



THE
TORCH

SPRING 2023 - ISSUE 15

From the President Dr. David Fincher ('93)

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In the last four years, many people have learned about Central Christian College of the Bible for the first time. With so many activities happening in various locations, explaining the College's comprehensive identity through its institutional goals is sometimes helpful.

Clear goals can bring unity of purpose to any group working together. The Apostle Paul often uses this method in his writings by first listing his overall goals for the letter, then unpacking them in the following chapters. In Colossians 1:24-29, he includes these prioritized goals for his ministry.

Verse 24: **Suffer for the body of Christ** by serving the church with joy.

Verse 25: **Serve the word of God** by speaking it to anyone who would listen.

Verses 26-27: **Share the mystery of salvation** so that Gentiles could have the hope of glory.

Verse 28: **See the image of Christ** in each mature believer who gained wisdom.

Having those goals allowed him to conclude in verse 29: ***"For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me."*** Combining Paul's clear purpose and God's power resulted in meaningful work that covered the many miles of his ministry. His clear goals drove the decisions and directions of his ministry.

Similarly, Central's comprehensive institutional goals guide each department. The Trustees and Executive Team clarified those goals in late 2022 as part of our accreditation process. You will find them on the next page, along with the exciting news that accreditation was reaffirmed for another ten years. As you explore the rest of this magazine, I hope you will see how these goals guide Central's ministry efforts.

Thank you for supporting Central with your prayers and gifts.

Accreditation Reaffirmation

At the 2023 Annual Meeting held in Orlando, Florida, the **Commission on Accreditation** of the **Association of Biblical Higher Education** reaffirmed CCCB for ten years of accreditation through 2033. This is the longest reaffirmation possible, and comes at the conclusion of a three-year process of self-study and planning. This includes accreditation for the Moberly campus, extension sites, the online program, and the graduate degrees. For more information about ABHE accreditation, visit www.ABHE.org.



Pictured: Dr. David Fincher (President), Lara Lawrence (VP of Business & Finance), and Shawn Lindsay (VP of Academics)



Comprehensive Institutional Goals



CONSERVATIVE BIBLICAL TEACHING

Central instills a traditional Restoration Movement understanding of Scripture, truth, and the church to shape an informed Christian worldview.



LIFELONG PERSONAL LEARNING

Central provides engaging interaction with teachers and materials to equip people for continual growth in knowledge and wisdom through ongoing study.



FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN WORKERS

Central prepares people to use their gifts for the kingdom, whether in the ministry, the mission field, or the marketplace.



RELATIONAL SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

Central helps its constituents grow in discipleship through a faithful life of obedience within the body of Christ.



WISE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Central cares for its assets and personnel to maximize availability for current and future constituents.

Graduate School Announcement



RUSSELL
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

Since 2020, CCCB has been offering a **Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership** degree. Starting in Fall 2023, a second graduate degree will be available, the **Master of Arts in Preaching**. With multiple graduate degrees, a college will typically name a graduate school either following its own name or after a key donor. Other colleges use a separate name to identify their graduate school.

Since 2020, Central has used **Russell School of Ministry (RSM)** for the name of its innovative undergraduate ministry education program in Cincinnati. Those students were also enrolled in Central's online courses, which has created confusion as to how RSM and CCCB related to each other. Those undergraduate students will continue to be served and given a plan to complete their degrees through Central Christian College of the Bible.

Starting in April 2023, **Russell School of Ministry** will become the name of CCCB's graduate program, offering master's degrees and certificates in leadership and preaching. This name honors the leadership and preaching legacy of **Bob and John Russell**, connects Central to the legacy of Cincinnati ministry education, and presents a clear identity to prospective students.

Dr. Billy Strother served as the inaugural graduate studies dean at CCCB. He recently transitioned from that role to focus on his undergraduate and graduate teaching. Central is now conducting a nationwide search for its next Graduate Dean for **Russell School of Ministry**. To see a job description, recommend the position to others, or seek further information, please visit [CCCB.edu/RussellSchool](https://www.cccb.edu/RussellSchool) for more information.



Dr. Billy Strother

With two-year graduate degrees offered in Moberly, St. Louis, and Cincinnati, the **Russell School of Ministry** graduate program is one of the ways that Central is fulfilling its vision for innovative ministry education in multiple locations for the Christian church. See the following pages for more information about each location.

Graduate Program in Moberly

At Commencement in May, Central will award sixteen graduates their **Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership** degrees. Over the past three years, almost 50 students have further developed their ministry leadership preparation by enrolling in this innovative program. During a two-year course of study, each student follows a personalized path through supervised ministry experiences that allow for the immediate application of classroom principles.

This affordable program allows busy ministry professionals to continue their education at a higher level of responsibility and insight. Each semester, students come to Moberly, Missouri, for a weeklong intensive session, take one online course, and complete a significant project in their ministry context.

Featured Graduate Student **Bobbie Schaeperkoetter**



"The graduate program has been a game changer for me. It has given me the tools, confidence, and support to faithfully and effectively serve in ministry. It also produced in me a passion to continue my education.

*I'm currently enrolled in the D.Min program of **Talbot Seminary at Biola University**. I owe that to the incredible Central staff who spurred me forward and called out more in me."*

Bobbie Schaeperkoetter ('23)

Online Campus Coordinator, **Capital City Christian Church** (Jefferson City, Missouri)

- Balanced the responsibilities of home, ministry, and education
- Completed her degree in December 2022 after four semesters of study
- Established a writing and speaking ministry at www.BobbieSchae.com



Learn more about this innovative ministry education program by scanning this QR code.



Graduate Programs in Cincinnati

Central has offered graduate courses in the Cincinnati area since 2021 at the **CCL Center** in Florence, Kentucky. The first graduates will be recognized at the May commencement ceremony.

As part of the **Russell School of Ministry**, a **Master of Arts in Preaching** will start in Fall 2023. It helps busy ministry professionals upgrade their preaching skills to meet the needs of their current and future ministries. Developed by **Dr. Billy Strother** and the CCCB faculty, this program was approved by ABHE and will be in the same hybrid format as the **MA in Ministry Leadership**.

The first class is **Preaching Artfully**, in which students explore and model multiple rhetorical patterns adaptable to contemporary preaching. Other local courses include **Preaching in a Complex Culture**, **Preaching and Story**, **Preaching the Resurrection of Jesus**, and **Preaching in a Congregational Context**.

Online courses include **Sermon Exposition & Planning**, **History of Preaching**, **Preaching the Old Testament**, and **Preaching the New Testament**. All students will be mentored in developing meaningful preaching experiences within their ministry contexts.



Graduate Program in **St. Louis**

The **Master of Arts in Preaching** will be the first graduate degree students in St. Louis can pursue. As part of Russell School of Ministry's graduate program, courses offered at the Westport location feature several benefits.

- Easy access to Missouri, Illinois, and the St. Louis Metropolitan Area is convenient for commuter students.
- Preferred rates at the adjacent hotels provide affordable convenience.
- Nearby Lambert International Airport allows students to attend from around the country.
- Library resources in the facility are available during class sessions or throughout the semester if they are in the metropolitan area.

Merger **Finalized**

In December 2022, the **St. Louis Christian College** merger with CCCB received final approval from the **State of Missouri**. This will bring several benefits to the alumni of SLCC and the future of CCCB.

- The existence of SLCC is officially maintained with the Missouri business records of CCCB.
- SLCC endowment funds directly help current and future students with scholarship funds.
- Two former SLCC trustees currently serve on the CCCB Board of Trustees: **Rick Mosher** and **Jeff Schaeperkoetter**.
- Estate gifts designated to SLCC will benefit ministry education through CCCB in the St. Louis area.
- SLCC alumni benefit from policies to help them finish an undergraduate degree or pursue a graduate degree.

Support Services for Churches and Alumni

Since 2020, part of Central's Cincinnati work has included the **Christian Church Leadership Network (CCL Network)** to provide continuing education and support for churches and ministry leaders. Starting in 2023, the **CCL Network** is being offered as part of Central's Department of Church Services to all of its supporters and alumni.

This follows the retirement of **Shawn McMullen** (VP of Church Services) at the end of February and **Dr. Tim Wallingford** (Executive Director) at the end of April. Starting in late March, **Micah Odor** will serve as VP of Church Services and lead the **CCL Network**. In addition to overseeing the many church services that are available, he will teach practical ministry courses for students and church leaders.

Central is committed to providing services to churches, ministers, and alumni of **CCCB**, **St. Louis Christian College**, and **Cincinnati Christian University**. The **CCL Network** represents the mission, vision, and institutional goals of CCCB to a national audience of lifelong learners. It will also supplement the ministry training programs of Central through options for continuing education.

The next page describes some of the ways that the **CCL Network** provides church services to the constituents of CCCB and beyond. If you have any questions about them, contact **Micah Odor** by email ([MicahOdor@cccb.edu](mailto:micahodor@cccb.edu)) or phone/text (513-454-6364) so your church or ministry can benefit from the services of the **CCL Network** (www.CCL.network).



Shawn McMullen



Dr. Tim Wallingford



Micah Odor



Career Services

Through relationships with key partners, alumni and churches are able to find their next ministry or leader.



- In partnership with **The Solomon Foundation** and **RENEW.ORG**, Central provides **MinistryCareers.org** as a place where available leaders can share their profiles and find openings that have been posted by churches and organizations.
- In conjunction with **Interim Pastor Ministries (InterimPastors.com)**, experienced ministers can be trained for a new career in temporary assignments to churches that need steady leadership. In addition, those congregations can find Christian church ministers for both the short-term and long-term ministry needs of the church.
- For churches and ministers that need an in-depth search process, those services are available through our partnership with the **Slingshot Group (SlingshotGroup.org)**.

Leadership Events

Ministers gain insights from experienced leaders who present workshops at the various conferences offered by the **CCL Network**.



- Monthly **Lunch & Learns** (sponsored by **Christian Financial Resources**) address issues relevant to local church ministry during lunch at the **CCL Center** in Cincinnati. These events are recorded and available at www.CCLF.tv for ministers around the country to watch.
- Regular **Webinars** (sponsored by **Pension Fund of the Christian Church**) provide live, interactive conversations with nationally recognized experts.
- The upcoming **SOAR Conference** (sponsored by **Christian Churches Pension Plan**) will be held in Cincinnati April 21-22 for ministers and leaders of small to medium churches, featuring messages by **Alan Ahlgrim, John Hampton, Bob Russell, Dr. Johnny Pressley, Dr. David Roadcup**, and **Micah Odor**.

Visit CCL.network/events/ to register for these and other events that are scheduled at Central's locations.



IMAGINE TOGETHER

Friends from around the country are coming together in 2023 to support **THE ANNUAL FUND FOR MINISTRY EDUCATION** at **Central Christian College of the Bible**.

“imagine TOGETHER” is inspired by Ephesians 3:20, which praises God for His power to do **“immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.”**

Working together with His people, Central provides **innovative ministry education in multiple locations for the Christian church**.

Innovative ministry education is flexible in delivery, responsive to students, and focused on the future.

Multiple locations include places where the church especially needs more trained workers.

The **Christian church** fellowship of congregations is Central’s primary audience while serving students from the church at large.



Since 1957, God has provided many supporters who have provided funds for a valuable Christian college experience at an affordable cost on the campus of CCCB in **Moberly, Missouri**. In the past few years, many donors have given to the CCL Foundation to develop a new site in the **Cincinnati** area. Most recently, a merger with **St. Louis Christian College** has brought in another group of supporters.

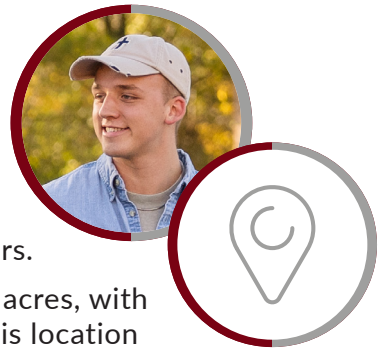
In 2023, committed churches and individuals can **“imagine TOGETHER”** building a legacy for ministers now and in the future. If you also believe in the importance of ministry education for the future of the church, you are invited to support these needs.

imagine 
TOGETHER

THE CCCB ANNUAL FUND FOR MINISTRY EDUCATION

“more than all we ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20)

LOCATIONS



Educational locations provide regional sites for biblical truth and training for students and leaders.

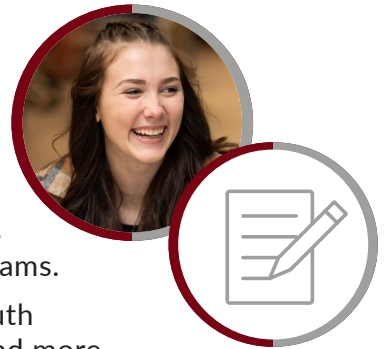
The **Moberly campus** has seven buildings on 26 acres, with classrooms, offices, housing, and much more. This location brings residential and graduate students from around the region and across the country.

The **Cincinnati site** at the **CCL Center** (8095 Connector Drive, Florence, KY 41042) has library resources, archaeology artifacts, offices, classrooms, and meeting space to support ministry leaders.

The **St. Louis site** at **The Westport** (11960 Westline Industrial Dr, Ste. 230, St. Louis, MO 63146) has offices, classrooms, a library, and more.

THE **CCCB ANNUAL FUND FOR MINISTRY EDUCATION** provides **\$900,000** for operational expenses of Central's locations, including the cost of support staff, maintenance, utilities, and lease payments.

PROGRAMS



Educational programs prepare biblical servants for a faithful life of kingdom ministry. Your gifts underwrite the cost of several innovative programs.

Undergraduate degrees prepare preachers, youth ministers, Christian counselors, missionaries, and more.

Graduate degrees in ministry leadership and preaching can be completed in two years.

Continuing education equips ministers and supports alumni of CCCB, St. Louis Christian College, and Cincinnati Christian University.

Partnership options provide additional areas of study to develop Christian workers for the marketplace.

THE **CCCB ANNUAL FUND FOR MINISTRY EDUCATION** provides **\$700,000** for programs to equip Christian workers.

SERVICES



Educational services support teachers and students to enhance learning within the classroom and beyond.

Learning software facilitates professor/student interaction to promote educational success.

Online resources support remote and lifelong learning habits.

Saints GPS helps students throughout enrollment discern God's call with guidance, professionalism, and spirituality.



Library collections include standard reference works and contemporary resources at Central's educational sites.



THE **CCCB ANNUAL FUND FOR MINISTRY EDUCATION** provides **\$300,000** for high-quality resources essential to the student learning experience.

SCHOLARSHIPS



Educational scholarships motivate students to pursue a college degree.

Central offers many generous scholarships to help students avoid accumulating debt. The **Torch Scholarship Plan** provides scholarships between \$2,500 and \$10,000 per year. The **Central Grant** covers the remaining gap for those in need.

These scholarships play a key role in **new student recruitment**. They also encourage students to **continue and complete** their educational programs to prepare for sustained ministry success.

Your support of THE **CCCB ANNUAL FUND FOR MINISTRY EDUCATION** delivers **almost \$500,000** of direct scholarship support for students each year.

YOUR PARTICIPATION



Your **church** is invited to send ongoing gifts as follows:

- Supporting** church \$100+ per month
- Partnering** church \$250+ per month
- Advancing** church \$500+ per month
- Founding** church \$1,000+ per month

(Churches may also choose to send a **special donation** at any time.)

Individual donors make a difference at these levels of partnership:

Ministry-Friends | (*Up to \$1,000 per year*)

Help a student or minister pursue a faithful life of kingdom ministry through your personal prayers and/or gifts.

Equippers | (*\$1,000+ per year*)

Equip ministers and students with the truth of God's Word.

Sustainers | (*At least \$5,000 per year*)

Keep education affordable for students.

Legacy Circle | (*At least \$10,000 per year*)

Recognize the legacy of a faithful minister or missionary who was trained in Moberly, Cincinnati, or St. Louis.

METHODS OF GIVING

The simplest way to participate is with a secure **online donation** at **CCCB.edu/give**.

Creating a **recurring donation** is a convenient way to give from a bank account or credit card.

You can **mail a check** to **CCCB** (911 E Urbandale Dr, Moberly, MO 65270) or **CCL Foundation** (PO Box 14208, Cincinnati, OH 45250).

There are many other creative ways to increase your stewardship, reduce taxes, and create a legacy. To learn more, select "**Planned Giving**" at **CCCB.edu/give** or email **develop@cccb.edu**.



AUTHENTIC U IN CHRIST

"When I am in a community where I am immersed with a whole bunch of other people who not only want to become authentic in Christ but want to help those around them be more authentic in Christ, as imperfectly as we may do that at times; that's the heart, that's the goal, that's the pulse of the community. So being immersed in that community here was really cool, you know, we're all on the same path to being more authentic. Specifically, it wasn't the institution of Central that helped me in this way, it was the people."

Andrew Kovar ('10)

Pastor, **Clover Road Christian Church** (Hannibal, Missouri)

(To hear more from Andrew Kovar and authenticity in Christ go to CCCB.edu/AuthenticU.)



Scan below
to watch
Andrew's full
story.



From the VP of Enrollment & Marketing Brian Taylor

BrianTaylor@cccb.edu | 660.372.2503

I remember hours upon hours in the lab purifying and cleaning all kinds of cellular material to get to the extracted DNA sample. It was a constant process of stripping away the mitochondrion and endoplasmic reticulum to get to a pure product. Andrew beautifully and masterfully articulated the incredible role the Christian community plays in helping clean up perceptions and thoughts that get in the way of purity on our journey to authenticity.



This is **Authentic U**. This is **Central Christian College of the Bible**. Do you know a student who needs help discovering the Creator and His design and plan for life? The Admissions Office would love to talk to them. Just send an email to admissions@cccb.edu or scan the QR code above, and we will do the rest.

MEMORIAL & HONORARY GIFTS

"The righteous one will be remembered forever."

Psalm 112:6

Memorial and Honorary Gifts are a meaningful way to recognize someone who valued the importance of ministry education in Moberly, St. Louis, or Cincinnati. These gifts support the future of ministry education and respect the achievements of special classmates, professors, current or retired ministers or missionaries, and others who impacted the church.

These have been recognized between September 2022 and February 2023 with a memorial or honorary gift to either **CCCB** or the **CCL Foundation**.

Gifts in Memory of...

Dr. Gary Bailey
Elizabeth Beeson
George Bettison
Ken Boswell
Borys Boyuk
Joan Brown
Jim Busick
Bob Cochran
Dr. Jack Cottrell
Mr. & Mrs. ML Cox
Jim Daniels
Paul Davis
Kelly & Genevieve Dye
Linda Ensign
Dixie Garrison
Gene W. Hampson

Lois Harris
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Hoschouer
Victor & June Hunter
Rose Joreen Jones
Mark Koerner
Mary Kropf
John Leinbaugh
Roy Lincoln
George & Helen Lyle
Alfred N. Mackey
Gene Mallette
Lowell McCoy
M. Ray McCully
Bob McKnight
Ben Merold

Rich Mullins
Bernice Nauman
Val & Jean Newcomb
Brandon Pickett
Greg Pitts
Dorothy Rae
Rodney & Lelah Randall
Jack Richardson
Bob & Carol Schofield
David & Jewell Shelton
Clifford Stock
Deborah Stock
William Walton
Lester Willhite

Gifts in Honor of...

Class of 1959 Grads
Class of 1962 Grads
Rodney Allee
Mark Butrum
65 years of CCCB and William & Norma Hayden's 65th Anniversary
All those who teach the Word of God in Truth
Dustin & Tianna Cross
Rachel Darling

Keith Ehresman
Tom Friskney
Adrienne Golubski
Elijah & Tressa Jeffrey
Alan LaRue family graduates
Lara Lawrence
Dr. Dan Lowry
Lowell & Mary Lou McCoy
Dr. Lloyd Pelfrey
Dr. Gareth Reese's 90th Birthday

Bob Russell
Sandra Schofield
SLCC Graduates and their Families
Terry Stine
Taylor Terry
Brad Williams
John A. Wilson



**CENTRAL
CHRISTIAN**
COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

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SAINTS SUMMER INSTITUTE



BACK FOR 2023!

The **Saints Summer Institute** is July 30-August 2 for students entering high school through those who just graduated. Along with last year's learning tracks (*Archaeology* and *Biblical Languages*) we have added two **NEW** tracks (*Digital Christians* and *Bible Bowl Prep*). If you know any young people who love Jesus and yearn to know more about Him and His word, invite them to join this year's learning experience.



Learn more at [CCCB.edu/ssi](https://www.cccb.edu/ssi).

Central Christian College of the Bible does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, disability, national or ethnic origin in employment, admissions, financial aid, and participation in college programs.