



*Dear Faculty, Students, Friends and Benefactors,*

In this coming year, Global Ministries University will celebrate its twentieth anniversary of providing theological and ministerial education to its students and collaborators throughout the world.

Global Ministries began its journey two decades ago in 2001 when the US and the world experienced the tragic attacks of 9/11 followed by the consequences of this event in the following years. As we prepare for 2021 in just a few weeks we recognize the continuing tragedy of the global pandemic of the coronavirus and the psychological, spiritual, and economic toll it has taken on many lives in the US and worldwide.

Nevertheless, GMU has continued to offer hope and inspiration to its students, faculty, and donors who share in its mission. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to the success of GMU as an educational institution at the forefront of the global growth of the internet and as a vehicle for learning and inspiration.

As we look to the future, we are energized by the launching of the GMU Community Chaplaincy training program in January of 2021 under the leadership of GMU graduate, Doctor John Jeffery. This program will take advantage of the latest developments in technology such as Zoom and other internet-based learning platforms to facilitate interaction among students enrolled in this program.

We are also grateful for the international reach of GMU with its work in Africa over the past decade resulting in formal affiliation with the Tangaza University Institute of Interreligious Dialogue and Islamic Studies. GMU is now developing an ongoing interfaith training program for twenty principals in the coastal region of Kenya centered in the city of Mombasa. GMU will be a co-sponsor of an international, interfaith conference in August of 2021 hosted on Zoom by the Tangaza University Interfaith Institute and several other universities in Africa and Europe including a major Muslim university in East Africa.

GMU plans to expand its outreach to new constituencies in the Spanish-speaking world with courses and degree programs offered in the Spanish language.

We are also beginning to publish books under the imprint of GMU Publications including a recent book entitled *Papa Francisco, Consciencia Del Mundo*. (Global Ministries University Press: 2020)

Another important step in the advancement of GMU will be our application for membership in the American Association of Theological Schools which will review this submission at its fall meeting in September 2021. GMU has assembled a team with an extensive background in the accreditation process and plans to complete its application by summer of 2021.

On behalf of all our staff, students, and board members, I wish to thank each of you who contributed to the success of Global Ministries University this past year despite the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. We are grateful for the continued expansion of our programs into new forms of service both within the USA and extending to the global human family. May the New Year of 2021 bring you and your own family wonderful blessings as we look forward to the healing of our nation and world.

*Gerald Grudzen, Ph.D., President Global Ministries University*

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