# FY18 DONOR ROLL

We know that at the heart of your support is a love for CTS and a belief in the Leaders for the Next CTS educates every year.



Friends,

You may have seen our recent marketing pieces with the headline: The world needs more people like CTS people. As a newcomer to CTS last year, I had a chance to learn first-hand about CTS people as I met many of you - and you have forever transformed me. CTS people are exceptional people of faith, intelligence, kindness, and grace, who challenge the status quo and have the courage to confront injustice.

Yes. The world needs more CTS people. Today, we are challenged with anti-intellectualism, racism, bigotry, nationalism-challenges that many of us thought were dying, but seem to be increasing with new vigor as some make desperate attempts to hold on to power in our rapidly changing society, trampling on the less fortunate in their way. Our response to those challenges? The CTS community response is a bold and courageous one, rooted in faith.

You, the generous donors listed in the following pages, understand the importance of our shared response to today's challenges. You continue to respond by funding our mission to create bold Leaders for the Next. Thank you. As we face the challenges of 2018 and beyond, let's lead the way. Let the CTS community be transformed by the renewal of our minds and inspire others to join us.

As you think about the legacy you want to create and what you want to stand for in the world, we invite you to let us help you make that happen. Joyful philanthropy is giving that transforms both the donor and the recipient. It's a privilege to help facilitate. There is nothing better than watching as a donor meets an amazing student recipient of their generosity, and comes to the realization that their giving is transformative in the lives of others. Yet the number one reason admitted students do not enroll at CTS, is because they receive greater scholarship packages elsewhere. That is a problem we can solve together with increased scholarship giving.

On behalf of my Advancement Office colleagues featured below, we want to hear from you, to partner with you, to help you respond to a hurting world. Together, let's prepare even more CTS people to be Leaders for the Next!

Lisa Notter, CFRE

Vice President for Advancement

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(cont.)

# **CHARING WEI-JEN CHEN**

(PhD Student, STM '16)



Second year PhD student, Charing Wei-Jen Chen, always knew he would pursue something different. Where he saw marginalized communities pushed aside and left out in the society around him, he also saw three mentors and CTS graduates in Taiwan pushing him to explore intersectionality. Encouragement from CTS peers and faculty to dive deeply into different texts leads him toward empowerment and bridge-building in his communities in Chicago and in Taiwan. Chen says,

"Your scholarship gifts made an enormous difference to those who came to CTS before me, and now to me as I pursue expansive ministry for leadership in marginalized communities."

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# **ERICA WEATHERS**

(MDiv Student)



Erica Weathers explores faith through liturgical dance! CTS offers opportunities for her to explore and create interactive worship experiences for all people. And with a mixture of online and in-person courses, Erica is able to be a student, an ordained deacon in her home church, and most importantly a loving wife and mother of two very athletic children. Jonah and Sayanah.

"I chose CTS because I wanted to get out of the box of my traditional A.M.E.C. I knew that becoming a chaplain would require interfaith engagement and CTS offers that and more!"

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- Becky J. Beckwith and Robert L. Beckwith



(MDiv Student)



Raised in a Filipino immigrant community, Joey Rodil came to seminary seeking a deeper personal understanding of faith and theology. He chose CTS because of the rich racial and theological diversity, as well as its serious commitments to social justice. Joey is passionate about creating and sustaining new church programs which educate and provide active opportunities for justice-

'CTS provides an opportunity to learn in a religiously diverse classroom, challenging preconceived ideas of religious identity while also providing the framework for personal faith formation."

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# REV. CHERYL L. GREEN

The Dictional CTM (1C)



Cheryl L. Green is committed to accompanying global communities. Where theology directly impacts people's lives, Cheryl studies and writes truth to power. Working alongside Afro-descendent and indigenous persons in the Spanish speaking Caribbean, and Central and South America, she journeys with them on their quests for justice

"My most memorable experience at CTS has been, and continues to be, the affirmation of my research and work as the community hears what is important to me. This often challenges me to keep going."



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