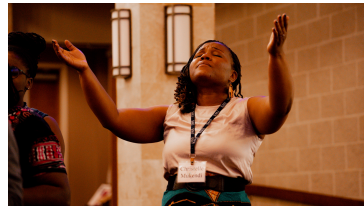


2022 – 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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**STUDENT & ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT**



**THE YEAR IN REVIEW
AND MORE**



The Robert E. Webber

Institute for Worship Studies

Dear Alumni, Students, Faculty, Staff, Trustees and Friends of IWS,

Are you a chicken, or are you a pig? There once was a farmer who was well-loved by the animals he cared for, especially his chicken and his pig. He was so loved that one day the animals wanted to make him a special breakfast. So, the chicken said to the pig, “Say! I have a great idea! Let’s give the farmer a breakfast of eggs and bacon!” The pig was understandably hesitant. He said, “I’m not sure about your level of commitment. You would make a donation, but I would make a sacrifice.” Be a pig for Christ!

What is sacrifice? The word “sacrifice” combines two Latin words (*sacrum* and *facere*) meaning ‘to make holy.’ When we worship sacrificially, we appropriate for ourselves the very holiness of God so we can be sent out into the world to participate in the restoration of the world (make it holy) and win it back to the God of love.

IWS students, faculty, and alumni actively, consciously, and fully intensify their sacrificial participation in the life of the Triune God in numerous ways. Through transforming worship, they become Christ-like self-sacrifices, Christifying the cosmos. The IWS community is truly making a worldwide impact!

I am thankful for God’s continued love and generous provision during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Support for the IWS Fund and the Scholarship Funds was at one of the highest levels in history! Thanks be to God! IWS has continued its global initiatives, with 40% of our current student body holding non-American passports. Thirty-

one new alumni received their degrees and embraced the commission to serve God through renewed worship, bringing our total number of degrees conferred to 744. The impact of IWS is worldwide while remaining rooted in the theological perspectives, relational sensibilities, and educational philosophy of its founder, Bob Webber.

Please take a moment to read in this annual report how IWS students, alumni, faculty, staff, and trustees are making a real difference across the globe. The ongoing fulfillment of our mission is truly a team effort, a team that includes each of you. Many have taken their places in their support of our mission through investments of time, talent, treasure, and prayer, and we are deeply grateful. We are relying on your generosity toward God and your prayers to continue building the foundation we need for a secure future. Your gifts are wisely invested in our students and the transforming mission of our beloved institute.

My wife, Carol, and I would like to invite you to participate with us sacrificially and joyfully in our school’s mission. As Galatians 6:6 states: “One who is taught the Word must share all good things with the one who teaches.” IWS is good ground into which you may sow your seed of spiritual and financial generosity toward God. Together let us all thankfully, joyfully, and generously support the Lord’s work in the critical and Kingdom-building activity of worship renewal through IWS.

Grace and peace to you,
James R. Hart, President



Transforming Christian Worship Since 1999!

From the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Dear IWS Friend:

Greetings in the name of the Lord! I am happy to report that IWS, like so many other organizations, has moved away from the limitations created by the recent pandemic. We are functioning fully on campus, with students, faculty, and staff enjoying the unique, in person ethos of IWS.

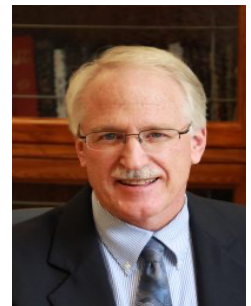
The on-campus experience has always been central to IWS. I was fortunate to participate in this experience from the very beginning, as one of the Alpha class D.W.S. students. The semi-monastic rhythm of sharing meals, worshipping together daily, participating in practicum sessions, and learning in community, made a lasting and formative impression on me. Now, almost 25 years later, I still treasure my time spent on campus and take advantage of any opportunities I have to be a part of campus life in person.

IWS continues to offer not only a distinctive learning environment, but also a special educational focus. This focus is on worship within the Great Christian Tradition, with its deep biblical and historical roots and theological focus. Robert Webber highlighted in his many writings and in his vision for IWS an “ancient-future” approach to worship, looking with one eye back to early Christian practice and with the other eye towards current and emerging cultural practices. This double awareness sets IWS apart from most other graduate programs in worship. It is reflected in the IWS curricula and ethos.

Over the past year, IWS has seen a decrease in enrollment that has created financial pressure on the institution. We are putting extra effort into recruiting and keeping students. We are hopeful that the tide is turning, as enrollment for the January 2024 session appears strong. We covet your prayers in this regard, as well as your help in publicizing the IWS experience among family and friends.

Please pray for our committed and competent faculty and staff, who impact our students so significantly. Please also pray for our students, many of whom travel far distances to attend on campus sessions, leaving behind important responsibilities, including family members. Finally, please consider supporting IWS financially. Such support is especially important at this time of lower enrollment.

Gratefully in Christ,
Eric Bolger
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Spotlight *on* Our Students & Alumni



Dr. Sheri A. Bradley, DWS

“From the first time I set foot on the IWS campus, I felt that I had found my people in a way I never had before as we all possess similar passions, gifts, and callings. The multi-cultural, multi-denominational environment allowed me to work and learn alongside fellow worship students whose backgrounds and traditions were vastly different from my own, which brought me an understanding as well as a great appreciation of those theological and practical differences. The expert professors all served as academic guides and encouraging mentors, as well as helpful guides in spurring my own personal research to move me from a practitioner of worship ministry to an expert in my field who is able to teach and encourage others in the college classroom and the local church.”

Sheri Bradley is a DWS alumna (‘23). She is serving as the worship ministry coach at Chapel Rock while pursuing CPE for chaplaincy in the Indiana University hospital system.



Dr. Dave Pedde, DWS

“No other experiences have combined to affect my current ministry with future worship leaders more profoundly than my two matriculations at IWS.

My studies broadened my biblical, theological, and historical understandings of Christian worship and profoundly affected my own Christian spirituality.

I remain forever grateful for my time at IWS, my ongoing interaction with truly world-class professors who became my friends, the life-long relationships I established while working alongside my globally, ethnically, and denominationally diverse colleagues in my MWS (BETH 2006) and DWS (RHO II 2023) cohorts, and for the ongoing fruit I see in my own life and my undergrad students.”

Dave Pedde holds both the MWS (‘06) and the DWS (‘23). He serves as the Associate Professor of Worship and Music at Northwest University, Redmond, WA.





JoAnna Lee, MWS

“When I think about IWS, I remember the community and the diverse dialogue with professors and students on the discipline of Worship. I am noticing that the content I took from the Masters program is still speaking to me today in practical ways. I am thankful I am also standing confidently on the foundation of proven experience gleaned from the nine month, praxis based internship I completed. I chose IWS over other schools, because I wanted to learn all I could about Biblical Worship, and IWS was the best place to do that! My studies at IWS are helping me to lead courageously in worship renewal through discipling my music team and modeling Cross Cultural and Gospel centered contextualization in music ministry.”

JoAnna Lee is an MWS alumna ('23). She serves as Director of Worship and Music at Boulevard Presbyterian Church in Oak Park Chicago.



Rev. Jesse Mwai, MWS

“Worship leading is my primary gifting and it was a blessing and answer to prayer when I learnt that I could take a postgraduate course in Worship Studies at IWS. I completed my Master of Worship Studies in June 2020 and immediately embarked on the doctoral program (DWS). IWS is an awesome community of Christian ministers drawn from many nations and diverse Christian traditions. It truly represents what heavenly worship around the throne of the Lamb will look like in our eschatological hope. I am very blessed to be part of IWS!”

Jesse Mwai is an MWS alumnus ('20) and a DWS candidate. He is the Senior Pastor at Christ is the Answer Ministries in Nairobi, Kenya.

"The IWS journey has equipped me with a solid biblical approach and has taught me how biblical worship can transform and revive the Christian's spirituality. I highly recommend pastors and church leaders to come and learn what we have learned at IWS. I thank God for what he has taught me via IWS, that he delights in our worship. I am glad to be an IWSer and want to thank my donors for their support so that I could make it through during the pandemic."

Polly Lee is an MWS alumna ('23). She serves at Salem Tai Po Lutheran Church in Hong Kong as a Deacon and Music Division Head.



Polly Lee, MWS

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Thank you for supporting IWS!

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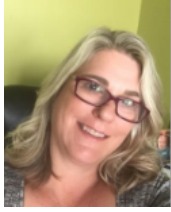
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Bob Webber Quote of the Week

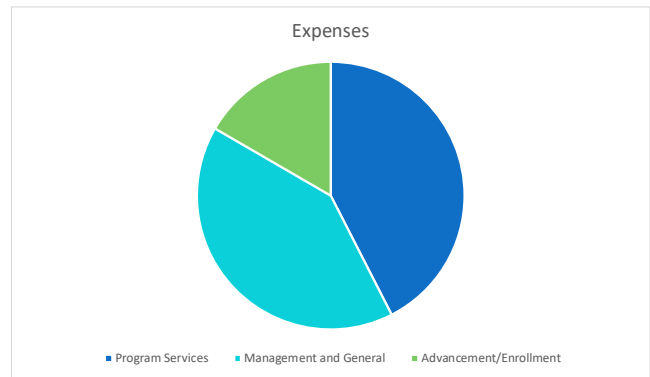
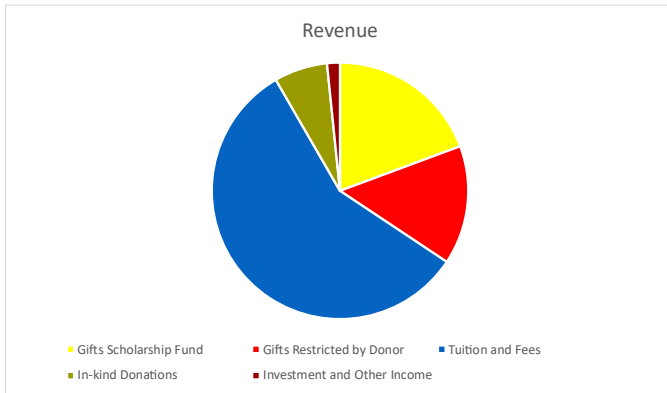


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From the CFO, Christi Matteson



For the year, Charitable Giving receipts totaled \$366,700.00
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How to Support IWS

We cannot say it enough: the ongoing work of forming servant leaders in Christian worship renewal worldwide depends upon generous gifts from our community. The IWS Trustees and PACE members have already committed to over \$85,000 in pledges and gifts to give a solid foundation to our combined annual goal of \$280,000. Please consider how you may participate with us in the renewal of the Church through a financial contribution and click an option below.

DONATE

Donate by **check** (mailed to IWS, 4001 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207), **cash** (in the office only, please), or **credit card or electronic check online** at iws.edu/support/now/ or by calling 800-282-2977.

GIVE MONTHLY

Contribute monthly by **credit card** or **electronic check** at iws.edu/support/now/ or through your own bank's online bill-pay service.

OTHER GIFTS

- matching corporate gifts
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- electronic transfer of funds

PLANNED (LEGACY) GIVING

We encourage the members of our community to employ long-term estate planning to maximize your legacy to your loved ones and to your charitable interests. We also strongly urge you to seriously consider IWS as one of your priority charitable interests.

While the annual support of the IWS community is absolutely crucial to the fulfillment of our sustainable mission, deferred support like Estate Planning can leave a Kingdom legacy with an impact that spans multiple generations. This kind of gift is often the single most significant act of generosity toward God that most of us will ever perform.

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The Year in Review

JULY 2022: IWS is awarded a matching resource grant from the In Trust Center for Theological Schools focused on securing enrollment consultation. Chaplain Dr. Nancy Nethercott recruits while doing training with alumna Dr. Jill Ford at All Nations Christian College in the UK. Jennifer Nicholson is hired as Assessment Coordinator and Librarian! Welcome, Jennifer!

AUGUST 2022: Dr. Sam Horowitz steps down from his position of Director of Technical Services after more than 15 years of service at IWS. Thank you, Sam! You will be missed.

SEPTEMBER 2022: IWS displays at the Getty Sing! Conference in Nashville, TN. IWS alumnus and Recruitment Director Joe Jamerson represents the school along with Administrative Assistant Mira Smetaniuk. IWS cosponsors the Experience Conference in Orlando, FL. President Hart represents the school along with Administrative Assistant Mira Smetaniuk and Director of Sessions Tayo Oloyede.

OCTOBER 2022: IWS displays at the Liturgy Collective in Nashville, TN. IWS Administrative Assistant Mira Smetaniuk represents IWS. Chaplain Nancy Nethercott does recruiting in Japan.

NOVEMBER 2022: IWS alumnus Dr. Larry Ellis dies. RIP, Dr. Ellis.

DECEMBER 2022: IWS hires Dr. Nichole Criss as IWS' first-ever Director of Communications. Welcome, Nichole!

JANUARY 2023: IWS holds its 48th on-campus session welcoming 13 new students. Accounting Assistant Sharon Maszy steps down from service to IWS. Thank you, Sharon! Dr. Ken Rushing is hired as the new Director of Technical Services, and Ms. Lisa Kemp is hired as the new accounting assistant. Welcome, Ken and Lisa!

FEBRUARY 2023: Staff, faculty, alumni, and students from IWS attend the Calvin Symposium on Worship, holding an Alumni gathering during the conference led by Alumni Director Dr. Kent Walters. Dr. Walters also leads alumni webinar with guest Dr. Rory Noland.



MARCH 2023: After 13 years of accredited status, IWS withdraws from membership with the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). IWS expresses our deep appreciation and thankfulness for our 18 years of participation with ABHE. Chaplain Nancy Nethercott does recruiting in Nagaland, India. Way to go, Nancy!

APRIL 2023: IWS bids farewell to Administrative Assistant Mira Smetaniuk as she prepares to graduate from IWS and head back to Ukraine. We appreciate her service to IWS during her year in the US. Dr. Kent Walters leads the second alumni webinar featuring Dr. Dan Wilt. Admissions Director Dr. Juan Lopez retires from his staff position (only to be rehired temporarily in September, 2023). Thank you, Juan, for your excellent service! IWS alumnus Dr. Tom Burns dies. RIP, Dr. Burns. Chaplain Nancy Nethercott does more recruiting in Prishtina, Kosovo.

MAY 2023: Maureen Roe is hired as the new Administrative Assistant. Welcome, Maureen! The second annual #DayofGiving results in another successful fundraising effort for Scholarship funds. Dr. Brian Turnbow is hired as the new Director of Enrollment Management.

JUNE 2023: IWS holds its 49th on-campus session welcoming 15 new students. IWS also held its 22nd Commencement honoring 31 new graduates: 9 MWS, 6 AGCWS, and 16 DWS. Dr. John Lindsell steps down from Board chairmanship to be Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Eric Bolger is the new Chair of the Board. Webber Institute Books General Editor Dr. Bob Myers steps down from the leadership of WIB but remains on the editorial board. Thank you for your excellent service, Bob! Bill Kirkwood becomes the new General Editor. Welcome, Bill! IWS hosts its first post-Covid worship seminar featuring 8 faculty speakers! Attendance was quite high, and the seminar was well-received. Featured were Drs. Amy Davis-Abdallah, Dinelle Frankland, Andy Hill, Alan Rathe, Constance Cherry, Reggie Kidd, Lou Kaloger, and Jim Hart. Administrative Assistant Sandy Dinkins steps down from her many years of service to IWS. Thank you, Sandy!

