

December 15, 2019

Dear Friends of the Consortium,

We are not the oldest theological consortium in the country, but we are one of the most resilient. A leader at Yale Divinity School approached me recently and said, "Congratulations, you are now the strongest and most adaptive theological consortium in the country!"

Why does this matter? Because collaboration between different Christian traditions changes lives and deepens vocations. I just spoke with a senior at one of our schools and she stated, "that course in Criminal Justice where we studied with inmate-students changed my whole direction in ministry!"

Yes, our institutional members pay dues each year, so *why do we ask for your support*? Because donors like you make the extra programs we offer possible. Here is a sample "gift list" of what your donation can do in the coming year:

- \$29 buys a required text in ecumenical dialogue or Christian-Muslim-Jewish relations.
- \$57 covers the cost of a guest professor to visit another campus for a "lecture exchange."
- \$115 covers the meeting of a faculty group (for example in Bible, Theology, Religion and Arts, Ecology and Theology) to hear papers in progress, or design a new program.
- \$243 pays for a day of study between a Christian seminarian and a rabbinical student at our summer immersion course in Jewish-Christian dialogue.
- \$544 funds the entire "Sermon Slam" for students from each school to have a "preach off" that demonstrates biblical imagination, oratory, and different traditions of preaching.
- \$775 brings in a national lecturer for the public on Christian Unity or Public Theology.
- \$1100 or more provides enough seed money to design and test a new program that can appeal to large donors and foundations.

Because our overhead and staff expenses are covered by member dues, your *entire* gift goes toward creative programs for students, scholars, and the wider public. Please consider *a tax-deductible gift* so that ecumenical and interfaith education can grow. Visit: <u>https://washtheocon.org/donate</u>

Gratefully,

Larry Golemon Executive Director