



13 April 2016

Dear CGSD Family:

The 2015-2016 academic year marks the twenty-second year of ministry preparation for the divinity school – ten as a branch campus of Houston Graduate School of Theology and twelve as CEDS/CGSD. During the past two decades, we have been able to...

- Assemble a faculty possessing academic credentials from the most respected seminaries and universities in the US and the EU – a faculty totally committed to the mission left to the Church.
- Develop a curriculum appropriate for ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century while holding to the historic faith entrusted to us.
- Recruit from a broad spectrum of denominational loyalties – approximately twenty-five each year.
- Graduate two hundred thirty-five alumni (counting this year's class) who are now (1) serving as senior or associate pastors and administrative leaders in thirty denominations across the Southeast; (2) teaching in colleges (public and private), graduate schools, and seminaries in several states; and (3) providing chaplain care in hospitals, prisons, all branches of the military, and hospice organizations across North America and, when called on, overseas.
- Train church leaders around the world through the international teaching ministries of Drs. Jerry Barber, Karl Luff, Mark Nickens, Terry Eddinger, Darryl Bodie and David Tebbs.

It has been thrilling for the faculty and administration to have been part of your lives and ministries. Paul's prayer for the Philippians is our prayer for you:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is difficult for me to share the following news with you in light of everything above. In their most recent meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to close the

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school on 30 June 2016. This decision was excruciating for all involved. In the past five years, the divinity school, like other educational institutions, has experienced extreme financial stress because of the nation's weak economy. While enrollment remained steady, students took fewer courses because of their own financial stresses. Donors have not been stepping forward as they would do in a stable financial environment. Had it not been for professors who taught classes without salary or who allowed their salaries to accrue, the divinity school would have closed two years ago. If we had done so, forty-one alumni would not have graduated from the divinity school to which they entrusted their education.

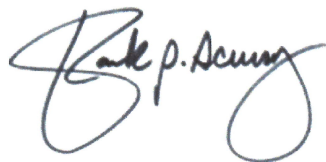
What do you need to know and do as a result of the closure?

- You need to know that the degree you earned from CGSD is accredited. Your transcript will have that notation on it. Closure does not change the value of the degree you earned at the divinity school.
- You will be provided five free official CGSD transcripts before June 30<sup>th</sup> if you submit your request using the proper form found on the website ([carolinagrads.edu](http://carolinagrads.edu)). After July 1<sup>st</sup>, Houston Graduate School of Theology will house your transcripts and you will secure copies from them. A request form will be available on their website ([hgst.edu](http://hgst.edu)).
- You should keep your friends on the faculty in your prayers. There is so much to do in the next three months: dissertation defenses for doctoral students, commencement, another DMin module in May, new teaching positions found, records relocated, the library sold, and offices cleared.

Again, thank you for allowing us to be part of your lives these past twenty-two years. You are certainly part of ours. We are proud of every one of you and trust that you value your time at HGST/CEDS/CGSD.

Instead of grieving that the divinity school is closing, let's rejoice that it happened! We have finished "the race marked out for us" (Heb 12:1).

Because he traded a throne for a tree,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Frank P. Scurry". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "F" and a long, sweeping underline.

Frank Scurry  
President