



Dear Fuller Alumni and Friends,

In my recent letter to you I wrote about the whirlwind of change in higher education, and the ways in which Fuller has been providing theological study in an era of profound disruption. At a time when many seminaries are closing their doors, I wanted to expand on my conviction that the spiritual formation our scholarship cultivates—in classic as well as innovative forms—is needed now more than ever. Fuller is capable of designing the path ahead; in fact, we are uniquely qualified to craft new learning technologies to expand our traditional degrees without compromising our mission. Charles Fuller was an internationally known radio evangelist who started a seminary; since then, from the launch of *FULLER* studio, to innovative forms of online education, to the new Fuller Leadership Platform—leveraging technology to deliver the work of world-class faculty continues to be in our core DNA.

I've asked several people with a deep investment in Fuller—an alumna, a scholar, a businessman, and a trustee—to add their voices to this letter. As you read, try to imagine a legacy of more than 43,000 alumni around the world whose lives have been shaped by Fuller over the last 70 years and the host of others who have benefitted from their work.

“The graduate theological education I received at Fuller was absolutely life-changing. It prepared me for ministry as a speaker, author, thought leader, and professor of Reconciliation Studies. I am confident that Fuller will continue to prepare men and women from every tribe and nation to address the complex issues facing our world.”

—Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil

Associate Professor and Director of Reconciliation Studies, Seattle Pacific University

The value of a Fuller education far exceeds its price. Students past and present, from all three of our schools, confirm that Fuller has provided education and formation for lives of leadership and action that matter in the world. Whether we are educating for classic Christian ministries or providing formation for graduates serving outside the church, we undergird these callings with traditional degrees we have offered for decades.

“When I was invited to come to California to join the Fuller faculty, I knew that it was a body of unequalled evangelical scholarship with a mission to shape ministers and missionaries and theologians for the 21st century. I didn't realize how important the work is that Fuller also does in resourcing people to be therapists or musicians or movie-makers who are not merely Christian on Sundays, but who want their Monday to Saturday vocations to be shaped by the Scriptures. I am thrilled to be engaged in this important work.”

—John Goldingay, PhD

David Allan Hubbard Professor of Old Testament Emeritus

In the coming year, the new Fuller Leadership Platform will be available to a much wider array

of learners seeking personal, academic, professional, and spiritual formation. Since 2016 *FULLER* studio has been delivering our scholarly resources to a wider audience yet—millions of viewers whose primary interest is an enriched spiritual life.

“As CEO of one of the great high-tech innovative companies, I live daily in the need to innovate or die. Fuller has constantly sought to bring an innovative spirit and deep theological scholarship as it equips influencers of all kinds. Fuller has always known how to adapt to shifting needs without losing its biblical grounding—shaping the kinds of courageous, innovative, and faithful evangelical leaders we’re going to need more than ever.”

—Pat Gelsinger
CEO of VMware

A deeply formed theological life is no less crucial today than it was when Charles Fuller and the other founders established the seminary in Pasadena decades ago. Fuller is positioned to define and lead a paradigm shift in theological study that matches boldly the changing needs of the world, but we must reinvent ourselves in order to do it.

Such a reinvention also allows us to address institutional weaknesses. As one student put it recently, “it’s amazing what a whirlwind picks up and exposes.” Grateful as I am for this letter’s glowing endorsements, I must also acknowledge critiques of insufficient financial rigor, broken promises, implicit biases, and systemic injustices. Addressing these challenges must be part of the way forward. We will always live somewhere between the concrete and the aspirational, but this season of tumult gives us a continuing chance to be bold in crafting a future where the theology we study is fully embodied in our life together.

“As I travel and relate to leaders throughout North America and the majority world, my conviction has only strengthened regarding Fuller Seminary—it truly is one of the world’s premier institutions in developing leaders for the church. Fuller not only forms students with the truths, values, and character of Christ, but it embodies these things as an institution. I am excited about Fuller’s future, as it continually innovates to launch future generations of leaders and effective Christlike witnesses in a fast-changing and increasingly globalized world.”

—Tom Lin
President/CEO, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Fuller trustee and alumnus

Our trustees have been weighing both the disruptive whirlwind and our call to action with special intensity over the last year. In meetings, town halls, countless private conversations, faculty and staff meetings—not to mention whole seasons of prayer and fasting as a community—we have been listening deeply to students, alumni, faculty, donors, concerned leaders, advisors, and friends of Fuller. We are united in seeking God’s wisdom at this very important intersection. I promise to write again shortly after the next trustee meetings, which are taking place May 20–21, so you will hear as soon as possible the next steps we plan to take for Fuller’s future. In the meantime, please join us in prayer for wisdom and God’s leading. I am thankful for you and anticipating God’s faithfulness together,

Mark Labberton, President

* please visit www.fuller.edu/future for updates