**2024 Residency August Evaluation**

1. **Overall – what were the strengths & joys of August?**

* Great time with classmates.
* Profs gave plenty of breaks
* Community
* It was really great getting to spend time with friends and professors. The variety of worship styles were enjoyable and educational.
* Fellowship, preaching class, Dr. Forshey’s lectures
* Seeing old friends and face-to-face learning.
* Feeling the overwhelming love and support.
* The whole experience was very welcoming. For as much information given in a short time, it was done so well.
* Prayer – meeting with my advisor
* It was a joy to dive into classes and have meals with everybody
* Enriching. Very blessed to have been here.
* The instruction was excellent – very enriching.
* The friendships started – great joy!
* The entire environment is conductive to learning and growth
* The incredible way community is built and grown. Centering and praise consistently throughout our day. Worship and experience variety.
* I was able to enjoy meeting new friends and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere. Well Done!
* Rejoice in this opportunities to be face-to-face.
* Reconnecting with and meeting new classmates in the flesh.
* I really enjoyed worship and orientation. It was wonderful to get to know the others that were 1st year at residency. It helped set the tone to build long lasting friendships.
* The connections and emphasis on relationship building ws great.
* AM/PM prayer, day retreat.
* Being with people and on the campus – loved having resources like the library and meeting with professors from the past as well as current.
* Fellowship with friends, faculty and staff. Great worship series.
* Worship & class discussions
* Well organized. Many opportunities to fellowship.
* The opportunity to be in person with each other. The professors & chapel.
* Being in person, chapel, time with classmates.
* The professors’ sermons and the prayers around the cross service. Opportunities to connect at lunch.
* Friends, working with the called of Christ.

1. **Overall – what changes/additions would provide for better August?**

* Housing for students on campus
* Keep an eye on day length. Having a 3-hour guest speaker after nine hours of class was overwhelming.
* More downtime
* More space for students to fellowship
* Gospel in context needs to be done before 8:30 p.m.
* Offer PC(USA) classes @ masters level, other possible electives for students past the 3 years on campus
* Not knowing about preload – hotel not having a morning shuttle
* More communal meals?
* Kleenex boxes everywhere! Our sharing got wet.
* Stuco could organize more events across paradigms, a vehicle to send families members thanks for supporting us during separation. A better was to communicate transportation and hotel stays.
* Better communication between the seminary and Best Western. For ones that needed transportation – hotel didn’t have good communication.
* In addition to the IT, could financial services be a part of discussion.
* Clearer on what options were for returning students who have not been on campus before: should we do first year stuff or only returning?
* Classes interfering with prayer – I would have liked to go to prayer once a day.
* Morning and evening prayer for ALL students to participate
* Ensure there are good food options for those with dietary needs.
* At the Sunday evening space to pray and rest and focus.
* An end of the day compline for people taking Gospel in Context course.
* More Bible reading in classes

1. **August Events:** Please indicate the degree to which a particular event helped you in various ways as you continue through seminary

1 Frustrating 4 Helpful

2 Unhelpful 5 Very Helpful

3 Neutral N/A Did not participate

Hospitality **4.56**

Meals **4.33**

Social Events **4.11**

Worship **4.63**

Lecture **4.22**

Academic/Advising Support **4.22**

**Please comment on specifics below:**

Hospitality, including: Welcome Dinner and Coffee in the Staff Lounge daily, Graduation Meeting, etc.

* Coffee in lounge- A++
* Informative
* Welcome dinner was nice. Not much variety for meals.
* Welcome dinner was wonderful and fun to reconnect
* The welcome dinner was great, as was every meal
* The welcome dinner was amazing and felt so welcomed.
* All hospitality was welcoming and warm. I felt at home.
* Loved the welcoming corn boil at Westminster Pres, such a great way to be welcomed by and into the company.
* Very well done.
* It was nice to have the welcome dinner and see classmates before you get started. Grad meeting was helpful and staff lounge was helpful.
* Coffee was inaccessible so 1st didn’t partake. Welcome dinner was 100/100!
* Welcome dinner was very important for newbies and coffee in the lounge – keep it!
* Welcome dinner was carnivore heavy. No idea there was coffee in the staff lounge?
* Good
* I did not attend these items, I cannot comment.
* So wonderful

Worship, including: Sunday Evensong, Mon-Dean’s Installation, Tues-Rev. Dr. Jerry Cannon, Wed-Dr. Schlimm , Thurs-Dr. Burnett, Fri-Baptism Remembrance Rev. Blue, Morning & PM prayer, Tues-Dr. Slemmons, Wed-Prayers for Peace, Thurs-Nancy Diaz, Fri.-Service of Light-Rev. Felderman

* Loved Dr. Duba’s Prayer for peace
* All were worshipful
* Dr. Duba, Nancy Diaz, Rev. Felderman. Nice to see different ways to do services.
* Wonderful
* I don’t think we need it every day. It’s wonderful, but too much – Monday and Friday only.
* Enjoyed all services. New and beautiful service on prayers of peace
* Worship and Morning/evening prayer was really helpful for keeping the community together and focused on the right things.
* Being a part of the Dean’s Installation was amazing!
* Such a gift to worship daily
* Enjoyed the variation – wonderful-spirit let and filling our cups.
* Can’t say enough good about all these fantastic worship sessions.
* I cannot comment enough about the quality of worship from the regular morning and to the beautiful chapel varieties.
* Loved them all. Great way to break up the school day.
* Thought all were very well done. Better than prior years.
* Dr. Longfield and Cannon – outstanding sermons. Prayer for peace really moved me.
* Worship was movie, the Thursday service ws moving.
* Loved AM/PM prayer, and the baptism remembrance.
* And really good – Dr. Duba’s prayers was so touching, Appreciated Dr. Schlimm’s, Slemmons, Revs. Blue and Felderman, Nancy Diaz as student!
* All fine.
* All were relevant and well done! Extra love for the Prayers of Peace.
* Beautiful services – they all feel rushed.
* I absolutely loved all of the services – they were very well thought out.
* Very good!

Social Events, including: Faculty Desserts, Stuco Tuesday at Backpocket Dubuque, Stuco Meeting, etc.

* I went to none of these, after long days, I was ready to depart
* Great time for fellowship. Maybe more fun. Connecting is the top benefits of the residency.
* Good
* Were good. Loved the hospitality of Westminster Presbyterian.
* I only went to faculty desserts, it was nice to have an informal gathering
* It was just the right amount.
* Loved the faculty dessert and backpocket, and we created our own. We could do more!
* Wish someplaces off campus for events would be more accessible.
* Faculty desserts – didn’t attend because timing was not good. Not enough time between end of class and dessert to prepare and eat dinner.
* Backpocket was fun, but would prefer less public. Maybe campus based and accessible?
* I attended faculty dessert, and that was a nice small group gathering.
* Faculty dessert was fun! Stuco meeting was helpful. Sometimes it’s a few too many events and we are tired at the end.
* Faculty desserts – great! Backpocket – fun even for a brief moment! Stuco meeting – good to experience and short is good.
* Faculty desserts is a keeper
* Faculty dessert was really fun. Trivia was great.
* All great events – maybe the Stucco event not at a bar.
* I did not attend due to family circumstances so I cannot comment.
* Dr. Elder’s house was beautiful

Tuesday Woods Lecture

* His service was amazing!
* Loved Dr. Cannon’s message
* An amazing experience
* Incredible. A highlight!
* Wow! So inspiring!!
* Fantastic sermon but missed the workshop. Simply energizing.
* This would’ve been a bit more helpful if its on the second week. Seemed a bit out of place. Also, was unsure if students needed to RSVP or not?
* Really good
* Great!
* Amazing! Rev. Dr. Cannon spoke words we need to hear.
* Jerry was a nice new change!

Meals

* Veggie lasagna was too much
* Great food
* Okay – somedays better than others
* More options
* Need better food overall.
* Delicious
* All of the meals were very good.
* Meals were great
* So delicious!
* Very good!
* Wow!
* A+ what a blessing foodservice is and Westminster Pres.
* Very good.
* Salad should be first on table, not last, to prevent contamination.
* It was nice to have fellowship time to gather and eat.
* Delicious
* 100/100; thank you!
* Better communication on what’s available, a menu ahead of time.
* Good.
* I am very appreciative of having lunch provided and not having to worry about finding food.
* For me – great. For my friends with dietary restrictions it was horrible.
* More dairy free options
* Good!

Academic/Advising Support: Advising meetings, Class Previews, One-on-one with faculty/staff, Tuesday lunch with president & dean, etc

* Being able to eat/converse/meet with fac&staff was amazing
* Very supportive
* Outstanding
* Great.
* The class preview were very helpful, especially in terms of what to expect and posture of learning (Dr. Longfield talking about learning from historical figures).
* Everyone so helpful
* Helpful
* Very valuable
* It was wonderful to be connected to the lunch with the president and dean.
* It went well.
* I think Faculty Advising should be more intentional. Everyone will help or advise if asked but would be nice if faculty was more intentional with checking in on me.
* Class preview was very helpful
* Did not attend meeting, but advisor and I spoke and that was very helpful.
* Class previews could’ve been an afternoon off. Seemed like just reading a syllabus.
* Lunch with President/Dean was very helpful for perspective. Caught people here and there but no real one-on-ones with faculty.
* Great.
* Class preview for church history settled my nerves.
* These meetings were helpful as I am not confident yet how I can complete my M.Div in 5 years! Yikes.

**Other issues or concerns you want to lift up in short sentences?**

* Pastors need audio training
* We also need training on healing
* More information earlier – dates, cost of hotel, flights
* Perhaps More organized integration of the different cohorts (1st, 2nd, 3rd years)
* I was so thankful for the gift of overnight retreat invitation. God’s redemptive mission was beautifully balanced between Mother Susan and Dr. Duba.
* Good job UDTS! Please don’t apologize as we find new places and spaces that are not as accessible.
* Accessibility of Van Vliet
* Emphasizing breaks and consistency and regularity to the professors would be helpful.
* The second year is full of too much. 8-10 hour days for intensive would be enough.
* Having a directory of attendees to share contact info.
* My peers

**Any staff or faculty who were especially helpful?**

* 24 Hour retreat was amazing – we actually had a Sabbath
* Jill Dodds, Dr. Tim Slemmons, Dr. Brad Longfield
* Rev. Samuel, Dr. Duba, Dr. James
* Dr. Slemmons, Dr. James, Dr. Forshey, Dr. Ward, Dr. Elder, so MANY MORE!
* Rev. Blue
* Anyone I spoke to!
* Dr. Forshey was amazing! Very friends, knowledgeable and was open to seeing where a conversation led to.
* Dean McCaw, Rev. Felderman, Rev. Blue, Mtr. Forshey, Dr. Duba
* Lindsey Ward is a miracle worker & Richard Burnett was amazing
* Blue, McCaw, Schlimm
* All were wonderful. Thank you!
* Every single one! Thank you to Jill, Emily and Samuel
* Everyone did a great job!
* Rev. Blue & Rev. Felderman
* I very much enjoyed my classes and my professors. I learned a lot. Enjoyed visiting with them outside of class (lunches, dessert time) to get to see them fact-to-face.
* Everyone has been great.
* Mother Susan, Dr. Duba, Rev. Emily Blue
* Jill Dodds, Dr. Slemmons, Dr. Forshey
* Dr. Slemmons, Dr. Forshey, Rev. Blue, and Jill Dodds
* Rev. Blue, Dr. Duba, Dr. McCaw
* Rev. Blue, Dr. Ward, Dean McCaw and Dr. Duba
* Dr. James. He is very intentional on how to listen and then respond in a helpful, patient and kind way.
* Jill Dodds