

Volume LVI  
Fall 2017

# THE STORY

MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT

President Rundell  
explains why we  
link faith with  
justice

A student's  
ministry makes  
college a reality  
for kids at the Y

An alum plants  
hope in her  
hometown of  
Zanesville

Jeff Jaynes'  
book maps out  
Christianity  
beyond  
Christendom

Upcoming  
events:  
Alumni Day,  
Schooler and a  
celebration of  
the Reformation



**MTSO**

Methodist Theological School in Ohio

[www.mtso.edu](http://www.mtso.edu)



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### Faculty video ✱

*Professor of New Testament Ryan Schellenberg has applied his interest in the treatment of incarcerated individuals to his*

*scholarly research. In a short video, he discusses what he has learned about the ancient Christians' tradition of caring for prisoners. To view the video, visit his faculty web page: [www.mtso.edu/schellenberg](http://www.mtso.edu/schellenberg).*



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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 in Central Ohio, MTSO offers five graduate degree programs: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Practical Theology, Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries, Master of Theological Studies and Doctor of Ministry. 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. In addition, MTSO provides courses for General Board of Higher Education and Ministry certification in Engaging in Ministry with the Poor.

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

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

# Why we connect faith with justice

**By Rev. Jay Rundell  
President**

The world is a mess. To be sure, there are wonder and beauty to behold, as well as endless signs of God's grace and the human capacity for faith, ingenuity, compassion and love. Yet for myriad people and peoples across the globe, and even for the planet itself, much is dramatically and horrifically awry. The world is a mess.

Raging wars and reckless threats of war are far too prevalent. Acts of racial violence and intimidation are numerous, as are misguided attempts to dismiss or minimize them. Disparities of income and healthcare access are as pronounced as ever. Strides made in fighting discrimination based on sex and gender are too easily threatened. Legitimate questions regarding borders and security too often succumb to nativist sentiments and actions, contradicting our Christian understanding of love of neighbor and welcome to the stranger. Dismissals of scientific understanding and denial of climate change, perhaps fueled by our own greed, are a threat to creation and creatures alike.

Tragically, our politics and civic discourse are largely broken and woefully inadequate for addressing the problems. In this time when they're so desperately needed, many of our religious denominations and institutions are struggling to be cohesive, viable and potent.

The world is a mess. And that's what makes MTSO so important.

We don't exist to celebrate a perfect world. We don't exist to apologize for the people and forces that create, compound or contribute to the mess. We don't exist to simply codify or critique the mess. And we

certainly don't exist to promote some sort of religious retreat from or solace against the mess.

Throughout its history, Methodist Theological School in Ohio has existed to prepare people for lives of ministry and service. Central to our approach to that mission has been fostering the connections between faith and learning – and, importantly, between faith and justice. The cornerstone of Werner Hall reads “To Preach the Word.” For us that has long meant to preach the Word in its fullness as a means of challenging the forces of evil in society and empowering the marginalized and oppressed. As programs in counseling and education were added, they were rooted in the idea that personal and community wholeness are inseparable.

**We don't make distinctions between ministering to the world and advocating for a better world. The two were integrated in the life and teaching of Jesus as they are for us and for the graduates we send into the world.**

I am pleased to report that we are redoubling our efforts and are continuing to expand our capacity to prepare leaders who will engage the world around them for good. To put it in distinctly Wesleyan terms, we are committed to inspiring and edifying leaders who will make and proclaim the inherent connections between personal and social holiness, between lives of faith and lives of service and advocacy.

If you read the *Campus View* publications that come to you via email, you know the extent of our work in this area. Our specializations in current degree programs and our pursuit of a new degree in social justice exemplify our commitment to this work.



This is not auxiliary or peripheral work. We don't make distinctions between ministering to the world and advocating for a better world. The two were integrated in the life and teaching of Jesus as they are for us and for the graduates we send into the world. Ironically – or perhaps predictably – as we embrace these commitments, the spiritual life and health of our community is rising. Over the first month of the school year we've had the four most highly attended chapel services in many years. There might be a lesson in that for churches looking for vitality: Pursue justice and goodness, and the sanctuaries may fill up with acts of thanksgiving and praise.

I trust you'll find this issue of *The Story* enlightening and invigorating. It is evidence of a great deal of hard work and dedication on the part of all members of this community and its extended constituencies. I am grateful for your engagement and your investment in what we are doing together. As always, I covet your prayers and support, and I welcome your questions and comments.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Rundell". The signature is fluid and cursive, matching the name of the person in the portrait above.

**PUBLIC EVENTS**

# Join us as we connect, learn and celebrate

Here are highlights of events scheduled for the new academic year. Some events require registration. Updates and details regarding these and additional events will be shared via the *Campus View* newsletter, [www.mtso.edu/events](http://www.mtso.edu/events), Facebook and Twitter (@MTSOedu).

**SEPT. 29-30****Chloe's Circle**

Curated by WomanPreach! Inc., Chloe's Circle will gather women from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds to think about and to work on the practice of prophetic public speaking and preaching. Under the theme "If You Consider Me a Believer: A Witness to God's Justice for the World," participants will explore the ways to share truth in the face of disparity and injustice.

Sponsored by the Theological Commons, Chloe's Circle will be led by Valerie Bridgeman, MTSO interim dean and associate professor of homiletics and Hebrew Bible; Yvonne Zimmerman, MTSO associate professor of Christian ethics; and Jaha Zainabu, a literary poet, spoken-word artist, storyteller, visual artist and motivational speaker.

Advance registration is required; some spots might still be available: [www.mtso.edu/chloescircle](http://www.mtso.edu/chloescircle).

**OCT. 9****Alumni Day**

MTSO's 2017 Alumni Day includes the John and Ruth Mount Alumni Awards for Distinguished Service and a special luncheon honoring **Robert Tannehill**, emeritus professor of New Testament and emeritus academic dean. As always, our delicious lunch will feature Seminary Hill Farm produce and other locally sourced food.

We welcome all alumni, students, faculty and staff – as well as former Methesco faculty and staff members – to take advantage of this opportunity to reconnect.

Alumni Day features events from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. All events are being presented at no cost to guests, though everyone who plans to attend is asked to RSVP at [www.mtso.edu/alumniday](http://www.mtso.edu/alumniday).

**OCT. 24, 7 P.M.****Elaine Nogueira-Godsey Faculty Lecture: "Connecting Theology, Ecology and Race: A Conversation on Environmental Justice"**

**Nogueira-Godsey**, MTSO assistant professor of theology, ecology and race, will explore the ways ecology and race are linked to each other and are necessary components of the study of theology in the 21st century.

**OCT. 31 AND NOV. 1****Celebrating 500 Years of the Reformation**

The Theological Commons will mark Reformation Day Oct. 31– the 500th anniversary of **Martin Luther's** nailing of the 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg – with a special 1 p.m. chapel service. And at 7 p.m. Nov. 1, MTSO Professor of Church History Jeffrey Jaynes will speak on the topic "Was Not Martin Luther an Extremist?" The Reformation Legacy and the Family of Martin Luther King Jr." Tejai Beulah, MTSO coordinator of partnerships and the Black Church and African Diaspora Studies specialization, will respond.

**NOV. 7 AND 8****Williams Institute Fall Lectures by John J. Thatamanil**

Thatamanil, associate professor of theology and world religions at Union Theological Seminary, delivers two lectures, at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 and 1 p.m. Nov. 8. He is committed to the work of comparative theology – theology that learns from and with a variety of traditions. A central question that drives Thatamanil's work is, "How can Christian communities come to see religious diversity as a promise rather than as a problem?"



FEB. 5-6

## Schooler Institute on Preaching, led by Wil Gafney

**Gafney** is associate professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School. An Episcopal priest and former Army chaplain, she is the author of *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to Women of the Torah and of the Throne*, and co-editor of *The Peoples' Bible* and *The Peoples' Companion to the Bible*. Gafney's sermons have been published in the books *Those Preaching Women: A Multicultural Collection* and *The Audacity of Faith: Christian Leaders Reflect on the Election of Barack Obama*.



APRIL 11 AND 12

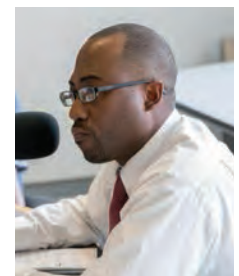
## Building Community Bridges: Conversations on Disability

This workshop begins at 7 p.m. April 11 with a plenary lecture by Bill Gaventa, a consultant and trainer who works with congregations, faith networks, seminaries, service-provider networks and advocacy groups in the area of inclusive spiritual support for people with disabilities and their families. A day of conversation and breakout sessions follows on April 12.

APRIL 17, 1 P.M.

## Chapel guest preacher Heber Brown III

**Brown** is a community organizer, beginner farmer, social entrepreneur and senior pastor of Pleasant Hope Baptist Church in Baltimore. In 2015, he launched the Black Church Food Security Network, which provides seed funding and support to help churches begin growing food on their land. He will preach at MTSO's midweek chapel service as part of a three-day visit to campus.



MARCH 7, 7 P.M.

## Paul Numrich Faculty Lecture: "Space-Sharing Principles for Religious Organizations and Groups"

**Numrich**, professor in the Snowden Chair for the Study of Religion and Interreligious Relations, will share findings from his research involving space-sharing, from benefits to resolving disputes. He will identify factors that lead to relatively conflict-free arrangements.



MAY 1, 7 P.M.

## Theological Commons Summer Research Grant lecture by Yvonne Zimmerman and Letitia Campbell

**Zimmerman**, associate professor of Christian ethics at MTSO, and **Campbell**, director of Contextual Education I and clinical pastoral education at the Candler School of Theology, will lecture on human trafficking.



MARCH 13, 7 P.M.

## Marvin A. Sweeney lecture: "The Eternal Covenant"

**Sweeney** is professor of Hebrew Bible at the Claremont School of Theology, where he teaches courses in Hebrew Bible and the history of Judaism and Jewish thought. The author of 15 volumes, he has lectured throughout the United States and the world.



MARCH 20 AND 21

## Williams Institute Spring Lectures by Grace Sun-Ji Kim

**Kim**, associate professor of theology at Earlham School of Religion, delivers two lectures, at 7 p.m. March 20 and 1 p.m. March 21. An ordained minister of word and sacrament within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), she is the author or editor of 12 books, including the recently published *Planet Solidarity: Global Women's Voices on Christian Doctrine and Climate Justice*.



*Many events at MTSO are presented by the Theological Commons, a means through which the school shares intellectual resources with the church and the world through dialogue with the broader community. By offering events, learning resources and continuing conversation, the Theological Commons promotes the sharing of knowledge and experience between students, faculty, clergy and the public for the benefit of all participants and those they serve.*

# Driven to make a difference



## The Connections M.Div. path gives Jennifer Fowler the time to help teens at the Y fulfill dreams of college

This was Jennifer Fowler in the early 2000s: productive but angry, and very much estranged from God. “For five and a half years,” she said. “I didn’t go into a church.”

On paper, those years went swimmingly. From 2001 to 2006, Fowler attended the University of Missouri–St. Louis, earning a bachelor’s degree in criminology and criminal justice, with minors in political science and psychology, as well as a certificate in trauma studies. But she was enduring a bitter crisis of faith, triggered by the death of her father, Rev. Allie W. Fowler Jr., just before she started college. For 26 years, he had served as pastor of Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church in Lott, Texas.

This is Jennifer Fowler today: halfway to a Master of Divinity degree at MTSO, serving as associate minister at New Salem Missionary Baptist Church and making a dramatic impact as the teen director at a YMCA branch serving an economically disadvantaged area on the west side of Columbus. She grins as she describes herself as “a kid at heart,” and her director at the Y talks about “her passion and her energy.”

Looking back now, she sees how the life she’s made for herself in Columbus is a product of her darkest days. “It was in that time that, through being angry at God, I got to experience God,” she said. “Somewhere along the way, I made peace with the fact my father was gone, because his job was done and mine was starting.”

Fowler’s first job after graduating from UM–St. Louis in 2006 was with City Year, part of the national service program AmeriCorps. It set her on a course helping children and teenagers succeed. After telling City Year she would serve wherever they needed her, she landed in Columbus’ Linden neighborhood, where she began by teaching kindergarteners to read and helping high school seniors ensure that they would be eligible to graduate.

Over the next seven years, as she filled a series of roles with City Year, Fowler also found a church home at New Salem. She leads a dinner program that provides hot meals for college students the third Sunday of each month, teaches Sunday school, serves as a shepherd leader for a young-adult care group, sings alto in the choir, “and then anything else that someone asks me to do.”





**“What’s the plan after you graduate?”** ✱ *In July, Fowler’s high school group toured 11 schools throughout the Southeast, including Tuskegee and Virginia Commonwealth universities*

In February 2014, the YMCA hired Fowler as an after-school site coordinator, working within a Columbus middle school. Six months later, she was promoted to teen director, coordinating a wide range of services at the Hilltop Y and two city schools.

A conversation with one of her students a few years ago helped spawn an audacious idea: “One day I was talking to one of my teens who was going into her senior year. I said, ‘What’s the plan after you graduate?’ And she told me she didn’t know. I said, ‘What do you mean you don’t know?’ And she said, ‘I think I want to go to college, but I don’t want to go to Ohio State. But I don’t know where else I can go.’ I asked her how many colleges she had been to, and she just looked at me blankly.”

Fowler and her YMCA supervisor, District Executive Director Al Obayuwana, set about filling in the blank. Soon Fowler, a colleague and 11 ninth- through 12th-graders were piling into the Y’s mini bus for a three-day tour of eight southern Ohio colleges, from Ohio University and Wright State to historically black Central State and Wilberforce universities. Each student paid \$100 for the trip, with Fowler requesting deeply reduced hotel rates and asking the hosting schools, “Can we eat there for free?”

“And people said yes,” she said. “I did come across some no’s, and we just didn’t go to those schools. I know my kids, and my kids are going to need people who are going to say yes to things that don’t make sense.”

In 2016, Fowler more than doubled the college caravan, taking 23 kids to colleges and universities throughout northern Ohio. And this past July, 29 students spent a week touring 11 schools throughout the southeastern U.S., from Howard University in Washington, D.C., to the University of Alabama. This summer’s trip cost \$400 – with scholarships and payment plans offered – and included a tour of Washington, D.C. “I had some kids who left Columbus for the first time with me,” Fowler said.

This fall, as she has in the past, Fowler will be cajoling and pestering high school seniors to follow through with their college

applications: “My birthday is Dec. 1, so before the kids are allowed to tell me happy birthday, they have to tell me where they’ve submitted applications. And everybody has to acknowledge my birthday, so you have to submit applications. Skipping my birthday is not an option.”

Fowler gained some personal experience with the higher-ed application process in 2015, when she applied to pursue her M.Div. degree at MTSO – “the very thing I ran away from when life got hard and my father passed away.”

“I researched different schools. I knew I was going to have to work full-time. I needed a program that would work around my work schedule.” She realized MTSO’s Connections path, which allows M.Div. students to attend all of their on-campus classes on Tuesdays, fit the bill.

Fowler is making the most of the resources available at MTSO. Last summer, she attended the Jarena Lee Preaching Academy, sponsored by WomanPreach! Inc., thanks to a grant through MTSO’s Student Enrichment Program. That led to a field-education placement with WomanPreach!, which is led by MTSO Interim Dean Valerie Bridgeman. Fowler’s final field-ed project is coordinating the WomanPreach! Chloe’s Circle event, to be held Sept. 29 and 30 at MTSO.

Attending MTSO, she said, “is an amazing experience that has changed my perspective and thought processes around theology and life. After two years, I’m realizing that my theology is still developing, and I am OK with that. I think that MTSO is a place that allows you to dissect what you believe and wrestle with it.”

Fowler plans to graduate in 2019. Between now and then, she’ll work to develop her prophetic preaching voice and keep giving teenagers a sense of the possible. Her pursuits in school, in church and at the Y are helping her begin to envision the ministry still in front of her.

“It is confirmation that I’m operating in my calling, even though I don’t know what the final result is going to be.” ✱

# Fresh perspectives

## Six stories from MTSO's newest students

Linked by a desire to serve an evolving church and an ailing world, the newest class of students arrived at MTSO Aug. 25. Products of varied backgrounds and with a multitude of aspirations,

they expect their time on campus to challenge and energize them for service as Christian leaders. Here are profiles of new students, featuring quotes from their admissions essays.

### JULIE NYANGORO

*TV reporting led to a new path in a new country*

Nyangoro, who is seeking a Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree, began her career as a news anchor and producer for Tanzania's Independent Television Channel. While working on a weekly program, Nyangoro was often assigned interviews with women who were in difficult emotional and financial situations. Even more trying were the stories of women in physically abusive relationships.

"I found myself being drawn to their life stories beyond my role as a television producer," Nyangoro said. "I ended up offering emotional support to these women the best way that I knew how at the time. Wherever I could not personally help, I connected the women with individuals and organizations that were able to help."

Immigrating to the United States did not change Nyangoro's desire to work with women who are struggling. She has worked in Columbus with a faith-based group that serves residents of battered women's shelters.

"Growing up in a Third World country and in a family of seven children, I learned very early on that in order to function in a community, one has to be involved in it," she said. "My engagement in various programs that are focused on the health and well-being of women has solidified my passion for helping women."



### MAGGIE HALE

*Drawn to counseling with a spiritual component*

Having spent the last four years at Muskingum University studying psychology and neuroscience, Hale is convinced her career must merge her faith and counseling.

She became disenchanted with the traditional psychological theories she studied as an undergraduate. "I am a very hopeful person, and my views on humanity are much more optimistic than many theories I have learned in my courses," she said. "I really struggled trying to envision myself counseling and implementing therapy using methodology from the perspectives I had learned."

"Unfortunately, in the battle to be considered a legitimate science, psychology has widely rejected the fact that humans are inherently spiritual beings."

Hale is pursuing two degrees: Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries. She plans to focus on addiction counseling. At MTSO, Hale sees an opportunity to realize her goal of merging her faith with her vocation.

"I've always had the intention of becoming a counselor," she said. "I could not commit myself to a career of counseling broken individuals in a traditional sense that did not involve talking about Christ. I realized there is no other option that would fulfill me more than to approach counseling from a Christian point of view."





## NICOLAS BERLANGA

*During Course of Study, inspired to attend seminary*

Berlanga's path to professional ministry has taken nearly 40 years. He grew up Catholic and planned to pursue the priesthood. However, "I left college with new dreams; dreams of a career, dreams of a wife and children. It was an extremely difficult decision. There was feeling that I had turned my back on God."



In the ensuing years, he became increasingly involved in United Methodist congregations, which led to a life-changing moment in 2012.

"I can't say I heard actual words, but it was as if someone was talking to me directly," Berlanga said. "I heard, 'I called you once, but you wanted a wife and children. I gave them to you. So I'm calling you again.'"

Berlanga responded by enrolling in the Course of Study, an educational track in the United Methodist Church that culminates in licensure as a local pastor. His Course of Study classroom experience whetted his appetite for a more rigorous theological education. He'll pursue a Master of Divinity degree and seek Methodist ordination.

Berlanga now feels that the journey he started 40 years ago is headed in the right direction: "I am doing what I felt I was called to do as a young man."

## JASON YOUNG

*Wants the church to recapture its roots*



Young's journey to ministry was dramatically influenced in high school, with conversations at lunchtime and after school. "My friends did not pull out their Bibles or quote scripture by chapter and verse to me," he said. "Instead, they spoke God's word in a way I could hear, and my interest in God began to develop." He began attending church with friends and, shortly before going to college, was moved to profess his faith.

Following a 15-year career in pharmaceutical manufacturing, Young "became active in living my faith" and took on a number of administrative roles at Southport UMC in Indianapolis. His work in the church led to district lay leadership positions and, eventually, the decision to seek ordination as an elder.

"I feel called to continue to work through the United Methodist denomination to recapture our roots as a Christian movement," he said. To that end, he's excited about seminary and frank about the area where he hopes to grow.

"While I feel confident in the practical side of ministry, I sometimes have doubts about my theological understanding of the church Jesus desires," he said. "My ultimate goal for seminary is to build up and then marry my theological and practical understanding of sharing the gospel."

## NOAH MITCHELL

*Embracing the Gospel as a tool to enact change*

Mitchell comes to MTSO with 13 years of experience in ministry. As an undergraduate at John Brown University, he was licensed and ordained in the Baptist church. Currently, he serves as the director of Christian education at New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus.



"I have the privilege and challenge of engaging a congregation of over 1,500 members," said Mitchell, who is seeking a Master of Divinity degree. "There is no doubt that this has sparked a deeper desire within me to one day pastor a congregation."

Prior to moving to Columbus, Mitchell taught Bible classes in a private high school in Arlington, Texas.

"In 2012 I wrote and published a book titled *Face to Faith: How to Own Your Faith in College*," he said. "As a teacher at a private school, I knew that my students had no idea the challenges they would really face when they left the comforts of their homes and were on their own. I wanted to begin the process of challenging my seniors to own their faith."

Mitchell is excited about his future as a church leader. "I know there is great work to be done," he said. "And I want to be an active participant in using the Gospel to enact change."

## WENDY BARTLETT

*Lenten meditation led to "a gracious invitation"*



Despite a successful and rewarding rewarding career in library sciences, Bartlett believed something was missing from her life, and she became intentional about figuring out what.

"I designed a very deep and deliberate Lent for myself – went off social media, canceled all social engagements and church meetings, and used that time for reflection, spiritual journaling, meditation and prayer," Bartlett said. "Near the end of Lent, seated at my dining room table,

I got my answer. Not exactly a burning bush on a mountainside, but certainly no less powerful to me."

"I was surprised, and yet not surprised, to find out that being called felt more like a gracious invitation that was mine to either accept or reject," she said.

Bartlett's acceptance of the invitation means pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at MTSO and ordination in the Unitarian Universalist church. When she told family and friends, she said, "No one was surprised; apparently, my call to ministry was only news to me."

"My goal is to become a parish minister," she said. "Because I was raised in a very small Universalist church, I know that a small group of committed people can make an enormous difference in their community. I would love to help congregations to do that."

# Changes of note within Academic Affairs

## Counseling Track III is being phased out

The Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree has been an important part of MTSO for many years. Each MACM student has pursued one of three tracks: I – Pastoral Care and Counseling; II – Addiction Counseling; or III – Pastoral and Professional Counseling, which leads to state licensure in clinical counseling. We have had great success with students earning licensure and thriving in many kinds of counseling practices.

The state of Ohio has changed the way it sanctions programs such as our Track III and now requires authorization by CACREP, the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Regrettably, MTSO was not authorized by this agency, so we are no longer recruiting students for Track III. The state will permit those who are currently enrolled in Track III and earn their degree by the end of 2018 to seek licensure.

This does not affect the accreditation of the MACM degree itself through the Higher Learning Commission and the Association of Theological Schools.

MTSO continues to offer tracks I and II within the MACM program. The Pastoral Care and Counseling track provides grounding in the theory and practice of pastoral care while allowing students to

choose special areas of study through the use of electives. The Addiction Counseling track fulfills the required clock hours of chemical dependency-specific education for those seeking to become authorized as Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors by the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board.

## Valerie Bridgeman appointed as interim academic dean

Dr. Valerie Bridgeman, associate professor of homiletics and Hebrew Bible, has been appointed interim academic dean, effective July 1, and will serve in that capacity for two years.

Dr. Bridgeman will build upon the work of Dr. Lisa Withrow, whose term as dean and vice president for Academic Affairs concluded in June. Dr. Withrow continues to serve as the Dewire Professor of Christian Leadership.

## Two degree programs add Chaplaincy specialization

A new Chaplaincy specialization has been added within both the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Practical Theology programs. The M.Div. specialization leads to ordination for organizations who require it; it meets the standards of the Association of Professional Chaplains and can lead to board certification.

The MAPT specialization is housed within a shorter degree and can lead to associate chaplaincy positions, as well as chaplaincy positions where ordination isn't required or where the faith tradition doesn't require an M.Div. for ordination.

## Practical Theology degree sees several updates

The Master of Arts in Practical Theology degree can now be completed in 48 credit hours. Previously, a MAPT degree required 59 credit hours.

This will benefit students by providing a path to the MAPT degree that is more affordable and more quickly achievable while remaining academically robust. It brings the MAPT program into better alignment with national trends around professional master of arts degrees, which are increasingly achievable within two years.

Also within the MAPT program, a self-designed specialization has been added as an option, and the Spiritual Formation and Small Group Ministry specialization is no longer offered. In addition to the self-designated option, MAPT students may pursue specializations in Ecology and Justice, Parish and Community Ministry, and Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

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*For more information about MTSO's trustees and governance, visit [www.mtso.edu/governance](http://www.mtso.edu/governance).*



# Alum news

If you're an alum or former faculty or staff member of MTSO and have news to share about your vocational or personal milestones, please submit it via the link at [www.mtso.edu/update](http://www.mtso.edu/update). 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.

## 1966

**James Christy** retired in 2007 as the senior pastor of Green Street UMC in Piqua, Ohio. [sandc23@gmail.com](mailto:sandc23@gmail.com)

## 1967

**M. Kenneth Morris** retired in 2010 from the United Church of Christ. He is currently serving as an interim pastor at Brooklyn Heights UCC in Cleveland. [mkenethmorris@gmail.com](mailto:mkenethmorris@gmail.com)

## 1969

**Robert Henderson** is part-time retired in Glastonbury, Connecticut. He maintains a small pastoral psychotherapy practice and teaches Jungian psychology at a local hospital. He and his wife, Janis, are co-authors of a three-volume book, *Living with Jung: "Enerviews" with Jungian Analysts*. [rob444@cox.net](mailto:rob444@cox.net)

## 1975

**Geoff Piper** is a Military and Family Life Counselor at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in the state of Washington. He continues to provide grief support services through a local funeral home and has authored four books published on Kindle. [gahpiper@gmail.com](mailto:gahpiper@gmail.com)

## 1976

**R. Karl Watkins** retired from the Iowa Annual Conference in 2014 and now lives in Yankton, South Dakota. He has been serving as pastor of the Crofton United Church of Christ in Nebraska since October 2016. [karl.watkins@iaumc.ne](mailto:karl.watkins@iaumc.ne)

## 1977

**Buff Coe** retired July 1, after 40 years as a United Methodist pastor. He also taught the Worship and Sacraments class

at the two-week intensive Course of Study School of Ohio at MTSO in August. [buffordc@aol.com](mailto:buffordc@aol.com)

**Michael Morris** began serving his fifth year at St. Paul UMC in Memphis and his 41st year in full-time ministry in the Memphis Annual Conference in July 2017. Mike and his wife, Cindy (Hastas), will celebrate their 40th anniversary in August 2017. They have two daughters and three granddaughters. [pman675@aol.com](mailto:pman675@aol.com)

## 1979

### IN MEMORIAM

**Robert Bloomquist** passed away in February 2015 after serving 35 years in ministry. He received his D.Min. degree from McCormick Theological School in 1986 with a specialty in Parish Development. He is survived by his wife, Gloria, son, Joseph, and grandchildren. [rbgb@zoominternet.net](mailto:rbgb@zoominternet.net)

## 1980

**Brad Martin** and his wife, Sherry, adopted their 10-month-old son Caleb in March 2017. Caleb is adored by his big sister Leah and loved by four adult siblings. [bmartin4477@gmail.com](mailto:bmartin4477@gmail.com)

## 1985

**Lawrence Michael Cameron** is currently serving the 145-year-old Union Church on the south side of Chicago after being called to pastor this historic church in the fall of 2013. "I fondly remember my days at Methesco and know that the M.Div. earned there gave me a solid and wonderful theological education from whence I have been guided by for the past 30-plus years of ministry." [doc@claritycentral.com](mailto:doc@claritycentral.com)

**Richard Thewlis** is beginning his third year at Garrettsville UMC in East Ohio and has been an adjunct professor of Religious Studies at Hiram College since the fall of 2010. He will celebrate his 30th year of ordination on Dec. 6, 2017. He and his wife, Jill, will celebrate their 36th anniversary in September 2017. "Wishing happiness and goodness to all MTSO alums and faculty. I would love to hear from anyone from the olden times! Valet!" [thewlisrk@hiram.edu](mailto:thewlisrk@hiram.edu)

## 1986

### IN MEMORIAM

**Mary Soderholm** passed away in July 2017.

## 1999

**Bruce Smith** admits to "flunking retirement." In addition to coordinating two ongoing programs for the Episcopal clergy in Columbus, he serves on the Board of Directors of Bexley-Seabury Seminary Federation (Chicago) and Episcopal Retirement Services (Cincinnati). He is an active member of the Columbus Metropolitan Club and the Columbus Torch Club. He and his wife, Susan, a retired Presbyterian pastor, have lived in Clintonville since 1996, and both often preside and preach at Sunday worship in congregations in the Columbus area. [revabs@wowway.com](mailto:revabs@wowway.com)

## 2000

**Carol Layton** is retired but has found a niche filling in as a preacher at local churches in Colorado. She adopted an adult daughter and gained two grandchildren in the past year. [pastorcarol.layton@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcarol.layton@gmail.com)

Continues

## from previous page

**Rebeka Maples** published a collection of prayer-poems, *Praying with Light: In Candlemas and Starless Nights*, through Wild Goose Publications. She has had other poems published in *Winter: Liturgical Resources* by Ruth Burgess (2016).  
[revrebeka@earthlink.net](mailto:revrebeka@earthlink.net)

**2002**

**Karen Nelson** retired as a United Methodist elder on July 1, 2017.  
[pastorkaren@gknelson.net](mailto:pastorkaren@gknelson.net)

**2003**

**Nancy Millwater** retired from active ministry on April 30, 2017. The last church she served was Lees Creek UCC in Sabina, Ohio.  
[nmillwater@yahoo.com](mailto:nmillwater@yahoo.com)

**2004**

**Joi Miley-Beacham** is a special education coordinator and continues community outreach volunteerism through the social action organization Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.  
[joibeacham@gmail.com](mailto:joibeacham@gmail.com)

**2005**

**Mary Torok** serves as director of faith formation at St John's UCC in downtown Columbus.  
[metorok@aol.com](mailto:metorok@aol.com)

**2007**

**Ebenezer Appiagyei** led eight men and women leaders on a missionary and cultural immersion trip to Ghana. He hopes to return in May 2018 after completing his Juris Doctor degree at the University of Akron School of Law in December 2017. "Ministry has been a joy and fruitful. Thanks to the excellent education and community inbuilt while in MTSO."  
[pastoreben3@gmail.com](mailto:pastoreben3@gmail.com)

**2008**

**Mary Vandersommers (Blencowe)** and her husband, Aaron, have served with Global Ministry UMC in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, since January 2016. Their ministry is ecumenical and multilingual and is regularly showcased on their blog, [www.umcmmissioncongo.com](http://www.umcmmissioncongo.com).  
[mvidersommers@umcmmission.org](mailto:mvidersommers@umcmmission.org)

**2011**

**Cheryl Douglass** has completed 3 1/2 years in the adolescent care unit at the Maryhaven main campus. She performs dual diagnosis assessments on adolescents ages 13-18 to provide them with the appropriate level of care for substance abuse and mental/behavioral health issues. She also travels around the state to assess referrals placed in county JDCs and is building a network with area and statewide agencies and hospitals for families who are required to use private insurance as required by the court in their county.  
[chradgls19@gmail.com](mailto:chradgls19@gmail.com)

**Leslie Taylor** was a panelist at Mills College on "Exploring Intersections: Christianity and LGBTQ Experience" with two other clergy in the Berkeley, California, area.  
[ltaylor@psr.edu](mailto:ltaylor@psr.edu)

**2012**

**Christina Fetherolf** completed her Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from the Graduate Theological Union with a dissertation "Lamenting Abuse: Reading Psalm 22 as a Response to Intimate Partner Abuse." She is currently an adjunct professor of religion at Wittenberg University and teaches online as an adjunct professor for the Pacific School of Religion.  
[christina.fetherolf@gmail.com](mailto:christina.fetherolf@gmail.com)

**Kristen Wall-Love** was appointed to extension ministry as of July 2017 and is currently serving as director of adult spiritual formation and membership at Asbury UMC in Salisbury, Maryland.  
[kwall-love@susumc.org](mailto:kwall-love@susumc.org)

**Julie Pimlott** was commissioned as a United Methodist deacon in June 2017 and has accepted a chaplain position with Heart to Heart Hospice.  
[juliepimlott@yahoo.com](mailto:juliepimlott@yahoo.com)

**2014**

**Rebecca Guthrie** was commissioned as provisional deacon in June 2017. She has been appointed half-time at First UMC of New Hartford, New York, as congregational care specialist and half-time in extension ministry providing pastoral care at Bethany Village in Horseheads, New York.  
[blg41@hotmail.com](mailto:blg41@hotmail.com)

**Ken Schoon** has been admitted to the Ph.D. program in liturgical studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, where he will begin studies in the fall. "I'm very excited for this opportunity to study liturgy and draw connections between Christian worship and the practice of ministry."  
[kenneth.schoon@gmail.com](mailto:kenneth.schoon@gmail.com)

**2015**

**Clay Sherrod** has passed the LPCC examination and earned an independent counseling license. He is beginning the journey of opening a private practice.  
[clay.sherrod@yahoo.com](mailto:clay.sherrod@yahoo.com)

**2016**

**Paula Napier** was commissioned by the West Virginia Annual Conference and appointed to Canaan UMC in Charleston, West Virginia, the first missional congregation in the conference. Canaan UMC serves the inner city community with a food pantry, clothes closet, soup kitchen, preventive exercise care, community garden, Boy Scouts, backpack food ministry, shoebox ministry, dresses for international school girls, monthly talent show, songwriters' stage and local job fairs. "All this is accomplished with only 50 active members and much reliance on the Holy Spirit. Praise God!"  
[pastorpaulanapier@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpaulanapier@gmail.com)

**Aimee Anderson** is the associate pastor at St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church and resident chaplain at Nationwide Children's Hospital, both in Columbus.  
[hursta@yahoo.com](mailto:hursta@yahoo.com)

**2017**

**Katie Kuntz-Wineland** recently began serving as development assistant at Bittersweet Farms, a nonprofit organization serving adults with autism in Whitehouse, Ohio. She also works as the biography editor for Harvard Square Library, an online library of Unitarian Universalist history based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.  
[kkuntzwineland@bittersweetfarms.org](mailto:kkuntzwineland@bittersweetfarms.org)



## Students and alums ordained and commissioned

*We recognize and congratulate our alumni and students who recently have been ordained and commissioned, along with those taking other significant leadership steps. The list below is organized by conferences of the United Methodist Church.*

### California-Nevada

**Kenneth Schoon** is being commissioned as deacon. In the fall he begins the Ph.D. program in Liturgical Studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

### Detroit

**Matthew David Chapman** is being commissioned as elder, serving as pastor of Bay Port UMC in Bay Port and Hayes UMC in Pigeon.

**Bradley Luck** is being ordained as elder, serving as pastor of First UMC in Hudson.

### East Ohio

**Victoria Richards** is being commissioned as deacon, serving as pastoral care coordinator at Peace UMC in Pickerington.

The following are being commissioned as elder:

- **Randall May**, serving Firestone Park UMC in Akron.
- **David St. Aubin**, serving Dover First UMC in Dover.

The following are being ordained as elder:

- **Jeremy Roseberry**, serving Spencer UMC in Spencer and Lafayette UMC in Medina.
- **Andrew Scott**, serving as pastor of LaGrange UMC in LaGrange.
- **Sheryl Seitz**, serving as lead pastor of Clyde First UMC in Clyde.
- **Laura Sue White**, serving at Chapel Hill UMC in Mansfield.

### Indiana

**Julie Pimlott** is being commissioned as deacon.

**Adriane Curtis** is being ordained as elder.

### Minnesota

**Hope Hutchison** is being commissioned as deacon, serving as director of agricultural education at Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

### Upper New York

**Becky Guthrie** is being commissioned as deacon.

### West Ohio

The following are being commissioned as deacon:

- **Seth Evans**.
- **Kara Jones**, serving as youth pastor for joint youth ministry at William Street UMC and Terra Nova Community Church in Delaware; community minister and assistant manager at Common Ground Free Store Ministries in Delaware; music instructor at Delaware Music Academy; and field education instructor at MTSO.
- **Jeeyoung Kim**.

The following are being commissioned as elder:

- **Jeremiah Diegel**.
- **Joshua Freshour**.
- **Gregory Kendrick Jr.**
- **John Ma**.
- **Sara McSwords**, preparing to serve as pastor of Raymond UMC in Raymond and Caldwell Memorial UMC in Irwin.
- **Ernest Ologo**.
- **Margaret Sykes**.
- **Dawn Trapp**.
- **Vera Welker**.

- **Chris Wiseman**, serving as pastor of Richmond Dale UMC in Richmond Dale and Grace UMC in Jackson.

The following are being ordained as deacon:

- **Jane Karl**.
- **Meredith Lynn McDougale**, serving as executive director of the Hilltop Area Shalom Zone.
- **Jessica Stonecypher**, serving with the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District, and with Hope Farms.

The following are being ordained as elder:

- **Peter Borhauer**.
- **Alethea Botts**.
- **Brandi Grant-Rigsby**, serving Ada UMC in Ada.
- **William Halter**, serving Maplewood UMC in Maplewood and Lockington UMC in Sidney.
- **Russell Shaeffer**.
- **Matthew Yoder**, serving Linworth UMC in Columbus.

### West Virginia

**Paula Napier** is being commissioned as elder.

### Western Pennsylvania

**Brittany Wooten** is being ordained as elder, serving as pastor of Roxbury St. Paul's UMC in Johnstown.

# Planting hope within her hometown

United Methodist deacon **Jessica Stonecypher** has found a ministry that engages her church and nourishes her hometown



When Jessica Stonecypher first arrived on MTSO's campus in the fall of 2012, she thought she had found a place that meshed with her interests and passions. Little did she know that the school was poised to evolve in ways that were a near perfect fit for her interest in food and ecological justice.

In the year since graduating, she's been putting the things she learned and experienced at MTSO to work, building a deacon ministry around urban farming and healthier eating within an economically challenged community in her hometown of Zanesville, Ohio. Recalling her early days on campus, Stonecypher said, "I was excited to find a seminary that was already focused on issues that were important to me. I could see how I could complete my degree and take

advantage of the connections the school had to places in Columbus that were doing good work in sustainability and ecology."

Then, in the second year of her studies as a Master of Arts in Practical Theology student, MTSO's work in sustainability and ecology took great strides forward with the founding of Seminary Hill Farm.

"With the creation of the farm, I saw the practical side of farming, while the classroom emphasized the spiritual connection to creation care," she said. "The theological learning in the classroom equipped me with the knowledge of how farming is ministry. In my work now, every part of my day is connected to ministry and farming."

After earning her degree in 2016, Stonecypher began working as the urban agricultural specialist for the Muskingum Soil and Water and Conservation District. The goal of the nonprofit organization is to alleviate problems associated with the urban food desert in the Putnam neighborhood of Zanesville. To that end, Stonecypher manages four urban gardens as part of her primary appointment as a United Methodist deacon.

One of the gardens she manages is formed through a partnership with First United Methodist Church of Zanesville, where Stonecypher holds her secondary deacon's appointment. First UMC maintains a homeless shelter and free store in addition to the gardens. The produce



grown in the church's gardens is on the menu at the monthly free meals the church provides to local families. Additionally, produce is available to clients of the free store as well as to those living in the church's homeless shelter.

"I love being able to merge my church appointment with my commitment to local, sustainably raised produce," she said. "I'm able to engage with a community that's close to my heart while growing food in the way that it should be raised."

"An added bonus for the church has been the ways in which the gardens have allowed members who were considering leaving the church to re-engage through programs that are meaningful connections to neighbors in need. This is the kind of ministry that they were looking for, and now it's available to them here."

Stonecypher's second garden is at Bethel Community Center, which is connected to the Zanesville City Schools and Muskingum University. Monday through Thursday during the school year, district students in the program converge at the center, where they rotate between daily tutoring sessions provided by Muskingum education students and hour-long sessions working in the 10 garden plots.

In the summer, the community center

hosts a program called Kids Dig It. Students who participate are provided a free lunch and are invited to participate in the work of the garden. In return for their time spent gardening, they take home produce once a week. Under Stonecypher's leadership, the students will be taking produce to the local farmers' market for the first time this year.

"We hope to instill a thirst for entrepreneurship in kids who might not see it otherwise," she said. "The money raised at the farmers' market will go back into the

**Stonecypher said the gardens at First UMC of Zanesville "have allowed members who were considering leaving the church to re-engage through programs that are meaningful connections to neighbors in need."**

plots at the Bethel Community Center so the program can begin to sustain itself."

Situated behind the school district's administration building and alternative high school, the third urban garden Stonecypher manages has far-reaching connections to the Zanesville community. The produce raised on the 1-acre plot is used in the free summer lunch program provided by the Zanesville school district to 19 locations throughout Muskingum County.

Restoration Park is the fourth garden Stonecypher manages. In addition to maintaining the park's 14 fruit trees and

numerous grapevines, she oversees 32 public garden plots.

"Each day is new," she said. "Some days I'm working with someone who's putting out tomatoes for the first time. Other days I'm answering questions from someone who's planted vegetables for years but isn't sure why the zucchini plants aren't doing well this year."

Stonecypher credits her time spent at MTSO with the fulfillment she finds in her work in a community that is experiencing economic changes and challenges.

"My practical theology degree focused on community and social justice. I want people in this neighborhood to see that they are not alienated because change is happening."

"Classes at MTSO helped me find words for helping people to see spiritually and practically how there is hope. I want them to find a hope that comes from knowing how we live today affects the immediate as well as the future. Eating and growing clean food has an impact on how our bodies function and affects the future."

Stonecypher is optimistic about the future she's helping to build in Zanesville.

"It's not easy to do this work. The journey is tough, but it's worth it when I look at this neighborhood and see changes. God is working it all out for good. I'm here and able to see those changes because MTSO played a huge part in preparing me for the role I have in a community that I love." \*



THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

## Maximize your donation to MTSO on Oct. 10

MTSO is excited to be participating in the Columbus Foundation's Big Give event. It's a unique, 26-hour opportunity to amplify your giving to your seminary.

When you donate online via the Columbus Foundation's website between 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10, and noon Wednesday, Oct. 11, your gift will be expanded by a share of a \$1.3 million Big Give bonus pool.

During past Big Give events, every

donation to MTSO has been boosted by more than 10 percent. If you want to maximize the impact of your investment in our mission, no other time this year will come close to these special 26 hours.

You'll find instructions at [www.mtso.edu/giveonline](http://www.mtso.edu/giveonline). For now, please circle 10/10 on your calendar.

Thank you for planning to join in this great day of philanthropy.

# Weeding, feeding and leading

Shaped at MTSO, young, well-educated farmers are making a difference in new settings

It has been less than four years since MTSO took a leap of faith with the founding of Seminary Hill Farm, which has now grown to cover 10 acres. In addition to providing fresh, healthy food, the farm is sending transformational leaders into the world. Here's a look at how four of them are using what they've learned at MTSO to serve local communities and an ailing planet.



## Hope Hutchison Elkhorn, Wisconsin

A May 2017 M.Div. graduate, Hutchison is the director of agricultural education at Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn. She manages the roughly 1-acre produce field and a menagerie of farm animals including a cow, goats, sheep, chickens and ducks. Additionally, she maintains an abundance of strawberry, blueberry and raspberry plants.

“There’s no way I was qualified to run a farm like this without what I learned at Seminary Hill Farm,” she said. “I’m using knowledge learned at Seminary Hill Farm to calculate volumes of produce for the expected needs of the dining hall. I’m also learning how to time produce to be ready when the kitchen needs it. That’s something we spent a lot of time going over in morning meetings while I was on campus.”

Time spent in theology classes is also proving to be indispensable to the work Hutchison does with campers.

“The camp is focusing on lots of water themes – renewal and baptism. I rely on imagery that we discussed in ecotheology classes when I’m working with campers. Almost every day, I find myself talking about things I learned in Christian education classes. I can talk to kids about the sacredness of God’s creation and how to be caretakers of God’s creation.”

“I can tell already that I absolutely love this work,” Hutchison said. “It’s only possible for me to be living into what I’ve always dreamed because of the combination of the practical experience I gained on the farm and the theological education I studied in the classroom.”

## Owen Needham Chicago, Illinois

After spending one year at MTSO as a farm apprentice and an additional year as a farm hand, Needham has returned to his hometown of Chicago to manage the urban farming program at KAM Isaiah Israel, a South Side synagogue.

The food justice and sustainability program at KAM Isaiah Israel is an example of sustainable food production in an urban setting with the goal of increasing access to fresh, locally grown produce by distributing food to local hot-meal programs. Needham also is in the initial stage of starting a small urban farm of his own through a farm incubator program run by Growing Power.

“I learned or started learning nearly everything I know about farming during my time at Seminary Hill Farm,” Needham said. “It confirmed for me the importance of sustainable agriculture work and my desire to continue with that vocation. It was a great crew of people and atmosphere to work in. It taught me about the kind of culture and ethos of work that I’ve tried to seek out or create ever since.”







## Kelsey Simkins Columbus, Ohio

Simkins is pursuing a Master of Arts on Practical Theology and begins her field education placement this fall at Franklinton Gardens, a nonprofit urban farm in Columbus' Franklinton community.

During her placement, Simkins will develop an educational curriculum and research strategies for developing a local food hub. Franklinton Gardens includes more than 2.5 acres of urban food production gardens, including multiple market gardens, a perennial fruit tree nursery, a micro-greens grow room and a neighborhood produce stand. Simkins will be working closely with staff in their efforts to demonstrate that agriculture can be a cornerstone of a healthy urban food system.

"I was initially drawn to MTSO because of Seminary Hill Farm and the ecology and justice specialization, because I see the need to heal our earth as a central concern of the Christian faith and food as a concrete first step to reconnecting with nature," she said.

"Through working on the farm and participating in ecotheology classes, I have opportunity to connect with others who are passionate about and wrestling with issues surrounding food justice, sustainable agriculture and our relationship with ecosystems. These dialogues have been transformative and will continue to support my growth as I begin my field education placement at Franklinton Gardens." \*



## Anna Jones Chicago, Illinois

Jones, a former farm apprentice, is applying her commitment to urban farming to her work with Zizant Gardening Service in Chicago. Among the various gardening responsibilities she manages, Jones coordinates Montrose Metra Community Gardens.

A narrow strip of what was previously unused land running parallel to commuter railway tracks in the Ravenswood and North Center neighborhoods has been transformed into an urban farming area. Sixty plots are rented by community members who agree to use sustainable organic farming methods to grow produce and donate all that's grown to food pantries.

At Seminary Hill Farm, she said, "I learned a lot about handling produce and preparing it for use in the kitchen. We wouldn't be able to donate all of our produce to local food pantries without this knowledge. Based on the location of these gardens, I use so much of what I learned about irrigation. We used to laugh on the farm that it's all weeding, weeding, weeding. And then you water so you can weed some more. That's as true in Chicago as it is on Seminary Hill Farm."

## Grants fund expanded work in ecotheology

MTSO received two significant grants during the 2016-17 academic year, providing resources to enhance the school's national leadership at the intersection of theology and ecology.

In December, the Luce Fund for Theological Education awarded a three-year, \$425,000 grant to MTSO, the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, and the Green Seminary Initiative. The three-year grant has funded the establishment of the Seminary Environmental Leadership Initiative, which aims to establish best practices and offer resources for seminaries that wish to engage in environmental issues.

Timothy Van Meter, MTSO's associate professor in the Alford Chair of Christian Education and Youth Ministry, is the grant administrator. He and Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, MTSO assistant professor of theology, ecology and race, serve as research coordinators.

With funding from the Luce Grant, MTSO will host key seminary faculty and staff from throughout the central U.S. and Canada Oct. 17 and 18 for the Midwest Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education.

In January, the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion awarded a \$30,000 grant to MTSO to fund a two-year project, "Theology, Ecology and Race: Crucial Intersections for Innovative Education." Van Meter will direct the project.

The Wabash grant allows MTSO to design new ways of integrating learning with Seminary Hill Farm and its staff, and it will offer stipends for faculty members to develop curricula that consider issues of ecology and race within more traditional courses.

# Christianity beyond Christendom

Professor **Jeffrey Jaynes** delves into centuries-old maps to give the early Christian world beyond Europe its due

To read Jeffrey Jaynes' forthcoming book is to have your modern notion of a map's nature and purpose – not to mention its physical orientation – turned upside down and sideways. Jaynes, MTSO's Warner Professor of Church History, has recently completed work on *Christianity Beyond Christendom: The Global Christian Experience on Medieval Mappaemundi and Early Modern World Maps*, which will be released soon by the German publisher Harrassowitz.

*Mappaemundi* are European maps of the world from the Middle Ages. Jaynes explores the way cartographers of roughly the sixth through the 15th centuries documented the presence of Christianity. In particular, he



*This circa 1080 map, based on the "T-O" model in which east is at the top, appears in a Spanish commentary on the apocalypse by Beatus of Liebana. It displays the 12 apostles sowing the seed of the gospel to all parts of the known world.*

sheds light on regions, many of them in Asia and Africa, where Christian communities formed and endured despite their location beyond the commonly accepted European borders of Christendom.

Jaynes didn't consider himself a map scholar when he began teaching at MTSO in the early 1990s, but interactions with his church history students convinced him there was an unexplored subject worth investigating.

"My first or second year here, one of the students, who was a person of color, said to me, 'You know, we're really talking about a lot of white people and a lot of European people in this class. When are we gonna start talking about some people I can relate to?' And I realized those are sources we still need to develop in a better way."

"We had money at the school to enhance teaching opportunities for the classroom," Jaynes said. "One of my interests was getting more resources to talk about Christian history and a narrative of it that was not just Western."

During a conference at Harvard, he said, "I met people who were experts in the history of cartography, and I began to ask them some of the questions I had about the larger story of how and why these Christian areas popped up on these maps – and why they were at the margins. I thought, 'There's more here. This is worth a serious research project.'"

Trips to cartography conferences followed, and Jaynes' idea for a book took shape. He delved into the stories medieval cartographers told in the ways they formed



their maps and their purposes in creating them. Some were intended as travel brochures, while others sought to tell a version of history – often with the aim of chronicling the spread of Christianity.

"Most medieval world maps have some Christian story attached to them," Jaynes said. "Early Modern world maps are mixed. By the 17th century, they have a different purpose. They're less about telling a story and more about charting territory and establishing boundaries."

A common type of medieval map, the "T-O" map, started with a circle meant to depict the oceans surrounding what was believed to be the entire inhabited world. Frequently, everything was spun 90 degrees counterclockwise from modern orientation, with east, where the sun rises, on the top. Asia filled the top half of the "O." The bottom half was split between Europe on the left and Africa on the right.

Whether he was studying "T-O" diagrams or maps that attempted to be more faithful to the earth's geography, Jaynes zeroed in on the shifting views of Christendom and the farther-flung Christian outposts through the medieval and Early Modern eras. This required him not only to study the maps but "to use the literature that cartographers were using to inform them as they were drawing these maps and depicting the world."

"I'm looking at how Christianity expanded, especially into Asia and Africa," he said. "There are stories they use to talk about the apostle Thomas going to India. The Christians in India go under this name of Thomas Christians. What we don't





One legend associated with distant Christianity is the story of Prester John. From the first modern atlas of Abraham Ortelius (1570), this map discusses Prester John's legend and locates his kingdom in Ethiopia.

know is: Did the real Thomas go to India? Matthew going to Ethiopia is another one that shows up.”

“They’ve used names and stories that sound like legends, but there’s actually some substance to it. There really were pockets of Christians in these other parts of the world that they had just kind of lost track of.”

Because they lost track, a Euro-centric view of Christianity developed that casually neglected the viability of Asian and African Christianity in the Middle Ages. As Jaynes put it, “Christianity didn’t just show up in Africa with Western missionaries going there in the 18th and 19th centuries. That is a flawed and problematic understanding that needs to be unraveled as much as possible.”

He hopes to see *Christianity Beyond Christendom* inform the teaching in Christian history classes such as his own: “I want folks from Asian or Middle Eastern or African backgrounds to realize that Christianity isn’t the project of a Western mindset but early on had this ecumenical character to it.” \*



# Beyond the classroom

## Faculty activities 2016-17



**Valerie  
Bridgeman**  
Interim Academic  
Dean  
Associate Professor  
of Homiletics  
and Hebrew Bible

### Publications

“Hope: The Call to Action,” publication on Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15, *ON Scripture*, Sept. 19, 2016.

“Prayer-Full Solitude for Justice Workers” in United Church of Christ Devotional *Rise Up: Spirituality for Resistance*, Feb. 20, 2017.

“Reflections on the Travel Ban,” statement in response to the executive order by President Trump (public theologian work), *ON Scripture*, March 7, 2017.

“Worshiping with the Resistance,” *Ecclesio*, May 1, 2017.

“Truth Be Told,” *Ecclesio*, May 22, 2017

Review of Hugh Page Jr.’s *Israel’s Poetry of Resistance: Africana Perspectives on Early Hebrew Verse in Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, Vol. 1 (2017): 95–127.

Review of Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder’s *When Momma Speaks in Encounter*, Vol. 73, No. 3 (2017).

Review of Pamela Lightsey’s *Our Lives Matter: Womanist Queer Theology in Black Theology* Vol. 15, Issue 2, August 2017: 176-178.

### Academic lectures and presentations

“A Long Ways from Home’: Displacement, Lament, and Singing Protest in Psalm 137,” International Organization for the Study of Old Testament, Stellenbosh, South Africa, Sept. 8, 2016.

Womanist Roundtable Conversation with Marsha Foster Boyd, Cheryl Kirk-Duggan and Beverly Wallace, and “God’s Got Us” chapel sermon on Romans 8:31-39, Shaw Divinity School, Raleigh, North Carolina, Sept. 17, 2016.

“A Long Ways from Home’: Displacement, Lament, and Singing Protest in Psalm 137,”

Theological Commons, MTSO, Sept. 20, 2016.

“On the Way to Freedom: Womanists Preaching Exodus (A Homiletical Proposal),” paper presentation at the Society of Biblical Literature’s Homiletics and Biblical Hermeneutics Section, Nov. 20, 2016.

Panelist, Pacific, Asian and North American Asian Women in Theology and Ministry, MTSO, March 23-25, 2017.

### Meetings

International Organization for the Study of Old Testament, Stellenbosh, South Africa, Sept. 5-9, 2016. Presented on Sept. 8, 2016.

Academy of Homiletics, Nov. 17-19, 2016.

American Academy of Religion and the Society for Biblical Literature, Nov. 18-22, 2016. Served on a steering committee in AAR and SBL, and presided over two AAR sessions.

Society for Arts in Religious and Theological Studies, Nov. 18-20, 2016.

MTSO Admissions Representative, UMC Black Clergy Gathering, Atlanta, Jan. 9-12, 2017.

Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Cincinnati, March 8-11, 2017.

Society for the Study of Black Religion, New Orleans, March 30-April 1, 2017.

Ecotheology Colloquy, “Agricultural Sustainability, Food Security, and Spirituality,” MTSO, April 5-6, 2017.

Listening Discernment Partner, “Our History, Our Future: A Multigenerational Conference on Human Rights,” including nonviolent direct action training, Boston University School of Theology, April 7-8, 2017.

Forum for Theological Exploration Christian Leadership Forum, Atlanta, May 31-June 3, 2017.

### Church and popular lectures

“Finding Your Prophetic Voice” and “Shaping the Sermon,” Women’s Work (WomanPreach! Inc.) in cooperation with the Women Ministers’ Empowerment Network, Austin, July 29-30, 2016.

Preached at South Euclid UCC, Cleveland, July 17, 2016.

Preached at Christ Missionary Baptist Church, Memphis, July 31, 2016.

Preached at New Calvary Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia, Aug. 14, 2016.

Preached at Brentwood Baptist Church Women’s Weekend, Brentwood, Tennessee, Aug. 21, 2016.

Preached at MTSO Alumni Day, Oct. 3, 2016.

Preached at Affinity Baptist Church revival, “Proclaiming Jubilee: Speaking Biblical Truth to Power,” Cleveland, Oct. 4, 2016.

“Interrogating the Text” and “Shaping the Sermon,” WomanPreach! Inc.’s Sophie’s Table in cooperation with Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Oct. 28-29, 2016.

Preached at New Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Nashville, Oct. 30, 2016.

Speaker, Delaware County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Breakfast, Jan. 16, 2017.

Lectures on sexuality and the Bible: “Do You Understand What You Are Reading: Biblical Authority and Interpretation,” “A Fraction that Governs Us: Why 7 of 31,000+ Texts Seem So Much More Important,” “What of These Loves? And, What Next?” Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia, Jan. 14, 21 and 28, 2017.

Preached at Emory Fellowship of the UMC, Washington, D.C., Jan. 22, 2017.

Preached at MTSO chapel, “Building Bridges/ Repairing the Way,” Jan. 31, 2017

Preached at Gethsemane UMC, Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 12, 2017.

Chloe’s Circle at McCormick Theological Seminary (WomanPreach! Inc.), March 3-4, 2017.

Preached and led workshop on worship as prophetic witness, New Mount Zion Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina, March 17-19, 2017.

Co-producer and Co-director of “Rhythms of the Cross: Seven Good Friday Movements (A Multimedia Meditation),” St. Paul’s Baptist Church, Philadelphia, April 14, 2017.



Chloe's Circle at Christ Church UMC (WomanPreach! Inc.), Denver, April 28-29, 2017.

Preached at Christ Church UMC, Denver, Colorado, April 30, 2017.

Preached at MTSO Harambee Service, May 3, 2017.

"Building Strategy: Prophetic Ministry in Trying Times," plenary speaker, Urban Ministry in the 21st Century, Cleveland Baptist Association, Cleveland, May 5, 2017.

"Progressive Faith," guest interview on 1320 WCVG AM, 11 am, Cincinnati, May 13, 2017.

Preached at Truth and Destiny UCC, Cincinnati, May 14, 2017.

Preached at Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Columbus, June 18, 2017.

#### Other activities

Participated in demonstration supporting Pulaski County Circuit Judge Wendell Griffen's freedom to express his religious beliefs, Little Rock, Arkansas, June 9.



**Paul Burnam**  
Director of the  
Dickhaut Library

#### Publications

"The President and the Preacher," a narrative of Washington Gladden and William Oxley Thompson's collaborations for the civic improvement of Columbus in the early 20th century, *Timeline*, Vol. 34, No. 3 (July-September 2017): 22-35.



**Jeffrey Jaynes**  
Professor in the  
Warner Chair of  
Church History

#### Publications

Review of *The Reformation to the Modern Church: A Reader in Christian Theology*, ed. Keith Stanglin, in *Church History and Religious Culture*, Vol. 96, No.3, 2016.

Review of *Gute Ordnung. Ordnungsmodelle und Ordnungsvorstellungen in der Reformationszeit*, ed. Irene Dingel and Armin Kohnle, in *Lutheran Quarterly*, Vol. 30, No. 1, 2016.

Articles on "Church Ordinances/ Kirchenordnungen," "Church Law" and the German territory of the "Palatinate," in *Dictionary of Luther and the Lutheran Traditions*, ed. Timothy Wengert. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic Press, 2017.

#### Academic lectures and presentations

"A King, a Khan, and the Religious Iconography of Martin Waldseemüller's Carta Marina (1516)," Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Bruges, Belgium, Aug. 19, 2016.

#### Meetings

Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Bruges, Belgium, Aug. 18-21, 2016.

Research Fellows Colloquium, Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany, Aug. 22, 2016.



**John Kampen**  
Professor in the  
Dunn Chair in Biblical  
Interpretation

#### Academic lectures and presentations

"Revealed Wisdom in the Rules Texts from Qumran," International Organization of Qumran Studies, Leuven, Belgium, July 19, 2016.

"Sectarians and the Nations: Reform and Cosmic Renewal in Matthew and the Dead Sea Scrolls," Matthew Section, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, San Antonio, Nov. 19, 2016.

#### Meetings

International Organization of Qumran Studies, Leuven, Belgium, July 18-20, 2016.

American Schools of Oriental Research, San Antonio, Nov. 17-19, 2016.

National Council of Churches and National Council of Synagogues Annual Meeting on Jewish-Christian Dialogue, Charleston, South Carolina, Nov. 15-16, 2016.

Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, San Antonio, Nov. 19-21, 2016.

#### Church and popular lectures

"Celebrating and Living with Freedom," sermon, Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship, Oct. 2, 2016.



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

#### Publications

*Reading Isaiah: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Reading the Old Testament. Macon, Georgia: Smyth & Helwys, 2016.

Review of Andrew T. Abernethy's *Eating in Isaiah: Approaching the Role of Food and Drink in Isaiah's Structure and Message* (Leiden: Brill, 2014) in *Biblical Interpretation* 24, 2016: 565-67.

#### Academic lectures and presentations

"Metaphor, Memory, and 'Reality' of the Exile in Deutero-Isaiah," International Conference on Images of Exile in the Prophetic Literature, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, May 7-10, 2017.

"Crossing Boundaries: Reading Daniel's Three Friends as a Case Study," Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Seoul, South Korea, July 5, 2016.

#### Meetings

Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Seoul, South Korea, July 2-7, 2016.

Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, San Antonio, Nov. 19-22, 2016.

Invited International Conference on "Images of Exile in the Prophetic Literature" at University of Copenhagen, May 7-10, 2017.

#### Church and popular lectures

Preached at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, July 24, 2016.

Preached at West Berlin Presbyterian Church, July 31, 2016.

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Preached sermon “Long Way to Go” (Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; Luke 17:1-10) for World Communion Sunday at Glen Echo Presbyterian Church, joined by Crestview and Covenant Parish, Oct. 2, 2016.



**Sarah Heaner Lancaster**

**Professor in the Werner Chair of Theology**

**Publications**

Guest editor, *Methodist History* 50:1-2 (October 2016 and January 2017), United Methodist Women’s History: Voices Lost and Found.

Review of *A New Gospel for Women: Katharine Bushnell and the Challenge of Christian Feminism* by Kristin Kobes du Mez (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015) in *Methodist History* 50:1-2 (October 2016 and January 2017).

“Soteriology and Eucharist” in *A Wesleyan Theology of the Eucharist: The Presence of God for Christian Life and Ministry*, 87-99. Ed. Jason E. Vickers. Nashville: United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2016.

Introductions and reflections for 1 and 2 Corinthians in the *CEB Women’s Bible*. Nashville: Common English Bible, 2016.

Reviews of *A Heart Strangely Warmed: John and Charles Wesley and Their Writings* and *The Lyrical Theology of Charles Wesley: A Reader in Modern Believing* 57:3, 2016.

“The Power of Non-Coercive Miracles” in *The Uncontrolling Love of God* by Thomas J. Oord. December 29, 2016.

**Meetings**

American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Nov. 19-21, 2016.

**Church and popular lectures**

Preached sermon “The Art of Happiness” for UMW Sunday at Grace UMC, Coshocton, Ohio, Sept. 11, 2016.

Taught Wesley Fellowship Sunday school class on the topic of the CEB Women’s Study Bible at Highland Park UMC, Dallas, Oct. 16, 2016.



**Linda A. Mercadante**

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

**Publications**

Co-author, *Awake to the Moment*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2016.

“How Does It Fit? Multiple Religious Belonging, Spiritual but Not Religious, and Dances of Universal Peace,” *Open Theology*, Vol. 3, Issue 1: 10-18, 2017.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

Theology of Religious Pluralism Writer’s Conference, Atlanta, Aug. 7-11, 2016.

“Baby Boomer SBNRs,” keynote speaker and panelist, Boomerstock, a UM Discipleship Ministries conference, Nashville, Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2016.

Antioch Writer’s Workshop, Maria Stein, Ohio, Oct. 14-16, 2016.

Respondent, American Academy of Religion, Interreligious Reflections on Immigration Seminar, San Antonio, Nov. 18-22, 2016.

“Moving Forward after Tenure,” keynote speaker for Association of Theological Schools conference, Orlando, March 25-26, 2017.

“Addiction Recovery from a New Perspective,” keynote speaker, Biola University, April 29-30, 2017.

**Meetings**

Traverse City Film Festival, July 26-31, 2016.

Interfaith Association of Central Ohio, annual luncheon, Aug. 28, 2016.

Worthington Prayer Breakfast planning meeting, Worthington, Sept. 2, 2016.

Boomerstock, UM Discipleship Ministries conference, Nashville, Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2016, 2016.

Adjunct coaching session for Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Nov. 10, 2016.

Empower Ohio, Columbus, Nov. 17, 2016.

American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Nov. 18-22, 2016.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Clergy Women’s Covenant Group, ongoing monthly meetings.

Spanish for Ministry, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, ongoing monthly meetings.

**Church and popular lectures**

“Focusing on Millennial SBNRs” at Columbus Mennonite Church, July 7 and 13, 2016.

Worship leader, Columbus Mennonite Church, Oct. 9, 2016.

“Religion and Spirituality,” city of Worthington Prayer Breakfast, keynote speaker, Worthington, Oct. 20, 2016.

Seminar organizer, speaker, workshop leader, “The Church Learns from SBNRs,” Brethren in Christ in Canada, Toronto, Nov. 2-5, 2016.

Preached at MTSO chapel service, Nov. 15, 2016.

Caroling for Peace, Columbus Mennonite Church, Nov. 20, 2016.

“Focusing on SBNRs,” Westerville UMC, Dec. 6, 2016.

“The Next Church for SBNRs,” Church Next, PCUSA, keynote speaker, Kansas City, March 11-15, 2017.

“Immigration, Peace, Religion,” keynote speaker, Interfaith March, Columbus, April 2, 2017.



**Elaine Nogueira-Godsey**

**Assistant Professor of Theology, Ecology and Race**

**Publications**

“State of Religion and Education in South Africa” in *British Journal of Religious Education*, September 2016.

Associate editor, *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“Postcolonial Imaginations of a Feminist Liberation Methodology,” paper delivered at American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, 2016.

Panel presider, “Religious Bodies, Religious Sexualities,” co-sponsored session by the Body and Religion Group and Religion and Sexuality Group at American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, 2016.

**Meetings**

Organizer, conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, New York, April 2017.



Panel organizer, “Learning from Indigenous Traditions to Create Ecological Cultures” and “Ecofeminism and Beyond: Revisiting the Intersection between Gender, Religion and Nature,” conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, New York, April 2017.

### Awards and appointments

Board member, International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture.

Member, Executive Committee, American Academy of Religion Women’s Caucus.



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

### Publications

“The Stick of Christian-Muslim Relations,” *The Inclusive Pulpit Journal*, Summer 2016: 99-106.

*The Abrahamic Encounter: Local Initiatives, Large Implications* (co-editor with Mazhar Jalil and Norman Hosansky, also a contributor). Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2016.

### Academic lectures and presentations

Moderated a panel discussion, “The Intersection of Religious and Civil Marriage: Dealing with Complex Cultural Issues in Domestic Relations Court,” at the Domestic Relations Winter Conference of the Judicial College of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Presented “Religion, Religions, and Religious Law.” Columbus, Nov. 18, 2016.

### Meetings

Interfaith Association of Central Ohio Main Event Luncheon, Columbus, Aug. 28, 2016.

Kristallnacht anniversary commemoration, Columbus, Nov. 9, 2016.

We the People Calling for the Spirit of Peace: An Interfaith Prayer Gathering and Potluck, Columbus, Dec. 10, 2016.

Grady Memorial Hospital Ethics Committee meetings, Delaware, ongoing.

### Church and popular lectures

Co-led Great Lakes Theological Academy, “Faith among Faiths: Faithful Christian Living in Interreligious Contexts,” Traverse City, Michigan, July 25-29, 2016.

“Christians in a Multireligious America,” presentation at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sandusky, Ohio, Sept. 25, 2016.

“We’ll See,” sermon at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sandusky, Ohio, Sept. 25, 2016.

“Reverence: A Virtue that Nurtures Ahimsa,” presentation at Ahimsa Day Jain Center of Central Ohio, Lewis Center, Oct. 1, 2016.

Led Buddhism Seminar Session, World Religions in Greater Indianapolis NEH Seminar Program, Indianapolis, January 2017.



**Francesca Nuzzolese**  
Associate Professor  
of Pastoral Care  
and Counseling

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Six Degrees of Separation: Sharing Vulnerability and Responsibility with the Most Vulnerable in our Midst,” Windows on the World, Eastern University, Philadelphia, September 2016.

“What’s Love Got to Do With It: A Theological Response to the Phenomenon of Sex-Trafficking,” Anti-Trafficking Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Jan. 28, 2017.

“When It Gets Too Hard: A Psychological Assessment of Unhealthy Relationships,” Oriented to Love: Dialogue on Sexual Diversity Across the Theological Spectrum, Philadelphia, May 6, 2017.

“Psycho-Spiritual Resources for Self-Care,” Alliance Against Prostitution International Meeting, Greenlake, Wisconsin, May 20-26, 2017.

### Meetings

International Alliance Against Prostitution Regional Meeting, Moscow, Nov. 16-21, 2016.

Baptist World Alliance, member of the Commission on Spirituality and Worship, Vancouver, July 2016.

### Church and popular lectures

“From Prayer to Practice,” spirituality series for the formation of prayer teams and ministries in congregations at Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia, Fall 2016.

“Praying Our Way into Loving Our Neighbor,” keynote address at UMC Peninsula-Delaware Yearly Ministry Conference, October 2016.



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

### Publications

“Healing Post-Colonial Trauma in the African Experience: The Case of D.R. Congo,” in *Pastoral Care, Health, Healing, and Wholeness in African Contexts: Methodology, Context, and Issues*. Ed. Tapiva N. Mucherera and Emmanuel Y. Lartey. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 2017.

### Meetings

Provided leadership for Globalization, Postcolonialism, and Pastoral Care group at the Society for Pastoral Theology Annual Study Conference, Pasadena, California, June 16-18, 2016.

### Church and popular lectures

“The Transforming Power of Forgiveness,” sermon at Ebenezer UMC, Columbus, June 12, 2016.

“God Is Merciful,” sermon at Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Columbus, Oct. 23, 2016.



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

### Publications

“Mission in Partnership,” *Mission Journal* Vol. 3, No. 1 (2016): 6-7.

Continues

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“Imin kyohoe wa pokūm chūngkō” [A new vision of evangelism for Korean-American immigrant churches] in *Leadership Journal*. Ed. David Kim. Nashville: Discipleship Ministries of the UMC, 2016.

“The Legacy of Reuben Archer Torrey III,” *International Bulletin of Mission Research* Vol. 41, No. 3 (July 2017).

Meetings

Course of Study Directors Meeting, Nashville, Sept. 20-22, 2016.

Steering Committee of the Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships of the UMC, Atlanta, Feb. 7-9, 2017.

Course of Study site visit, Montgomery, March 17-18, 2017.

American Society of Missiology annual meeting, Chicago, June 16-17, 2017.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Missional Church” and “Missional Spirituality, Structure, and Leadership” at Toronto Missional Church Forum, Toronto, Canada, June 12-14, 2017.



**Ryan Schellenberg**  
Assistant Professor of New Testament

Publications

“Paul, Samson Occom, and the Constraints of Boasting: A Comparative Rereading of 2 Corinthians 10-13,” *Harvard Theological Review* 109 (2016): 512-35.

Review of Paul B. Duff’s *Moses in Corinth: The Apologetic Context of 2 Corinthians 3* in *Review of Biblical Literature* (2016).

Review of George R. Brunk’s *Galatians in Mennonite Quarterly Review* 90 (2016): 393-95.

Review of Daniel Lynwood Smith, *Into the World of the New Testament: Greco-Roman and Jewish Texts and Contexts in Religious Studies Review* 43 (2017): 167.

“The Radical Prison Ministry of Early Christians,” *Sojourners* (August 2017).

Academic lectures and presentations

“Guilty without Trial: Explaining (the Rest of) Paul’s Imprisonments,” Canadian Society of Biblical Studies annual meeting, Calgary, May 29, 2016.

Meetings

Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, San Antonio, Nov. 18-22, 2016.

Canadian Society of Biblical Studies annual meeting, Calgary, May 28-30, 2016.



**Timothy L. Van Meter**  
Associate Professor in the Alford Chair of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Academic lectures and presentations

“Cultivating Hope and Ecological Vision” keynote lecture, Union Theological Seminary Conference on Ecology and Theological Education, Dec. 16, 2016.

Meetings

National Endowment for the Humanities Symposium, “Extending Aldo Leopold’s Land Ethic,” Flagstaff, Arizona, June 19-July 16, 2016.

Awards and appointments

Wrote and received \$425,000 grant from Luce Foundation Theological Fund. Grant seeks to extend ecological vision in theological schools throughout U.S. and Canada in partnerships with Green Seminaries Initiative, GreenFaith, and Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development. Received December 2016.

Wrote and received \$30,000 grant from Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. Grant is for administration, faculty, farm staff, support staff, student and alumni programs to ground ecological vision and anti-racism work within the mission and practice of MTSO. Received January 2017.



**Robin Knowles Wallace**  
Professor in the Taylor Chair of Church Worship and Music

Publications

Editor, *The Hymn: A Journal of Congregational Song*, Summer 67:3 and Autumn 67:4, 2016.

“Eucharist and Worship” in *Theology, Eucharist & Ministry: Wesleyan Perspectives*, 121-141. Ed. Jason E. Vickers. Nashville: Wesley’s Foundry Books/GBHEM, 2016.

“Armin Haeussler: Pastor and Hymnologist,” *Worship, Music, & Ministry: A Journal of the United Church of Christ Musicians Association* 15:1 (Fall 2016): 5-6.

Editor, *The Hymn: A Journal of Congregational Song*, Winter 68:1 and Spring 68:2, 2017.

Cover summary and endorsement for Lewis A. Parks’ *Small on Purpose: Life in a Significant Church*. Abingdon, 2017.

Cover summary and endorsement for April Stace’s *Secular Music, Sacred Space: Evangelical Worship and Popular Music*. Lexington Books, 2017.

Two entries for the *Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology*, ed. Watson, Young, Leask, and Gibson: Armin Haeussler and Carl F. Price; online, rolling editions.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Fanny Crosby,” chapel at Ohio Northern University, Nov. 10, 2016.

Meetings

Central Southeast Ohio Association, United Church of Christ, June 25 and Oct. 29, 2016.

The Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, Executive Committee, July 16, 2016.

The Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, Editorial Advisory Board (chair), July 17, 2016.

Annual Conference of the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, July 17-21, 2016.

The Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, Executive Committee, Nov. 1-5, 2016.

North American Academy of Liturgy, Jan. 5-7, 2017.

Central Southeast Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ, May 6, 2017.



### Church and popular lectures

“Hymns and Theological Worlds” for St. John’s United Church of Christ, Columbus, Oct. 30, 2016.

Invocation at Martin Luther King Jr. service, Delaware, Ohio, Jan. 15, 2017.

Preached at North Congregational United Church of Christ, April 30, 2017.

### Awards and appointments

Ordained in the Central Southeast Ohio Association, United Church of Christ, March 18, 2017.



**Lisa Withrow**  
Professor of Christian Leadership

### Publications

Review of *Looking and Learning: Visual Literacy Across the Disciplines*, edited by Deandra Little, Peter Felten, Chad Perry, *New Directions for Teaching and Learning*, no. 141, Spring 2015, Wiley Periodicals, Inc. in *Reflective Teaching*, Wabash Center online publication, Summer 2016.

Review of *Innovative Practices for Higher Education Assessment and Measurement*, edited by Elena Cano and Georgeta Ion, *Advances in Higher Education and Professional Development* series (IGI Global, 2017) in *Reflective Teaching*, Wabash Center online publication, Spring 2017.

Review of *Stop Talking: Indigenous Ways of Teaching and Learning and Difficult Dialogues in Higher Education* by Ilarion Merculieff and Libby Roderick (University of Alaska Anchorage, 2013) in *Reflective Teaching*, Wabash Center online publication, Summer 2017.

### Academic lectures and presentations

Workshop leader, “Women in Leadership,” Association of Theological Schools pre-conference, March 2017.

Workshop leader, “Conflict” (in two parts), Association of Theological Schools biennial deans’ meeting, Orlando, March 2017.



**Yvonne Zimmerman**  
Associate Professor of Christian Ethics

### Publications

“It Isn’t All About Sex,” *Sojourners*, August 2016: 26-29.

“Teaching Ethics While Queer and Mennonite,” *The Conrad Grebel Review* 35(1), Winter 2017: 83-94.

“Not Waiting for Love,” Society of Christian Ethics Women’s Caucus Blog, May 3, 2017.

Co-author with Letitia M. Campbell, “Forced Labor and the Movement to End Human Trafficking,” in *The Companion to Public Theology*: 271-297. Ed. Sebastian Kim and Katie Day. Leiden: Brill, 2017.

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Human Trafficking, Intersectionality, and Ethics,” Delaware Ministerial Association, Delaware, Ohio, Oct. 5, 2016.

“Religion in American Antitrafficking Politics,” Human Trafficking Center Fall Lecture Series, University of Denver, Oct. 19, 2016.

“Ethics, Intersectionality and Human Trafficking,” MTSO faculty lecture, Feb. 20, 2017.

### Meetings

Association of Theological Schools Self-Study Workshop, Pittsburgh, Sept. 15-16, 2016.

American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Nov. 18-22, 2016.

Society of Christian Ethics, Jan. 5-8, 2017.

### Church and popular lectures

“Fragility and Resilience,” sermon preached at Columbus Mennonite Church, Columbus, Oct. 30, 2016.

“Community-Based Responses to Human Trafficking,” Franklinton Civic Action Group, Columbus, Dec. 19, 2016.



## Make sure you're receiving *Campus View*

A new issue of MTSO's *Campus View* newsletter will appear in thousands of email inboxes soon, with the latest stories and information on the school's people, programs and events.

If you haven't been receiving *Campus View*, we invite you to update your email and other information online at [www.mtso.edu/update](http://www.mtso.edu/update). Meanwhile, if you'd like to catch up on our archives of *Campus View*, *The Story Magazine* and *Annual Report*, and news releases, you'll find them at [www.mtso.edu/news](http://www.mtso.edu/news).

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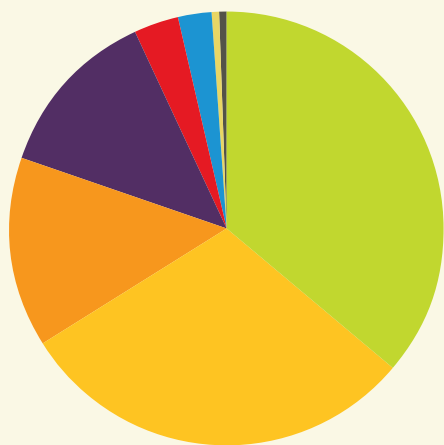
# Financial information

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, Methodist Theological School in Ohio had revenues of \$7,108,930 and expenditures of \$7,108,335. If you have questions about this information, please contact our business office at 740-363-1146.

## Operating budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17 (unaudited)

### Revenues

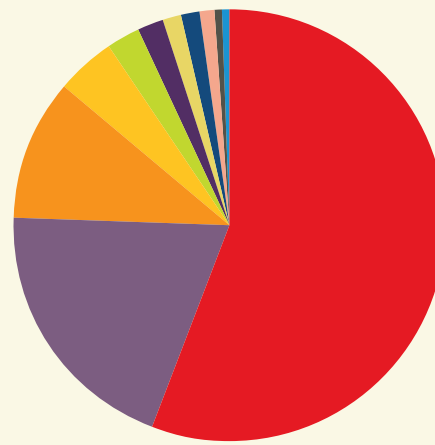
MTSO relied primarily on three sources of income: endowment earnings (36.3 percent of total revenue), tuition and fees (29.9 percent) and the Ministerial Education Fund of the United Methodist Church (14.2 percent). Combined gift revenue accounted for 6.2 percent of total revenues.



	Revenues	Percent of total
Endowment	\$2,582,200	36.3%
Tuition and fees	\$2,125,047	29.9%
Ministerial Education Fund	\$1,008,678	14.2%
Other programs and services	\$909,475	12.8%
Methesco Fund gifts	\$227,296	3.2%
Release of restricted gift	\$195,281	2.7%
Federal work study	\$39,534	0.6%
Student aid gifts	\$21,419	0.3%
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$7,108,930</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Expenditures

Compensation of faculty and staff accounted for 55.9 percent of the MTSO operating budget, followed by student financial aid (19.7 percent) and other programs and services, which include such items as the Course of Study School of Ohio (10.7 percent).



	Expenditures	Percent of total
Compensation	\$3,975,851	55.9%
Financial aid	\$1,401,371	19.7%
Other programs and services	\$763,835	10.7%
Plant maintenance	\$301,573	4.2%
General administration	\$177,046	2.5%
Academic support	\$142,078	2.0%
Information systems	\$98,717	1.4%
Business administration	\$92,530	1.3%
Enrollment	\$76,139	1.1%
Institutional advancement	\$50,466	0.7%
Instruction	\$28,729	0.4%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$7,108,335</b>	<b>100%</b>



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