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## Thought Leadership: Faith in Action

**CHICAGO, January 15, 2018** – CTS' very own Rev. Dr. Christophe Ringer, Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics and Society and Danielle Buhuro ('05, '08) moderated the Governor's Candidates Forum at Community Renewal Society's Faith in Action Assembly at Old Saint Patrick's Church in Chicago's West Loop on Martin Luther King Day. Five Democratic candidates and one Republican candidate took part in the forum where issues of educational funding, gun violence and the state's declining population numbers were addressed.

The crowd, filled with several hundred community members, activists, organizers and CTS faculty, staff and students, actively listened as candidates gave responses on the various issues. The Assembly also featured former CPS principal Troy LaRaviere, who recently launched a campaign for mayor of Chicago. The forum celebrated the legacy of Dr. King but also took a hard look at many issues that still exist today encourage attendees to become beacons of light in their communities.

"With so much going on in our city, our state, and our nation, knowing where and how to take action can be overwhelming," Dr. Ringer stated. "The CRS forum provided a vehicle to learn about those seeking public office and how to hold them accountable, and how to work toward a more just city and state. The experience of faith communities working together to establish a platform for addressing pressing social issues was inspiring."

One of the highlights came when Democratic governor contender Chris Kennedy abruptly left the forum after Senator Jeanne M. Ives (R, 42nd District) said Chicago's gun violence could be solved if more fathers stayed in the home.

"The problem is gun violence in [Chicago], predominately. And you know how you're going to solve it? Fathers in the home," she said. As the audience booed and shouted her down, she re-stated her claim.

Kennedy then got his turn to respond.

"Well, I wish I could agree with you. I didn't have a father in my life. Somebody shot him," the son of assassinated former U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy said to Ives before leaving the church amid applause and a standing ovation from the nearly several hundred in attendance.

The forum continued with the rest of the candidates, closing out with a prayer by Rev. Dr. Vertie Powers, Associate Conference Minister of the Chicago Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ.

### ABOUT CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Based on Chicago's South Side, Chicago Theological Seminary is committed to creating leaders for the next generation of religious leadership...whatever that may be. A leader in social justice, CTS is committed to LGBTQ and gender issues, interreligious understanding, and racial justice.

CTS is an affiliated seminary of the United Church of Christ. Since its founding in 1855, CTS has pushed at the growing boundaries of the church in order to make faith more relevant and transform society towards greater justice and mercy. The student body now represents more than 40 different faith traditions, perspectives, and denominations.