

# PROCLAIMING RELEASE:

## A Program for Theological Education Behind Bars

### About Jamie

[ctschicago.edu/proclaiming-release](https://ctschicago.edu/proclaiming-release)

Imprisoned as a teenager in the early 1990s for his accessory role in a robbery-turned-homicide, Jamie Meade has grown from a troubled kid in Detroit to a self-aware man with a desire to help others find and stay on a path of self-respect and compassion.

His search for meaning led him to a long-distance relationship with Woodside Church of Flint MI, the UCC/American Baptist congregation where he eventually became a member and began discerning a call to ministry.

While serving a life sentence in the Michigan state prison system, Jamie has earned multiple degrees, has become an advocate for his fellow inmates, and has been involved with organizations on the outside that work to reform a system that writes off too many men and women as unredeemable.



Jamie (right) with his mother, Pauline

### About the Program

With the support of his pastor, congregation, and Michigan's Covenant Association—as well as tremendous effort by CTS in lobbying prison administration—Jamie will begin a Master of Divinity program at CTS in 2020. In support, and in expectation of new things being declared, CTS is pleased to announce a pilot program to fund incarcerated individuals on a path to ministry in an unconventional setting. Your support will help people like Jamie take advantage of graduate-level theological education at CTS.

While Jamie will be the first in this pilot program, we don't imagine he will be the last. He is helping us discover a new way the Church and CTS can hear the voices and honor the experiences of those we too often dismiss as “the least.”

### How to Support Proclaiming Release

Gifts to Chicago Theological Seminary can be directed toward the Proclaiming Release Scholarship Fund. Gifts can be made online at [ctschicago.edu/proclaiming-release](https://ctschicago.edu/proclaiming-release) or mailed to: Chicago Theological Seminary, 1407 E 60<sup>th</sup> St., Chicago, IL 60637

For questions about the program or giving, please contact Chad Schwickerath, Director of Engagement & Planned Giving by phone (773.896.2434) or email ([chad.schwickerath@ctschicago.edu](mailto:chad.schwickerath@ctschicago.edu)).