

**GLOBAL PARTNERS TEAM\***  
**PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION**  
**REPORT FEBRUARY, 2012**

*\*Ann Jefferson, Tat-siong Benny Liew, Kaz Takahashi and Odette Lockwood-Stewart (Team Lead) are the members of the Global Partners team. Board member Linda Jaramillo was not able to serve. Researcher Francesca McCrossan attended two meetings and coach Fiona Hovenden was able to attend one meeting. Due to travel and Team commitments in January, meetings were held in December, at the end of January, and two in February. In April Team Lead will go on a learning journey to meet with global networks based in NYC and report to Kathi McShane.*

The 250 initial concept validators for the new PSR were from the U.S. Therefore, we began our work by seeking input in writing and in conversation from colleagues in NGOs, networks and education outside the U.S.

Rev. Dr. Huang Po Ho of Chang Jung Christian University in Taiwan asked:

**“... How can this re-visioning work of PSR be looking into the global cooperation, in one way to assist Asia, Africa and other continents to develop their faculty and at the same time to bring in contributions from these global perspectives enhancing your contextual scholarship is of critical importance in this period of the history of theological education?”**

Dr. Mark G. Brett of MCD University of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia helpfully re-frames question our vision of the new PSR asks, **“What world is God speaking into creation right now?”** He commented on the role of faculty:

**“If an institution’s objective is to produce agents of change, scholars should divide their time between discipline-specific learning and inter-disciplinary conversations dedicated to practical problems. It is rarely the case that inter-disciplinary projects can be conducted by a single individual, or by praxis-oriented individuals making selective and superficial use of expert knowledge. Nor is a serial parade of disciplines satisfactory. Inter-disciplinary work requires a team of specialists, each with their own competences, to be in actual conversation with the people implementing new social visions.... For example, in my experience working with Aboriginal people...”**

**VISION**

The Board of Trustees approved a vision that will: *Focus more sharply on PSR’s contribution to global and community movements for social transformation, principally by educating persons who will be spiritually rooted, theologically formed changemakers committed to helping realize God’s promises for justice and well-being for all the earth....Establish movement-building partnerships with a few social-change organizations, drawing PSR deeper “into the world...” Convene, grow and resource a global network of spiritually-rooted leaders for social transformation...being transformed – regularly – by those who come as students, as faculty, as partners, and by the communities and world we serve...*

## **MAKING PLAIN THE VISION: RECOMMENDATIONS**

After preliminary conversation and research it is our recommendation:

- 1) that the **values** enumerated in this report be adopted by the Commission on Strategic Direction as the transition to the new PSR is being implemented;
- 2) that the **locations and tiered priorities** in this report be researched, initiated and tested as promising possibilities using PSR's organizational assets and immersive learning experiences;
- 3) that the **priority** of Global Partnerships in this report become a lens for assessing implementation of our vision of the new PSR, and be given significant attention by CSD in the next several months for research. As each basic decision regarding educational, financial, facility, and technology models is being made, and organizational and academic re-structuring is implemented that CSD address:  
***How does this impact Global Partnerships?***  
***How does this reflect global realities?***
- 4) that PSR's Global Partnerships will include a **variety of models**:
  - formal institutional and network partnerships and shared projects with communities of learning, teaching, and service research with changemakers around the world;
  - cultivation of respectful and sustainable right relationships;
  - respectful response to those who seek relationship with PSR's vision of social transformation and progressive theology;
  - international ministries and projects;
  - fellowships that draw students from around the world and who reflect the global demographic shifts within the state of California.
- 5) that PSR's Global Partnerships will include a **range of engagements** with:
  - regional networks of education; seminaries, universities, denominations, congregations, communities, movements, and individuals engaged in making change for social transformation;
  - joint degrees and certificates;
  - digital and face to face conferencing;
  - generation and dissemination of new knowledge, theological and leadership research and resources;
  - nourish theological roots and cultivate spiritual practice in current and emerging leadership networks.
- 6) Ongoing exploration and analysis requires sustainable right relationship, communication through **commitment to mutually-shaped partnerships**. The specific areas in this report and our suggestions for piloting and testing will be shaped by our relationships with Global Partners.

- 7) Funding for initial investment and strategic planning for sustainable global partnerships in service research fellowships be explored through foundation grants (e.g. recent Luce Foundation grant to Candler School of Theology).

## **VALUES**

### **We identified the following values to guide us in development of Global Partnerships of the new PSR:**

- 1) **Mutuality** of partnerships in formation and development (adding the bold language to the adopted vision) -  
*Envision that PSR will contribute to **and be changed by** the preparation of spiritually-rooted change makers for social innovation well beyond the borders of the United States;*
- 2) As a U.S. based partner, spiritual formation, theological grounding, and educating leaders for social transformation requires of us:
  - a. **spiritual, geographic, and cultural humility;**
  - b. **knowledge of global realities and theologies;**
  - c. **Economic investment at the early stages of the new PSR.**
- 3) Global Partnerships will intentionally include a **variety of financial designs:**
  - a. Partnerships with potential for income stream;
  - b. Partnerships requiring investment aligned with vision;
  - c. Partnerships positioning us for future;
  - d. Cultivation of investment from those with interest in social transformation in these regions.
- 4) PSR will learn and **lead and teach Global Partnership across programs and centers: cultural humility and cross-cultural capacity, global realities and theologies, resilience and renewal in anti-racism work and deep understanding of economics.**
- 5) **Quality** not quantity of regions/sites and affiliations. Attached chart of tiered locations begins with **using current relationships and assets** to move further in research, piloting and testing of Global Partnerships without prohibitive initial financial investment.
- 6) **Utilize denominational and NGO partners already on the ground** (UCC, MCC, DOC, UMC, WD, CWS, WSCF) around the world as links to communities of social transformation, and potential sources of students and revenue. **International alumni, students, scholars, faculty relationships** are also assets for these links.
- 7) **Aligned** with vision of new PSR.
- 8) Building and sustaining **right relationship** is an essential component of global partnerships and positioning PSR for emerging leadership. Ongoing research and flexibility also needed as partnerships develop.
- 9) **Creative combinations of digital and face-to-face** pedagogies.
- 10) **Hospitality** will require maintaining some facilities for hosting and housing.
- 11) Global realities (**demographic shifts** in state and US and world) will guide our partnership development.
- 12) **Non-duplication.**
- 13) Future **leadership** of PSR with global ties, reputation, experience, and **theologies** will be formed and reformed by Global theologies.

- 14) **Academic excellence and social impact** through life changing scholarship, research, and immersive learning.

### **LOCAL GLOBAL PARTNERS**

**PSR will nurture a global community of scholars engaged in and committed to changing the world for the common good.**

**PSR Board's Anti-Racism and Cultural Competence Committee** has stated the importance of "**Intra-cultural and intra-faith**" work. This is particularly vital in **Global Partnerships** and will need to be a thread woven through all centers, teams and programs of the new PSR in the Bay Area as well.

The Anti-Racism and Cultural Competence Committee also stated that "**we need to think about how to be welcoming to global students. International students need housing for their families.**"

Taking seriously the partnership with international students and scholars of PSR and the GTU is a first step (see #s 4,5,6 above). As the experiences of students, faculty, staff, leaders from other places in the world infuse PSR, this will also change the framing, the arts of leadership and the spiritual practices learned and taught here. Intentional transformation of structures of community and curriculum can facilitate this with intentionality and integration with resources already present in the GTU and the Bay Area.

### **CHART OF GLOBAL PARTNERS – TIERED LOCATIONS**

As we worked with the charge to our Team from the Commission, to:

*Explore and bring recommendation for partnership in Asia and in other parts of the world.*

We developed the attached tiered local chart of Global Partners by examining existing invitations, contacts and relationships, our geographic location, areas that are non-duplicative with other schools and networks, variety of models and range of engagements.

#### **Recommendations - Tiered Locations (see chart)**

- 1) Based on asset and need initial research indicates that **Asia Pacific institutions, projects, and networks** are non-duplicative of other schools and could provide stream of students (in distance and on-campus learning communities), revenue, research and/or positioning for future partnerships. They would also, with minimal investment and utilization of current assets, grant PSR a higher global identity and presence.
- 2) Utilizing the current contextual **immersion** courses and cultivating new opportunities in **Central and South America concurrent with the more formal partnerships in Asia Pacific** would initiate, build visibility and constituency, and position PSR in both short-term (Mexico) and long term (Costa Rica and Colombia).
- 3) One-year **Fellowship Programs** for specific constituencies globally and statewide would shift PSR demographics, have potential for new donor base, and generate new student pools from immigrant communities and international donors (e.g. Dream Fellows, GALA Leaders from across the

- country, Leaders/Teachers from Teach for America). Alternatively, potential foci for fellowships such as, Global Health and Spirituality, Inter-Faith Peace and Conflict Studies, Global Communication and Spirituality, Global Change for Rights, Sexuality and Spirituality, could cultivate partnerships with schools, individuals and potential student pools.
- 4) Two **changemaker projects** in the identified regions (through networks we are still exploring) could link partnerships to East Bay campus and MDiv students. (e.g. Auburn seminar Israel-Palestine) and will help students on campus *experience* and engage global partnerships.
  - 5) Regions not in the first two tiers (**Africa, Indonesia, Philippines**) are also important and have great potential. These could be linked through global network of changemakers and project partnership with congregations and other partners.

### **Additional Promising Research**

Review of other **Project Team reports and initial research** indicates that the following programs are worth further study re: Global Partners:

- Blum Center for Developing Economies
- Fellowships
- Case Western “Dialog Cafes” international problem solving digital convening and conferencing
- Rockwood Institute
- Partnerships being explored by CSD with international networks including Ashoka and University of the Pacific.

Initial research indicates that these centers and directions **not reflected in the work of other Project Teams** are promising. In particular, the following **UC Berkeley** Global Resources and Links to partnerships for research, inter-professional education and recommendation:

Religion, Politics and Globalization Program  
 School of Public Health  
 Joint UCSF/UCB Medical Program (e.g. case based primary disciplines learning community pedagogy for leadership)  
 Peace and Conflict Studies  
 School of Journalism

**STETS** (Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme) on line education for degrees and certificates and ministerial and lay training with 40 year history serving 4 denominations through University of Winchester. Residential retreats and local tutoring supports online courses.

Questions:

- How will the campus and structure of PSR be authentically infused with and engage global realities, peoples, partnerships, theologies?
- How will PSR incorporate Global realities and ideas generating from outside the U.S.? (The University of Phoenix instills culture across learning teams in all areas, of transparency, sharing work and finances, identifying and trying

- top three ideas on a monthly basis. How might PSR do this with Global Partners?)
- Are new technologies at the new PSR compatible with a vision of Global Partnerships?
  - If content is free and experience is what is the value added, what is the experience for global partners?
  - Are our metrics the number and effectiveness of partnerships? Accessibility of Global learning for all changemakers in PSR's networks? Variety of models tested in the preliminary stages? Length of study? Number of participants? Exchanges?
  - How are learning co-horts formed in global community? (many of the "global education" programs are U.S. based, residential, for U.S. students)
  - Question from Board discussion October, 2012: "Two lenses we hope we will use to evaluate in this exploratory period should be how they affect diversity, and what kinds of class assumptions we are making about who can come here. (P. 14)
  - How do PSR Global Partnerships address needs: Non-Violence; Arts and Beauty; Resilience; Collaboration; Environment; Global Health; Economic Justice; Diverse sources of wisdom and knowledge; Critical thinking; Creative synthesis and action; generative theological roots?