their ministers? After all, where does the Bible say that a preacher needs to go to seminary?

### Biblical Requirements

It is true that the Word of God emphasizes the moral and spiritual qualifications for a minister more than it does the natural and intellectual qualifications (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1: 5-9). These verses do require, though, that a man be “able to teach” and that he hold firm “to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”

Furthermore, Paul admonished Timothy to be “a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15) and to “guard the deposit entrusted to you” (1 Tim. 6:20). A Minister of the Word, then, must be thoroughly trained in the exposition and defense of the Word of God.

Our church orders, thus, reflect an understanding that the necessary skills for preaching the whole counsel of God are ordinarily developed and honed at a seminary. Seminary education alone qualifies no one to preach the gospel. But it does serve as the training ground for those who are called to preach and are recognized as such by the church.

### Exceptions Allowed?

Note, as we have, that while these skills are ordinarily attained at seminary, the URCNA Church

Order (CO) leaves it to the consistory to assure that the candidate “receives a thoroughly Reformed theological education” (Article 3). One is further directed in that CO to Appendices 1 and 2, the former describing, essentially, what one receives by a seminary education. The URCNA CO does say that candidates must receive an M.Div. degree “or its equivalent” (Appendix 3). The URCNA CO appears, then, to require seminary, one might say, by indirection.

Similarly, the OPC FG recognizes, both in licensing and in ordaining men, that exceptions may be made to the educational requirements (XXI:6 and XXIII:3)—specifically, as to where his education is obtained. But even then, no exception is to be made to the knowledge required in all the Reformed and Presbyterian bodies.

A candidate may have gained that knowledge, for instance, while serving in the pastorate of another denomination that did not require seminary, and he has now become Reformed. In any case, however, the presbytery may never license a man who is “weak and ignorant.”

So even if a man does not have a seminary education, he must have everything that seminary is calculated to give him. He must still pass all the required examinations that take place in the presence of classes, by presbyteries, etc.

### The Seminary’s Role

This leaves us with this question: is the requirement for seminary training by our churches for its ministers scripturally justified? I would answer yes. A seminary provides an education in the Bible in its original tongues (in the Old and New Testament departments), in the historical outworking of the Bible (in the church history department), in the topical expression and defense of the teaching of the Bible (in the systematic theology and apologetics department), and in

the application of the Bible to the lives of the people of God (in the ministerial or practical theology department).

The seminary curriculum is designed to educate men who will be faithful and able preachers of God’s whole counsel—men who will give their lives to the equipping and edifying of the saints. Another sort of training would be hard put honestly to claim to give the comprehensiveness of seminary education.

I would readily admit that this task does not belong solely to the seminary. In fact, the seminary is but a servant of the church and is to assist her in equipping men for ministerial service whom the church deems suitable for sacred office.

### Before Seminaries

The seminary as we know it today is not of ancient origin but came into existence in this country in the early national period, with Princeton Theological Seminary being the first in the Presbyterian Church (1812). The first two professors at Princeton—Archibald Alexander and Samuel Miller—were ministers with pastoral experience. From the beginning, the ideal at Princeton was to have prospective pastors taught by men who were themselves pastors. With Charles Hodge, Princeton began to employ men without pastoral experience, though they required all their professors to be ministers. When the Continental Reformed churches started seminaries, such as Calvin Theological Seminary (1876), they consistently required their professors to have some pastoral experience.

Before the rise of the seminary, men were trained for the ministry at the university. In this country, Harvard was founded in 1636, and Yale in 1701, primarily to train men for the gospel ministry. Many who went to college then were already schooled in the classics, the humanities, and the sciences. Even the “Log College” of William Tennent and the classical academies started by his students (which led to the founding of The College of New Jersey in 1746, later Princeton University)



offered an education comparable to the New England and European universities: Latin, Greek, Hebrew, divinity (theology), rhetoric, logic, ethics, metaphysics, mathematics, and natural philosophy (science).

All this is to say that before the advent of the seminary, the necessary education was attained in the university or in the classical academy. What is important is that it be attained. While seminaries themselves may be a more recent innovation, what is today taught in the seminary (and no longer in the university) is what Reformed and Presbyterians have always recognized as essential for ministers.

### The Need for an Educated Ministry

It's this simple: the church has understood the Scriptures to require that ministers be able to handle the Word of God effectively, to teach the truth with all its implications, and to refute errors of all kinds. Those who have been called to such ministry—such as pastors and seminary professors—can well testify that one cannot have too much knowledge to carry out their calling.

Generally, men in the pastorate bemoan their lack of time for study. I have never heard anyone complain that he has spent too much time studying the Bible, theology, missions, evangelism, or the history of the church. If you really understand the pastoral calling, you know that you need all the theological education that you can practically get.

Seminary affords men the opportunity to acquire the foundational understanding upon which they will build throughout their pastoral lives, including how to think biblically and theologically. If a man never goes to seminary, he may have to spend much time catching up with his better informed ministerial colleagues. Most men would not even know what the important issues are and how to address them, apart from seminary training. If men with a seminary education sense

their insufficiency for pastoral ministry, how much more so those who have never attended seminary?

Since seminary is the ordinary route, only an extraordinary man can dispense with it. And who is that? Or, rather, who thinks that he is that?

### Beyond Seminary

As noted above, seminary, at least the classroom, is not calculated to provide all that a man needs to serve in the gospel ministry. A man also needs good practical field experience. Churches and seminaries have come to recognize this and thus require or recommend various ministerial apprenticeships and internships (the PCA ordinarily requires a year-long internship for its candidates). In the past, a ministerial candidate would live for several years with a pastor and gain in that way many of the counseling, visitation, administrative, and other pastoral skills that can only be gained in the field and that the best of seminary programs can only begin to provide.

There is, in other words, only so much that can be done in the seminary classroom. No matter how many counseling courses a man may take, for instance, he will never learn what can only be learned by counseling parishioners. Thus, Mid-America's Ministerial Apprenticeship Program, about which we'll say more next time.

This is not to say, though, that seminaries cannot do a better job teaching things like denominational history, worship, and polity (church government), all of which need to be part of the seminary curriculum. The URCNA CO requires the preaching of catechism sermons, and seminaries customarily have no instruction about such. Mid-America does, as well as history, polity, etc.; more on this and other Mid-America strengths next time.

### But Which Seminary?

While it is not inconceivable that ministers could receive their training in the Bible somewhere other than at

seminary, I do not know where comprehensive, thorough training in all the theological departments occurs other than at seminaries and similar theological schools.

However, not any seminary will do. Since all ministers are called upon to “guard the deposit entrusted to you,” a ministerial candidate should seek out a thoroughly confessional seminary—that is, that guards the theological trust that Christ has given to His church.

No man should attend a seminary that does not confess Christ in all His fullness, manifested in part by its fidelity to the Reformed and Presbyterian confessions. The seminary should be dedicated to training men for the gospel ministry in the fullest sense of that task. Next time, I will develop more fully why Mid-America especially fits that bill and why all considering seminary should give Mid-America their most serious consideration.

Finally, as John Donne said, “No man is an island.” Men preparing for the ministry need to learn collegiality in the seminary to prepare them to work in church courts.

Thus, we see that a seminary education is a necessary and important part of pastoral training today.



**Dr. Alan D. Strange**  
Interim President

*This article is adapted from its original publication in “New Horizons,” Oct. 1999.*

# CASTING A WIDER NET: A MARS ALUM'S CALLING

## ALUMNI PROFILE: JARED LUTTJEBOER

Reflecting on my journey, I see how my education at Mid-America Reformed Seminary has shaped the life I live and all of its intricacies. Graduating with a Master of Theological Studies degree from MARS was more than an academic milestone; it equipped me with a deep understanding of Reformed thought that now permeates every aspect of my life, particularly in my current marketing role at the Seminary.

In this position, I have the privilege of combining my theological training with content creation and communication skills. A significant - and favorite - part of my job involves managing MARSCAST, the Seminary's official podcast. This platform allows us to showcase our professors' theological knowledge and classroom work, sharing their insights, research, and real-life applications of Reformed theology. Through this, we aim to reach a wider audience and foster a greater appreciation for Reformed thought while highlighting the Seminary's distinctiveness.

My role extends to producing content that captures the dynamic student experience on our campus. Through film work, behind-the-scenes looks at our academic life, and stories about our vibrant community, I strive to provide a comprehensive view of life at Mid-America. A crucial aspect we promote is our Ministerial Apprenticeship Program, which is vital to our mission of training the next generation of Reformed and Presbyterian church leaders. By showcasing this program, we hope to inspire prospective students and

supporters to enroll and partner with us.

Working with the Office of Advancement and Enrollment, I help maintain the Seminary's public image. I aim to ensure that our communications reflect our values and mission, presenting a coherent and engaging narrative to you, our constituents. Whether through social media, this newsletter, or other media outreach, our goal is to build a strong, positive reputation for the Seminary that resonates with our audience and supports our mission.

Beyond my professional responsibilities, I serve as an Elder at Beacon Light Community Church (CRC) in Gary, IN, a role that allows me to utilize my seminary training in providing pastoral care and support to the congregation, teaching Adult Sunday School, and occasionally serving as a licensed exhorter.

I've also embarked on a personal project close to my heart: *The Church History Project* podcast. Guided by Dr. Nick Needham's series *2000 Years of Christ's Power*, accompanied by sweeping cinematic music, narrative storytelling, and practical gospel-centered application concluding each episode, I explore the historical wonders of the Christian faith and how Christ has been faithful to His Church for millennia. As I approach the launch of Season 2 at the end of October, I'm excited to share more fascinating stories with a growing audience. I heartily invite you to listen and engage with the show wherever you may listen



to your favorite podcasts!

These endeavors are deeply interconnected, each informing and enriching the others, strung together by faith, service, and scholarship. The knowledge and skills I gained at Mid-America are, no doubt, the foundation upon which I build my work, whether crafting a marketing campaign, counseling a church member, or producing a church history podcast episode.

Looking ahead, I'm filled with hope and anticipation. I aspire to continue making a meaningful impact through my various roles and projects, contributing to the growth and flourishing of the Reformed faith. By sharing theological truths, supporting the development of future ministers of the gospel, and engaging with the broader Christian community, I hope to play a part in advancing the kingdom of God, fostering a deeper understanding of His Word, and casting the net wide to draw more people to the Seminary, sacred history, and ultimately, to the Savior.

**Jared Luttjeboer**  
Director of Marketing

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Tel: 219-864-2400

Fax: 219-864-2410

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**MARS 2024**  
*Fall Faculty Lectures*

**DR. RICHARD P. BELCHER, JR.**  
**ON THE PSALMS**

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024  
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024



*Stay tuned for lecture details and  
registration information!*

*Offered both on-campus  
and via livestream*