

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?



ROBINSON LAPP PRESERVES HIS LEGACY THROUGH PLANNED GIVING AT CTS

Lisa Notter, Staff

One's legacy in life can take many forms. The impact of Robinson Lapp (MDiv '57, STM '17) on so many lives, institutions, communities, and even social systems, is difficult to assess—as the unconventional nature of what he calls the “street ministry” of his life—has taken many twists and turns. In his first position as a newly ordained Methodist minister, he bucked conventions of the denomination, which eventually led to a transfer of standing to the United Church of Christ and to his starting of a new church in Arvada, Colorado—still a vibrant witness to his legacy—where he led congregants to put their faith in action through activism. As he became an organizer for racial inclusivity in affordable housing in Denver, he discovered the painful consequences of being a leader for racial justice as

many white Christians at the time did not necessarily want to follow where he was leading. But Robb characteristically persevered.

He had come to believe that the ultimate purpose of religion was not to make life better for oneself, but rather to make life work for all, and he saw that the calling for his ministry was not as a church pastor, but was instead to work for secular social change. This steadfast commitment and the connections he had forged throughout the affordable housing industry converged, led him to become part of the team that created The Woodlands, a HUD Title 10 New Community near Houston, a groundbreaking community that still bears witness to his life's work. Recalling his role on the development team, Robb created and oversaw governance

and community services entities, and for many years served as both the connection to HUD and the moral voice in creating this community where more than 120,000 people reside today, impacting the quality of life there for generations.

Robb's most recent 25 years have been devoted to the creation of Archway Housing, a UCC Conference-related 501(c)(3) non-profit that builds and operates housing for low-income people in Colorado. Archway has completed and operates ten multi-family projects containing 563 apartments, with an eleventh, containing 78 units, under construction. Some of the residents have been chronically homeless, others are disabled unemployed veterans, some are immigrants, while others are simply struggling families many of whom are led by single-parents. Yet with all this intensity and the cost of operations in serving marginalized communities, their properties are well-maintained, safe and clean. CTS President Stephen Ray toured several of the properties last fall and noted that "Robb's work at Archway is a powerful example of what faith looks like when it hits the street, making an enduring difference in the lives of people."

Archway doesn't stop at housing. It has well-staffed social service programs including ESL classes, employment counseling, food banks, after-school tutoring and activity programs for kids. Through all this work, Robb cared for his own family (his wife Jan passed away last year from Alzheimer's disease) and also for his CTS family, serving as a trustee since 1996 and attaining a second degree from CTS in 2017, and faithfully supporting the Seminary.

Robb's mother used to say, "A meaningful life is a full-time job!" and he seems to have taken that advice to heart, creating multiple full-time jobs in a busy but meaningful life. Robb is documenting his pilgrimage through a fascinating autobiography with the notion that sharing his journey may give light to others. He is also taking the step to preserve his legacy at CTS through a planned gift. After establishing the Janet and Robinson Lapp Learning Commons through a gift in 2013, Robb has committed an estate gift to CTS in order to ensure that students are always equipped with the learning resources they need to explore theological education and determine what path's their own ministries will take. He says

"Not only has CTS permanently realigned my life, it is on the forefront of today's need for the creating of compelling new idioms that reveal the truth of what the Holy calls and enables all humans to do and to be."

THE VICTOR & JESSIE

Lawson
SOCIETY

To notify CTS of your bequest intention, or to learn more about joining Robb as a member of the Victor and Jessie Lawson Society, a group of donors committed to the future of CTS through planned giving, contact Chad Schwickerath, Manager of Alumni and Church Relations at 773.896.2434 or visit ctschicago.ucfmicrosites.org for sample bequest language, tax information, and other estate planning tools.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, events will take place at CTS. For more info visit ctschicago.edu/events or follow us on [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [l](#) [y](#)

REV. KAJI DOUŠA CONVOCATION ADDRESS

September 11, 2019 • 12 pm

FALL CONVOCATION I speaker, Rev. Douša, senior pastor, Park Avenue Christian Church in New York is an immigration rights activist and serves as the co-chair of the New Sanctuary Coalition NYC. **LIVE**

SEMINARY LIFE DAY

October 9, 2019
8 am – 3 pm

CTS opens up its campus – and classes – to prospective students. We invite you to experience a full day in the life of a seminary. Participate in coursework. Attend chapel. Dine with students. Meet with faculty members. And discuss your personal journey with our admissions team.

DARNELL L. MOORE, WRITER, AUTHOR, ACTIVIST

October 10, 2019 • 5:15 pm Reception; 6:30 pm Lecture

Moore joins us as the 2019 **C. SHELBY ROOKS SPEAKER**. The Rooks event honors the first black president of a predominately white seminary. **LIVE**

KEN STONE CONVOCATION ADDRESS

November 6, 2019 • 12 pm

Stone, Professor of Bible, Culture & Hermeneutics returns from sabbatical to lead **FALL CONVOCATION II**. **LIVE**

RABBI RACHEL S. MIKVA CONVOCATION ADDRESS

February 12, 2020 • 12 pm

Mikva, Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman Chair & Associate Professor of Jewish Studies, and Senior Faculty Fellow of the InterReligious Institute leads our **SPRING CONVOCATION**. **LIVE**

SEMINARY SUNDAY

February 23, 2020

Celebrate Seminary Sunday to explore the importance of theological education with your congregation. Fill out our quick form to learn more CTSCHICAGO.EDU/SEMINARY-SUNDAY-SIGN-UP. **LIVE**

DR. UZMA JAMIL LEADS IRI LECTURE

March 17, 2020

Jamil, Fellow of Muslim Studies at CTS will speak at the **ANNUAL INTERRELIGIOUS LECTURE**. **LIVE**

SEXUAL & GENDER JUSTICE LECTURE

May 7, 2020

Join us for an evening exploring LGBTQ and gender issues as we celebrate the life and legacy of **GILBERTO CASTAÑEDA**. Lecturer TBA. **LIVE**

COMMENCEMENT

May 15, 2020

The 2020 **COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY** will be held at Trinity UCC in Chicago. Details TBA. **LIVE**