

# THE STORY

MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT

Volume XLVIII \* Fall 2009



METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL  
— IN OHIO —





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### A publication of Methodist Theological School in Ohio

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**Recognize this farm land? \*** Above is a 1958 aerial photo of "The Butler Farm," a 50-acre site that was donated by Ohio Wesleyan University to serve as the campus of Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Founded in 1958, Methodist Theological School in Ohio is one of 13 seminaries formally affiliated with and funded in part by the United Methodist Church. Located on a 72-acre campus in Central Ohio, MTSO offers five graduate degree programs: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Education, Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries, Master of Theological Studies and Doctor of Min-

istry. It also offers graduate-level certificate programs in Basic Theological Education, United Methodist Deacon Studies, and the Advanced Course of Study in the United Methodist Church.

MTSO is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Its degree programs are au-

thorized by the Ohio Board of Regents and approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send them to [drussell@mtso.edu](mailto:drussell@mtso.edu), or Danny Russell, MTSO, 3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

# Innovation, cooperation, celebration

**By Rev. Jay Rundell  
President**

On behalf of the entire MTSO community, I bring you greetings and invite you to explore this most recent issue of *The Story Magazine and Annual Report*. The depth and breadth of our shared experience is evident. There is an authentic richness to the way we've operated here over the years and it is in that spirit that we are moving forward today. I believe that you will discover that in the midst of challenging and uncertain times, our school is engaging the task of theological education with courage and conviction. As the world around us adapts to new realities, we are preparing spiritual leaders who will address and shape that reality.

We return to a fall publication schedule with this issue of *The Story*, and I trust you'll agree that we have a lot to share. For instance, you'll read about the numerous ways those on our campus are working to contribute to a greener, more sustainable world. You'll learn how Ray and Margaret Mason, two faithful friends of MTSO, found a creative and extremely generous way to fund new student scholarships. You'll meet Interim Academic Dean Randy Litchfield, who brings a keen intellect and a deep humanity to his new appointment. And you will eavesdrop on the charge Professor Diane Lobody shared with members of the class of 2009 on



the morning of their graduation.

It is with deep gratitude that we share the 2009 Annual Report. You will find evidence of broad financial support for the mission of the seminary and our students. In reducing our operating budget by 14 percent, we have endeavored to continue balancing prudent spending with necessary investment in our strategic initiatives and abiding commitments.

Sacrificial changes on the part of many within our community have allowed us to freeze tuition and maintain our strong scholarship and financial aid support. We are cautiously optimistic as our endowment has begun to rise with the strengthening financial markets in recent months. Thank you for what each of you is doing to advance our ef-

forts. Your investment is helping us prepare a truly extraordinary generation of leaders for Christian ministry and service.

Our primary task in the year ahead will be to advance our academic programs in ways that acknowledge new economic conditions and, most important, are relevant to the emerging needs of Christian leadership. We are developing new approaches to the use of educational technology and distribution.

Convinced that we can benefit from healthy institutional partnerships, we are in the midst of a substantive dialogue with Trinity Lutheran Seminary. The recent action by both the United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to affirm full communion between the two denominations has given us the opportunity to lead in important new ways.

I also want to invite you to look ahead

**Convinced that we can benefit from healthy institutional partnerships, we are in the midst of a substantive dialogue with Trinity Lutheran Seminary.**

with me to a great event in the life of our school. On Sept. 25, 2010, we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Please mark your calendars now. We intend to make this the biggest celebration in our history. We want to gather as many students, alumni, faculty, emeritus faculty and friends as we can for a great celebration on our beautiful campus.

As always, I invite your comments and questions, and I covet your prayers.



# Campus turns several shades of green

The final words of the MTSO statement of Aspiration, Identity and Purpose cite “our commitment to a just and sustainable world.” Members of the campus community are working on several levels to ensure that commitment is kept.

For example, the Between the Trees Community Garden is completing its second bountiful season, its irrigation provided by rainwater collected from the gutters of a nearby building. A more common form of recycling also is in full swing. Every office on campus now sports a recycling can.

Almost as familiar as those blue cans are little yellow signs near light switches that ask people to turn out lights as they leave restrooms and other sporadically used spaces. Director of Buildings and Grounds Jim Rohler said he’s been pleased by the response to the reminders. “I’m sure it’s helping.” Rohler also is working with consultants to assess the school’s energy efficiency and look for savings in utility bills.

The bills could get considerably lower if MTSO is chosen to receive grant funding for a solar-energy pilot project. Steve Ahearne-Kroll, associate professor of New Testament, has been



**From the sky to roof to tomatoes** \* This barrel captures and stores rainwater for use in MTSO’s Community Garden

working with Ohio Interfaith Power and Light, an organization whose mission is “to mobilize a religious response to climate change and to promote energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.”

Ahearne-Kroll said funding for harnessing solar energy on campus could come from a variety of sources, including government grants and corporate partners with particular interest in contributing to renewable energy.

Some corporations are seeking to establish renewable-energy partnerships in anticipation of future government energy requirements. “What they’re trying to do,” Ahearne-Kroll said, “is have on their books that the carbon footprint of an organization they funded has been reduced.” The benefit for MTSO could be significant, he said, “even if it’s not converting the whole campus over” to solar power.

Ahearne-Kroll is excited by the possibility that Methesco could help put Ohio on the solar-energy map.

“Germany is the leading producer of solar energy in Europe,” he said. “Guess where their solar panels are made. Ohio.” \*

## Mark your calendar

### Events of 2009-10

#### October 11-13

##### Schooler Institute on Preaching and Alumni Days

This year’s theme is “Fireworks from the Pulpit,” featuring the Rev. Dr. Dale P. Andrews of the Boston University School of Theology. Related events include a Tribute to Emeritus Faculty as well as the John and Ruth Mount Alumni Awards Dinner. Application deadline is Oct. 7.

[www.mtso.edu/schooler](http://www.mtso.edu/schooler)  
[brollins@mtso.edu](mailto:brollins@mtso.edu)

#### October 12

##### Backyard Abolitionist Tour

Event designed to spread awareness of modern slavery. Co-hosted by MTSO and Ohio Wesleyan University, held in OWU’s Hamilton-Williams Campus Center.

[JaredLittleton@gmail.com](mailto:JaredLittleton@gmail.com)

#### October 17

##### Fall Admissions Open House

Campus tours, classroom visitation, faculty and student panels, and worship opportunities.

[www.mtso.edu/visit](http://www.mtso.edu/visit)  
[admit@mtso.edu](mailto:admit@mtso.edu)

#### October 21

##### Clinical Pastoral Education Expo

Presented by the Pastoral Care and Counseling Department. Featured speaker will be Professor Emma Justes of United Theological Seminary.

[vlattimore@mtso.edu](mailto:vlattimore@mtso.edu)

#### February 12

##### Student Stories Luncheon

A special event centered on scholarship students and the donors who made their scholarships possible.

# Building a legacy

## A donation of real estate by Ray and Margaret Mason funds new premier scholarships

For five decades, friends of Methodist Theological School in Ohio have supported the education of religious leaders in many ways. But it's safe to say not too many gifts have involved a pharmacy and a cell phone tower.

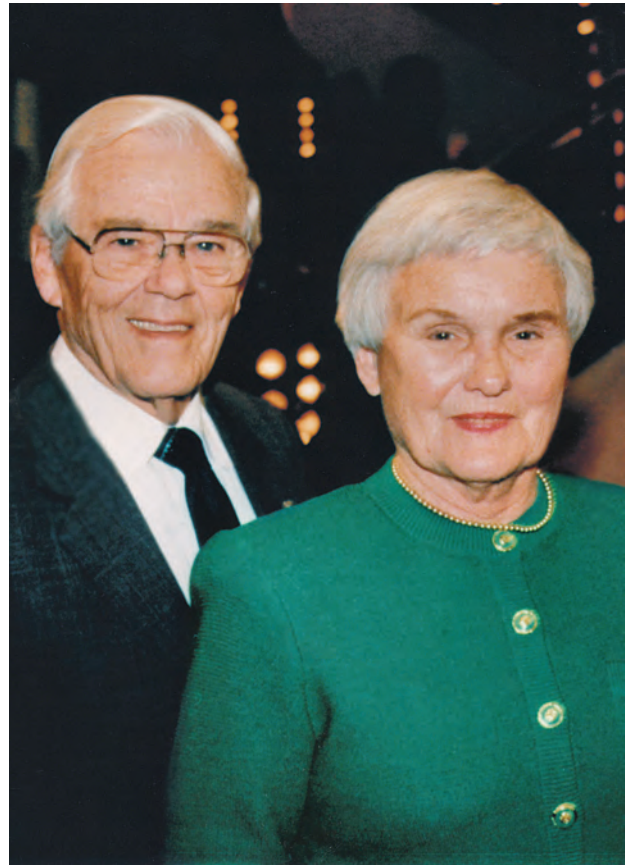
Thanks to the creative generosity of Major General Raymond E. Mason Jr. and his wife, Margaret, MTSO now owns a professional building on the north side of Columbus, the proceeds of which will fund the education of many future students. It's a unique gift from a unique couple with a deep appreciation for the lasting value of theological education.

Ray Mason will always be known as "the general," an acknowledgment of his distinguished career in the military. He served in Europe as a member of General Patton's

Third Army during World War II and later held high-ranking positions at the Pentagon. His service continued as a member of the active reserves until 1976, when he retired as a major general.

Settling in Columbus after the war, the Masons remembered the philosophy that had served both of their fathers well. "His father and my father were both self-made men," Margaret said. "My father's motto was always, 'Work for yourself, even if you only have a shoeshine stand.'"

The Masons ended up with **continues** →



*"They're very inspirational people" \* The Masons have funded MTSO scholarships with two substantial gifts 10 years apart*

### February 15-16

**Harding Scholarship Interviews**  
[www.mtso.edu/harding](http://www.mtso.edu/harding)  
[admit@mtso.edu](mailto:admit@mtso.edu)

### February 24

**Faculty Lecture**  
 "An Israelite-Egyptian-Persian Obama,"  
 by Professor Paul Kim.

### March 9-10

**Williams Institute**  
 Featured speaker: Edward P. Wimberly.

### March 15-16

**Mission and Evangelism Institute**  
 Co-sponsored by MTSO and East and West Ohio annual conferences. Theme: "Renewal of Small-Membership and Rural Congregations," with keynote speaker

Anthony G. Pappas of the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts.  
[jpark@mtso.edu](mailto:jpark@mtso.edu)

### March 23

**Premier Scholarship Competition**  
[admit@mtso.edu](mailto:admit@mtso.edu)

### April 21

**Annual Lecture in World Religions and Interreligious Dialogue**  
 Theme: "Faith in the Public Square," with speaker Rabbi David Fox Sandmell of Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. Held at the Pontifical College Josephinum's Joseph Jessing Center.  
[pnumrich@mtso.edu](mailto:pnumrich@mtso.edu)

### April 24

**Spring Admissions Open House**  
 Campus tours, classroom visitation, faculty

and student panels, and worship opportunities.

[www.mtso.edu/visit](http://www.mtso.edu/visit)  
[admit@mtso.edu](mailto:admit@mtso.edu)

### May 11

**Closing Convocation and Awards Ceremony**  
 President Jay Rundell preaching

### May 12

**Closing Eucharist**  
 Dean Randy Litchfield preaching

### May 21

**Baccalaureate**

### May 22

**48th Annual Commencement**

## Mason Legacy

from previous page

something more than a shoeshine stand. In 1949, Ray purchased a struggling trucking company and built it into a thriving business. Today, Columbus Truck & Equipment is run by Ray Mason III, one of Ray and Margaret's three sons.

**The Masons' success brought with it a wide-ranging commitment to philanthropy. Giving "comes as second nature to them," said Paul Donald, retired president of Nationwide Insurance and an MTSO trustee.**

Before retiring and moving to Florida, the Masons lived in Worthington and attended Worthington Presbyterian Church—a good fit particularly for Margaret. "I was brought up in a Welsh Presbyterian Church, where our sermons were sometimes an hour long," she recalled. There weren't many hour-long sermons at Worthington Presbyterian, but the Masons felt at home nonetheless.

Success brought with it a wide-ranging commitment to philanthropy. The Raymond E. Mason Foundation, named for Ray's father, donated more than \$21 million to charity. Giving "comes as second nature to them," said Paul Donald, retired president of Nationwide Insurance and an MTSO trustee. Donald and Ray Mason have been friends for more than 30 years and were next-door neighbors in Worthington.

"I knew him as an active supporter of the arts in both Columbus and Cincinnati," Donald said. "And as we got to know more about him, we learned he had an interest in higher education."

Donald was instrumental in

introducing the Masons to the work of Methesco. "Like most people, they thought it was mostly a Methodist school," he said. "The campus was a bit of a mystery to them." But when they visited the school, "they were favorably impressed by what they saw." Though the Masons were impressed by the architecture and landscape of the campus they saw, it wasn't in buildings that they wanted to make an impact. "They wanted to do it not so much in brick and mortar but in the interest of student education and scholarly help," Donald said.

In 1999, the full-tuition Raymond and Margaret Mason Endowed Scholarship was established at MTSO, funded by the Mason Foundation. Now, 10 years later, the Masons have honored the school with an even more significant gift. A professional building at 1495 Morse Road on Columbus's north side was donated to Methesco by the Masons in

June of this year. As the new school year begins, three MTSO students are reaping the benefits of full-tuition scholarships provided by the Masons.

"The Masons wanted to make a substantial gift to the seminary to support student scholarships," said President Jay Rundell. "While gifts of cash or even stock might come to mind first, their friend and attorney, Bob Johnson, had the idea of gifting this property."

Said Johnson, "Using property as gifts is not uncommon among people who have substantial assets."

Margaret Mason said she's happy to see their gifts to MTSO go "for a good cause," the education of religious leaders—including, perhaps, Presbyterians. "After all," she said, "the Christian religions are more alike than you think. Sometimes we just approach things a little differently."

"They're very inspirational people," said Johnson, "and I know they hope this gift helps future generations of ministers." ✱



**A firm foundation** ✱ *The Morse Road professional building given to MTSO by the Masons in June*

# Alum news

If you're an alum or former faculty or staff member of Methesco and have news to share about personal milestones, please submit it via the link at [www.mtso.edu/alumni](http://www.mtso.edu/alumni). If you don't have an Internet connection, you may mail your news to us at Alum News, MTSO, 3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

## 1963

**John Biggers**, a retired minister and attorney, has launched a blog: [johnwbiggers.wordpress.com](http://johnwbiggers.wordpress.com). His first posts deal with reconsidering the use of the term "evangelical."

## 1970

**Margaret Barno** moved to Pflugerville, Texas, from Galveston in the wake of Hurricane Ike in September 2008. "My apartment on the island was 327 feet from the Gulf of Mexico but miraculously sustained primarily mold damage. The apartment was broken into after the storm; thieves took computer equipment, jewelry and other items, but I was able to move most of my belongings to my new home for which I am very thankful." [margaretbarno@att.net](mailto:margaretbarno@att.net)

## 1974

IN MEMORIAM: **Robert Sayre**, August 2008.

**Lynn Wilbur** retired in June 2008 from the Virginia Annual Conference and is living outside Oxford, N.C. [lrwilbur@hughes.net](mailto:lrwilbur@hughes.net)

## 1975

**Tim Farabaugh**, who serves as COO of Vinson Hall Corp. in McLean, Va., has written his third book, *Lay Pastoral Care-Giving*,

published by Discipleship Resources and available at

[www.UpperRoom.org/bookstore](http://www.UpperRoom.org/bookstore).  
[tdfarabaugh@comcast.net](mailto:tdfarabaugh@comcast.net)

**Fred Shaw** has created a Web site, [www.sumac-enterprises.net](http://www.sumac-enterprises.net), detailing his storytelling, writing and conservation work beyond the church. He is senior pastor of Oxford UMC in Oxford, Ohio. [fashaw@juno.com](mailto:fashaw@juno.com)

## 1976

IN MEMORIAM: **Paul Meyers**, husband of **Janis Wright Meyers**, March 2008. [jmeyers@sandburg.edu](mailto:jmeyers@sandburg.edu)

**Steven Miller** retired June 30, 2009, after 35 years of pastoral service. His last appointment was Christ UMC in Venice, Fla., where he served as senior pastor for 11 years. [smiller820@yahoo.com](mailto:smiller820@yahoo.com)

**R. Karl Watkins** has been appointed to Harris and Lake Park UMCs in Iowa. He received a D.Min. in Biblical Preaching from Luther Seminary in May 2009.

## 1978

**Carol Seckel** works with the Germany Central Conference in Frankfurt am Main, where she is coordinator of English language and migrant ministry. She is married to **Kevin Seckel**, also a 1978 Methesco grad. [carkseckel@aol.com](mailto:carkseckel@aol.com)

## 1981

**Dana Houck** has released *Lessons of Life from Hard Core Cons*, a book about his work with inmates in a Minnesota state prison. He is pastor at Kenyon UMC in Kenyon Minn. [dana.houck1@gmail.com](mailto:dana.houck1@gmail.com)

## 1982

**Sondra B. Willobee** released *The Write Stuff: Crafting Sermons that Capture and Convince*, a book designed to help preachers enliven their sermons by using the techniques of great writers. She is senior pastor at First United Methodist Church in South Lyon, Mich.

## 1989

**Lori Burdette-Steele** was named the 2009 Pastor of the Year by the Three Rivers (East Ohio) District Lay Speakers. Lori is the pastor of the Nashville United Methodist Church in Holmes County, Ohio. [Lburdettesteele@aol.com](mailto:Lburdettesteele@aol.com)

Army Chaplain (Maj.) **Steven Jerles** is stationed at Torii Station, Okinawa, Japan. [steven.jerles@us.army.mil](mailto:steven.jerles@us.army.mil)

**Roger Saunders** retired July 1, 2009. He and his wife, Beverly, are looking forward to this new chapter in their lives. [bfr641@gmail.com](mailto:bfr641@gmail.com)

## 1990

IN MEMORIAM: **Doris Moreland Jones**, December 2008.

**Johncie Palmer** is a deacon in full connection, retired, with the Detroit Annual Conference and serves as chair of the Detroit Conference MTSO Alumni Cluster Group. [rjlangston@comcast.net](mailto:rjlangston@comcast.net)

## 1995

**Dan Smith** will finish his doctorate in May of 2010. He is senior pastor of Zion Evangelical UCC in St. Joseph, Mich. [mtso95@yahoo.com](mailto:mtso95@yahoo.com)

continues →

**Alum News**

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**Kathy Urban-Dickriede** and her husband, **Danny Dickriede**, will join the Camphor Mission Station in the Liberia Annual Conference in ministry. As a doctor, Danny will work on community-based health care at the Camphor Mission Station and in the surrounding villages. Kathy will help all of the ministries of the mission, including school, boarding students, church and the agriculture program. Follow their blog at [www.camphormission.org](http://www.camphormission.org). [rosemark@mentorumc.org](mailto:rosemark@mentorumc.org)

**1997**

**Eric Raygor** is serving at Grace United Methodist Church in Somerset, Pa., where he has been since July 2005. He and his wife, Kimberly, an English teacher in the Salisbury-Elk Lick School District, have two boys, Owen (born 1999) and Benjamin (born 2001). "If you had Steve Harsh's Narrative Preaching class, you'll know where Owen's name comes from." Eric serves on the board of directors of Camp Allegheny, a ministry of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference, and he appreciates living in close proximity to two ski resorts. [eraygor@gmail.com](mailto:eraygor@gmail.com)

**1998**

**Ned Adams** is serving as pastor of Patagonia Community UMC in Patagonia, Ariz., whose members call it the Jewelbox of the Southwest because of its stunning stained glass. He is in his second year after having been retired for three years. [ndadams@cox.net](mailto:ndadams@cox.net)

**1999**

**Emily Hall** left parish ministry in July 2008 to become a chaplain at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital in Morris Plains, N.J. In February 2009, she received board certification from the Association of Professional Chaplains. [emilybhall@frontiernet.net](mailto:emilybhall@frontiernet.net)

**Michael Ludle** was ordained an elder in full connection at the West Virginia Annual Conference in June 2009. [mludle@mtsoalum.org](mailto:mludle@mtsoalum.org)

**2000**

**Joseph Branch** was commissioned in June 2009 as chaplain-captain in the Ohio Air National Guard, 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield, Ohio. He was appointed in July 2009 as the chief of quality, compliance and accountability for the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.

**2002**

IN MEMORIAM: **Walter**, the support dog of **Diane Johnson**, June 2009.

**2004**

**John Kincaid** and his wife, Anna, had their third son, Zachariah Adam, on July 2, 2009. John is pursuing his Ph.D. at Claremont Graduate University, where he is working on his dissertation, "Aquinas's Formulation of Original Sin: A Negotiation Between East and West." [hypostaticunion@verizon.net](mailto:hypostaticunion@verizon.net)

**Elaine Turner** is now serving the Amboy/Kellogsville charge in East Ohio's Western Reserve District, and she's having a great time. [eturner54@rocketmail.com](mailto:eturner54@rocketmail.com)

**2005**

**Debra Hanlon-Hedtke** received certification as a board certified chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains and as a clinical member of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. [deb.hedtke@gmail.com](mailto:deb.hedtke@gmail.com)

**Becky Stephens Smithey** married David Alan Smithey in September 2008. She serves as pastor of Sand Branch UMC in Knoxville, Tenn. [prchrbeck@hotmail.com](mailto:prchrbeck@hotmail.com)

**2006**

**Jerry Krueger** was ordained an elder in full connection at the June 2009 Annual Conference of the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Jerry was also recently appointed associate pastor at LakeRidge UMC in Lubbock, Texas. Two of Jerry's sons, John and Michael, have recently moved to Lubbock to attend Texas Tech University.

**Arnold Magy** is employed by the City of Ketchikan, Alaska, at the Gateway Center for Human Services, where—thanks to his years of experience and the education he received at MTSO—he is the only clinician doing both substance abuse and mental health. He is considering the Ph.D. program in rural Alaska cultural psychology being offered by the University of Alaska at Anchorage/Fairbanks. [arnie.magy@gmail.com](mailto:arnie.magy@gmail.com)

**2008**

**Nancy Day-Achauer** successfully merged Community and McKendree UMCs in North Union County, Ohio. The new congregation is called York Center UMC. [n2day@hotmail.com](mailto:n2day@hotmail.com)

**2009**

**Renae Meggitt** has been blessed after graduation to be appointed pastor of the North Lima Calvary UMC. "This congregation is amazing in that they truly live out their faith on a day-to-day basis." [rmeggitt@zoominternet.net](mailto:rmeggitt@zoominternet.net)



# A mind of ice and a heart afire

Few people understand the way things work as well as Randy Litchfield does. He has milled tools and designed electric vehicle battery packs. He's made gee-whiz classroom technology commonplace and become an expert at assessing the essential tasks of teaching and learning.

Now, after eight years on the MTSO faculty—most recently as a professor in the Browning Chair of Christian Education—he brings his unique skill set to a new role: academic dean. Litchfield, 51, has been appointed interim dean for a two-year term, replacing John Kampen, who is now cap-

**While earning his Ph.D. at Claremont, Litchfield worked in Academic Dean Alan Moore's office, which "taught me quite a bit about how theological education worked."**

ping his distinguished career as a professor of New Testament studies at Methesco.

Litchfield's path to theological leadership survived a rather lengthy detour. As a high school student and a member of a Disciples of Christ congregation in Anderson, Indiana, he played basketball "constantly," and thought about ministry and teaching occasionally. But he was the son of a former General Motors tool-and-die man who had opened his own tool business: "As soon as I was old enough to turn the crank on the milling machines, I was helping Dad in the



**"With the strategic plan that's in place, there's a lot to pursue" \* Litchfield**

**Academic Dean Randy Litchfield is thoughtful, analytical and never satisfied with good enough**

tool room." So a more obvious career path was before him, via the General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) in Flint, Mich.

After graduating from GMI, where his undergraduate thesis was on cooling for electric vehicle battery packs, Litchfield returned to Indiana, where he worked in advanced engineering and product development for General Motors at Anderson's Delco Remy plant. But he also became more involved with his home church, often assisting the youth minister. Litchfield vividly remembers volunteering at a fifth- and sixth-grade camp, an experience he found both invigorating and theologically daunting: "At the end, I thought, 'I have no idea what I'm doing with these kids.' If they had asked me anything, I would have been dumbfounded as to what to say."

His work at church, coupled with the fact that "I was not enjoying engineering at all," led him to enroll as an occasional student at the Anderson University School of Theology. He also began worshiping in the Church of God, where his future wife, Terri, was a member. Randy and Terri, who serves as Methesco's coordinator of institutional research, have been married 27 years. Their daughter,

continues →

**Dean Randy Litchfield**  
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Erin, is a sophomore at Earlham College.

For the soft-spoken Litchfield, contemplating a religious vocation was a little confounding. “All my understanding of ministry was very upfront—preaching, visitation. And I’m more of an introvert.” But as his love of theology and education developed, he saw a path that fit. After spending six years earning his Master of Religious Education degree, he cut his ties with engineering, using a “golden handshake” from GM to fund his tuition at the School of Theology at Claremont in Southern California.

While earning his Ph.D. at Claremont, Litchfield worked in Academic Dean Alan Moore’s office, eventually spending a year as the dean’s full-time assistant. Among his duties were planning summer school and public events, and compiling Claremont’s self-study report for



**“We have a unique faculty culture of collaboration”** \* Litchfield chats with Professor Robin Knowles Wallace

# Wired for a sound education

It was an irritating, if character-building, element of the student experience: frantically copying jottings from the chalk board into your notebook before the professor blithely erased them to start filling the slate all over again. Methesco students are apparently having their character built in new ways now, because the classroom experience has been transformed by technology.

Advanced computers and audio-visual equipment, once considered a collection of glitzy gimmicks, are now commonplace tools that enhance the flow of information. In fact, Academic Dean Randy Litchfield believes the leaps in educational technol-

ogy should lead to new thinking about the roles and responsibilities of students.

When he began coordinating classroom technology three years ago, only two classrooms provided built-in capabilities to project notes from a laptop computer onto a screen. “We were using carts to wheel in technology,” he said. Since then, thanks to grants from the Harry C. Moores Foundation, MTSO’s tech team has outfitted all classrooms with projection technology. Faculty members’ desktop computers have been replaced with laptops, which they can easily dock to a lectern in any classroom.

Many professors now have portable

“tablet” PCs, allowing them to write by hand on the computer screen—and have the handwritten notes projected simultaneously on a board at the front of the class. This information, along with audio, can be digitally recorded or transmitted offsite.

When the lecture’s over, the professor’s original notes can be posted indefinitely on the campus computer system, where students can review them at any time. At its best, this technology allows students to spend less time fretting over notes and more time actually listening and interacting.

“For a seminary, we’ve probably got as strong of an in-classroom setup as any-

accreditation. Dean Moore “taught me quite a bit about how theological education worked,” Litchfield said.

After Claremont, Litchfield accepted an appointment back at Anderson University, where he taught undergrad general education religion electives and Christian ministry major classes. In addition to his teaching duties, he became active in the national Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education, eventually accepting a post as the group’s executive secretary. By then, the tension between teaching and administrative endeavors had become a recurring theme for Litchfield. Which does he prefer? “I’m still sorting that out.”

In 2001, MTSO appointed him assistant professor of Christian education, and he immediately took on the task of chairing the committee designing the school’s Doctor of Ministry program.

In his time here, Litchfield has become a point person for assessment and educational technology, among other projects. “Assessment” can mean many things; he defines it

place,” Litchfield said. That’s why, for the past two years, he and the MTSO technology staff have worked to take the next step, creating a common online space where resources can be shared, calendars can be updated, papers can be submitted and returned, and conversations can be held. Using Microsoft software called SharePoint, the Methesco tech team has created what Litchfield calls “a collaboration platform,” a password-protected portion of the MTSO Web site accessible to students and faculty.

Here’s a quick example of SharePoint in action: Using campuswide wireless Internet capabilities, a student can put the finishing touches on a term paper in the Dickhaut Library and electronically submit the file to a professor, who can grade it—imbedding comments for the student’s review—before electronically returning it to the student, who might review the marked-

as “inquiry into student learning.”

“What are students learning? How does that learning relate to the goals of the program and the mission of the school? And how can we adjust programs to bring things into either higher levels of achievement or greater alignment with the mission of the school?”

**President Rundell said Litchfield “is quickly emerging as an important voice in how the next generation of leaders will teach and learn.”**

In discussing Litchfield’s appointment as interim dean, President Jay Rundell was quick to praise his commitment to employing the latest advances in technology and effective teaching.

“Randy is uniquely gifted to lead our academic program at this time,” Rundell said. “Obviously, he brings expertise in educational technologies and assessment. But it’s more than that. He is quickly emerging as



**“For a seminary, we’ve probably got as strong of an in-classroom setup as anyplace”** \* MTSO’s technology gives students more tools—and more responsibility

an important voice in how the next generation of leaders will teach and learn.”

Litchfield has taken on a variety of tech-related projects in recent years, often teaming with MTSO director of Information Systems Matthew Rehm and Computer Technical Assistant Justin Lipscomb. “We’ve formed a pretty good team, I think,” Litchfield said. (See “Wired for a sound education” on page 11.)

In a career that has balanced teaching and administration, last year tilted toward administration. Litchfield spent 2008-09 out of the classroom, focusing instead on several projects, including contributions to the extensive self-study report that was part of the school’s successful accreditation process. He also has overseen the Racism, Reconciliation and Community Task Force. With a grant he obtained from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Litchfield has led campuswide discussions on issues of racism and institutionalized privilege. The

continues →

up composition over a second cup of coffee in Dunn Dining Hall.

Justin Lipscomb views campus technology from a unique perspective; he’s both the school’s computer technical assistant and a Master of Theological Studies student. From a student’s perspective, he’s grateful for the ability to submit paperless papers and collaborate online.

“It gives us more time to finish our work because we can work right up to the deadline without worrying about having it printed,” Lipscomb said. Furthermore, “It facilitates the idea that I think this school wants to foster by being environmentally conscious and also being a community in all aspects.”

The fostering of a collaborative commu-

continues →

## Dean Randy Litchfield

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project continues into the fall, with a final report due in December.

Early in its history, Methesco earned a reputation for supporting civil rights struggles—but Litchfield and his task force have discussed how resting on such a tradition can hinder efforts to remain vigilant regarding issues of privilege. “We talk about the glory years of the 1960s,” he said. “But are we anti-racist now? Has that legacy created a self-deception that we don’t have work to do?”

Lunchtime discussion groups and faculty meetings have addressed issues of privilege, with an emphasis on addressing it as a diverse community. “I think what we’re try-

ing to emphasize is that this is an issue that the people in privilege have to address,” he said. “While students of color or faculty of color might experience the impact of race and privilege, it’s really people in the privileged position who have to change the system.”

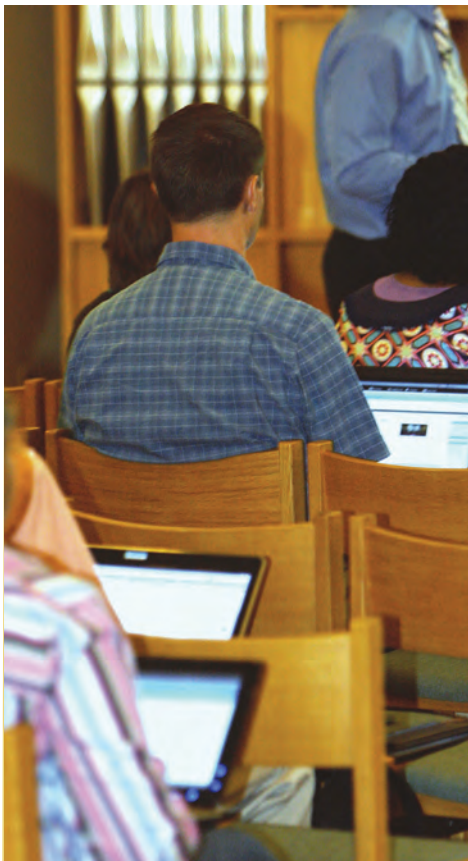
Despite the many irons he has in the fire, Litchfield is embracing the responsibilities of dean.

“I got a renewed interest in theological education after the self-study,” he said. “With the strategic plan that’s in place—what John Kampen has started and has been able to accomplish—there’s a lot to pursue.” Litchfield called Kampen “a fantastic dean,” noting that the reputation of his predecessor extends far beyond the MTSO campus. “He was a dean of deans in a lot of ways.”

Litchfield said his position as dean fits with the renewed interest he developed in theological education as he worked on the self-study. He’s excited about leading colleagues he respects and teaming with President Rundell: “I’ve enjoyed working with Jay.”

In late summer, Litchfield began meeting one-on-one with faculty members to discuss their goals for the upcoming year. Though he knows his colleagues well, he does not want his familiarity with them to put them into preconceived boxes.

“We have a unique faculty culture of collaboration,” he said. “I think generally we like working together as a faculty. I would not have agreed to this responsibility if I did not have a lot of confidence in this faculty’s abilities.” ✨



**Wired for wireless** ✨ *Laptops were well connected during an orientation session in the Alford Centrum*

## Wired

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nity is Litchfield’s favorite part of the system. He’s pleased by “the way it facilitates students being exposed to each other’s work and being able to dialogue, critique and support each other’s work.” In fact, he wants to lead MTSO toward a different way of thinking about students’ work—a new philosophy that gives students greater power and responsibility for contributing to the school’s academic mission.

“I think a lot of students are socialized to think of a paper as a private thing ‘between me and the prof,’” he said. “I want them to think they’re producing something that contributes to the community of inquiry. When they do that, that work is a public contribution. And shoddy work can mess somebody else up.”

“To the degree the school is about developing leaders, they have to start thinking that all their work is public work that makes a difference,” Litchfield said. “It’s not just a pile of private papers.”

Students’ contributions to the learning process will be vital this fall, when a new distance-learning model will be used for the first time. Two courses, in liturgical prayer and United Methodist history, will be taught as “hy-

brid” classes. The students and professors will meet in person for the first and last classes of the term, but in between, they’ll gather only online.

Members of the class will communicate through discussion boards, postings of student work, electronic readings and collaborative online works such as a single, comprehensive course bibliography incorporating three or four sources from each student. There will also be occasional live online meetings, thanks to powerful new software, Connect Pro by Adobe, with audio and presentation capabilities that allow everyone to talk and webcams that will beam the professors’ images to every screen. It’s rare, Litchfield said, for a graduate school to offer this level of connectivity to a class.

While this harnessing of bits and bytes enhances learning in some dazzling new ways, Litchfield is just as happy about the down-to-earth benefits, from the thousands of saved dollars in paper and photocopying expenses to, well, basic legibility.

As he discussed the process that allows professors to type color-coded comments into students’ original document files, he smiled.

“I probably shouldn’t say this,” he said, “but I’m guessing some students can actually read the comments now, where they couldn’t discern the scribbling before.” ✨

# The place of unknowing

After an untimely accident, Diane Lobody delivers a memorable charge to the MTSO graduating class of 2009

By Professor Diane H. Lobody

*A new Graduation Weekend tradition began this year, when the graduating class met for a Senior Breakfast the morning of commencement. After the meal, Diane Lobody was invited to offer a final charge to the class. Here are highlights of her address.*

When I was so graciously invited to give the charge to the graduating class of 2009, I immediately began to ponder what to say. This is, after all, my last shot at you as a captive audience, and the right sort of professorial wisdom for such an occasion as this should carry with it a certain gravitas.

My best intentions in that regard were sent flying, as was I, by an unplanned slip on the stairs. As soon as I looked down at a foot that was facing in a completely wrong direction, I realized that life as I knew it had radically changed. I had never before broken a bone, never undergone the sort of major surgery where they actually cut into one's body and rearrange the interior parts, and never been physically incapacitated. It was clear that I had entered into an utterly alien phase of life, a place of unknowing.

It struck me that all of you are also about to enter a place of unknowing. You are headed out into the various settings for which you have been preparing these past few years. So, as a fellow pilgrim in the land of the unfamiliar, I offer to you five lessons I have learned so far during my sojourn in the place of unknowing.



**The most important lesson about walking with a walker is this: You have to look ahead to the place where you want to go, and not down at the spot where you are.**

**The Lesson of the Walker:** My mobility is currently dependent on the use of a wheelchair and a walker. Wheelchairs are a snap compared to the deceptively straight-forward walker. The most important lesson about walking with a walker is this: You have to look ahead to the place where you want to go, and not down at the spot where

you are. If you look down, you will tip right over.

As pastors, counselors, educators and leaders, we have to cast our minds and our vision outward, away from the place where our people (and we ourselves) are stuck and immobilized, and forward to the place where we want to go and where we yearn for our people to be.

By looking forward, we shift from an inward focus that derives from panic, that bends the back and slumps the spirit, and that always paralyzes us. The outward gaze

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forces us to stand up straight and breathe deeply, and when we do that we can move.

**The Lesson of Pain:** My experience in the place of unknowing has introduced me to the nuances of pain, to the peculiar variations of hurting. I encountered, first of all, the traumatic pain of the accident, which demanded and received immediate treatment. I had to put my body into the hands of those who had the competence to repair it. In your own place of unknowing, you may well experience an injury that crushes you emotionally or spiritually, and you will have to call out for help and place your soul in the care of those who can facilitate your healing. This is a mixed blessing that, to be sure, obliges us to endure all of the embarrassment that comes with allowing others to tend to us, but that also offers us the unique grace that comes from trusting others.

When I came home from the hospital, I discovered a second kind of pain, what my surgeons called residual dissociative pain. This involved sudden, sharp stabs caused by irritated nerves firing at will. This pain seemed horrible, but it actually provided reassuring proof that neither the injury nor the surgery had resulted in irreversible nerve damage. The temptation, of course, is to try and numb any pain immediately, but this is the sort of pain that is curiously good news and that is best treated with grateful recognition and simple endurance.

At times in your own place of unknowing, your pain will be a gladdening sign that you are not deadened to new experiences, that you are testing and stretching yourself. These are the growing pains that accompany movement into a new stage of life.

As I began to put weight on my broken foot, I discovered another form of pain, the kind that came when I stepped the wrong way or moved without an adequate appreciation for my current limitations. This is a pedagogical pain that says uncompromisingly, “DO NOT DO THAT!” Your places of unknowing will necessarily have you walking along new pathways where your former

style of movement may not serve you well, so pay attention to those moments of pedagogical pain and learn from them quickly.

I have also suffered from the intense pain that is the inevitable consequence of breaking two bones in multiple places, detaching a third bone, dislocating an entire joint, and undergoing major surgery to repair the damage. This is not the sort of pain that can be handled solely with prayer, positive thinking and gritty determination. My nurses were quite firm about this truth: Deep pain impedes healing, and the sooner it was addressed and eased, the more quickly I would recover.

So, with apologies to my colleagues who teach courses in addiction counseling, I have to say that with this sort of pain it has been best to just say yes to drugs. Your pilgrimage in your place of unknowing may very well precipitate or reawaken in you deep and abiding spiritual and emotional

**At times in your own place of unknowing, your pain will be a gladdening sign that you are not deadened to new experiences, that you are testing and stretching yourself.**

pain, and you need to know that at such times it is best to just say yes to help. Just say yes to therapy. Just say yes to spiritual direction. Just say yes to support groups. You simply cannot will such pain away. God desires healing for each of us, and your responsibility is to seek out and collaborate with all those who will help to make you whole.

**The Lesson of Demonic Forces:** My period in the place of unknowing has brought me face to face with demonic forces. I am speaking, of course, of my dealings with my health insurer. I had been home a few days and had already discovered, to my appalled dismay, that most of the necessary orthopedic devices and home care services that were prescribed by my

surgeon were, alas, not covered under my policy.

And then the letter came, informing me that coverage for my entire hospitalization had been denied. According to their treatment standards, my condition could have been treated “at an alternate site.”

I was not entirely sure what they had in mind by “alternate site.” Were they perhaps suggesting that I should have been loaded onto a plane for Paris or Havana, where my surgery and hospitalization would have been provided as part of the national health care provisions of more humane and progressive countries? Or were they saying that since I teach in a theological seminary I should have lurched to the Centrum for anointment with oil, charismatic prayer and the laying on of hands?

In this, my place of unknowing, the last thing I expected was to encounter evil bannally disguised as my own heretofore reliable insurance company. You will find, in your own place of unknowing, that the powers of evil still stride arrogantly abroad and that demonic forces are hiding inside all kinds of systems and structures.

This I have learned: You cannot battle these forces alone. I have been saved and sustained by the slew of people who constructed on my behalf a conspiracy of goodness. Lisa Withrow, Jon Jump and Jay Rundell alleviated my panic; Jon initiated an immediate insurance appeal process; Grace Wallace and Datha Myers listened to me rant and lifted my spirits on a daily basis; and my surgeon embarked on a time-consuming series of increasingly heated arguments in order to persuade the insurance company to reverse its decision.

When you encounter sin and evil in your place of unknowing, join with others and create your own conspiracy of goodness. Lean on the expertise, wisdom, courage, and persistence of friends and colleagues who are determined to fight for justice and love.

**The Lesson of Living as the Person You Want to Be:** From time to time over

the years, I have wondered how I would handle a serious illness or injury. I was convinced that my response to catastrophe would be to fold in on myself, sink into depression, shut people out, and succumb to the whole gamut of negative feelings that can torment the spirit and drown the soul.

But from the moment the EMTs arrived at my home, through my hospitalization, right up to today, I have been preposterously cheerful, ridiculously faithful and outrageously hopeful. Who is this person, I have marveled, and where in heaven's name did she come from? As I've considered this bewildering discovery of an unexpected self, I've concluded that I have become this person by decades of living as if I were this kind of person. This character has been shaped by 20 years of bounding joyfully into classrooms even when I didn't feel particularly glad to be there and responding cheerfully to students when all I wanted to do was go home. It's come from opening every class I have ever taught with the same prayer of trust—O God who calls us from death to life—even on days when God and I were not on particularly cordial terms.

This is by no means new wisdom. Methodists know well the story of Peter Bohler's advice to the uncertain John Wesley: "Preach faith until you have it." In your own place of unknowing, be daring and do what may not come naturally to you. Envision with hope the person that God yearns for you to be, and act as though you are already that person. Before you know it, you will become your best and truest self.

**The Lesson of Community:** My place of unknowing could have been a devastating wilderness through which I limped in utter isolation. I live alone, and my family members all live hundreds of miles from Ohio. I have been entirely dependent on the people of MTSO to get through these past weeks. I have come to know and experience, in a new and powerful way, the faithfulness of this remarkable community.

Before I was settled in my hospital bed on the day of my accident, colleagues had contacted the insurance people, organized class coverage, canceled my appoint-

ments, sent out a mass e-mail to the community, arranged cat care, delivered everything I needed for a hospital stay, checked on the competence of the surgeon, notified the president of the hospital that I was to be treated as a VIP, scheduled a rotation of visitors, worked out a way to contact my parents when I came out of surgery, brought me a holding cross, and sent a gigantic bouquet of flowers.

People visited and prayed with me, waited through my surgery, sat with me as I came out of the fog of anesthesia, and phoned to offer messages of support. By the time I returned home, a flexible and practical system of home care was already in place. Terri and Randy Litchfield constructed an online meal schedule sign-up site. Paul Kim presented me with a waterproof cast cover to use when I showered.

I've received e-mails, Facebook messages and phone calls from scores of people connected to the school—students and faculty, of course, but also administrators, staff members, trustees, alums, emeritus faculty, and the spouses and children of people connected to the seminary. I have been humbled, blessed and profoundly moved by such compassion, generosity and thoughtful pragmatism.

In your own place of unknowing, you will wither away or burn out if you try and muddle through on your own. Remember what we have here, and work diligently to seek out such a community. When you find it, build it up and make it stronger, more vibrant and more merciful. If there is no community to be found, create one. You will know how to do this because you have already done it, here at this school.

So, these are my five last lessons to you: look ahead to where you are going and not down at where you are; recognize and respond appropriately to different kinds of pain; face down evil by conspiring with others for good; live as the person you wish to become; and root yourself deeply in a community. May you be graced and blessed in your place of unknowing! ❄



## A weekend to remember

MTSO conferred 53 degrees at its 47th annual commencement May 23. Here is a sample of images. For more photos of this and other events in the life of the school, check out [picasaweb.google.com/Methesco](http://picasaweb.google.com/Methesco)



# Beyond the classroom

## Faculty activities 2008-2009



**Stephen Ahearne-Kroll**  
Associate Professor of  
New Testament

### Publications

“Mysterious Explanations: Mark 4 and the Reversal of Audience Expectation,” *Between Author and Audience in Mark: Narration, Characterization, Interpretation*. Edited by Elizabeth Struthers Malbon. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009.

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Birth and Memory: Platonic and Johannine Epistemologies in Dialogue,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, November 2008.

Organized and hosted “Women in the Religious and Intellectual Activity of the Ancient Mediterranean World.” This included 37 speakers from Europe and North America for a three-day conference March 15-17, 2009, at The Ohio State University and MTSO.

### Reviews

Review of Richard A. Burridge, *Imitating Jesus: An Inclusive Approach to New Testament Ethics*. *Journal of Religion* 89 (April 2009).

Review of Jaime Clark-Soles, *Death and the Afterlife in the New Testament*. *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 39 (2009).

### Meetings

Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, November 2008.

Organized and presided at “New Directions for a New Nuclear Age: Church Influence and Public Policy,” MTSO, Nov. 20, 2008.

### Church and popular lectures

“The Study of the Gospels,” Ohio Wesleyan University Newman Club, Delaware, Ohio, Dec. 3, 2008.

“Paul,” The Ohio State University St. Thomas More/Newman Center, Columbus, April 2009.



**Paul Burnam**  
Director of the  
John W. Dickhaut Library

### Publications

Review of Sara Laughlin and Ray W. Wilson, *The Quality Library: A Guide to Staff-Driven Improvement, Better Efficiency, and Happier Customers*, in *Theological Librarianship: An Online Journal Of The American Theological Library Association* 2:1 (2009).



**Patrick Clayborn**  
Instructor of Homiletics

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Transformed, Transforming,” sermon, MTSO Chapel for Board of Trustees, Nov. 6, 2008.

“Hold Fast,” sermon, MTSO chapel, March 25, 2009.

“Finding Your Voice in Preaching,” Homiletics Workshop for the AME Church’s Ohio Conference Board of Examiners, Central Chapel AME Church, Yellow Springs, Ohio, May 30, 2009.

### Meetings

Society of Biblical Literature/Academy of Homiletics, Boston, November 2008.

### Church and popular lectures

Conference leader, East Ohio Conference of Black Pastors. Sermon and two lectures on the theme “Is It Well With Your Soul?” Feb. 8 and 9, 2009.

“Making Revival,” “An Etude on Faith,” and “Hold On,” sermons, Holy Week Revival, St. Paul AME Church, Columbus, April 6-8, 2009.

“An Etude on Faith,” sermon, Young People’s Department Day, DuPage AME Church, Lisle, Ill., April 26, 2009.

“Don’t Settle: Make It Happen,” sermon, Sons

of Varick Day, First AMEZ Church, Columbus, May 24, 2009.

“The Ministry of the Spirit,” sermon, Pentecost Sunday, Riverside UMC, Upper Arlington, Ohio, May 31, 2009.



**Judith Craig**  
Visiting Professor of  
Church Leadership and  
Bishop in Residence

### Church and popular lectures

Four lectures and one workshop with pastors, Annual Lenten Lecture Series, Oak Ridge First UMC, Oak Ridge, Tenn. Subject: “On the Road with Jesus.” March 8-10, 2009.

### Other

Serving as bishop in residence at Epworth Euclid UMC in Cleveland, working with Pastor Ken Chalker of First UMC Cleveland to form a larger parish of the two congregations. Fall 2009.



**Lee Johnson**  
Associate Professor of  
New Testament in the  
Riley Chair of Biblical  
Interpretation

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Women and Social Class in the World of the New Testament,” Williams Lecture, MTSO, March 16, 2009.

### Meetings

Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, November 2008.

### Church and popular lectures

“Paul and Women,” “Greco-Roman Philosophical Discussion of Women,” “Scenes from Women in Jesus’ World—Birth, Service, Death, Burial, and Testimony,” lectures, Overbrook Lenten Series, Overbrook Presbyterian Church, Columbus, March 18, March 25, April 1.





**John Kampen**  
Professor of New Testament

#### Church and popular lectures

“Courting the Wrong Woman,” sermon, Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship, Oct. 21, 2008.



**Paul Kim**  
Professor of Hebrew Bible in the Williams Chair of Biblical Studies

#### Publications

“Achbor, Aharah, Ahira, Ahisamach, Anah, Asharelah, Assir, Asiel” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al.; Walter de Gruyter, 2009)

“Recent Scholarship on Isaiah 1-39,” *Recent Research on the Major Prophets*, ed. Alan J. Hauser (Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2008).

“Introduction to the Book of Isaiah,” *The Peoples’ Bible* (ed. Curtiss Paul DeYoung, et al.; Fortress, 2008).

#### Reviews

Review of Olof Bäckersten, *Isaiah’s Political Message: An Appraisal of His Alleged Social Critique* (FAT 29; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008) in *Biblical Interpretation* 17 (2009).

#### Church and popular lectures

“Inner-biblical Exegesis on the Call Narratives of Isaiah and Jeremiah,” School of Theology, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany, July 4, 2008.

“Glory, Hallelujah” (Isa 61:10-62:3; Ps 148; Luke 2:22-40), sermon, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Dec. 28, 2008.

Sermons at Ohio Sarang Presbyterian Church, Nov. 2, Nov. 30, Dec. 14, 2008.



**Sarah Lancaster**  
Professor in the Werner Chair of Theology

#### Publications

“What Makes Theology Wesleyan,” with Catherine Keller, Donald A. Thorsen, Dennis C. Dickerson, and Charles M. Wood, *Methodist Review: A Journal of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies*, 1 (2009).

Associate Editor and Contributor for *The Wesley Study Bible*, Abingdon Press, February 2009.

#### Academic lectures and presentations

Presider, session of Wesleyan Studies Group, “What Makes Theology Wesleyan,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Nov. 2, 2008.

Co-presider, a session of Wesleyan Studies Group, “Atonement,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Nov. 3, 2008.

Panelist responding to Ellen Charry, “God and the Art of Happiness,” J. Arthur Heck Lectures, United Theological Seminary, Dayton, April 14, 2009.

#### Meetings

Ecclesiology Working Group of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, Berekfürdo, Hungary, March 4-8, 2009.

“United Methodist Heritage,” confirmation class, Church of the Messiah, Westerville, March 15, 2009.

“United Methodist Beliefs,” confirmation class, Church of the Messiah, Westerville, March 22, 2009.

“The State of Ecclesiology,” inaugural meeting of the UMC Committee on Faith and Order, Washington, D.C., March 26, 2009.

#### Awards and appointments

Elected North American Secretary for the 13th Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Aug. 20, 2008.

#### Church and popular lectures

Sunday School series “What It Means to Be United Methodist” at Trinity UMC in Marble Cliff, OH, Sept. and Oct. 2008.

“The United Methodist Church and Ecumenism,” New Beginnings class, Church of the Messiah, Westerville, OH, Jan. 18, 2009.

“Religion and Science” for special educational event on “Evolution Sunday,” Maple Grove UMC, Clintonville, OH, Feb. 15, 2009.

Panelist, “Theological and Sociological Implications of Finding Life in the Universe,” Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH, Feb. 24, 2009.



**Vergel Lattimore**  
Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling in the Beeghly Chair of Pastoral Care

#### Publications

“Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution: A Viable Ministry for the Military Chaplaincy,” *The A.M.E. Zion Quarterly Review*, October 2007.

#### Meetings

Prayer at Ohio Memorial Chapter Meeting of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Nov. 15, 2008.

Seminary Curriculum Meeting—The Clergy Education and Training Project, sponsored by the National Association of Children of Alcoholics, Washington, D.C., Jan. 14-15, 2009.

Consultation addressing “The Many Faces of Forgiveness: Spiritual, Cultural, and Psychological Relationality,” sponsored by the Fetzer Institute, Washington, D.C., Jan. 14, 2009.

Second Check-Up Meeting of the Ohio Annual Conference, Price Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, Youngstown, Jan. 17, 2009.

Ohio Ministries Convocation, Columbus, Jan. 26, 2009.

Pastoral Care Advisory Committee, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus, Feb. 25, 2009.

Columbus-Cincinnati District Conference, St. James A.M.E. Zion Church, Cincinnati, March, 7, 2009.

Pastoral Care Advisory Committee, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus, June 17, 2009.

Ohio Annual Conference and chaired the State of the Country Committee, Beth-EL A.M.E. Zion Church, Cleveland, June 24-28, 2009.

Examiner for Third and Fourth Year Conference Studies, June 23-28, 2009.

#### Awards and appointments

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Appointed chaplain, Ohio Memorial Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., March 14, 2009.

**Church and popular lectures**

“Faith, Freedom, and Fallen Heroes,” Veterans Day speech—Clinton Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Rockville, Md., Nov. 9, 2008.

“Gifts that Reveal God: Beyond Wrapping Paper, Resolutions, and Returns,” sermon, St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church, Dayton, Jan. 4, 2009.

“Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.: A Consummate Clarion of One Humanity,” keynote speech, 16th Annual Delaware Community Breakfast Celebration, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, Jan. 19, 2009.

“Fellowship for the Journey,” sermon, First A.M.E. Zion Church, Columbus, Feb. 22, 2009.

“The Cost of Fellowship and the Fragrance of Covenant,” sermon, Holy Week Preaching Series, St. Peter Episcopal Church, Delaware, Ohio, April 6, 2009.

“Will You Stand by My Mother?” Sermon, Seven Last Words program, First A.M.E. Zion Church, April 10, 2009.

Invocation and benediction, Memorial Day celebration, St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Springfield, Ohio, May 25, 2009.



**Randy Litchfield**  
Interim Academic Dean  
and Professor in the  
Browning Chair of  
Christian Education

**Meetings**

EDUCAUSE, a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology, October 2008.

Association of Theological Schools Chief Academic Officers Society meeting, March 2009.



**Linda Mercadante**  
Professor of Theology in  
the Straker Chair of  
Historical Theology

**Publications**

“To church or not to church: PC(USA) researcher studies the ‘spiritual but not religious,’” Jerry Van Marter, Presbyterian News Service Online, Oct. 2008.

“My Conversion and Aspiration: Comparative Case Studies of Italian American Protestants I,” *Italian Americana*, Summer 2008.

“The Religious and Theological Roots of Alcoholics Anonymous.” Chapter 6, *The Praeger International Collection on Addictions, Volume 1: Forces of Addiction, Then and Now*, edited by Angela Browne-Miller. Westport: Praeger, 2009.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“Research Report on Spirituality Ethos,” General Council of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Louisville, August 2008.

Response to Bishop John Shelby Spong, MTSO, Nov. 12, 2008.

“Religious Conversion and Immigration: Italian Americans as Case Study,” American Academy of Religion, November 2008.

“Theological Roots of Addiction and Recovery,” Kansas Wesleyan, Introduction to Addiction Theory, November 2008.

“Spirituality Interviews Research Report,” University of Colorado at Boulder, Interview Research Methods with Professor Stewart Hoover, March 2009.

“Women Matter,” Princeton University Women Faculty and Staff, April 2009.

**Reviews**

Review of *Reframing Theology and Film: New Focus for an Emerging Discipline*. *Reviews in Religion & Theology* 15:3 (July 2008).

**Awards and appointments**

Religion and Life Forum clergy-in-residence, Bay View Association, Bay View, Mich., summer 2008.

Academic advisor, Interfaith Connections Student Group, MTSO, 2008-2009.

Theologian-in-residence, First United Methodist Church, Boulder, Colo., winter 2008

and May-June 2009.

Co-chair, Religious Conversions Unit, American Academy of Religion, 2008-present.

Consultant, Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence, Clergy Education Advisory Team, Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, 2008-present.

Interfaith Task Force, Mershon Center Peace Chair Initiative, 2008-present.

**Church and popular lectures**

“Your Life’s Meaning is in Your Story,” sermon, Bay View, Mich., August 2008.

“How to Seek God When There’s No Clear Path,” Religion and Life Forum, Bay View, August 2008.

“How to Learn from Others’ Journeys: Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, C.S. Lewis and Others,” Religion and Life Forum, Bay View, August 2008.

“How to Find Help at the Movies: Seekers and the Big Questions,” Religion and Life Forum, Bay View, August 2008.

“Viewing and Discussion of *Angel-A: Finding Theology in a Film*,” International Film Series, Bay View, August 2008.

“How to Map Your Spiritual Journey: Looking Within, Sharing with Others, Finding God’s Grace,” Religion and Life Forum, Bay View, August 2008.

“Writing as a Spiritual Discipline” Light on the Hill Retreat Center, Van Etnan, N.Y., September 2008.

“Understanding and Reaching the ‘Spiritual but Not Religious,’” three-talk series, Trinity United Methodist Church, Salina, Kan., October 2008.

“Writing as a Spiritual Discipline,” Spiritual Disciplines Class, Columbus Mennonite Church, Oct. 26, 2008.

“Death and Resurrection,” sermon, Columbus Mennonite Church, January 2009.

“Writing Your Spiritual Memoir,” Writer’s Bloc at Thurbur House, Columbus, March 2009.

“The Impact of Faith on Loss,” The Hope Center HomeReach Hospice, OhioHealth, March 2009.

“Meeting and Serving the ‘Spiritual but Not Religious,’” three-part series, First United Church, Boulder, Colo., May 2009.

“A Non-Violent Atonement,” two-part Bible study series, National Mennonite Conference, Columbus, June 2009.



**Paul Numrich**  
Associate Professor in  
the Snowden Chair for  
the Study of Religion  
and Interreligious  
Relations

#### Publications

“The Problem with Sex According to Buddhism,” *Dialog: A Journal of Theology*, Spring 2009.

“Immigrant Parochial Schools: Religion, Morality, Citizenship,” *Children and Childhood in American Religions*, edited by Don S. Browning and Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2009.

#### Academic lectures and presentations

Chicago Area Group for the Study of Religious Communities, Loyola University, Feb. 21, 2009.

#### Reviews

Reviewed article for *Sociological Focus* journal, January 2009.

Review of *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape*, by Peggy Levitt, in *Sociology of Religion*, Spring 2009.

Review of *Global Rebellion: Religious Challenges to the Secular State, from Christian Militias to al Qaeda*, by Mark Juergensmeyer, in *Review of Religious Research*, June 2009.

#### Meetings

Scioto Educational Foundation’s Dialogue Dinner, Columbus, Oct. 16, 2008.

Interfaith Association of Central Ohio’s Main Event, Columbus, Oct. 26, 2008.

Chicago Area Group for the Study of Religious Communities meeting, Chicago, Nov. 8, 2008.

Ohio Governor’s Interfaith Luncheon, March 5, 2009.

Annual Council on American-Islamic Relations banquet, Columbus, April 19, 2009.

Mayor’s Community Prayer Lunch, Columbus, May 12, 2009.

Met with leaders of Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, Bridgeview, Ill., June 2, 2009.

#### Church and popular lectures

Covenant Presbyterian Church’s Fall Forum, Columbus, Oct. 5, 2008.

University Baptist Church’s Faith, Race and the Ballot Box series, Columbus, Oct. 15, 2008.

Presented to Ecumenical Youth Group, Delaware, Ohio, Oct. 19, 2008.

Presented in Worthington UMC series, “Loving Your Neighbor, Understanding Your Neighbor’s Faith,” Worthington, OH, February 1, 2009.



**Fulgence Nyengele**  
Professor of Pastoral  
Care and Counseling in  
the Chryst Chair in  
Pastoral Theology

#### Academic lectures and presentations

“Intercultural Ministry in Europe—Pastoral Care in Multicultural Settings,” keynote speech, conference for multicultural/international United Methodist congregations in Europe, Berlin and Germany. Delivered two major lectures: “From Multicultural Awareness to Intercultural Engagement: Ingredients for Intercultural Pastoral Care,” and “Beyond Multicultural Competency: The Cross-cultural Pastoral Caregiver as Ascetic Witness,” Jan. 26-27, 2009.

#### Meetings

“Dempster Day Apart” meeting, a Dempster Scholars event of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church, Nashville, Feb. 6-7, 2009.

First organizational meeting of the new Committee on Faith and Order of the United Methodist Church, Arlington, Va., March 26-27, 2009.

#### Church and popular lectures

“The Unity of All Creation in Christ,” sermon, LindenKirche UMC, Berlin, Germany, Jan. 25, 2009.

“Exploring the Way of Jesus Christ,” six-week Lenten study, Asbury North UMC Church, Columbus, February-April 2009.

“Rejoice Always,” sermon, Asbury North UMC, Columbus, June 14, 2009.



**Joon-Sik Park**  
Professor in the Jones  
Chair of World  
Evangelism

#### Meetings

General Board of Discipleship Board meeting, Nashville, Sept. 24-27, 2008.

#### Church and popular lectures

“Journey into Faith,” sermon, Amen KMC, Seoul, Korea, Aug. 3, 2008.

“Sabbath Keeping,” Women’s Retreat at Shiloh UMC, Cincinnati, Sept. 12-13, 2008.

“One New Humanity,” sermon, Jerome UMC, Plain City, Ohio, Oct. 5, 2008.



**Timothy Van Meter**  
Assistant Professor in  
the Alford Chair of  
Christian Education and  
Youth Ministry

#### Academic lectures and presentations

“Living in the Delight of Creation: Youth Ministry and Practices in Ecological Theology,” Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, U.K., Jan. 6, 2009.

#### Meetings

Wabash Center Grant for Excellence in Teaching, grant for pre-tenure faculty July 29-Aug. 4, 2008, Jan. 8-11, 2009, and June 2009.

#### Church and popular lectures

“Holy Listening—Practices for Youth Ministry” and “Youth Ministry and Ecology,” the Source, UMC youth ministry training, Nov. 15, 2008.

“Engaging Ecological Thinking in the Church,” Trinity UMC, Columbus, Oct. 23, 2008.

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## Robin Knowles Wallace

Professor in the Taylor  
Chair of Church Worship  
and Music

### Publications

"Great Thanksgiving for World Communion Sunday," e-mailed and posted at worshipconnection.com, July 2008.

"Charles Wesley's Tercentenary Celebration at the Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies" in *Proceedings of The Charles Wesley Society*, 2006-2007 (published fall 2008).

"Let's Get Involved in Worshiping," e-mailed and posted at www.worshipconnection.com, Jan. 8, 2009.

"Call," "Outward Sin," "Inward Sin," and "Sin in Believers," articles for *The Wesley Study Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2009.

"Liturgy for Transfiguration Sunday: Seminary Sunday and Church Vocations Sunday," e-mailed and posted at www.ucc.org, Feb. 22, 2009.

"Singing as a Communal Spiritual Practice" e-mailed and posted at www.worshipconnection.com, Feb. 24, 2009.

Series on the Liturgical Year, e-published in the *Capitol North Ideas Newsletter* (United Methodist Church). "Epiphany," Dec. 30, 2008; "Ash Wednesday and the Six Sundays in Lent, 2009," Feb. 1, 2009; "Easter and the Great 50 Days to Pentecost," March 30, 2009; "Pentecost and Trinity Sunday and the Church," April 30, 2009; "June into July—Let me catch my breath! Or, God is still at work in worship!" May 30, 2009; "July and August—Summertime: Time to Praise God and Live for Christ," June 30, 2009.

### Reviews

Review of *Music by Heart: Paperless Songs for Evening Worship*, edited by Marilyn Haskel; introductory articles by Donald Schell and Emily M. D. Scott; New York: Church Publishing, 2008, in *The Hymn*, Spring 2009.

### Meetings

General Synod of the United Church of Christ, Grand Rapids, Mich., June 28-29, 2009.

Annual Conference Worship Planning Committee, Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ, monthly meetings.

### Awards and appointments

Appointed book review editor, *The Hymn: A Journal of Congregational Song*, 2009-2010.

### Church and popular lectures

Consultant, All Shepherds Lutheran Church (ELCA), Lewis Center, Ohio, enlivening contemporary worship service, February 2009.

"Sacraments and Worship," Provisional Residents in Ministry, East Ohio Annual Conference, Feb. 26, 2009.

Workshop leader, "'What it holds, a mystery': Worship Alternatives" and closing worship planner, "Equipping the Saints," sponsored by Central Southeast Ohio.

Association, UCC, and Metropolitan Commission, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), March 7, 2009.

Presenter, "Repent and Believe the Gospel," Retired Ministers Day, MTSO, March 30, 2009.

Workshop Leader on Worship and Justice, Health Advocacy Luncheon sponsored by West Ohio Justice Ministries, West Ohio Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Lakeside, OH, June 8, 2009.



## Lisa Withrow

Professor in the Dewire  
Chair of Christian  
Leadership

### Publications

"Change: Exploring Its Implications for Religious Leadership—A Pedagogical Inquiry," *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Fall 2008.

Photography for "Imagining Antarctica," by Sandra F. Selby. *Practical Matters*, Emory University, March 2009.

### Academic lectures and presentations

"Change: Exploring Its Implications for Religious Leadership—A Pedagogical Inquiry," MTSO faculty lecture, February 2009.

### Reviews

*The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*, by Alan J. Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk, Jossey-Bass. *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Fall 2008.

### Meetings

Chair, Academy of Religious Leadership subgroup meeting at American Academy of Religion, November 2008.

President, Academy of Religious Leadership—national meeting, April 17-19, 2009.

Convener, Joint Doctor of Ministry Proposal

Committee: MTSO and Trinity Lutheran Seminary), spring 2009.

Awards and appointments

Installed into Dewire Chair in Christian Leadership, MTSO, February 2009.

### Church and popular lectures

"Let Your Life Speak," OhioHealth presentation, November 2008.

Consultant, Chaplaincy Services, team development and conflict management, Akron Children's Hospital, March 2009.

Leader, Discernment Retreat, Asbury United Methodist Church, Delaware, Ohio, January 2009.

Consultant, Chaplaincy Services, team building for chaplaincy group, Akron Children's Hospital), March 11 and May 21, 2009.

Consultant, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, church revitalization, April 5 and 23, 2009.

Presider, Entrustment Ceremony (adoption), Canton, Ohio, May 25, 2009.

Treasurer, Concerned Citizens Against Homelessness, Delaware, Ohio, August 2008-May 2009.

Member, advisory group for D.Min. student, United Theological Seminary, Dayton, spring 2009.



## Yvonne Zimmerman

Assistant Professor of  
Christian Ethics

### Publications

"From Bush to Obama: Rethinking Sex and Religion in the U.S.'s Initiative to Combat Human Trafficking," under review at the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*.

### Academic lectures and presentations

"Trafficking, Gender and Feminist Theory," in International Feminism at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, N.Y. Oct. 6, 2008.

"The Next Four Years: Assessing the Place of 'Faith' in U.S. Trafficking Policy," Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, Dec. 10, 2008.

### Meetings

Association of Theological Schools New Faculty Seminar, October 2008.

American Academy of Religion, Nov. 2008.

Society of Christian Ethics, January 2009. ✨

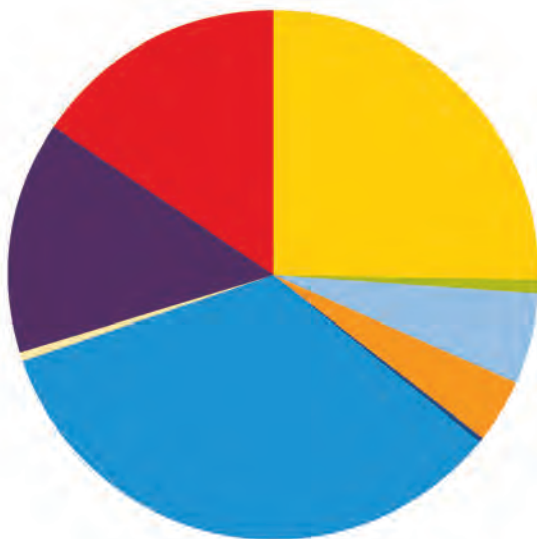
# Financial information

Methodist Theological School in Ohio had a budget of \$6,642,438 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 (preliminary, unaudited numbers). Below is a breakdown of revenues and expenditures. If you have questions about this information, please feel free to contact our business office at 740-363-1146.

## Operating budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (unaudited)

### Revenues

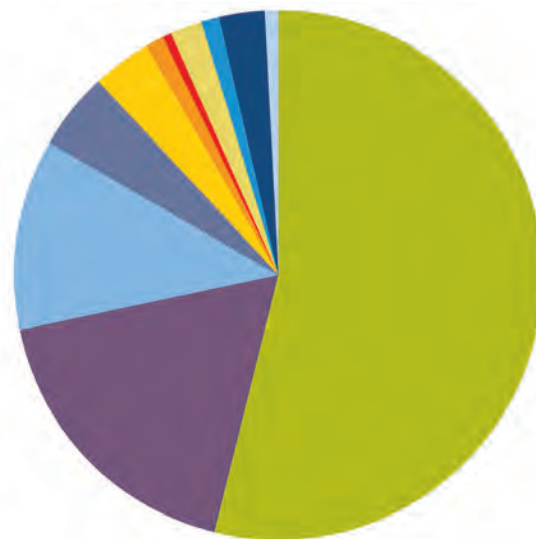
MTSO relied primarily on three sources of income: student tuition and fees (33.6 percent of total revenues), endowment earnings (25.4 percent) and the Ministerial Education Fund of the United Methodist Church (15.5 percent). Combined gift revenue accounted for 9.9 percent of total revenues.



	Revenues	Percent of total
Tuition and fees	\$2,238,909	33.7%
Federal work study	\$42,232	0.6%
Auxiliary	\$928,538	14.0%
Ministerial Education Fund	\$1,031,693	15.5%
Endowment	\$1,689,762	25.4%
Quasi Endowment	\$56,280	.8%
Restricted gifts	\$372,741	5.6%
Methesco Fund gifts	\$246,433	3.7%
Student aid gifts	\$35,850	0.5%
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$6,642,438</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Expenditures

Compensation of faculty and staff accounted for 54.2 percent of the MTSO operating budget, followed by financial aid (17.8 percent) and auxiliary enterprises, which consists of programs such as the Course of Study School of Ohio and services such as the Dunn Dining Hall (11.5 percent).



	Expenditures	Percent of total
Compensation	\$3,599,054	54.2%
Financial aid	\$1,185,588	17.8%
Auxiliary enterprises	\$763,897	11.5%
Plant maintenance	\$329,166	5.0%
General administration	\$224,495	3.4%
Business administration	\$79,560	1.2%
Institutional advancement	\$38,335	0.6%
Information systems	\$124,063	1.9%
Instruction	\$77,938	1.2%
Academic support	\$183,376	2.8%
Enrollment	\$36,966	0.6%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$6,642,438</b>	<b>100%</b>

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The closing pages of this magazine are an inspiring testament to the ongoing faithfulness and generosity of Methesco's friends. In the face of the past year's financial uncertainty, you made a bold and confident statement with your investment in the future of religious leadership.

At this moment, men and women from every one of MTSO's 47 graduating classes are making a difference around the world. We don't yet know how the hundreds of students on our campus today will shape the future, but we can be certain they will, and for many decades to come.

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