

## Cherry Hill Seminary

Report to Covenant of the Goddess, July 2013

Cherry Hill Seminary is grateful for the ongoing support of Covenant of the Goddess members, making possible year-round distance education for leadership, ministry and personal growth, including open short courses called Insights (formerly Foundations), certificates and graduate degrees in religious studies.

Key activities in the past year:

- Near-completion of a 12-part curriculum for incarcerated Pagans, called “Pagan Life Academy.” We especially thank Selina Rifkin for creating the series, and Wendy Griffin and Holli Emore for editing. At the time of this writing, the lessons are being reviewed by Pagan inmates and prison staff as a last check for appropriate content and reading level.
- “Sacred Lands and Spiritual Landscapes: Cosmography of the Pagan Soul,” was Cherry Hill Seminary’s first academic symposium, and featured eminent scholar Professor Ronald Hutton as keynote speaker. Just as exciting was the fact that the University of South Carolina was a full partner with CHS in the project, hosting the symposium on campus and posting it on several department web sites. Attendance was nearly 80, from 17 states and one overseas. USC (yes, the original USC) has invited us to hold a second symposium in 2015.
- The category of four-week courses called Foundations were re-branded this spring as “Insights,” a name we hope will more closely reflect the nature of the courses. Insights courses are open to anyone, that is, one need not be in a certificate or master’s program to take an Insights course.
- We continue to refine our degree offerings. One department has been renamed “Pastoral Counseling & Chaplaincy,” and David Oringderff has developed a new Master of Divinity in Chaplaincy. Academic Dean Wendy Griffin continues to develop our academic programs in preparation for eventual accreditation.
- Thanks to the generosity of a challenge donor who gave us \$10,000 to invest, plus about 67 additional donors who contributed a total of \$12, 471, we have now set up our first endowment, which will provide scholarships to intensive conferences for students nearing graduation.
- In development now: a cluster of Insights courses offering specific skills for local communities: communications for small groups, fundraising, ethics, leadership, and conflict resolution. We plan to offer a package price, something like \$295 for all five courses. While an individual could purchase the package, we hope that organizations and groups will invest in their members by sending different people to different courses.

For more information, contact us at [CHS@cherryhillseminary.org](mailto:CHS@cherryhillseminary.org)

or visit [www.cherryhillseminary.org](http://www.cherryhillseminary.org)

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Cherry Hill Seminary is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.