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Tom Tropp, Chief Ethics Officer, Gallagher
Kendall Mills, Head of Ethics and Compliance Americas, JLL
Mike Woodruff, Senior Pastor, Christ Church
Ben Dockery, Executive Director, Lakelight Institute
Harold Smith, Retired CEO and President, Christianity Today

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CA
GO

MM
XX
II



Calling is contextual. Calling is constant.

Consider this: You are not called to lead society or the church during the collapse of the Roman Empire. Instead, St. Augustine and others were called to lead as the Visigoths sacked and plundered Rome. Similarly, you are not called to lead during the time of the Reformation. Martin Luther and others were called to that time and place. Sometimes, it seems more clear to see what we are not called to do than what we are called to do. Calling is contextual.

At the same time, calling is constant. Andy Crouch suggest that Christians should think of vocation or “calling” as including three aspects: 1) Universal calling, or our responsibility shared with all humans to bear the image of God through work and family; 2) Christian calling, or a shared stewardship with the church to restore God’s image through gospel living; 3) Contingent calling, or using your individual gifts and resources at a given time and place. In this view, the first two aspects of calling display the constant nature of God’s call.

Lakelight Institute endeavors to discover timeless wisdom (constant) for modern life (contextual). Lakelight exists to help you apply your contingent calling, in Crouch’s terms, in light of the universal and Christian callings to bear and restore God’s image. It takes a great deal of wisdom to do this in our modern age.

Our modern instincts have been formed to look for wisdom with more information or data. Our training pushes us to research and innovation. These are not bad instincts, but they don’t always lead us to wisdom.

Wisdom begins with the recognition and respect for who God is. God made the world and wired it. He sets the limits and provides the proper motivations. God speaks, we listen. He calls, we respond. Lakelight provides opportunities to develop wisdom through online resources, talks, classes, a fellows program and immersive travel experiences. Each is designed to further God’s call on your life.

Our world desperately needs Christian wisdom today. We pray you would dive deep into God’s wisdom and apply it to your place of work, home, and play.

This annual report details the equipping efforts of our inaugural year. Thank you for your interest and support of our work.

All Grace,



Executive Director
Lakelight Institute

Inaugural Year

16

Fellows

2,500 hours in class and study

119

Class Participants

1,100 hours in class

1410

Attendance at Talks

in-person and online

6

Board Members

12

Congregational Leadership Team

31

Israel Pilgrimage

25

Beaver Creek, CO Trip

1

501C3 Filing

10,000+

Website Visits

200+

Newsletter Reach

Faith
and Work
Integration.
Personal
and Cultural
Formation.
Biblical and
Theological
Imagination.

Talks and Classes

Belong: Lakelight courses are for everyone who seeks to know more about their faith. Each class is intentionally designed for accessibility. Contribute: Learning doesn't happen when we passively consume, but when we actively participate. That's why every Lakelight class session invites questions and conversation with your peers. Transform: The ultimate goal is wisdom — applied knowledge. Lakelight classes aspire not merely to fill minds, but to change lives.

VINCE BACOTE

Faith & Politics

PETER WILLIAMS

Can We Trust the Gospels

DANA HARRIS

The Formation of the Biblical Canon

D.A. CARSON

Biblical Authority

VINCE BACOTE

Faith & Politics

TAYLOR WORLEY

Spiritual Formation & The Arts

DANA HARRIS

New Testament

MICHELLE KNIGHT

Old Testament



Fellows

Our rapidly changing world implicates Christians to think more, not less. We must dig deeper, not retain a shallow understanding of faith or culture. The fellows program is modeled after Gotham Fellowship, which started at Tim Keller's church in NYC over a decade ago and is now offered in a dozen cities across the country.

The Fellows program is a 9-month intensive learning community designed to deepen your understanding of God's redemptive activity in our work, culture, and relationships. It includes weekly readings, meeting, and two retreats. The fellows program aims to equip each participant with tools for integrating their faith with their whole life, especially their work (the place we spend the most time).

We had sixteen fellows this past year and applications are open through July for next year's cohort.



TIMELESS
WISDOM
FOR
MODERN
LIFE



Hear from Participants

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CA | XX
GO | II



“It was a wonderful class, great interactions. I liked that I was pushed to see Scripture, politics, and current events through many lenses. The biblical and traditional perspectives effect how we read and react to politics and events.”

“There was so much new insight in the class. There were things I’ve never heard before and it was very exciting to be in a learning community.”

“The professor has an amazing depth of knowledge about the Bible in general and the New Testament in particular. She was a very understandable speaker with a good mix of content but not too academic. The class was very approachable.”

“I loved using visual meditation prompts each week. The professors observations were fascinating. I especially loved his commentaries on conceptual works of art and the Christian faith.”

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter.

We are committed to providing valuable resources, updates on initiatives, and opportunities for you to participate.

lakelightinstitute.com/subscribe



Good Work SUMMIT

Research suggests you will spend 90,000 hours working. And that only includes paid work of an average employee. If Annie Dillard is right that “how we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives,” then we want to make our lives count. We want to do good work.

Good Work Summit will be a learning experience that uncovers modern work realities by examining our cultural moment, the calling to work, and highlighting good work done by organizational leaders. The Christian tradition contains abundant resources for thinking through our modern complexities. You will hear from leading thinkers in the field and join discussions with like-minded colleagues. Participation is limited.

Saturday, October 14, 2023

10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Christ Church Lake Forest

100 N WAUKEGAN RD

LAKE FOREST, IL

Register Today

lakelightinstitute.com/goodwork



Investor Letter

Thank you for your interest in Lakelight Institute, where we are working to counter the confusion of our modern moment with timeless wisdom.

I hope this report – which chronicles some of the classes, research projects and civil discussions that made up our first year – encourages you. I also hope that our vision leads you to want to get involved.

Christ Church provided the funding to establish Lakelight, and will continue to contribute in the future, but we need to identify other investors. We hope you'll consider joining us in our efforts to celebrate wisdom, cultivate virtue and advance civility.

May God bless your service and your work. Let us know how we can help.

Mike Woodruff
Lakelight Institute Board Chair

INVEST IN WISDOM

¹³ Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, ¹⁴ for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. ¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels. PROVERBS 3:13-15



Roger and Marion Christoph	Lance Mitchell
Nathan and Maureen Clayton	Scott and Rhian Morcott
Mike and Karen Conley	Mark and Susan Neaman
Monte and Jacqui Dillow	Susan and Bob Nomenson
Julie and Ben Dockery	Bill and Marylynn Palmer
Mark and Debbie Dorris	Andrea Smith
Joan and Mike Garner	Harold and Judy Smith
Scott and Jennifer Gifford	Danny and Diane Sobba
Stephanie Hayes	Tom and Maripat Tropp
Judy and FL Kirby	Jeff and Cami Vandixhorn
Paul and Ruth LeVan	Mike and Lisa Walsh
Leslie and John McClellan	Mike and Sheri Woodruff
Kendall Mills	Ed Zeitler

lakesightinstitute.com/donate

Next Year Events

Fall Lakelight Talks



COLLIN HANSEN

Tim Keller Behind the Scenes

August 28



MIKE WOODRUFF

News Rules

October 29

Classes



KEVIN VANHOOZER

Doctrine of God

Starts August 24



HANNAH STOLZE

Wisdom-Based Business

Starts October 17



MIKE WOODRUFF

C.S. Lewis

Starts January



TOM TROPP

Business Ethics

Starts February

Subscribe to the *Press On* podcast

Our current culture seems more interested in the last two minutes than the last two thousand years. This is unfortunate. It's also avoidable. Join Mike Woodruff each week as he breaks down some of the most significant people, events, and ideas in church history. Gain insight. Avoid mistakes. Take ground. Mike Woodruff is a pastor at Christ Church, a multisite ministry with four campuses in the north suburbs of Chicago. Learn more about Christ Church at christchurchil.org

buzzsprout.com/1345549



TIMELESS WISDOM  FOR MODERN LIFE

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