

Why McCormick?

In the summer of 2021, as we emerged from the COVID-19 lockdown, I felt a divine nudge. The Lord whispered, “Don’t you think it’s time to do some real work?” I wasn’t entirely sure what that meant. After all, I had spent over 30 years in corporate finance—but this prompting was about something deeper.

Encouraged by my pastor, Rev. Randall Tate, I explored seminary options and discovered McCormick Theological Seminary. From my very first orientation call, I felt a sense of belonging. Now, four years later, I am in my final year of the MDiv program, working part-time in admissions with Dr. Leslie Diaz-Perez, serving on the Board of Trustees, chairing a sub-committee for the accreditation board, and leading the student council. My love for McCormick stems from the profound grace and knowledge it has given me.

This journey has been nothing like I expected. My traditional beliefs have been challenged and reshaped. My appreciation for history has deepened, and I have been humbled by how much I didn’t know—about my faith, my heritage, and my role in the world. McCormick has broadened my perspective, exposing me to diverse theologies, the impact of trauma, and the power of ministry in ways I never imagined.

McCormick is more than an academic institution to me, it is a community that has nurtured my spiritual and intellectual growth. It has given me the tools to serve, the courage to question, and the wisdom to lead with both humility and conviction. For these reasons, I give back to McCormick, hoping to extend the same transformative experience to others who, like me, feel called to do the real work.