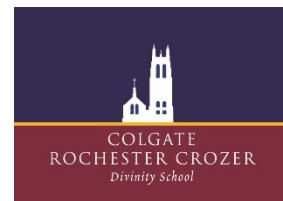


# *From the Desk of* **Dr. Angela D. Sims**

**President**



Welcome to Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School's bicentennial year where excitement is in the air! I began my tenure as President July 1st and continue to familiarize myself with the school's rich history and legacy that informs our mission to "prepare women and men for ministry in the local church and beyond that is learned, pastoral and prophetic." As I walked the halls of our former campus, I gave thanks for the myriad ways in which the school has "equipped leaders for transforming ministry that speaks truth to power and stands among "the least of these"." When I donned a hardhat to tour our current campus during the final construction phase, I celebrated the fact that CRCDS' history and legacy is not restricted to a specific place. While we have a continuing relationship with the American Baptist Church, our mission is clear that we are "an ecumenical Christian community of teaching, learning and worship." Each step that I have taken in these sacred spaces of learning offered me glimpses of the not yet but possible as I honor the past, acknowledge the present, and position CRCDS to thrive as a center of learning.

What CRCDS has been is a mirror to what CRCDS is yet to become. The 2019-2020 academic year presents CRCDS a wonderful invitation to envision theological education afresh. I take seriously the words of the prophet Micah "to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with the divine". This prophetic mandate, along with this year's theme, "Living Our Mission", will serve as a guide as together, I, faculty, staff, students, trustees, alumni/ae, and supporters of the school renew our commitment to honor CRCDS' allegiance to peace and justice. It is a commitment that will continue to be reflected in our educational programs and collaborations, co-curricular offerings, church and community partnerships, and engagement with donors.

Change abounds at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School! Our campus location offers opportunities to reimagine living laboratories and experiential learning; use of technology to build community while simultaneously expanding CRCDS' presence; elimination of deferred maintenance that, with time, will allow us to gradually increase our investment in students as well as provide increased professional development opportunities for faculty and staff. Imagine with me how a focus on specific social issues (affordable housing, educational inequities, food insecurity, healthcare, immigration, etc.) with student cohorts immersed in specific communities in the greater Rochester area might inform existing and future curricular emphases as students gain practical experience in understanding how to develop a theological response to contemporary situations. How might this educational approach inform understandings about what ministry is or is not? In what way might community based educational cohorts inform the manner in which the Bible is viewed as an authoritative source in the life of a Christian? What concerns might this integrated learning design raise in regards to faith and politics?

As I read accounts of human atrocities that are occurring in the United States, these are not hypothetical questions. For such a time as now, I am grateful CRCDS has a foundation upon which to build. If you are considering seminary, I hope you will come and study with us. If you are a current or former student, will you encourage others to come and study with us? As president, I invite your prayers, well wishes, and presence on campus as we purpose individually and collectively to live fully into CRCDS' mission.