

## **Community of Christ: Our Mission Video Transcript**

I'm Tyler Horing, and I am originally from Muskegon, Michigan, but now I live in Central Mission in Independence, Missouri. I am 24 years old, and I am the youth minister for Central Mission USA.

I think initially when I first began seminary, I had some internal conflicts of self-doubt and self-worth. I grew up in high school with learning disabilities and struggling to succeed in school, and the seminary program and the professors and the people involved really helped work with me as somebody who has challenges. But they care for my success and will work with me, so I can appropriately and academically express what I learned in my writing.

And it's been an incredible journey, an incredible safe space for me to grow and express myself. Community of Christ Seminary is a special place where you work hard. We study a lot, we read a lot, but we do it in a community. And we do it in a unique community because most of it is online.

But our faculty has mastered how to build digital community, and then when we have the opportunity to come together in a focus week in May and in January, the digital faces become reality, and we bond like we never have before. The transformation was very empowering to me because of those learning disabilities I had and still continue to have.

At one point, I thought I wasn't good enough to succeed in higher education, and with the support of the professors and the faculty who pushed me and family who pushed me, when I made it to that point of "Man, I'm succeeding in this gradual level of work," that means something to me. It felt incredible walking on the stage and receiving my diploma, and just a feeling of empowerment and wanting to give back to my community everything I've learned to give back.