



Cornerstone
UNIVERSITY®
BUILD A LIFE THAT MATTERS

Grand Rapids, Michigan

ABOUT CORNERSTONE



OUR IDENTITY: WHO WE ARE: Cornerstone is a Christ-centered university with a passion for global influence through the transforming power of the gospel.

OUR MISSION: WHY WE EXIST: We exist to empower men and women to excel as influencers in our world for Christ by offering a student-focused learning community where Jesus Christ is central.

OUR VISION: WHAT WE ASPIRE TO: We aspire to create a thriving community of fully devoted followers of Jesus in a spiritually contagious, academically excellent, richly resourced and culturally diverse learning environment that attracts outstanding students, faculty and staff who influence our world for Christ, his church and his kingdom.

HISTORY

Cornerstone University, an evangelical Christian university, exists to empower men and women to excel as influencers in our world for Christ by offering a student-focused learning community where Jesus Christ is central. As a multi-denominational school, Cornerstone University offers traditional undergraduate programs, as well as adult undergraduate and graduate programs through the Professional & Graduate Studies division (PGS), Grand Rapids Theological Seminary (GRTS), and the Asia Biblical Theological Seminary (ABTS). The school also produces Cornerstone University Radio.

Founded in 1941 as the Baptist Bible Institute, the school offered evening classes twice a week in the educational wing of Wealthy Street Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, Mich. Over the years, the school continued to flourish, eventually developing into a four-year Bible college and seminary.

Under the visionary leadership of Dr. W. Wilbert Welch, the school relocated to its current 132-acre campus in 1964. That same year, the college became a member of the American Association of Bible Colleges. In 1972, the school was approved by the State of Michigan as a degree-granting college of arts and sciences, and, five years later, the Higher Learning Commission granted accreditation in 1977.

In 1993, Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music was joined to the institution for the preservation of its rich heritage and academic records. Also that year, the school launched the Adult and Continuing Education (ACE) program (now known as Professional & Graduate Studies) to serve the adult populations of Michigan. The following year, the name of the institution changed from Grand Rapids Baptist College and Seminary to Cornerstone College and Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary.

In 1999, the institution was renamed Cornerstone University, and in 2003 the name of the seminary was changed to Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

Today, the university continues to grow and provide a Christ-centered education under the direction of its 11th president, Dr. Joseph M. Stowell. Cornerstone University enrolls more than 3,000 students on an annual basis and holds memberships with the following organizations:

- Higher Learning Commission (since 1977)
- Association of Theological Schools (since 2002)
- National Association of Schools and Music (since 2001)
- Council on Social Work Education (since 2004)
- Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
- Council of Independent Colleges
- National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
- Michigan Independent Colleges and Universities
- Michigan Department of Education

BUILD A LIFE THAT MATTERS

At Cornerstone University we believe that you are a life that matters. Our goal is to help you build on the foundation you have in Christ so that you can reach your highest potential. The following values are embedded throughout our policies, programs and community:

1. **Jesus Matters** – *Cornerstone University values a spiritually contagious environment.* As followers of Jesus, our staff, faculty and students are committed to creating an environment where students can thrive in their personal relationship with God. This is the foundation we believe matters most.
2. **Academics Matter** – *Cornerstone University values academic excellence in its programs and activities.* We offer a student-focused learning community that values excellence in education. Our outstanding students, faculty and staff are equipped to excel in their fields of study and be influencers for Christ in a variety of vocations.
3. **Resources Matter** – *Cornerstone University values an environment that is richly resourced.* We are committed to providing an education and campus rich in resources both for our students, staff and faculty and for the West Michigan and global communities we influence.
4. **Community Matters** – *Cornerstone University values cultural diversity in our environment, activities and programs.* We seek to provide cultural opportunities, a diverse community and cultural awareness in all of our programs to instill in our students a passion for global influence and cultural engagement.

THE CORNERSTONE CONFESSION

The Cornerstone Confession is the foundational doctrinal statement of Cornerstone University, reaffirmed annually by Cornerstone trustees, faculty, and staff. The Confession expresses our commitment to the key teachings of Scriptures as interpreted through the ecumenical creeds of the early church, the chief insights of the Reformation, and evangelical Christianity.

We believe in one sovereign, omnipotent, and fully omniscient God who eternally exists in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who in love and for his glory created all things out of nothing and pronounced them good.

We believe that God has revealed himself in the sixty-six canonical books of Scripture, which are verbally inspired, truth without error, and serve as our final authority in faith and life. They lead us to Jesus Christ, who shows us the Father, and rightly interpreted, they enable us to understand God's revelation in humanity, nature, and history.

We believe that God directly created Adam and Eve, the historical parents of the human race, distinct from the rest of creation in their bearing of God's image and their stewardship over creation. Their union as man and woman models God's design for marriage and perpetually stands as God's loving and righteous will for all sexual intimacy.

We believe that our first parents forfeited their original righteousness when they succumbed to Satan's temptation and rebelled against God's revealed will. As a result, every human is born in sin, leaving us totally depraved, alienated from God, and destined to spiritual and physical death. As such, our sinful ways have corrupted God's creation, resulting in discord to society and nature.

We believe that God's plan to redeem fallen humanity and renew creation flows through his promises to the Jewish people. God's promises to Abraham and David are fulfilled in Jesus, the mediator of the New Covenant.

We believe that the Son of God, while fully divine, became fully human through the virgin birth to save the world from sin. Living a sinless life in perfect obedience to His Father, Jesus proclaimed God's reign in word and deed. In his mercy he atoned for our sins by dying in our place. Having satisfied the just wrath of God on our behalf, he rose bodily and triumphantly over sin, death, and Satan. He then ascended to heaven, sent his Spirit to lead and empower his church, and is seated at the Father's right hand where he reigns and intercedes for His people.

We believe that the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost to establish the church; that he uses the Word of God to give new life to those who repent of their sin and believe in Christ; and that all who by faith alone receive Christ's finished work are by God's grace united with Christ, justified by his shed blood, adopted into the family of God, forgiven of all their sin, indwelt and gifted by the Spirit, and added to the church.

We believe that the one, holy, and universal church is the body and bride of Christ. The church gathers in local assemblies to worship God and celebrate the gospel through the preaching of the Word, baptism, the Lord's Supper, prayer, and fellowship. It disperses to proclaim the gospel to a sinful world which must hear the good news of Jesus Christ in order to be saved. The church makes disciples of Jesus who, through persevering faith, embody the kingdom values of righteousness, peace, and joy. By loving God, serving others, and caring for creation, they anticipate the redemption of all things at Christ's return.

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will personally and gloriously return to deliver this world from Satan's rule and bring his reign to its ultimate fruition. Jesus will raise the dead to stand with the living before his judgment throne where he will determine the final state of humanity. The lost will experience everlasting conscious separation from God as the just punishment for their sin, and the redeemed will be welcomed into the unhindered joy of everlasting fellowship with him.

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Joseph Stowell, Th.M., D.D., *President*

John VerBerkmoes, Ph.D., *Executive Vice President for Academics*

Shawn Newhouse, D.B.A., *Vice President for Traditional Undergraduate Academics*

Peter Osborn, Ph.D., *Vice President for Adult Learning*

Marc Fowler, M.B.A., *Executive Vice President & Chief Operations Officer*

Dee Mooney, D.Ed.Min., *Vice President & Chief Financial Officer*

Gerald Longjohn, Ed.D., *Vice President for Student Development*

Bob Sack, M.B.A., *Vice President for University Advancement*

Lisa Link, M.S., *Executive Director of Enrollment*

Chris Lemke, B.A., *Executive Director of Cornerstone University Radio*

Emilie Azkoul, M.B.A., *Director of Human Resources*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is composed of members who set broad policies that govern the institution.

Dr. Carole Bos, Chair

*Senior Partner, Bos & Glazier, P.L.C.
Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Steve Cochlan, Treasurer

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The Cochlan Group, Inc./Bank Consulting Group, Inc.
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Dr. Joseph Stowell

*President, Cornerstone University
Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Dr. Kristy R. Taylor

*Business Consultant/The Business Doctor
Holland, Mich.*

Daniel R. Wielhouwer

*President/CEO, Club & Community Corporation
Boca Raton, Fla.*

CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY EMERITI FACULTY

Retired faculty members who have given particularly meritorious service to Cornerstone University are recognized by the “emeritus” designation. This status is neither automatic nor institutionally obligatory and, as such, is one of the university’s highest academic honors, granted only by the university’s Board of Trustees.

Emeritus status is based on consideration of the following factors:

- Recognition for meritorious teaching excellence and exemplary integration of a Christian worldview with one’s discipline and development of students’ leadership skills
- Christian impact and reputation
- Contribution to the development of students
- Contribution to the discipline and profession, particularly scholarship
- Rank of professor or associate professor
- A minimum of 10 years of service at the institution

Abuhl, Ralph (1963 to 1996), Emeritus Professor of Psychology and Social Work; B.A. (1960), Grace College; M.A. (1962), Wheaton College; M.A. (1967), Ph.D. (1978), Michigan State University; M.S.W. (1990), Grand Valley State University

Baker, Gloria (1973 to 2004), Emeritas Associate Professor of Kinesiology; B.S. (1960), Wheaton College; B.R.E. (1976), Grand Rapids Baptist College; M.A. (1965), Michigan State University; Ed.S. (1985), Central Michigan University

Bos, Lawrence (1970-2016), Emeritus Professor of Business; B.A. (1970), Michigan State University; M.B.A. (1974), Michigan State University

Brew, William (1973 to 2006), Emeritus Associate Professor of Bible; B.A. (1959), Bryan College; M.A. (1963), Dallas Theological Seminary

Cole, Dwayne (1978 to 2005), Emeritus Professor of History; B.A. (1961), Northwestern College; M.A. (1964), University of Minnesota; Ph.D. (1973), St. Louis University

Fabisch, Judith (1983-2010), Emeritas Professor of English ; B.A. (1977), Cornerstone University; M.A. (1984) Western Michigan University; Ph.D. (1991) Michigan State University.

Galloway, Orpha (1977 to 2001), Emeritas Professor of Music; B.F.A. (1954); M.M. (1954), University of South Dakota; D.M.A. (1986), Michigan State University

Good, Gregory (1975 to 2006), Emeritus Associate Professor of Music; B.Mus. (1970), Eastman School of Music; M.M. (1972), Eastman School of Music

Mayers, Ronald (1969 to 2007), Emeritus Professor of Religion; Th.B. (1964), Baptist Bible Seminary; B.A. (1965), State University of New York; M.A. (1967), Syracuse University; Ph.D. (1972), Syracuse University; Th.M. (1973), Western Theological Seminary

Stewart, Richard (1969 to 2007), Emeritus Professor of Music; B.Mus. (1965), Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music; M.M. (1967), Union Theological Seminary; Ph.D. (1985), Michigan State University

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

1. SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE

Cornerstone students will demonstrate knowledge of and proficiency in the terminology, theories, concepts, practices, and skills specific to their field of study.

2. APPLIED KNOWLEDGE AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Cornerstone students will exhibit competency in applying their knowledge to address real-life problems through both individual and group effort.

3. INTELLECTUAL SKILLS

Cornerstone students will demonstrate their ability to integrate both traditional and non-traditional cognitive skills, including analytical inquiry, information literacy, quantitative fluency, and communicative fluency.

4. CIVIC & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Cornerstone students will demonstrate intercultural competence in addressing civic, social, environmental and economic issues.

5. BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW INTEGRATION

Cornerstone students will be able to articulate a Christ-centered worldview and its personal, professional, and communal embodiment through Christian virtues.