



GMU Offers a Special Savings Opportunity

Are you planning to enroll in a degree program with Global Ministries University sometime in the future? If you plan to do so, now may be the perfect time to apply. GMU is offering a ten percent reduction in tuition for any of our degree programs, effective now through December 31st. This is a savings of up to \$950, depending on the selected degree program. In order to give you the opportunity to take advantage of this offer even if you are not quite ready, GMU will allow you to delay beginning your studies and payments until March of 2016.

Questions? Feel free to contact the GMU Office: info@globalministriesuniversity.org or if you are ready to enroll, **APPLY NOW!**

GMU Instructors Are the ‘Cream of the Crop’

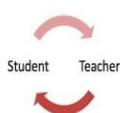


Global Ministries University is extremely fortunate to have such a competent faculty. Our instructors are required to hold a master’s degree in their area of study and most have a doctoral degree.

Likewise, our students are also very fortunate to have the opportunity to experience a one-on-one connection with these highly qualified individuals from all over the world: Africa, India, Thailand, Europe, to name a few. In fact the instructor being featured in this publication, Shahihnaz El Hennawi, is from Egypt. Be sure read about her very impressive credentials and accomplishments in the article below.

In addition to having an opportunity to connect with their instructors one-on-one, students are also given more freedom within the [study process](#). Most universities require memorization and testing to measure how much a student has learned. This approach may be effective for secular courses but answers related to theology and spirituality are not typically right and wrong, true or false. There is a great deal of gray area involved in this kind of subject matter and students are able to explore that gray area with their instructor.

Without a doubt, [our faculty](#) is indeed the ‘cream of the crop’ and adds a unique dimension to Global Ministries University.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Parliament of World Religions /Salt Lake City



I had the privilege to attend the Parliament of World Religions in Salt Lake City, Utah this past weekend, October 15-19. The Parliament of World Religions is the largest (10,000 attendees) and one of the most significant gatherings of world religious leaders on the planet.

One of the major themes of the Parliament was the growing importance of women’s leadership roles in almost every one of the major world religions. This was highlighted by numerous presentations by female religious and cultural leaders which included Bridget Mary Meehan, GMU faculty member, and Dean of our D.Min. and M.Div. degree programs, as well as Karen Armstrong. Marianne Williamson, and Jean Shinoda Bolen. There were numerous indigenous religious leaders giving another focus to the Parliament, that of Mother Nature. Given the need to move humanity away from a carbon based economy, the Parliament featured many educational sessions on themes related to environmental and ecological stewardship. Outside of the Parliament entrance several different tribes from the western USA had fire ceremonies each evening which I was able to attend on two occasions.

The Parliament also addressed the challenges of war and peace with numerous workshops and seminars on the role of interfaith dialogue as part of the solution for resolving conflicts in the Middle East and various regions of Africa. I was able to introduce the interfaith work that GMU is doing in several of the seminars that I attended on peace building and conflict resolution. I also met with leaders of the United Religions Initiative based in San Francisco and began the process for GMU to become affiliated with this organization which has over 700 interfaith organizations coordinating with URI throughout the world.

During the course of the Parliament I was able to meet with Matthew Fox who is noted for his best-selling writings in the area of creation spirituality and his founding of educational programs preparing students for ecologically-based ministries and community leadership. In the next month I will be meeting with Matthew Fox to discuss a possible affiliation of his educational programs with GMU.

The Parliament also provided many networking opportunities to present the work that GMU has pioneered in interfaith training in Kenya. We have now uploaded onto Youtube many of the presentations given at our recent interfaith training conferences in Nairobi and Mombasa, Kenya in August of this year. You can view these presentations on Youtube at [Paths to Peace Kenya](#).

At the conclusion of my time in Salt Lake I attended the ordination of Clare Julian S. Carbone of Salt Lake by Bishop Bridget Mary Meehan of the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests. The ordination was conducted as an ecumenical and interreligious celebration with diverse female and male religious leaders taking part from the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Buddhist faith traditions. This ceremony fit in beautifully with the themes that unfolded in the Parliament of new leadership roles for women, empowerment of women for social justice advocacy and interreligious cooperation at the local, national and international levels.

Global Ministries University has a unique role to play both in the empowerment of women and men for new roles of religious and civic leadership here in the USA and with networks that we are creating in other parts of the world.

Gerald Grudzen, Ph.D.

MEET OUR FACULTY



Shahinaz El Hennawi teaches Education for Social Transformation and Gender and Peace Building for Global Ministries University. She holds a B.A. in Accounting and Psychology from the University of Alexandria, Egypt, an MA in Gender and Peace-building from the University for Peace, Costa Rica and is currently undertaking her degree in Peace, Security, Development and International Conflict Transformation from Innsbruck University, Austria. She has over eight years of experience in projects related to women, youth and peace-building. She worked in the Library of Alexandria - Institute for Peace Studies and Center for Democracy and Social Peace Studies for 10 years. As a lead trainer, she teaches courses and holds workshops on gender, peace-building and peace education. She worked on gender and peace issues in the Middle East, Asia and the United States. Her recent publication is "Women inspired by religious compassion: An experience from the Egyptian revolution", in *Faith in Civil Society, Religious Actors as Drivers of Change*, Uppsala University, Sweden.

Shahinaz is also a Life Coach for Women, Nonviolent Communication facilitator and the Arabic Coordinator of the Compassion Course Online. She has a passion for Psychospirituality and Women, Sufism and Women in Islam. She holds Women Circles and Womb Blessing Gathering Meditations.

She lives between Egypt, UK and USA, married and has one daughter.

STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Barbara Beadles is enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry degree program. She holds BA in Education from Thomas More College in Covington, KY and an MA in Liturgical Studies from The Catholic University of America. She is earning a D.Min. so that she may add to her own knowledge of her faith and also, through her ministry and teaching, be able to communicate with and encourage others seeking spiritual growth.

Barbara is a weekly volunteer with Montgomery Hospice, conducts a bi-monthly women's prayer group, and is one of six women who preside at liturgy in her faith community, Living Water Inclusive Catholic Community, which meets in the Baltimore/Annapolis area. She was ordained to the priesthood in April, 2015.

When asked how she felt about completing her program and graduating, she said:

"I feel enthusiastic and proud of accomplishing this goal. This was my first experience with on-line education. After 35 years as a classroom teacher, I was not sure how this kind of learning experience would play out. It has been completely wonderful. I appreciated the easy access to my professors, the very helpful administrative staff, and the ability to work on my own time and at my own pace!"

Barbara resides in Silver Spring, Maryland with her husband, Jim. They have been married for twenty-four years.

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Global Ministries University invites you to show your support for our unique and inclusive online learning institution that offers courses to equip people from a variety of faith traditions to minister with integrity, professionalism, and competence. **Become a Friend of GMU Now!**

Send feedback, comments, and/or questions to Jean Conley, editor and Vice-President for Operations and Development, [Global Ministries University](http://www.globalministries.org)