

Video Transcript - This is your seat

I think I was led to seminary because of tugging - a tugging of wanting to do something more than what I knew I was capable of doing by myself.

I've always been kind of inquisitive about theological things.

Anytime there is any kind of theological or historical scriptural issue, I've always felt like I wasn't really up to par.

I want to know more about Community of Christ theology and the scripture.

Quite honestly, I was searching. I probably would have considered myself a pretty good Christian. I prayed. I went to church weekly and did all those things, but there was still just something else missing. And so, I went searching to try and figure out what I need to do, and that's when I came across the seminary here at Graceland University.

Community of Christ Seminary is a special place where you work hard, study a lot, read a lot, but we do it in a community.

You read your material, but you also get equipment from the instructors in the evenings. And also, you can talk with your co-students about any kind of issues that you have, or you can bounce ideas off of each other.

For me, learning should be communal and is communal, and that has shaped my experience in the seminary.

What really pulled me in is that there are particular classes and focuses that are inherent because it is a Community of Christ seminary. It's a practical Community of Christ ministry.

Being an educated theologian supplies you with the tools you need to go into communities to affect change and really reflect what it is to be a Christian and to be part of the Community of Christ.

Even though we come from different places and different foundations and backgrounds, there's still an important aspect of who we are as a Community of Christ - who we are as a people of God - that I think is important to work on together. We can't do theology in isolation. We can't study in isolation from those that we surround, those that we lead, those that we seek every day and who find us every day with questions.

It was an "aha" moment when you realize that you, you still have the opportunity at whatever age you are to learn, and to grow and to expand your horizons.

And my life just changed completely. I don't even know if I can put it into words exactly how its changed, but I'm able to when I'm working with patients. I'm able to kind of bring that comfort to them more than what I did before.

At one point, I thought I wasn't good enough to succeed in higher education. When I made it to that point of "man, I'm succeeding", that means something to me. It felt incredible walking on that 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.

Hi, my name is Daniel Rose.

My name is Lin Wilson.

I'm Tyler Horinga.

My name is Ahmsom Ali.

I'm from Berlin, Germany.

I'm from Claremont, California.

I'm currently from Portland, Oregon.

I'm a pastor for the Bennet Life Center Congregation, and I'm a health physicist and nuclear medicine technologist.

My name is Matt Frizzel, and I am the dean for the Community of Christ Seminary, and I live in Lamoni.

Everybody has a theology, everybody does. It's just a matter of how conscious you are of it. And it's also a matter of whether any of us have taken the time to actually take some of these most intimate ideas to us - some of the most foundational ideas - and put them out on the table for others to discuss, to commune with, to learn from, to gain insight and revelation from. But also, then, to have critical questions asked of because this is spiritual community, spiritual growth in some way, at its best.

So, theological education is ultimately a theological formation. That's what makes seminary different. We don't just look at theology, the tradition and the disciplines, as a kind of knowledge that we unscrew your head and pour it in and then, bolt it back down and send you on your way. You engage these tools, and these voices, and these questions, and learn these disciplines because ultimately, they shape who you are as a lifelong learner. In many ways, in some form or fashion, (it) really is for just about everybody if they have the opportunity to become prepared and the resources to access. It's my prayer that that spirit that brings good news to the poor or sight to the blind, release to the captives and sets the oppressed free, is the spirit that continues to lead the seminary into its future.