



Stewarding (and strategizing about) our missional moment

1 message

Consortium of Christian Study Centers <comm@cscmovement.org>

Mon, Nov 3, 2025 at 6:27 PM

Reply-To: comm@cscmovement.org

To: "\"Karlee Rene Bowlby\"" <comm@cscmovement.org>



Consortium of Christian Study Centers

PERISCOPE

November 2025 Newsletter

Dear Karlee,

Strategic plans have the great virtue of facilitating focus. There are always so many—too many!—opportunities to do good work. A plan, like a good thesis statement, helps you decide which trails *not* to pursue.

After a very thorough process, the Consortium adopted a strategic plan last year. Distilling our priorities wasn't easy. It was a good exercise, to be sure, but not easy because I had to accept (yet again) that I can't do everything, or even as much as I wish I could. Finitude sure can be frustrating.

I'll mention two of our goals. First, we are planning—and praying!—for more than 25 new centers before the end of the decade. Importantly, we plan to invest more in new centers while investing no less in existing centers. After all, the quality of our member centers matters even more than the quantity.

Second, we are wholeheartedly committed to helping centers become sustainable. Toward that end, we aim to see a majority of centers providing sustainable impact, including three or more full-time employees and a solid partnership base, within five years of launch. (For reference, it took me over a decade to get there at Chesterton House!)

Already the Consortium's capital campaign has made it possible for us to hire Fred Barber (part time) to help new centers kick things off with a strong foundation. In recent months, Fred has helped Shiloh Society, our newest center (see below), with a number of projects. In the coming weeks, he will be traveling to Chicago, LA, and elsewhere to provide on-site consultations to steering committees of start-up centers.

We now have over a dozen centers in various stages of the start-up process. As we look forward to introducing these centers in the coming months, we will announce each one with a dedicated email blast. The idea here is that you can help. We invite you to forward these announcements to alumni, parents, and prospective students of the university served by each new center.

As always, the energy out there in study center land is truly incredible. We invite you to pray with us and for us that we will be good stewards of this moment and the many opportunities before us.

In Christ,



Karl E. Johnson
Executive Director

This Month's Highlights

- Catch up on Consortium news including details of an online event happening today as well as a "save the date" for next year's Annual Meeting!
- Check out the 15 exciting lectures and special events that study centers are hosting in November
- Learn more about partner organization online events, as well as conferences that you or a student you know may be interested in attending
- Read recently published articles by writers connected to the study center movement
- Take a look at the jobs available at several of our study centers and partners

CCSC News & Events



"Starting a Study Center" Zoom Meeting - Today!

Online: Today, November 3, 4pm ET

If you are interested in starting a study center, we welcome you to join us for an open discussion with **Karl Johnson** on this very important topic. Please register [here](#) and join the event via the link below.

[Zoom link](#)



Now Recruiting Our 2026-27 Cohort

Do you know a senior or recent graduate interested in the intersection of faith and academic work who might like to take a year to explore their calling and vocation while serving at a Christian Study Center? Let them know about the Consortium's Internship Program! Applications are open for 2026-27. Click below to learn more.

[Learn more and apply](#)



Save the Date for the 2026 Annual Meeting!

The Consortium's next Annual Meeting will be hosted by The SL Brown Foundation at Upper House in Madison, WI from **July 27-29 2026**. More details to come!



Welcome to Shiloh Society

A warm welcome to our newest member study center Shiloh Society at Texas A&M University and its executive director **Will Harris**! Click below to learn more about Shiloh Society.

[Learn more](#)

Study Center Events



CHRISTIAN
STUDY CENTER

**Does Love Have a Future?
Reception and Lecture**

Samuel Kimbriel

November 3 at 7pm

Gainesville, FL

[Learn more](#)



NICA EA
STUDY CENTER

**Alfred Hitchcock & The
Question of Religious Freedom**

Screening and Discussion

November 6 at 7pm

Colorado Springs, CO

[Learn more](#)



**Christ in the Creed Lecture in
Partnership with Chi Alpha**

Michael Bird

November 10 at 8pm

Charlottesville, VA

[Learn more](#)



**Ecclesiastes' Surprising Path
to Resilient Happiness**

Bobby Jamieson

November 10 at 7pm

Chapel Hill, NC

[Learn more](#)



SCHOLÉ HOUSE

**Anatomy of a Song: Music as
Language of Hope and Sorrow**

David Jonghak Kim

November 10 at 7pm

Richmond, VA

[Learn more](#)



**C. S. Lewis on How to Argue in a
Time of Hate-Fueled Rhetoric**

James E. Beitler

November 11 at 7pm

Lexington, KY

[Learn more](#)



**Healthcare Fellowship Forum:
Christianity's Surprise**

C. Kavin Rowe & Emmy Yang

November 11 at 5:15pm

Chapel Hill, NC

[Learn more](#)



**Twenty-Four-Hour Reading
Event of *Septology***

By Jon Fosse

November 14 at 5pm

Pittsburgh, PA

[Learn more](#)



**Remembering our Mortality
for a Meaningful Life**

Marlena Graves

November 14 at 6:30pm

Columbus, OH

[Learn more](#)



**An Evening with Author of
Everything Sad Is Untrue
By Daniel Nayeri**
November 14 at 7pm
Iowa City, IA

[Learn more](#)



**Was America Founded as a
Christian Nation?**
John Fea
November 14 at 6:30pm
Madison, WI

[Learn more](#)



**The Urgent Message of the Book
of Revelation for Today**
Paul Spilsbury
November 19 at 7pm
Charlottesville, VA

[Learn more](#)



**An Evening with NYT-Bestselling
Author and Illustrator**
John Hendrix
November 11 at 5pm
Minneapolis, MN

[Learn more](#)



**Does Rural America Have a Future?
Pathways to Renewal**
Matt Bonzo & Charles E. Cotherman
November 19 at 5:30pm
Ann Arbor, MI

[Learn more](#)



**Moral Imagination in the
Healthcare Sciences**
Jon Tilburt
November 17 at 12pm
Minneapolis, MN

[Learn more](#)

Partner Organization Events



Online Conversation on the Practice of "Thanksgiving"

Online: Friday, November 7, 1:30pm ET

The practice of gratitude is a biblical command, a Christian virtue and one of the best predictors of personal well-being. But what does the practice of thanks-giving require? How can one cultivate a spirit and habit of thankfulness amidst the sorrows and injustices of a fallen world? Join The Trinity Forum for this online conversation with **Cornelius (Neal) Plantinga**, theologian and author of *Gratitude: Why Giving Thanks Is the Key to Our Well-Being*.

[Register](#)



CENTER FOR
PUBLIC JUSTICE

"Ink & Impact" Writing Weekend for Students

*January 16-18, 2026
Alexandria, VA*

Do you know a college student or recent graduate who wants to use their pen to serve God, advance justice, and transform public life? In today's political climate, often marked by cynicism and despair, this weekend will help Christian young people become messengers of hope. Applications are due **November 10** and all participants will receive a travel stipend to assist with the costs of attendance.

[Learn more and apply](#)



Online Faculty Event: "Living a Narrative of Hope"

Online: Tuesday, November 18, 2pm ET

As the fall semester winds down, InterVarsity's Faculty Ministry invites you to take a moment of rest. Join with us as **Jennifer Wiseman**, Senior Project Scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope, shares a reflection on living a narrative of hope, even in times of chaos and uncertainty. During the gathering, there will be an opportunity for interaction with other faculty, scholars, and staff, along with a time of blessing and prayer.

[Register](#)



Windrider Summit & The Sundance Film Festival

January 25-30, 2026

Park City, UT

The Windrider Summit & The Sundance Film Festival Experience takes place in January every year. The Windrider Summit is a one-of-a-kind cultural experience. It is an opportunity to attend the premiere festival for independent films and interact with a community who shares a belief in the transformative power of story. It is also a chance to bring a distinctively spiritual and theological lens to film and explore some of the most important topics in our culture. Windrider provides a customized experience, curating the best of Sundance's offerings along with exclusive benefits available only to Windrider Summit participants. General Admission tickets are available until **November 30**. Windrider Summit only tickets are available until **January 12**.

[Buy tickets](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE ROUNDTABLE ON SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Are There Aliens in the Universe and Why Do We Want to Know?

November 18
Pepperell, MA

By invitation only, the Harvard Faculty Club will seat 102 faculty and grad-students and guests to consider presentations from MIT's Robert R. Shrock Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Ben Weiss and EAPS colleague Professor of Geobiology Tonja Bosak; The Center for Astrophysics Harvard and Smithsonian's Howard Smith, Senior Astrophysicist; and Talbot School of Theology's William L. Craig, Research Professor of Philosophy and President of Reasonable Faith. After the presentations, tables of six will eat dinner and discuss "Are there other planets with self-conscious creatures capable of a relationship with humans elsewhere in the Universe?" and "Why do we want to know?"

Recommendations



The Raised Hand: What Homeschooling Can Teach Us About AI

In this second essay in TRH's series addressing the question: "What is the role of human educators in the age of artificial intelligence?", **Dixie Dillon** Lane discusses what higher education can learn about AI from homeschooling.

[Read now](#)



"Christ and Pop Culture" Article on Fantasy as a Genre

Christ and Pop Culture has recently published an article by **Emily G. Wenneborg**, director of the Pascal Study Center (at The University of Illinois and Champaign-Urbana), entitled "The Fantasy Genre Both Requires and Reinforces Disenchantment".

[Read now](#)



New Podcast Series by Plough Magazine

Plough Magazine has recently launched a new podcast series entitled "Another Life". This show explores questions like "How can we live well together?", "What gives life purpose?", "How do technology, education, faith, capitalism, work, and family change the way we live?", "Is another life possible?" Plough editor **Joy Marie Clarkson** digs deeper into perspectives from a wide variety of writers and thinkers appearing in the pages of Plough. Listen now to get caught up on the first few episodes.

[Listen now](#)

[Job Openings](#)



CENTER FOR
PUBLIC JUSTICE

Annual Fund Associate

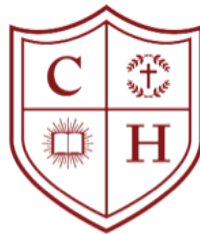
[Apply here](#)



**ANSELM
HOUSE**

The Center for Faith & Learning (CFL) Program Manager

[Apply here](#)



CHESTERTON HOUSE
A Center for Christian Studies at Cornell

Post-Doctoral Academic Associate

[Apply here](#)



Human Resources Manager

Apply here



Have you seen the Consortium's video about the study center movement yet?
View and share the video [here](#).

As always, keep sending your events our way so that we may distribute them to all who have expressed interest in the good work of the Consortium's members and partners.

Did someone forward this newsletter to you?

Sign Up

Support the Movement



Cultivating Thoughtful Christian Presence

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