



2019 FAQs Re: CST's Sustainable Future

On July 6, 2017, CST President, the Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, announced that Claremont School of Theology is in the early stages of exploring the possibility of embedding within Willamette University, in Salem, Oregon. Below, you will find our expanding list of Frequently Asked Questions provided to update our students, staff, faculty, alumni/ae, donors, and friends as the process evolves. Please check back periodically. Any updates will be shared here as well.

1. What has been decided about the partnership between Willamette University and Claremont School of Theology (CST)?

Throughout the due diligence process, members of both institutions have confirmed the relationship between CST and Willamette to be mutually beneficial and have moved the conversation forward.

- The decision to embed these two institutions is a three-stage process: **MOU, affiliation, embedding**. The MOU has been in place since February 2019.
- The affiliation period began with the signing of the affiliation agreement by the two presidents with the approval of their Boards of Trustees in May 2019.
- The embedding will take place once due diligence (see #3, below) is completed, including accreditation approvals and federal approvals for international enrollments; resolution of all pending legal matters; and approval by the California Attorney General the transfer of CST's assets to Willamette. This may take 2-3 years to complete.

2. Why is CST proceeding with the plan to embed with Willamette University?

CST's leadership has spent a significant amount of time determining a strategy that will set up the school for long term success and **best serve its students and faculty**. During this process, CST was drawn to Willamette because the two institutions share common values and a commitment to high quality education programs.

CST is known for its theological diversity. While rooted in the Methodist tradition, the school is one of only a handful to be truly interfaith in its approach. It offers study in Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and other religious practices/traditions. Like Willamette, CST is made up of students, faculty and staff from a variety of religious, social and cultural backgrounds. More than 40 faiths are represented amongst those studying at the school.

Since 2017, Willamette University and the Claremont School of Theology have been working toward the possibility of CST transitioning from Claremont, California to Willamette's campus in Salem, Oregon, and the presence of mission alignment has been central to the conversation. Both institutions work to foster academic excellence and social engagement; both embrace lived cultural diversity and strive to deepen cultural fluency on every level of their institutions; and both seek to expand the global reach of their



institutions. These goals and values create a strong foundation for collaboration.

Willamette values CST's mission, high-quality degree programs and vibrant faculty. CST believes Willamette's dedication to quality and values-based approach to education makes the university and Salem, Oregon a good home for CST's programs. We believe CST embedding in Willamette will enable growth for both CST and Willamette and will enhance the educational experiences of all CST and Willamette students.

Some aspects of the current CST structure offer opportunities for collaboration or program development. The Clinebell Center, which offers courses in pastoral counseling and counseling services in the community, may help to establish a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology or something similar here, and may offer services on campus and/or in the community.

The Center for Process Studies offers opportunities for programming in sustainability and other areas connected to process theology and in international programming.

The Master of Divinity program may offer possible connections to the MBA programs on campus. Current Willamette Centers (e.g. Asian Studies and Law and Religion) may find interesting partnerships with CST. We anticipate that additional opportunities will emerge.

3. What does a due diligence process entail?

Due diligence is an important process to evaluate whether embedding would be mutually beneficial and successful - strategically, financially and legally. In addition, it is the hope of CST and Willamette to provide opportunities for students, faculty and staff members from both institutions to connect with one another.

4. What is the timeline?

There is no set timeline for the due diligence process - though both Willamette and CST would like to move expeditiously to ensure there is as little disruption in the student experience as possible. Also, should the partnership move forward, both Willamette and CST would like to give as much time as possible to transition CST from California to Oregon.

In August 2019 faculty, staff and students will begin to arrive in Salem. Only Master's level courses will be in residence in 2019-2020, serving approximately 120 students, between the hybrid (online and low-residency) and residential programs.

All CST faculty are still teaching in all the programs, and covering both sites giving all students access to all the programs and faculty as they did when CST was only in Claremont. It is expected that in the transition, some classes will still be taught on the Claremont campus through the spring of 2021. Our last Commencement in Claremont is tentatively scheduled for May 2020.



As these plans solidify, please know incoming students are entering fully aware of this timeline, and current CST students will be well cared for through the transition. We are in close and constant contact with our accreditors and are following the laws set forth by the Department of Education, with protocols in place for all enrolled students to complete the course of study or transition to a mutually agreed course at no disadvantage to the student.

Students currently enrolled will have the opportunity to complete their degree in Southern California by May 2021 or relocate to Willamette.

5. Why Willamette? What will a move to Willamette look like for CST? Will its name change? Will it become a third graduate school?

Willamette is one of a few United Methodist-related universities in the western U.S., which makes it possible for CST to retain both its affiliation as a United Methodist seminary and its reputation as an excellent academic program with a renowned Ph.D. program and library.

Also, partnering with Willamette provides several interesting opportunities to strengthen both institutions, such as expanding academic programs, including dual-degree programs and even joint degree programs with Willamette's current graduate schools (Atkinson Graduate School of Management and the College of Law), as well as coursework for Willamette undergraduates. Imagine combining Christian ethics and political science; small business administration for pastors; sacred music ministry; Hebrew Bible and environmental justice. With so many possibilities opening up for our students, imagine how that will affect and shape the church and other religious institutions.

CST's graduate programs will pair very well with Willamette's existing graduate programs, providing students additional ways to fulfill their callings and to prepare them for ministry in the twenty-first century. We are also thrilled by the additional student services offerings that will be available to our students at Willamette—health services, music ensembles, theatrical productions, lectures, programs, and more.

CST will co-locate and embed within Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. The Micah building on the corner of State and Cottage will be leased for the core offices of CST at Willamette. Hybrid intensive course sessions will be held on the second floor of the Micah; other classes and events will be incorporated on the main Willamette campus.

CST's name will not change. Claremont School of Theology enjoys a world-renowned faculty and a way of doing theological education that is essential to who we are and to who studies at CST. In a world divided by opposing worldviews on religion, race, sexuality and gender, climate change, poverty, and privilege, CST prepares graduates to become agents of transformation and healing in churches, mosques, temples, local communities, schools, non-profit institutions, and the world at large. That will not change.

CST will become a third graduate school at Willamette when the embedding is complete – with a dean, a faculty, staff, and resources to support our operations. During the period of affiliation, prior to embedding, CST will remain a free-standing graduate professional school, just as it is today. CST's relocation to Salem will enable the two schools to begin exploring possibilities for collaboration, anticipating the time when full embedding will integrate the schools and their programs more fully. Our



degree programs will be offered in a similar manner to the College of Law and the Atkinson Graduate School of Management. In addition, CST will bring its own independent faculty and staff as well as financial resources (including its endowment) to support its operations and students, contribute to central overhead costs, and assist with integrating its programs into Willamette University. Financially, we anticipate with the reduced administrative and facilities costs associated with embedding, we will grow our endowment, operate with a balanced budget (for the first time in decades), and not merely survive, but thrive.

Almost all of our faculty have committed to serving CST in the transition and will teach bi-locally through the teach-out. Their expertise will strengthen Willamette's religious studies offering, while also bringing a diversity of theological scholars into the Northwest. Willamette has expressed their enthusiasm about the presence of our faculty and graduate students in the Salem community, noting how we will deepen the programs, research, and work of faculty and students in many different fields, including religious studies, history, environmental science, politics, languages, management, and law.

6. Who is going to Willamette?

All CST faculty are still teaching in all the programs, and covering both sites giving all students access to all the programs and faculty as they did when CST was only in Claremont.

These faculty members will lead the way to Willamette:

Marvin A. Sweeney, Professor of Hebrew Bible

<https://cst.edu/academics/faculty/marvin-a-sweeney/>

Duane Bidwell, Professor of Practical Theology, Spiritual Care, and Counseling

<https://cst.edu/academics/faculty/duane-bidwell/>

Wm. Andrew Schwartz, Executive Director of the Center for Process Studies will be in Salem full time.

<https://cst.edu/new-book-from-cps-director/>

These faculty members will also be teaching in Salem in hybrid or short course programs:

Kathleen Black

<https://cst.edu/academics/faculty/kathleen-m-black>

Philip Clayton

<https://cst.edu/academics/faculty/philip-clayton>

Andrew Dreitcer

<https://cst.edu/academics/faculty/andrew-dreitcer>

Lincoln E Galloway

<https://cst.edu/academics/faculty/lincoln-e-galloway>

Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook

<https://cst.edu/academics/faculty/sheryl-a-kujawa-holbrook>

Greg Riley

<https://cst.edu/academics/faculty/gregory-j-riley>

Frank Rogers, Jr.

<https://cst.edu/academics/faculty/frank-rogers-jr>

Najeeba Syeed

<https://cst.edu/academics/faculty/najeeba-syeed-miller>

Additionally, **President Kuan, Dean Kujawa-Holbrook, and Associate Dean Belva Brown Jordan** will be here portions of the year; some student life, admissions and advancement staff will also be on campus for portions of the year.



7. What about CST's partnerships with The Academy for Jewish Religion, Bayan Claremont, The Episcopal School (Bloy House), The Coptic Orthodox Theological School, Disciples of Christ, University of the West, etc.?

CST will maintain its diversity and mission which includes many ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. All our partner organizations have been brought into these discussions and will make their own decisions about our continued relationship. We are thrilled to share that our oldest partner, the Disciples Seminary Foundation, will move to Willamette with us—while still retaining a presence in Claremont. We are looking forward to building new ecumenical and interreligious partnerships in the Pacific Northwest.

8. What about CST's Centers, such as the Center for Process Studies, The Clinebell Institute, and the Center for Engaged Compassion, etc.?

CST's Centers are an important part of our identity and will continue to shape and inform our students. All academic centers have been brought into these discussions and are doing their own due diligence about how to move to Salem.

9. What happens to my planned gift and endowed scholarship funds?

Donations to CST will remain with CST. As always, contributions to CST are used in accordance with the donor's intent to provide high quality theological education to fulfill the mission of CST. As a donor, you may direct your contributions to any special funds, scholarships, and programs. Our office of advancement is available to help you designate your gifts.

10. What can I do to help?

There are three specific ways you can help:

- (1) Stay in touch. Focus on our good news and pray for more;
- (2) Join our biannual scholarship appeals at <https://cst.edu/giving>. Any monies you give will go directly toward supporting our incoming scholars;
- (3) Sign up to be a CST Ambassador. We will need your assistance in the coming months to help share our new vision and answer questions. Please contact Les Lungren, Director of Alumni/ae Relations and Annual Giving, at 909-447-2545, llungren@CST.edu for details.