



INDIANAPOLIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

January 31, 2017

Dear Pastors, Donors and Prayer Partners,

Grace and peace this new year! By God's grace, Indianapolis Theological Seminary saw a lot of growth in 2016. As a ministry that depends on the prayers and contributions of churches and individuals across the city, it is my joy to give regular updates on what the Lord is doing. So the following is a brief year-in-review, and will also tell you where the Lord is leading us so far in 2017.



Students, professors and board members started the fall with a cook-out.

While we've been organizing and offering classes for over two years now, it was in the fall of 2016 that we launched our first cohort of classes—an intentional curriculum that will eventuate in a Master of Arts degree in Biblical & Theological Ministry. Currently we have over 12 students earning credits through these courses, and many auditors as well. We are encouraged by the response and excited about the current and future Kingdom-service for which we are training these students. Some already serve in very significant ways in their churches and other ministries. Some are preparing for future full-time vocational ministry. In fact, two are already being considered for lead pastor positions in local churches. I'm humbled and thrilled that we are already affecting church leaders! Above all, please pray for our students: for their studies, their lives, their families, and their ministries.

In December we were also able to provide a training seminar for the central Indiana Campus Outreach staff. Our goal is to provide more such events to expand our reach even outside the classroom.



Dr. John Currid (RTS) taught our Pentateuch course in the fall.



Steve Sandvig (VP) and I traveled with other Indy pastors to meet with Covenant Theological Seminary leaders.

Another encouraging development this year was our dialogues with Covenant Theological Seminary (St. Louis) and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville). We are working with both seminaries to ensure our credits will transfer to those schools should a student decide to relocate. This does two things for us. (1) While we're not yet accredited, this gives students a chance to transfer to those schools with ITS credits in hand should they discern that they need an accredited degree. But perhaps more importantly, (2) these agreements give ITS a convincing affirmation that,

despite not being accredited yet, we are indeed teaching on the appropriate graduate level that matches other reputable schools in the area.

Finally, 2016 also saw our library grow to over 250 volumes, as well as the launch of our new blog. You can read past blog posts and sign up for email notices at www.indysem.org/blog.

In 2017 we have already run a January intensive course on biblical interpretation, and we are preparing for a strong start to our spring semester. We will also have our first students start their internships in local churches. These internships are a major part of our curriculum, so it's great to see them begin.

A very special highlight of this spring is that we will have Dr. Stephen Wellum (SBTS) return to teach another course. We will also be hosting a symposium for pastors, scholars and students to discuss the content of his very influential book, *Kingdom through Covenant*. Dr. Wellum will be in attendance and ready to engage us and answer any questions we bring. That will be March 11th at 6:30pm at Castleview Church. RSVP on our web page, www.indysem.org/news-events.

We are also lining up our fall 2017 courses already. We are blessed that Dr. Bill Barclay of RTS, Charlotte will be coming to teach our class on Paul's letters. Dr. Barclay was one of my professors years ago. I remember his classes vividly and I'm overjoyed that our students will benefit from his instruction just as I did.

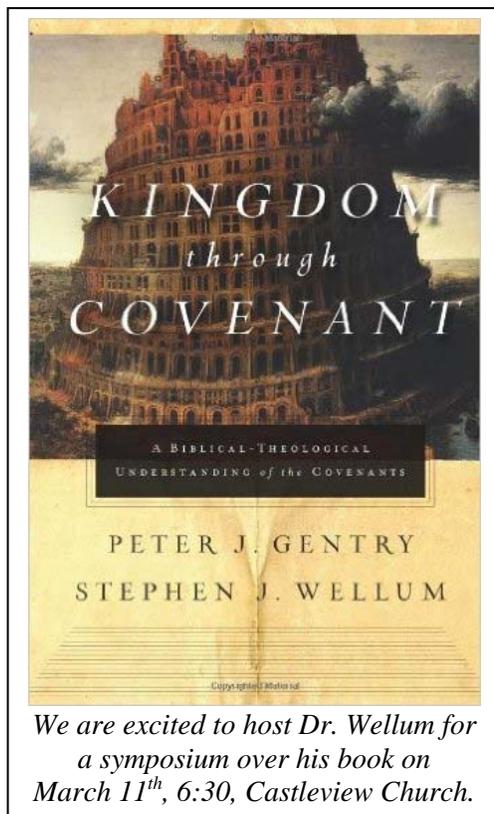
Brothers and sisters, we are energetic and hard-working in this endeavor. Everyone on the leadership team has been shaped by our own theological training and still feel the effects of that today. That is, in no small part, why we are so eager to promote and grow this seminary. Paul instructed Timothy, "Mediate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you" (1 Timothy 4:15-16). We want to set students up for ministry with that sort of mentality. But as we all know, "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1). Thus, we are very dependent on the sovereign work of God and your prayers. Thank you, therefore, for lifting us up. I urge you, *please continue to do so*.

And thank you, of course, for your generous monetary contributions as well. We are humbled by your partnership, and encouraged that you want to join with us in this worthy effort. If you have not yet considered becoming a financial partner, I would ask that you please do so. This year we will need many more churches and individuals to join the team in making regular monthly contributions. Please pray whether the Lord would have you join us in this work through giving. You can make contributions at www.indysem.org/donate.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if you can think of any way ITS could serve you and/or your congregation. Again, I praise God and thank you for your support!

*For the Glory of God
and the Good of the Church,*

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collaborating with local churches for biblical and theological training