

Volume LVIII  
Fall 2019

# THE STORY

## MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT

President Rundell  
shares gratitude  
amidst trying  
times

“On Food and  
Faith” conference  
participants  
include Al Gore

MTSO sends  
a delegation to  
the U.S.-Mexico  
border

Faculty members  
recommend  
books that have  
shaped their  
lives and work

Incoming  
students share  
their stories

A new  
partnership  
brings a Brazilian  
post-doctoral  
fellow to campus



# MTSO

Methodist Theological School in Ohio

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

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**High-profile address \***  
*Former Vice President Al Gore shared his renowned slide show as part of the conference "On Food and Faith Ministry in the Time of Climate Change," hosted by MTSO May 30-June 1. Read about the event on page 4.*

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### A publication of Methodist Theological School in Ohio

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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.

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.



# Amidst trying times, a note of gratitude

By Jay Rundell  
President

I am pleased to greet you on behalf of the MTSO community and invite you to take a deeper look at our seminary as highlighted in the following pages. Most of you receive our more regular *Campus View* publications during the year via email, so you have a good sense of our news and events. This magazine is our attempt to put on paper a broader look at how MTSO lives out its mission to provide theological education and leadership in pursuit of a just, sustainable and generative world.

Theological education cannot function in a vacuum. Because we teach a Gospel that engages the world, we strive as an institution to engage the world as well. In 2019, we've hosted lectures by Nobel Peace Prize recipient Rattan Lal, former Vice President Al Gore, and Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and author Leonard Pitts Jr.

The same values that make MTSO a fitting venue for such influential voices also help us attract students who want to prepare for lives of service and consequence. The incoming class in our new Master of Arts in Social Justice program was twice the size we expected for our first year. We are well positioned to advance the school's long-held commitments to strengthening faith communities and organizations to be in effective ministry and to make a difference in the world around them.

As we expand in new directions, we remain strongly committed to our enduring mission of educating leaders for local church ministry. This work is in constant transition as well. You have likely followed the struggles in the United Methodist Church since the Special General Conference last February.

The so-called traditional plan that passed at the conference continues to be opposed by a high percentage of United Methodists and United Methodist institutions in the United States. We at MTSO have been very clear about our stance in the months following the conference. We have a long and valued history with the United Methodist Church as well as a history of teaching and advocating for social justice. We will continue to welcome students to our school regardless of tradition or perspective, and we will stand with our LGBTQ students, staff, faculty, trustees, alums and friends.

While it is not at all clear what will happen with the denomination, I am convinced that churches and ministry have a future rooted in the loving Christian Gospel preached by our Methesco forbears. In a year in which we lost longtime Bishop in Residence Judith Craig, we can celebrate

how fully she exemplified an inclusive church. We will honor her memory in our efforts to ensure a place at the table for all.

In the wake of the Special General Conference, giving to the United Methodist Church has decreased, leading to a sharp decrease in denominational funding for the 13 UM seminaries, including MTSO. For the first time in a long while, we finished the fiscal year with a deficit. Fortunately, prudent care of resources in recent years gave us the resources to close that gap, and we have made adjustments to spending going forward.

Against this financial backdrop, though, there are blessings to celebrate. In this uniquely difficult year for United Methodism, many of our alumni and friends have responded not by withdrawing into despair but by giving more generously and more sacrificially to our mission. We who



are privileged to do this work are deeply grateful for this support of our mission and of our students who aspire to lead the church and world to a better place.

We received more than \$2 million in gifts and bequests. Our annual fund, which includes Methesco's Greatest Needs and the Seminary Scholarship Fund, totaled \$50,000 more than we budgeted for. Our Gold Crest giving society, which honors gifts of \$1,000 or more, included 24 donors who gave at that level for the first time. The President's Circle, which includes gifts of \$25,000 or more, included 16 donors and estates.

I am always grateful for this support, and particularly in this period of unique need. I invite you to consider how you might further invest in our vital mission in the coming year. I covet your prayers and welcome your thoughts and questions.

**We at MTSO have been very clear about our stance in the months following the United Methodist Special General Conference.**

# Mark your calendar for 2020 events

We hope you'll join us. 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).

**FEB. 25, 7 P.M.**

## Lecture: 'Reading Noah's Ark in the Age of Climate Change'

**Julia Watts Belser** is associate professor of Jewish studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Georgetown University, a senior research fellow at Georgetown's Berkley Center, and the author of *Rabbinic Tales of Destruction: Gender, Sex, and Disability in the Ruins of Jerusalem*. She will speak at MTSO about Jewish stories on gender, disability and the politics of survival.



**APRIL 15, 7 P.M.**

## MTSO: The History of a Delaware Institution

At this special event, presented in partnership with the Delaware Historical Society, MTSO faculty and staff will tell the seminary's story, highlighting its commitment to social justice, from its origins to the present. Coming of age during the turbulent years of the 1960s, the school emerged as a space in which religious leaders could learn to think theologically about social concerns and develop effective methods to address those concerns.



**MARCH 3 AND 4**

## Schooler Institute on Preaching, led by O. Wesley Allen Jr.

**Allen**, the Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology, leads the 2020 Schooler Institute under the theme "Preaching Mark as Parable."



**APRIL 30-MAY 2**

## Eating Together Faithfully

Participants in this training for faith and lay leaders will learn about food that LAUGHS: local, affordable, uncomplicated, good, healthy and seasonal. In experiencing and exploring the Eating Together Faithfully (ETF) program, they'll become equipped to begin leading ETF small groups in their congregations and communities.



**MARCH 24, 7 P.M.**

## Lecture: 'Providing Sanctuary as Witness: Standing in Solidarity with Immigrants'

MTSO welcomes **Isaac Villegas**, pastor of North Carolina's Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship, who will tell the story of his church and other activist communities as they engage in tactics of collective solidarity and resistance.



*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.*

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# Weaponizing the desert

## Reflections from an MTSO delegation's trip to the border

By Leigh Precise

*Executive Assistant to the President  
for Strategic Initiatives and Advancement*

The lectionary gospel text for Sunday, Aug. 18, was Luke 12:49-56. As I read the text that morning, I was struck by its harsh tone, containing words such as *fire*, *stress*, *division* and *hypocrites*. The verses describing the division of households – “three against two and two against three” – were unsettling. Since I was reading this in my bunk at the beginning of Day 4 of an MTSO delegation's five-day BorderLinks experience, however, I was somehow better able to sit with the discomfort. I carried this text with me as we traveled south on I-19 from Tucson to Nogales.

For more than 30 years, the BorderLinks organization has offered learning trips to educate delegations about the policies and circumstances that affect people who live near the U.S.-Mexico border and to practice solidarity with migrants. Our MTSO delegation was composed of four students, two faculty, two staff persons and one trustee.

In Nogales, the idea of division looms as large as the border wall. As construction of the wall began only 25 years ago with Operation Safeguard, its presence divides a city that once was whole. It seems arbitrary and harsh. It is massive.

The gaps between slats were once wide enough to reach through to hold a hand or share a meal. No more. The U.S. installed additional barriers so that those types of exchanges are now impossible. The barbed wire added along the top of the U.S. side of the wall in recent years is evocative of a maximum-security prison.

Our guide in Nogales was Manuel Morales. He spoke with us about his experience living in Nogales, Sonora (on the Mexican side), and took us to see the memorial for Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez. While throwing rocks toward the border wall from his neighborhood in Nogales, Sonora, Rodriguez was shot and killed through the wall by U.S. Border Patrol agent Lonnie

Ray Swartz on Oct. 10, 2010. Rodriguez was 16 years old. Swartz was found not guilty of voluntary manslaughter in 2017 and acquitted of involuntary manslaughter in 2018.

The day before going to Nogales, our delegation had hiked through part of the Sonoran Desert near the U.S. border town of Arivaca for a water drop with a volunteer from No More Deaths, a humanitarian aid organization based in southern Arizona. The increasing efforts to seal urban ports of

entry with physical barriers, technological surveillance, and Border Patrol and military staffing has driven more migrants to traverse the desert, despite the fact that the journey can put them in mortal danger. The water



**Staving off mortal danger** \* *The MTSO delegation took water and food to a desert location where migrants are known to travel*



Photos by Letty Damian

**Arbitrary and harsh** \* *The Mexican side of the wall in Nogales, a city that once was whole*

drop allowed us to leave gallons of clean water and cans of food in a location where migrants are known to travel.

Since the 1990s, the U.S. government has embraced “prevention through deterrence” at the border. Our delegation's experiences and conversations made it clear to us that it's not working. Warsan Shire's poem *Home* begins: “no one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark, you only run for the border when you see the whole city running as well.”

The U.S. Visa Bulletin for September 2019 states that F1 visas from Mexico currently under consideration were filed prior to Aug. 1, 1996. With that backlog, you realize no one is waiting 23 years for a chance to enter legally. Our government has turned the desert into a weapon, but migrants are willing to take any risk to better their lives and those of their families.

At the end of the lectionary text from Luke, Jesus shouts, “You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?” May God help us with the interpretation and lead us to action. \*



# Ministry in the time of climate change

Former Vice President Al Gore was among the participants in a three-day conference hosted by MTSO



More than 100 religious leaders, scholars, scientists, farmers and activists gathered on the MTSO campus May 30-June 1 for “On Food and Faith: Ministry in the Time of Climate Change.” The conference was presented by MTSO, the Center for Earth Ethics, the Climate Reality Project and the Ohio State University Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT).

Former Vice President Al Gore, founder and chairman of the Climate Reality Project, participated in all three days of the conference, delivering a multimedia climate presentation during the Day 2 plenary session.

“Having learned of the fantastic work that’s been under way for quite some time at MTSO, it seemed like a wonderful opportunity to join with MTSO and to have the training on this beautiful campus,” Gore said.

Center for Earth Ethics Director Karenn Gore called MTSO “the perfect place to talk about food and food in ministry.”

“It is wonderful to be here on a campus that is so full of spirit, so full of creativity, rigorous scholarship and relationship to the land,” she said.



**Back to nature** \* *The outdoor chapel hosted a morning worship service*

In introducing Al Gore, MTSO President Jay Rundell highlighted his achievements and honors, including the Nobel Peace Prize, an Oscar and a Grammy Award. “What we sense here with you in our midst,” he told Gore, “is a certain synergy between the kinds of things you’ve committed yourself to and the kinds of things we’re about on an everyday basis.”

Early in his 90-minute talk, Gore spoke dramatically of the consequences of climate change, declaring, “We are in the process of visiting destruction upon God’s creation.” Still, he said, there is much good news, including dramatic strides in renewable energy: “It’s now cheaper in most parts of the world to get energy from solar and wind than to burn fossil fuels.”

Also speaking on Day 2 was Ohio State Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science Rattan Lal, recipient of the 2019





**“A wonderful opportunity”** \* Al Gore delivered his multimedia presentation in the Alford Centrum

Japan Prize, one of the most prestigious honors in science and technology.

“A part of the biomass produced by soil must be returned to it,” Lal told conference participants. “Taking away everything without returning any biomass is a robbery of the soil and a banditry.”

The conference also included 18 breakout sessions – ranging from “Islam, Ramadan and Hunger” to “Standing with Farm Workers.”



**“The perfect place”** \* Karenni Gore with Tim Van Meter

The session “Grief, Climate Change and Prophetic Hope” was moderated by Tim Van Meter, associate professor in MTSO’s Alford Chair of Christian Education and Youth Ministry. Van Meter, who also serves as MTSO’s coordinator of ecological initiatives, has worked with Karenni Gore on a number of projects, and their working relationship paved the way for MTSO to host “On Food and Faith.”

Before conference participants toured MTSO’s Seminary Hill Farm on Day 1, Van Meter said, “I hope as you wander around with us, you’ll understand we have an incredible farm staff. And we have an incredible food staff. These are people we’re deeply, deeply grateful for.”

In brief remarks reflecting on the founding of the five-year-old farm, Rundell said, “Over time in our curriculum, we had a number of things happening that planted the seed, so to speak, for this work.

Almost all religious traditions have some understanding of food in the center of who they are. We’re fairly deeply rooted in a number of Christian traditions here. We have sacramentalized food. We recognized that and found this was not so much doing something new but revitalizing our traditions.”

During Day 3’s final plenary session, a number of leaders and participants shared their reflections with the group. “If



**“Revitalizing our traditions”** \* Jay Rundell led the conference’s closing ceremony

we can get people of faith to believe that the language we use is not geopolitical – it is spiritual language – then we can get this work done,” said Valerie Bridgeman, MTSO’s dean and vice president for academic affairs.

As the session was drawing to a close, 15-year-old Hadessa Henry of Indiana, who attended with her grandmother, Aster Bekele, founder of Felege Hiwot Center, inspired sustained applause with a plea: “Maybe next time we have this, we could invite more kids. We’re going to be here for a long time.”

View videos of Karenni and Al Gore, along with links to news coverage of the conference, at [www.mtso.edu/foodandfaith](http://www.mtso.edu/foodandfaith).

## MTSO welcomes visiting scholar

A new international initiative has brought a Brazilian scholar to MTSO and lays the groundwork for future cooperative ventures with a school in the Global South. Francisco de Assis Souza dos Santos arrived Aug. 5 for a five-month stay as a post-doctoral fellow and has quickly become a familiar presence on campus.

Francisco serves on the faculty of Faculdade Unida de Vitória (FUV), 250 miles northeast of Rio de Janeiro on Brazil's Atlantic coast. He teaches psychology, the psychology of religion, pastoral counseling, Portuguese and interpretation of texts.

During his time here, Francisco will research the theology of mental health and counseling that serves counselors. He believes MTSO is the right place for his study for two reasons: "First, the Methodist Church is where I became a believer. Second, from my point of view, people here are humble and accessible."

Francisco, who earned his doctoral degree in systematic theology from Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, looks forward to improving his command of English and taking advantage of a wealth of resources in the States. "Theology is studied more broadly in the U.S.," he said. "Here you have more books, more research."

Valerie Bridgeman, MTSO dean and vice president for academic affairs, said the partnership with FUV will benefit both schools: "All of us are made richer when we expand our conversation partners. This initiative includes an opportunity for our faculty to be published in an international peer-reviewed journal that's printed in three languages, for students to possibly create a cross-cultural independent study and for us to explore Brazil as a cross-cultural site."

Bridgeman said the partnership grew from an introduction made by MTSO Assistant Professor of Theology Ecology



**"People here are humble and accessible" \* Francisco**

and Race Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, who is a native of Brazil. Tejai Beulah, MTSO's coordinator of partnerships, helped research and craft the initiative.

Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling Fulgence Nyengele is serving as Francisco's conversation partner.

"Our conversations have been very instructive for me and really helpful in learning about the issues Brazilian pastors commonly encounter in ministry," Nyengele said. \*

## Olentangy ACT students make lunches better

**By Katherine Dickson**

*Director of Vocational Discernment and Community Engagement*

Since the spring of 2019, MTSO has engaged with the Olentangy Local School District's Academy for Community Transition (ACT), designed to help students with special needs prepare for life after high school graduation.

Two ACT interns serve in Dunn Dining Hall twice each week, working alongside MTSO staff and ACT job coach Suzie Cullen, performing duties including clearing and cleaning trays and dishes. Their hard work and attentive service invariably bring smiles to diners.



**A mutually beneficial program \* ACT student Jason Ratti, Dickson, ACT student Joshua Bobo and Cullen celebrating the partnership**

Collaborating with this program allows MTSO to continue to live into its identity as a place where all means all, engaging with our community partners for a program that is mutually beneficial.

ACT intern Andres Lerma shared with his ACT instructors that MTSO is his

favorite work site. He would love to work in the restaurant industry one day, and this experience is providing him with skills he will need to reach his goals.

Program director Dawn Imbrogno said ACT instructors and job coaches are excited about the partnership with MTSO: "They feel that having students learn in a supportive, welcoming environment like MTSO has provided their students with the skills and confidence they need to reach their employment goals."

"I have had the privilege to be a job coach for the ACT students working at MTSO since last school year," Cullen said. "The entire experience has been so fulfilling, not only for our students but for me as well. The staff and students at MTSO have been incredibly patient and encouraging. This in turn has transformed our students by boosting their confidence and abilities. It's been a blessing"



# Lasting images

A few scenes from a memorable year



**Earth Day chapel** \* MTSO marks Earth Day each spring. This year, the worship team led a special outdoor service near the prayer labyrinth.



**Christians and the Disinherited** \* The Ohio Council of Churches, Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ and MTSO celebrated the council's centennial by hosting a day focused on the next 100 years of ecumenical ministry. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Leonard Pitts Jr. (above) delivered the keynote address.



**Fearless Dialogues** \* Scholar and activist Gregory C. Ellison II (above, in hat) began Fearless Dialogues in the wake of the July 2013 verdict that found George Zimmerman not guilty of second-degree murder charges in the lethal shooting of Trayvon Martin. Ellison led participants from MTSO and the surrounding community through a day of respectful conversation around difficult subjects.



**Admissions Open House** \* Prospective students spent a summer day learning about the pathway MTSO offers to a wealth of vocations. The next Admissions Open House is Jan. 21.



**Lunch on the Lawn** \* Students, faculty and staff rang in the new academic year with good food, lawn games and serious dancing

# Visions of ministry and service

## Incoming students share their stories and aspirations

One member of MTSO's newest class has sung with Stevie Wonder and Sting. Another arrives with a Rutgers law degree. Still another has returned to the church after years away and now seeks ordination as a deacon. Our incoming students bring a wide array of

experiences but are linked by a common desire to pursue vocations of real significance. Here are profiles of eight of them, featuring passages from their admissions essays.

### ELIZABETH SPEIDEL

#### *A vocational arc bends toward chaplaincy*

Elizabeth Speidel's Catholic grandparents instilled in her great reverence for the sacraments and a commitment to social justice: "My grandmother explained through deed and word that our role was to be present, to listen and to love."

Commitment to a life of service led Speidel to Rutgers Law School. After graduating, Speidel built on her family foundation of social justice through legal work focused on foster care, community organizing, food justice, housing discrimination, elder advocacy and health-care rights. A mid-career focus on end-of-life care legislation led her to earn a bioethics certificate and to volunteer with her local hospice association.

While she eventually became disillusioned with the Catholic Church, Speidel found a new church home. In this United Methodist congregation, Speidel "came to understand and experience the significance of my grandparents' reverence for

Holy Communion. That intangible piece had been missing for me in my search for a spiritual home – the understanding and experience of Holy Communion as a spiritual transformation where we are called to be one with God, with love, with each other and in service to the world."

Speidel believes she has found a way to connect her spiritual upbringing with her passion for bioethics. As this year's recipient of the Harding Scholarship, she plans to pursue a Master of Divinity degree in preparation for health-care chaplaincy.

"Coming to MTSO and becoming a chaplain provides an opportunity to achieve what I believe is my life's purpose – to sit with those who are struggling in love and compassion and create space for them to connect with love, with God."



### RAE HAMILTON

#### *A sense of belonging in the church*

Church walls don't confine Rae Hamilton's vision for her ministry. An Alford Scholarship recipient, she will pursue a Master of Divinity degree in pursuit of ordination as a United Methodist deacon.

"I would like to focus on youth and young adult ministry," Hamilton said. "I feel I am meant to work both in and outside of the church. In the church, I see myself working with youth groups and families. Outside the church, my vision is for a community center that would offer various programs for youth and families, specifically at-risk youth and single parents."

Finding this clarity has been a years-long journey for Hamilton. After nearly a decade of avoiding the church, which had been an

important part of her childhood, she reconnected with a United Methodist congregation when she met her husband.

"I started to feel like I belonged somewhere," she said. "I still had this issue, however, of not feeling like I was doing what I was meant to be doing with the majority of my time."

The University of Illinois at Chicago graduate has spent the last 10 years working as a graphic designer.

"I enjoy working in graphic design," she said, "but it doesn't help in the way I feel pulled to help. It doesn't lead people to Christ or help those in need."





## ERIC STIGALL

*A passion for serving the marginalized*

Much of Eric Stigall's life has prepared him for MTSO's MA in Social Justice: "This degree program directly aligns with my passion to serve those who are marginalized in the world around us."



Working as impact manager for the United Way of Richland County, Stigall's responsibilities include maintaining partnerships with 18 community nonprofits to fund more than 40 programs, including the American Red Cross disaster relief, Salvation Army food assistance, Harmony House Homeless Shelter and Catalyst Life Services, which offers mental health and addiction crisis services.

"The MA in Social Justice at MTSO," he said, "will better not only equip me to minister to the partner agencies and the people they serve but will also allow me to have a deeper understanding of social-justice issues on a global level."

Stigall has seen firsthand the need for compassion with individuals in the midst of crisis. He serves as chaplain for the Richland County Sheriff's Department, where he is called upon to assist with people experiencing the unexpected death of loved ones. Additionally, he serves as an OhioHealth chaplain with Riverside Methodist Hospital and OhioHealth Mansfield.

He envisions his MTSO degree helping him continue these and other meaningful pursuits "not only in the community of Richland County and surrounding communities but also in the global community where people are marginalized and hurting."

## ANIKA-KAFI SUMMERS

*Resisting ministry no more*



After being raised United Methodist, Anika-Kafi Summers initially resisted a life in ministry. But a path through several vocations has led her to pursue a Master of Divinity degree.

"Being a preacher's kid was not always easy," she said. "Meeting a wide set of family and church family expectations, moving to new locations and transitioning during difficult academic years shaped my life."

Determined to distance herself, Summers began a short stint in publishing after graduating from college. She then earned a Master of Education degree in higher education and student personnel.

"After a decade in the field and two significant moves and positions with increasing responsibility, I struggled with my purpose as the work had become unfulfilling," she said.

Summers' next step was a position creating a statewide kitchen network in Michigan to provide food security: "My goal has been to create an environment where underserved communities have opportunities and resources to create their own success."

While that work was closer to her desire to serve others, it was her role leading a small Bible discussion group that shaped her call.

"I thought I was only offering hospitality to members of the church community. But soon, I took on actively leading classes. Additionally, I was leading prayers for the group and listening for God's presence," she said.

"It was only when I was astute enough to listen quietly; the waters of my life shifted from sandy ground to rock," she said. "My deep and abiding faith in God allows me to see that I am to be a minister and build community within the church."

## AUSTEN-MONET MCCLENDON

*Putting faith in action with the MASJ*

Austen-Monet McClendon's insatiable desire to learn more about African and African-American history led her to South Africa, where she student taught as an undergraduate. Additionally, she has spent time in Haiti and Ghana.

"In each country I've visited, the devastating effects of the European slave trade of Africans, colonization and neocolonialism are easily felt and observable. There is no part of Africa that the transatlantic slave trade did not affect. African people are dispossessed and suffering all over the world due to the legacy of racial oppression and its many manifestations."

Looking for a church home after graduating from Goucher College, McClendon discovered Baltimore's Pleasant Hope Baptist Church. She was drawn to Pleasant Hope's Orita's Cross Freedom School, a summer African-centered cultural-enrichment program designed

to serve children in communities where quality enrichment programming is limited, too expensive or nonexistent. Working with Pleasant Hope's pastor, Heber Brown III, McClendon has served as program coordinator for the Freedom School and with the church's Black Church Food Security Network.

"Joining Pleasant Hope has connected me with dozens of local and national justice organizations and has given me the opportunity to put my faith in action," she said. "I'm ready to apply the wisdom and knowledge I've gained from those experiences as I pursue a Master of Arts in Social Justice at MTSO. If I do nothing else in life, I know I must continue the work begun by my ancestors and take part in the project of liberating the minds of colonized African people to build a better future for coming generations."



Continues

## TONY GIANNAMORE

### *An advocate for good worship planning*

Tony Giannamore is steeped in United Methodist tradition, and his wide-ranging ministry interests have the makings of a well-rounded vocation in the church.



Participation in music in high school and at Westerville's Church of the Messiah led him to pursue a vocal music education degree at Capital University. Feeling called to ordination as an elder in United Methodist Church, he eventually changed courses academically and graduated with BA degrees in both music and religion.

While completing his undergrad degrees, Giannamore served as an intern with the West Ohio Annual Conference and worked with MTSO President Emeritus

Ned Dewire in planning and assisting in religious life activities at Lakeside Chautauqua.

His internship included work at Trinity United Methodist Church in Marble Cliff, where he developed an appreciation for worship planning and "the importance of different worship practices and how to make them authentic and passionate." At the same time, he was drawn to pastoral care and the opportunity to visit senior communities.

Giannamore also has an interest in an area not every pastor relishes: administration. "I would like to be able to learn skills and practices such as money management," he said.

As he pursues a Master of Divinity degree at MTSO, Giannamore is interested in "forming new theologies that are inclusive and could help those with mental and emotional disorders." Among areas he has studied is autism spectrum disorder. "I want to be an advocate for addressing developmental disorders in the church and push for programs that will be inclusive for those on the spectrum."

## KATHRYN STEPHENS

### *Augmenting a career in nonprofits*

Growing up in the small East Texas town of Longview, Kathryn Stephens reflected on the profound impact of "witnessing racism every day. I found myself uncomfortable and fighting for equity as young as 10 years of age," she said.

A family friend instilled the foundation on which she would base her life and career.

"Bernice taught me that God is good, that we are all created equal, to stand up for those whose voices aren't heard, to live with purpose and confidence and to act with passion," Stephens said.

With those lessons echoing in her ear, Stephens has built a dynamic career in several far-reaching and nationally recognized nonprofits in Columbus. Currently, she is working as vice president

## TWANNA GAUSE

### *Feeling the tug of pastoral leadership*

Twanna Gause's circuitous path to MTSO includes a childhood in the Apostolic Pentecostal Church; singing gigs with Stevie Wonder, Sting and Mariah Carey; appearances with Florence and the Machine on Saturday Night Live; and a stint as the wardrobe and wig supervisor for the world-famous Apollo Theater in Harlem.



In the midst of all this, Gause earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Rutgers University. And still, she feels called to something more.

"My pastoral leadership and counseling inclinations continue to tug at me," she said.

Having earned an MTSO Scholarship, Gause is seeking a Master of Divinity to continue to serve in the United Church of Christ. Together with her wife, who is senior pastor of Rivers of Living Water Ministries in New Jersey, Gause serves the predominately LGBTQI congregation as pastor of worship and spiritual development.

"My walk has not been an easy one and the questions even harder, but I am waiting in anticipation of what's next," she said. "My discernment process to theological education is not theoretical but personal and lived out. My interacting with the world and community has forced me to fully acknowledge my need for higher theological education."



for development for the Children's Hunger Alliance, ensuring that the children of Ohio have access to food. Prior to this work, she was the director of philanthropy for Susan G. Komen Columbus. Additionally, she worked for a nonprofit consulting firm where she was able to immerse herself in the work of the 8th Amendment Project, which seeks to end the death penalty.

Having received an MTSO Recognition Award, Stephens is seeking a Master of Arts in Social Justice.

"I've known my entire life that I want to make a difference, to change the world," she said. "I want to deep dive into learning all I can about social justice so I can be an advocate and leader for our community, our state, the world."



# 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.

## 1963

**Donald Webb** was delighted to exchange greetings with four friends, former parishioners and fellow alums: David Roberts ('72), Steve Russalesi ('74), Alan Barone ('75) and Ed Trimmer ('77). The four were lads in Don's Verona UMC Methodist Youth Fellowship when they were called to the ministry and, when he joined MTSO's faculty in 1968, chose MTSO as their seminary. All five are now happily retired but still in His service. Don also writes: "This fits neither criterion ('big event' or 'milestone') for Alumni News, but perhaps other '63 graduates have the same problem – of senescence? I've had to forge my ordination certificate! All its handwritten inscriptions had faded away! I sought the bishop's help, whereupon some brave staffer donned old clothes and rummaged the episcopal basement for my details. I then had my wife – she of the fair hand – insert them on the document, took a deep breath, and counterfeited the signature of Bishop Hazen G. Werner. Am I legal?" [cymmer@comcast.net](mailto:cymmer@comcast.net)

## 1969

**Robert Henderson** has published a book of poems, *Poems: from a listening point*, available on Amazon. [Rob444@cox.net](mailto:Rob444@cox.net)

## 1973

**Brice Balmer** retired July 1, 2019, after 11 years as assistant professor of spiritual care and psychotherapy at Martin Luther University College (formerly Waterloo Lutheran Seminary). "It's great to experience 'Freedom 75' – takes longer to retire when a Mennonite minister and then working as chaplain among folks who are marginalized because of poverty, immigration and addiction." [bbalmer@luther.wlu.ca](mailto:bbalmer@luther.wlu.ca)

## 1977

**Mike Morris** has retired after 42 years of full-time service as an elder in the Memphis Annual Conference. Mike and his wife, Cindy, will continue to live in the Memphis area near their two daughters and three granddaughters. [pman675@aol.com](mailto:pman675@aol.com)

## 1979

**Philip Henry Hunt** celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination on June 17, 2019. He retired from full-time ministry on June 30, 2018, and presently serves as pastoral assistant at First Christian Church in Zanesville. [phunt3@roadrunner.com](mailto:phunt3@roadrunner.com)

## 1980

On July 1, 2019, **Al Hammer** started new appointment as the executive director of Olmsted Manor United Methodist Retreat Center, a beautiful 300-plus acres in the middle of the Allegheny National Forest. "A perfect place to retreat for rest and rejuvenation!" [alhammeriii@gmail.com](mailto:alhammeriii@gmail.com)

## 1990

Inspired by the Jungian studies of Professor Jeff Hopper, **Jim Bastian** and **Nicole Waybright** have written a book, *Long Way Out: A young woman's journey of self-discovery and how she survived the Navy's modern cruelty at sea scandal*. The book is a story of the individuation process, aimed at helping those in crisis, in therapy or otherwise at a life crossroads. It is available on Amazon. [super400@hotmail.com](mailto:super400@hotmail.com)

## 1995

**Karen Welch** has moved in with her daughter and son-in-law. "All is good!" [kwelch1941@gmail.com](mailto:kwelch1941@gmail.com)

## 1999

**Mark W. Butler** has been appointed director of the Office of Founded Ministries for the Dominican Sisters of Peace, a religious congregation with administrative offices in Columbus. The office assists ministry leaders in the areas of governance and Dominican Catholic identity. The congregation's sponsored ministries include primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, health care centers, ecology centers, literacy and outreach centers, and retreat centers in nine states. [markwbutler@live.com](mailto:markwbutler@live.com)

## 2005

**Pam Easterday** completed a master's in teaching and special education from Bowling Green State University, served Global Ministries' Mt. Olivet Boys' Home in Manchester, Jamaica, and began as the elementary intervention specialist at Bridges Community Academy in Tiffin, all in 2018. Pam also preaches at UMC, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and United Church of Christ congregations to share her Jamaican mission trip. [revpameasterday@gmail.com](mailto:revpameasterday@gmail.com)

## 2006

**Annette Snedaker** was featured in the Anchorage Daily News ([bit.ly/2TpuZqF](http://bit.ly/2TpuZqF)), which covered her decision to loan her bike to another competitor at an Ironman-length triathlon after she realized she could not complete the race herself. [GraceAdventureAnnette@gmail.com](mailto:GraceAdventureAnnette@gmail.com)

## 2007

After leaving the United Methodist Church in 2010 and working as a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) music and worship arts director in the seven years that followed, **Mark Parsons-Justice** has returned to pastoral ministry as minister of word

Continues

from previous page

and sacrament in the PC (U.S.A.). He was ordained June 23 and now serves as pastor of Gallipolis First Presbyterian. [pastormarkpj@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarkpj@gmail.com)

## 2008

**Phyllis Fetzter** retired from full-time pastoring June 30, 2018, moved back to Columbus and is serving part-time on staff at Indian Run UMC as pastor of congregational care. [pfetzter30@yahoo.com](mailto:pfetzter30@yahoo.com)

## 2014

**Christopher Austin** has a starring role in his first film project, *Things Are Tough All Over*, in which he plays a husband who works to keep his family stable as they experience financial loss during the 2008 housing crisis. The film is due for release in 2020. [caustin0206@gmail.com](mailto:caustin0206@gmail.com)

**Phyllis Plear** is lead pastor of Brice Christian Academy, a mission of Brice UMC in Columbus. The academy celebrates its 25th year in operation this school year, inviting alumni, staff and teachers to various celebrations throughout the year. The school's enrollment is currently at capacity with 265 students. [pplear1@gmail.com](mailto:pplear1@gmail.com)

## 2015

**Randall May** was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees of the East Ohio Conference of the UMC on June 12 and elected to serve as chair of the board on July 20, 2019. [rwmay64@gmail.com](mailto:rwmay64@gmail.com)

## 2018

**Emily Howard** is enrolled in Ohio University's Executive Master of Public Administration program. She is employed by United Church Homes, a senior-living ministry of the United Church of Christ,

and an active member of First UCC in Marion, both of which she connected with because of MTSO. "I'm happy to report that seminary has served me well thus far." [howardemilyr@gmail.com](mailto:howardemilyr@gmail.com)

**Rebecca Walter** is a licensed professional counselor and advocate at Deaf World Against Violence Everywhere (DWAVE), a nonprofit VOCA-funded crime and trauma agency working with victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault across the state of Ohio in the deaf community. [rebecca.walter62@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.walter62@gmail.com)

## 2019

**Michael Airgood** is continuing his current appointment to Pine Run UMC with the addition of two smaller congregations (Glassport and Clairton: First UMCs) to form a new three-point circuit. [michaclairgood@gmail.com](mailto:michaclairgood@gmail.com)

## Three honored with Mount Alumni Awards

MTSO presented Eugene Folden, TaNikka Sheppard and Ellen Sims with the John and Ruth Mount Alumni Awards for Distinguished Service, the school's highest honor for graduates, at an Alumni Day luncheon Oct. 7.

Folden, who earned a Master of Divinity degree from MTSO in 1984, is associate pastor of congregational care at Linworth United Methodist Church in Columbus, where he has served since 1986. He also is a clinical associate professor and director of curriculum in Ohio State University's Department of Human Sciences, which has named him Outstanding Teacher of the Year six times.

"I'm grateful for your example as a bivocational pastor," MTSO President Jay Rundell told Folden, "someone who is in effective ministry both within the church and in an entirely other field."

"I can't imagine doing anything other than what I'm doing. I love every day, every moment in ministry," Folden said, adding, "I'm so grateful for the education I received here at MTSO."

Sheppard, who earned an MTSO M.Div. degree in 2010, leads the communications and media department at New Salem Baptist Church in Columbus. In addition, she is president of Baptist Women of North America, which represents more than 4 million Baptist women in the U.S. and Canada.

"Your presence in this community was always warm and wonderful," Rundell said to Sheppard. He added, "You have pastored well and ministered with authenticity."



**Honored on Alumni Day \* Mount Award recipients Sims, Sheppard and Folden**

United Church of Christ in Mobile. She also is past president of a Mobile organization called The Quest for Social Justice and a board member of Prism United, an LGBTQ support group for teens that her congregation founded five years ago.

"Your pastoring in this area and your work have made an impact," Rundell told Sims. "And it's continued, here and all the way to Alabama."

"I'm just overwhelmed with memories of my experiences and relationships here," Sims said. "The theological education I started here has shaped and sustained me in my ministry ever since."

The Mount Alumni Awards were created in 1990 to recognize graduates of MTSO who have achieved distinction in ministry and in service to the school. The award program was created by the late John Mount, a founding MTSO Board of Trustees member, and his late wife, Ruth.

"In this room are the three institutions that have been most impactful upon my leadership and ministry: my loved ones, my church family and this seminary," Sheppard said.

Sims, who earned an M.Div. degree from MTSO in 2006, is the founding pastor of Open Table



## Students and alums ordained and commissioned

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

### California-Nevada

Ordained as deacon:

- **Ken Schoon**, serving as associate pastor and minister of new opportunities at Chinese Community UMC in Oakland, California

### East Ohio

Commissioned as elder:

- **Donald Ackerman**, serving Crossroads UMC in Canton
- **Marelize Bruner**, serving Fields UMC in North Ridgeville
- **Rebecca Evanoff**, serving Fairhope UMC in Louisville, Ohio
- **George Edward Kovacik Jr.**, serving as pastor of Scott Memorial UMC in Cadiz
- **J. Harlen Rife**, serving Pearl Road UMC in Cleveland

Ordained as deacon:

- **Tammy Kuntz**, serving as coordinator of the North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Volunteers in Mission and Sandusky Trinity UMC

Ordained as elder:

- **Randall May**, serving as pastor of Geneva UMC
- **David St. Aubin**, serving Dover First UMC

### Michigan

Commissioned as elder:

- **Nicholas Bonsky**, serving Orchard UMC in Farmington Hills
- **Amy Triebwasser**, serving Flat Rock First UMC

Ordained as deacon:

- **Sarah Barrett-Nadeau Alexander**, serving as deacon of young adult and high school ministry at Birmingham First UMC

### North Carolina

Ordained as deacon:

- **Jenifer Swindell**, serving Sunrise UMC in Holly Springs

### Tennessee

Ordained as elder:

- **Bo Myers**, serving as pastor of Thompson's Station UMC

- **Mary Kate Myers**, serving as pastor of Bethesda UMC in Thompson's Station and Wesley Chapel UMC in College Grove

### Upper New York

Ordained as deacon:

- **Rebecca Guthrie**, serving as deacon at First UMC of New Hartford and chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital in Utica
- **Susan Ranous**, serving at Ira UMC

### West Ohio

Commissioned as elder:

- **Jennifer Bass**
- **Jessica Cavinee**
- **Clara Kwon**
- **Sarah Moon**
- **Victoria M. Robinson**, serving as associate pastor at Church of the Saviour UMC in Montgomery

Ordained as deacon:

- **Seth Evans**
- **Kara Jones**

Ordained as elder:

- **Jennifer Casey**
- **Jeremiah Diegel**
- **Peter Elliott**
- **Wendy Hansen-Smith**
- **Gregory Kendrick Jr.**
- **John Ma**
- **Sara McSwords**, serving as pastor of Caldwell Memorial UMC in Irwin and Raymond UMC
- **Dawn Trapp**
- **Vera Welker**
- **Kimberly Wisecup**
- **Christopher Wiseman**

### United Church of Christ

Ordained:

- **Nicole Pickens**, serving as pastor of Zion UCC in Fireside.

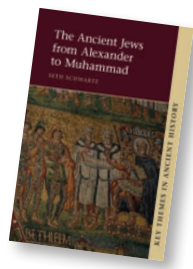
# Read like a seminary professor

*Faculty members recommend books that had an impact on them*

## The Ancient Jews from Alexander to Muhammad

By Seth Schwartz  
(2014)

Seth Schwartz is a foremost historian of Jewish history of the Greek and Roman eras. In this brief history of 190 pages, he summarizes his vast research into this era. He also explains how he thinks about the challenges of writing a history when our information about it is piecemeal and fragmentary.



Most Christian ministers and students of the Bible do not have the opportunity to read a history of this very important period for the origin of Christian history from a Jewish historian of this stature. What is the significance in Jewish history of the Maccabean revolt just prior to the birth of Jesus? How did the rule of the Roman Empire affect Jewish life all around the Mediterranean? What about the Bar Kochba revolt a few years later in 132-135 A.D. when Jews were driven out of Jerusalem and Judea?

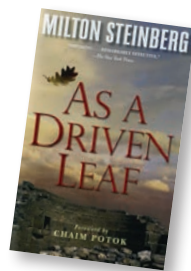
If we want to learn to read the New Testament without adopting the anti-Semitic interpretations that have plagued Christian interpretations of it, we have to begin by developing a more sophisticated understanding of the Jewish history of the period. This book provides a good starting point.

**John Kampen**  
*Distinguished Research Professor*

## As a Driven Leaf

By Milton Steinberg  
(1939)

Of all my assigned readings as a seminary student, this book most moved me. In his foreword, Chaim Potok reported that although he had studied the Talmud since childhood, “nothing I ever heard or read before was able to bring the world of the rabbis so vividly to life for me as Milton Steinberg’s novel.”



Since Rabbinic Judaism was my first academic love, I had similar feelings as I immersed myself in Steinberg’s fictionalized account of Rabbi Elisha ben Abuyah, an obscure figure mentioned in the Talmud, mostly with disdain.

Steinberg’s Elisha pursues a particular kind of certainty in faith, a set of logical proofs about God and morality analogous to the proofs of Euclid’s geometry. In his author’s note, Steinberg explains that the Euclidean angle is framed in modern, non-Euclidian ways. That is the point of the novel – it was written for those in our day who seek the same kind of logical proofs about God and morality.

You will have to discover for yourself where Elisha’s quest led him. The combination of superb storytelling and profound religious and philosophical issues makes *As a Driven Leaf* a memorable read.

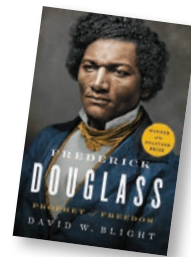
**Paul Numrich**

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

## Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom

By David W. Blight  
(2018)

Winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for History, Blight’s biography of Frederick Douglass, the foremost African American leader of the 19th century, delivers new insights and perspectives about slavery, the abolitionist movement and the constant struggle for human rights for African-Americans. Blight, recognized for his earlier book, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*, manages a formidable quantity of original letters, diaries etc., and he makes the story of his subject accessible and engaging.



One comes away amazed at how Douglass survived his first 20 years as a slave, evolved intellectually without any formal education, became a leader of the national abolitionist movement, and played a key role in convincing Lincoln and other northern leaders to create regiments of free blacks in the Civil War. Blight’s emphasis on Douglass’ relationships with other historic figures such as William Lloyd Garrison, John Brown, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Susan B. Anthony, Booker T. Washington and Ida B. Wells contributes a valuable new panorama to the 19th century. Douglass’ story offers a profound understanding of why race and race relations continue as major issues in American life.

**Paul Burnam**  
*Director of the Library*



## Just a Sister Away: A Womanist Vision of Women's Relationship in the Bible

By Renita Weems  
(1988)

Renita Weems is the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in Old Testament in the U.S. Her book demonstrates that questions I have about God, about relationships, and about how to read the Bible were shared and acted on by other black women who identified as feminist or as womanist, a term coined by the novelist and activist Alice Walker that refers to black feminists. Or, as Walker said: "feminist is to womanist as lavender is to purple."

When *Just a Sister Away* came out, Weems expressly wrote it for women in the church, not the academy. Although it is not an academic book, I learned from it how to apply what I was learning in seminary to interpreting biblical texts and facing contemporary questions and challenges in a fresh way.

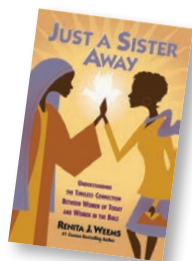
In some ways, this book set me on my path to become a biblical scholar who also preaches. I want my scholarship to be accessible, as this book was and is. It set me on my vocational journey.

I read everything Dr. Weems writes (and everything Alice Walker writes) to remind me that I can write with clarity and engage scholarship and the church at the same time.

**Valerie Bridgeman**

Dean

Vice President for Academic Affairs



## The Love of Learning and the Desire for God: A Study of Monastic Culture

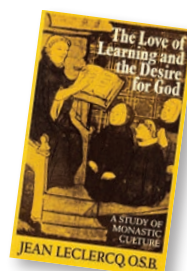
By Jean Leclercq  
(1960)

As a Benedictine and, more technically, a Cistercian monk, Father Jean Leclercq probes the origins, sources and fruits of a monastic culture. This monastic culture produced a monastic theology, which he distinguishes from a scholastic theology, in the way it elevates the endless quest for God – for the divine in our world.

It is a great book for a seminary classroom, yet it's written in an extremely clear and readable fashion. Leclercq was one of the first to give serious attention to notions of Christian spirituality and to reintroduce terms such as *lectio divina*, or divine reading.

The book is loaded with such gems as this observation: "The content of monastic culture has seemed to be symbolized, synthesized, by these two words: grammar and spirituality." Here Leclercq notes the wonderful interplay of learning and the quest of the mind with a continual "striving to attain eternal life."

Later the author returns to ideas of meditation and *lectio* with this admonition: "This repeated mastication of the divine words is sometimes described by use of the theme of spiritual nutrition." Hopefully, you get the idea. Leclercq's approach to spirituality is never cookie-cutter but rooted in the depths of monastic tradition and practice, which still have much to offer.



## Down in the Chapel: Religious Life in an American Prison

By Joshua Dubler  
(2013)

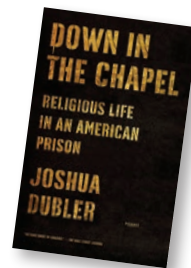
While a doctoral student in religious studies at Princeton, Joshua Dubler did fieldwork at Graterford Prison, spending hour after hour in the chapel with representatives of the various religious groups – Christian, Muslim and other – that used the facility. The result is a remarkably well-written and sensitive depiction of incarcerated men from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Dubler's portrayal complicates all manner of stereotypes about religion in prison, especially the notion that jailhouse religion is somehow inauthentic or fraudulent. It is not that he is naïve. In fact, Dubler is quite willing to name self-deception when he sees it.

It's rather that he shows us each incarcerated individual and each aspect of prison life from multiple perspectives – his own, of course, but also those of his key interlocutors and guides: a fundamentalist Christian; a Muslim black nationalist; a mainline Protestant chaplain; etc. He takes each of these men seriously, and none uncritically.

Perhaps most compelling of all is the way Dubler, who describes himself as "more or less a secular Jew," allows the men at Graterford to interrogate his own assumptions about religion, including the theoretical constructs that he brought with him from Princeton.

This is one of the most moving and enlightening books I've read in years – and nothing at all like a doctoral dissertation.



**Jeffrey Jaynes**

Professor in the Warner Chair  
of Church History

Director, Doctor of Ministry Program

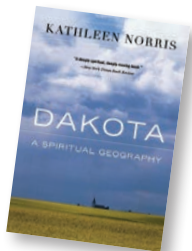
**Ryan Schellenberg**

Associate Professor of New Testament

## Dakota: A Spiritual Geography

By Kathleen Norris  
(1993)

When Kathleen Norris, award-winning poet and author, inherited her grandmother's house, she moved from the heady literary scene of New York City to Lemon, South Dakota, an isolated town on the North Dakota border. She found the pace, the demographics, the landscape, weather, spaces, sounds, even her spirituality were affected.



Encounters with Native Americans, her affiliation with a remote Benedictine abbey, and attending and sometimes preaching at the small village Presbyterian church all expanded and deepened her spirit. The starkness of Native American life, the monastic silence and the word-churning workings of her poet's mind reshaped her life, her soul and her attentiveness to her spiritual geography.

She is also intensely aware of the weather, so interspersed among the chapters are "Weather Reports," which are also commentaries on her new life and its current changes. I was deeply moved by the chapter "Deserts," with the epigraph that asserts, "Dryness promotes the formation of flower buds...flowering is, after all, not an aesthetic contribution, but a survival mechanism." Since I was in a particularly arid period of ministry, I found hope.

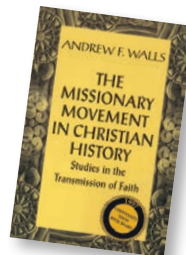
Norris' other books have touched me deeply, but none as much as *Dakota*. Here she taught me through beautiful language and intense natural images to be aware of my location and my spiritual geography – and, as the cliché urges, to bloom where I am planted.

**Tom Snyder**  
*Adjunct faculty*

## The Missionary Movement in Christian History and The Cross-Cultural Process in Christian History

By Andrew F. Walls  
(1996 and 2002)

A former Scottish Methodist missionary to Sierra Leone and professor emeritus of the study of Christianity in the non-Western world at the University of Edinburgh, Walls is credited with calling attention to the massive demographic shift of Christianity toward the Global South. These two seminal books have been instrumental in challenging me to examine issues in Christian mission on terms set by non-Western Christianity.



As Christianity is more and more associated with and marked by non-Western Christians, it is paramount for Western churches to listen to voices from the churches of the Global South. Walls rightly argues that "the study of Christian history and theology will increasingly need to operate from the position where most Christians are."

What is required between the churches of the West and the Global South is hospitality grounded in equality and mutual respect, not dominance by the former. According to Walls, what acutely concerns 21st century Christianity are issues of ecumenism – not confessional and denominational but multicultural and intercontinental: "The great ecumenical issues will be about how African and Indian and Chinese and Korean and Hispanic and North American and European Christians can together make real the life of the body of Christ."

**Joon-Sik Park**

*E. Stanley Jones Professor  
of World Evangelism*

*Director, Course of Study  
School of Ohio*

## At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance – a New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power

By Danielle McGuire  
(2010)

McGuire's book has challenged me to become a better historian of the civil rights movement. Her work forces scholars and interested readers to rethink the narratives of major civil rights campaigns by demonstrating how everyday black women prepared their communities for activism by pressing charges against white men who had raped them.



For example, McGuire unpacks Rosa Parks' lengthy career as an investigator for the Alabama NAACP. From 1932 to 1955, Parks helped to secure legal representation for black boys wrongfully accused of raping white women, and black women who were raped by white men.

McGuire's analysis of Parks' work with the NAACP demonstrates that Parks was not "simply tired" on Dec. 1, 1955, the date she was arrested for civil disobedience on a segregated Montgomery bus. Rather, Parks was a seasoned activist who used her social status in the black community of Montgomery to become the symbol of respectability that black activists needed to galvanize the bus boycott.

McGuire's study of Parks and several other black women has helped me to consider the stories behind the "Story" when I am researching civil rights histories.

**Tejai Beulah**

*Coordinator of Partnerships and Black  
Church and African Diaspora Specialization*

Read additional MTSO faculty book recommendations at [www.mtso.edu/goodbooks](http://www.mtso.edu/goodbooks).



# Beyond the classroom | Faculty activities 2018-19



**Valerie  
Bridgeman**  
Dean and Vice  
President for  
Academic Affairs

## Associate Professor of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible

### Publications

“Building a New Community: A Sermon on Exodus 20:1-17,” *How We Fight White Supremacy: A Field Guide to Black Resistance*, edited by Akiba Solomon and Kenrya Rankin. Bold Type Books, March 2019.

“Fears Within and Without: Easter Preaching to the Fearful,” *Journal for Preachers*, April 2019.

“Looking for Beyoncé’s Spiritual Longing: The Power of Visual/Sonic Meaning-Making,” in *The Lemonade Reader*. Routledge, June 2019.

Endorsement for Danielle J. Buhuro, editor, *Spiritual Care in an Age of #BlackLivesMatter*, Cascade Books, 2019.

Resource for news article “Black Women Cracking ‘Stain-Glass Ceilings’ with Jesus’ 7 Last Words,” Religion News Service, April 18, 2019.

### Academic lectures and presentations

“How Do You Read It? A Quest for Faithful Bible Reading in the Face of the Church’s Need for Renewal,” Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Oxford, England, Aug. 10-16, 2018.

“Any Questions?” Prophetic Imagination Conference, Minneapolis, Sept. 21-22, 2018.

Keynote Speaker, “If Only: Learning From Creation,” Rooted and Grounded: A Conference on Land and Christian Discipleship, Elkhart, Indiana, Sept. 27-29, 2018.

“Preaching and Practicing Creation Care: Why It Matters,” Academy of Homiletics, Denver, Nov. 15, 2018.

“#MeToo: The Challenge for Religiously-Based Institutions,” on plenary panel for the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Nov. 17, 2018.

Taught intensive course “Rhetoric in Torah, Prophets and Writings” at Christian Theological

Seminary, as affiliated faculty in the Ph.D. in African American Preaching and Rhetoric program, Jan. 14-18, 2019.

Keynote speaker and panelist, Wabash’s Next Steps Teaching Initiative Alumni Consultation, Baylor Graduate School of Religion: “A Wandering Aramean: What It Means to Be an Itinerant Scholar in Movement and in Place,” Jan. 25-27, 2019.

Plenary speaker, Urban Ministries Conference for the American Baptist Church, Cleveland, May 23, 2019.

Panel moderator, On Food and Faith: Ministry in the Time of Climate Change, MTSO, May 30-June 1, 2019.

### Meetings

Society for the Study of Black Religion Study Tour, Paris, June 23-July 2, 2018.

Wabash Cohort Gathering, Hilton Head, South Carolina, July 4-8, 2018.

The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries Leadership Conference: “Sanctuary: There’s a Place for Me,” Kansas City, July 18-20, 2018.

Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Oxford, England, Aug. 10-17, 2018.

Academy of Homiletics, Denver, Nov. 14-16, 2018.

American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, Denver, Nov. 17-20, 2018.

Association of Theological Schools African American Presidents and Deans Conference, Atlanta, Feb. 10-12, 2019.

PowerRising Conference for Black Women Leaders, Atlanta, Feb. 21-24, 2019.

InFACT Strategic Planning Review Team, Ohio State University, March 8, 2019.

Represented and spoke on behalf of MTSO, Ohio Council of Churches meeting and installation of new director Jack Sullivan, Trotwood, March 23, 2019.

### Church and popular lectures

St. John’s United Church of Christ Culture of Peace Prophetic Witness Team, “Politics and Religion,” with Timothy Van Meter, Columbus, Oct. 6, 2018.

“Selah: Self-Care, Purposeful Pausing,” preacher and retreat leader for the Cooperative Baptist

Fellowship of the Northeast, Providence, Rhode Island, Nov. 9-10, 2018.

Preached at Columbus Mennonite Church, July 8, 2018.

Preached at opening worship for the United Methodist Campus Ministry Association Conference, MTSO, July 17, 2018.

Preached at homecoming celebration, Antioch Baptist Church, Susan, Virginia, Aug. 19, 2018.

Preached at St. John’s Downtown UMC, Houston, Sept. 16, 2018.

Preached at New Calvary Baptist Church, Detroit, Sept. 23, 2018.

Preached at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Hackensack, New Jersey, Nov. 11, 2018.

Preached at New Life Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Dec. 2, 2018.

Preached for Martin Luther King Jr. Community Gathering, Mt. Aery Baptist Church, Bridgeport, Connecticut, Jan. 21, 2019.

Black History Month service and fellowship, Hope UMC, Bedford, New Jersey, Feb. 17, 2019.

Preached at Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Delaware, Ohio, March 10, 2019.

Preached at McKinley UMC, Dayton, March 17, 2019.

Preached at Saunders African Methodist Episcopal Church, Detroit, March 31, 2019.

Preached at Sure Foundation Church’s anniversary, San Marcos, Texas, May 4, 2019.

Lectured for Zenos Lecture Series, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, May 8, 2019.

Preached for Abyssinian Baptist Church anniversary, Memphis, May 19, 2019.

Preached for pastor’s anniversary, Christ Missionary Baptist Church, Memphis, May 19, 2019.

Preached for World Pride Day, Church of the Village, New York City, June 30, 2019.

### Other activities

Given the Antoinette Brown Institutional Catalyst Award on behalf of WomanPreach! Inc. (as its founding president and CEO), United Church of Christ Synod, Milwaukee, June 23, 2019.

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**Jeffrey Jaynes**

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

**Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program**

**Publications**

“Maciej Ptaszyński, *Beruf und Berufung: Die evangelische Geistlichkeit und die Konfessionsbildung in den Herzogtümern Pommern, 1560-1618*,” in *Sixteenth Century Journal*, Summer 2019.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“Topography of Knowledge: Geography and Cartography in the Wittenberg Reformation,” at Sixteenth Century Studies, Albuquerque, November 2018.

**Church and popular lectures**

“Christianity Beyond Christendom,” book presentation on global Christianity, Broad Street Presbyterian Church, June 2019.



**John Kampen**

**Distinguished Research Professor**

**Publications**

*Matthew within Sectarian Judaism*, Anchor Bible Reference Library. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019.

“The Gospel of Matthew and the Challenge of Antisemitism,” in *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 92 (2018).

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“The Problem of Christian Antisemitism and a Sectarian Reading of the Gospel of Matthew: The Trial of Jesus,” Early Jewish-Christian Relations Section, Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, Denver, Nov. 19, 2018.

**Meetings**

American Schools of Oriental Research, Denver, Nov. 15-17, 2018.

Society of Biblical Literature, Denver, Nov. 17-20, 2018.

National Council of Churches/National Council of Synagogues Dialogue, Chicago, Oct. 29-30, 2018.

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Alumni Leadership Council meeting, New York City, April 8-9, 2019.

**Church and popular lectures**

Preached “Being Community in a World of Chaos,” Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship, Aug. 19, 2018.

Preached “The Ambiguity of Persecution,” MTSO chapel, April 30, 2019.

**Other activities**

Vice-chair, Alumni Leadership Council, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Honors and Awards Committee, American Schools of Oriental Research.



**Paul Kim**

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

**Publications**

*Second Wave Intertextuality and the Hebrew Bible*, co-edited with Marianne Grohmann, Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

“Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dongju Yun, and the Legacies of Jeremiah and Suffering Servant,” *Second Wave Intertextuality and the Hebrew Bible*, Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

“Metaphor, Memory, and Reality of the ‘Exile in Deutero-Isaiah,” *Images of Exile in the Prophetic Literature: Copenhagen Conference Proceedings 7-10 May 2017*, Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2019.

“Crossing Boundaries: Daniel’s Three Friends Meet Rev. Ki-chol Chu of Colonized Korea,” *Landscapes of Korean and Korean-American Biblical Interpretation*, Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“E Pluribus Unum: Finding Intertextual Threads That Unite the Book of Isaiah,” Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Rome, July 3, 2019.

“Abraham the First Immigrant,” seminar for

*The Oxford Handbook of the Bible in Korea*, Sungkonghoe University, Seoul, March 22-23, 2019.

“Two Brothers, Two Communities, Double Themes: Reading the Jacob-Esau Narrative in Dialogue with the Korean Hungbu-Nolbu Folktales,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, November 2018.

**Meetings**

Attended the Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society meeting, March 14-15, 2019.

Attended and presided at Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, Nov. 17-21, 2018.

**Church and popular lectures**

Preached “Rainbow in the Midst of our World” (2 Kings 5:1-14) at Korean Presbyterian Church of Columbus, May 26, 2019.

Preached “Unsung Heroes” at Condit Presbyterian Church, May 19, 2019

Preached “Our Psalm” at Methodist Theological University, Seoul, March 26, 2019.

Preached “God Who Abides with Us” (Psalm 27) at Columbus Korean United Methodist Church, Jan. 20, 2019.

Preached “Leap of Faith” (Psalm 22:1-15, 22-24; Mark 10:17-31) at Plain City Presbyterian Church, Oct. 14, 2018.

Preached “Love vs. Hate” (Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12) at Condit Presbyterian Church, Oct. 7, 2018.

Preached at Hilliard Presbyterian Church, Sept. 23, 2018.

Preached at the Korean Church of Boston, Brookline, Massachusetts, Sept. 9, 2018.

“Reading the HB/OT from Immigrants Perspective,” Boston Nehemiah Institute, Boston, Sept. 8, 2018.

Preached at Mansfield Korean United Methodist Church, July 15, 2018.





## Sarah Lancaster

Professor in the  
Werner Chair of  
Theology

“John Wesley’s Interaction with the Moravians in England,” Nazarene Theological College, Didsbury, England, March 28, 2018.

### Church and popular lectures

“Not Giving Up on the Authority of Scripture,” Post Way Forward Gathering of UM Scholars, Lovers Lane UMC, Dallas, Aug. 7-8, 2018.

### Meetings

North American co-chair for meeting of the 14th Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Oxford, England, Aug. 12-19, 2018.

### Other activities

Visiting fellow, Manchester Wesley Research Centre, Manchester, England. Aug. 26-Sept. 15, 2018.

### Publications

Review of *Ecumenism: A Guide for the Perplexed*, by David Nelson and Charles Raith II, *Anglican Theological Review*, Vol. 100, No. 4.

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Revival and Staying Alive: Spiritual Respiration in John Wesley’s Theology,” keynote, the 14th Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Oxford, England, Aug. 18, 2018.



## Randy G. Litchfield

Professor in the  
Browning Chair of  
Christian Education

### Publications

*Roots and Routes: Calling, Ministry, and the Power of Place*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2019.

“Prayer for New Tools” and “A Prayer for Placemaking,” *United Against Racism: Churches for Change*, New York: Friendship Press, 2018.

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## FACULTY PASSAGE

### Bishop Judith Craig, 1937-2019

## A force in the church and on campus

Pioneering United Methodist Bishop Judith Craig died Jan. 18. Her loss is felt keenly at MTSO, where she served as a trustee, bishop in residence and visiting professor of church leadership.

Elected to the episcopacy of the United Methodist Church in 1984, Craig led conferences in the Michigan and Ohio West areas for eight years each. She made history in 1996 as the first woman to deliver the traditional Episcopal Address opening the United Methodist Church’s quadrennial General Conference.

“Bishop Craig was a central figure in the life of MTSO as our bishop in residence and a leading figure of United Methodism,” said MTSO President Jay Rundell. “She moved with grace and purpose in this life and had a tremendous influence on thousands of us who were blessed to have her in our midst.”

Born in Lexington, Missouri, Craig earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from William Jewell College, as well as a Master of Religious Education degree from Eden Theological Seminary and a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary. She conducted post-graduate studies on the religious education of adults at Union, Teachers College and Columbia University.

Before becoming bishop, she served in roles from youth director to parish pastor for congregations in Missouri, Connecticut and the Cleveland area.

Four colleges and universities presented her with honorary doctorate degrees. In 2000, a home for orphans near Monrovia, Liberia, was christened the Bishop Judith Craig Children’s Village.

In 2016, she lent her name to MTSO’s Bishop Judith Craig Scholarship Endowment ([www.mtso.edu/craig](http://www.mtso.edu/craig)), established to

benefit those exploring a call to ministry by minimizing their financial burdens and enabling them to better concentrate on their preparation to serve.

Craig delivered MTSO’s 2008 commencement address, in which she offered graduates the following advice for dealing with resistance to change.

*I’m reminded of the story of a farmer who hired a builder to come and use the finest materials and build a beautiful barn. Then the farmer went out and got on his tractor and bulldozed down the old barn.*

*And the next day there was a storm threatening, but the farmer went into town anyway. And the storm hit, and the sleet was going sideways, and as he drove home, he was smiling to himself because he thought of his cattle in that nice, warm barn. He’d left the doors open so they could get in.*

*But when the farmer got home, he found the new barn empty. He went back out in the sleet and the wind, leaned into it as he walked toward where the old barn had been. And there, huddled in the wind and the sleet, were the cattle – inside the foundation of the old barn.*

*Recognize that? You’ll encounter people like that. Just then, dig out your patience and your modeling and your best invitational self. Pull out those great biblical illustrations about God’s future and the wonderful stories of church history. And then go and stand with those miserable cattle in that wind and love them anyway until they will finally begin to follow you into the new barn.*



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**Meetings**

Religious Education Association, Washington, D.C., Nov. 2-4, 2018.

**Church and popular lectures**

Led two workshops titled “Partnership with God in the Places and Routes of Life” based on *Roots and Routes*, at UMC Christian Educators Fellowship national meeting, Oct. 11-12, 2018.

Designed and coordinated congregational adult education series on climate change at Asbury UMC, Delaware, Ohio.

**Other activities**

Member, *Religious Education* journal editorial board.

Member, Religious Education Association advisory board.

Member, Religious Education Association conference paper committee.

Assessment consultant for an Association of Theological Schools.

Member, Association of Theological Schools Student Data Advisory Committee.



**Linda Mercadante**  
Distinguished Research Professor

**Publications**

“Belief without Borders: Examining Anew the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious,” in *Being Spiritual but not Religious*, edited by William B. Parsons, Routledge, 2018.

“A Pilgrim’s Questions: Walking the Camino de Santiago,” *Bearings Online*, Colledgeville Institute, July 2018.

Review of *Spiritual and Religious: Explorations for Seekers* by Roger Haight, in *Touchstone*, Summer 2018.

“Thank You for Your Service,” *Bearings Online*, Colledgeville Institute, November 2018.

Review of *Apologetics without Apology: Speaking of God in a World Troubled by Religion* by Elaine Graham, *Interpretation: Journal of Bible and Theology* (73), No. 1, January 2019.

“The Earth is Not a Political Football,” *Bearings Online*, Colledgeville Institute, January 2019.

“Reaching the Spiritual but not Religious,” *Response*, March-April 2019.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“Is a Theology for SBNRs Possible?” American Academy of Religion, Theology Without Walls Unit, November 2018.

Panelist, “Religious and Cultural Appropriation in Interfaith Engagement: Where Do We Draw the Line?”; “We Need a New Barmen Declaration”; “The Beliefs of SBNRs.” Parliament of the World’s Religions, Toronto, Nov. 1-7, 2018.

Keynote Speaker, “Addiction Recovery Movement and SBNRs: Related?” and “America’s Fastest Growing Religion: SBNR,” Spiritual Emphasis Week, University of Pikeville, Nov. 11-16, 2018.

**Meetings**

Presbytery of Scioto Valley, Clergy Women Group, 2018-2019.

Burkhardt Center, First Community Church, Film Discussion Group, April 2019.

Interlochen Writers’ Retreat, June 2019.

**Church and popular lectures**

“Transformation on the Camino de Santiago,” Columbus Mennonite Church retreat, September 2018.

“The Nones You Don’t Know,” Religious News Association Annual Conference, Sept. 13-15, 2018.

Preacher, Rose Run Presbyterian, Feb. 24, 2019.

Preacher, Jubilee Mennonite, March 3, 2019.

“The Present Word,” Indianola Presbyterian Church, March 10, 2019.

“SBNRs and Church,” Lenten Winter Wednesday, Broad Street Presbyterian Church, March 20-28, 2019.

**Other activities**

President, Board of Trustees, Worthington Libraries, 2018.

Trustee, Worthington Libraries, 2019.

Worthington Interfaith Friends, Film Festival Planning Committee, 2019.



**Elaine Nogueira-Godsey**  
Assistant Professor of Theology, Ecology and Race

**Publications**

“Por uma Práxis Decológica,” *Religião, Gênero, Violências e Direitos Humanos*, edited by Wanderley Pereira da Rosa and Reginaldo P. Braga Jr., Vitória, Brazil: Editora Unida, 2019.

“Beyond God the Mother and God the Father,” *The Immanent Frame*, guest editors Juliane Hammer and Vincent Lloyd, June 2019.

“The Joy of Working Groups,” International Society for Religion, Nature and Culture website.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“Developing Civic Engagement and Planetary Response-Ability: A Postcolonial Ecofeminist Theological Perspective,” Panel of American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Women’s Caucus, Denver, Nov. 17, 2018.

Panelist in collaboration with the Feminist Liberation Theologians Network: “Response-Ability: Rethinking Economics in the Feminist Theological Discourse,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Nov. 17, 2018.

“Towards a Decological Praxis,” Animal and Religion Unit of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Nov. 19, 2018.

“Tangible Actions Toward Solidarity: An Ecofeminist Analysis of Women’s Participation in Food Justice,” MTSO, Feb. 18, 2019.

“Teaching Ecology and Theology,” Southwest Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education, Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University, March 13-14, 2019.

“Connecting Theology, Ecology, Race and Gender: A Conversation on Environmental Justice,” Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina, March 26, 2019.

“Food Futures: Healing the Planet and Ourselves in the Process,” On Food and Faith: Ministry in the Time of Climate Change, MTSO, May 29-June 1, 2019.

Facilitator of research workshop in the Theology of Liberation and Decolonial Thought Summer School, Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain. June 3-7, 2019.



Roundtable speaker, "Religion, Spirituality, and Environmental Crises," Social Science Research Council on Religion and the Public Sphere, Cork, Ireland, June 12, 2019.

Panel organizer, "Gender, Nature, Religion: Changing Cultures and Water/Land-Scapes," International Conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, Cork, Ireland, June 13-16, 2019.

"Tangible Actions Toward Solidarity: An Ecofeminist Analysis of Women's Participation in Food Justice," paper co-authored with Kelsey Ryan-Simkins, Religion/Water/Climate: Changing Cultures and Landscapes, Cork, Ireland, June 13-16, 2019.

"Religion and Social Activism in Times of Climate Change: Privilege or Necessity?" Religion, Social Activism, and Public Life symposium, University of Leeds, England, June 17-18, 2019.

### Meetings

Preconference workshop on publishing your research, Chicago, Oct. 12, 2018.

Roundtable seminar for newly appointed faculty, Chicago, Oct. 12-14, 2018.

Organizer: pre-conference meeting of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Nov. 16, 2018.

Pre-conference meeting organized by the Feminist Liberation Theologians Network, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Nov. 16, 2018.

Religions and Ecology Unit luncheon, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Nov. 16, 2018.

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Nov. 16-20, 2018.

Faculty of Color luncheon, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Nov. 17, 2018.

Wabash dinner for new faculty, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Nov. 19, 2018.

"Faculty Workshop on Interreligious/Interfaith Teaching," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Nov. 19, 2018.

Southwest Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education, Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University, March 13-14, 2019.

On Food and Faith: Ministry in the Time of Climate Change, MTSO, May 29-June 1, 2019.

Theology of Liberation and Decolonial Thought Summer School, Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain, June 3-7, 2019.

Religion, Spirituality, and Environmental Crises, conference organized by the Social Science Research Council's program on Religion and the Public Sphere, Cork, Ireland, on June 12, 2019.

Religion/Water/Climate: Changing Cultures and Landscapes, International Conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, Cork, Ireland, June 13-16, 2019.

Religion, Social Activism, and Public Life symposium, University of Leeds, England, June 17-18, 2019.

Workshop on pedagogy and best practices on teaching religion and ecology, University of Oslo, Norway, June 21-28, 2019.

### Church and popular lectures

"A Matter of Justice: The Impact of Climate Change on our Neighbors and Children," Climate Justice/Environmental Stewardship Series, Asbury UMC, Delaware, Ohio, March 24, 2019.

### Other activities

Treasurer, International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, 2019-22.

Workshop for Early Career Theological School Faculty, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion.



### Paul Numrich

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

### Publications

"Not Sure About Using Space in a Church or Synagogue? Three Things You Should Know About Congregations," *Sacred Places: The Magazine of Partners for Sacred Places*, Autumn/Winter 2018-19.

"The Rhetoric of American Exceptionalism in the Interfaith Movement in the United States," *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 54.1, Winter 2019.

"How Important Is Religion in Interreligious Relationships? Interreligious Space-Sharing as a Case Study," *Journal of Interreligious Studies* 26, March 2019.

"A Case for Closed Communion in Interfaith Contexts," *Currents in Theology and Mission* 46.2, April 2019.

### Meetings

Interfaith Association of Central Ohio Annual Main Event.

Interfaith solidarity service, Congregation Tifereth Israel, Columbus.

Community Kristallnacht Commemoration, Columbus.

"A Convening on the Case Method," Harvard University.

*Ramchand Pakistani* film showing and panel discussion sponsored by Worthington Interfaith Neighbors.

Goodspeed Conference, Denison University.

### Church and popular lectures

"As Far as It Depends on You," Ahimsa Day talk, Jain Center of Central Ohio.

### Other activities

Received commendation for publishing *The Abrahamic Encounter: Local Initiatives, Large Implications* from the Columbus City Council President.

Reviewed proposals for Oxford University Press, New York University Press, Routledge, *Sociology of Religion* journal, and *Space and Culture* journal.



### Fulgence Nyengele

Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling in the Chryst Chair in Pastoral Theology

### Director of the Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries Program

### Publications

"Perfect Love and *Ubuntu*: Building Empathic Community Across Differences as a Dimension of *Missio Dei*," in *Missio Dei and the United States: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness*, General Board of

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Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church, 2018.

“The Development and Spread of United Methodism in the Democratic Republic of Congo,” in *Global United Methodism: Telling the Stories, Living into the Realities*, edited by Elaine A. Robinson and Amos Nascimento, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church, 2019.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“Restoring Grace, Restoring *Ubuntu*: Reclaiming Wesleyan Social Holiness by Recovering the African Concept of *Ubuntu*,” Practical Theology Section, 14th Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Oxford, England, Aug. 12-19, 2018.

“The World Is Our Classroom: The Value of Global Consciousness for Methodist Theological Education in African Contexts,” keynote address, Joint Meeting of the African Association of Methodist Institutions of Higher Education and the African Association of United Methodist Theological Institutions, in collaboration with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church, Johannesburg, South Africa. Oct. 24-28, 2018.

“*Ubuntu*, Wesleyan Social Holiness, and the Quest for Human Dignity in Contexts of Political Violence,” Methodist Mission Bicentennial Conference Celebrating 200 Years in Mission, presented by the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church and Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, April 8-10, 2019.

**Church and popular lectures**

“Ethical Dimensions of Pastoral Leadership and the Quest for Wholeness,” minicourse offered at the West Ohio and North Katanga Pastors’ School, Kamina, Democratic Republic of Congo, July 9-12, 2018.

“Spirituality and Pastoral Care,” minicourse offered at the West Ohio and North Katanga Pastors’ School, Kamina, Democratic Republic of Congo, July 9-12, 2018.

Preached “Faith as Putting Out into the Deep,” Ebenezer UMC, Columbus, Feb. 10, 2019.

Preached “Gratitude and Happiness,” Asbury North UMC, Columbus, Feb. 24, 2019.

Preached “Passion for Peace,” Ebenezer UMC, Columbus, April 14, 2019.

Preached “Claiming the Spirit’s Power Upon Us,” Asbury North UMC, Columbus, June 2, 2019.



**Joon-Sik Park**  
**Professor in the E. Stanley Jones Chair of World Evangelism**  
**Director of Course of Study School of Ohio**

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“The Missionary Theology of D.T. Niles,” 14th Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Oxford, England, Aug. 12-18, 2018.

**Meetings**

50th Anniversary Celebration of the Concordat between the United Methodist Church and the Methodist Church in Britain, London, England, Aug. 10-12, 2018.

Course of Study Directors Meeting, Durham, North Carolina, Oct. 1-3, 2018.

American Society of Missiology Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, Nov. 9-10, 2018.

**Church and popular lectures**

“Hospitality as a Context for Evangelism,” All People Conference, Columbus, Oct. 29, 2018.

Preached “On Prayer,” Amen Korean Methodist Church, Seoul, Korea, Jan. 20, 2019.



**Ryan Schellenberg**  
**Associate Professor of New Testament**

**Publications**

“The Rest of Paul’s Imprisonments,” *Journal of Theological Studies* 69 (2018).

“οἱ πιστεύοντες: An Early Christ-Group Self-Designation and Paul’s Rhetoric of Faith,” *New Testament Studies* 65 (2019).

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“Carceral Logics, Then and Now,” Dennison University, Granville, Ohio, March 7, 2019.

“Care for Prisoners in Ancient Christianity.”

Course of Study School of Ohio enrichment session, MTSO, May 3, 2019.

“Reading Philippians in the Age of Mass Incarceration,” MTSO faculty lecture, May 7, 2019.

**Meetings**

Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, Nov. 17-21, 2018.

Canadian Society of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, June 1-3, 2019.

**Church and popular lectures**

“Early Christianity and the Prisoner,” guest facilitator, Duquesne University/Allegheny County Jail, Pittsburgh, Oct. 11, 2018.

Preached “The Justice of God,” Jubilee Mennonite Church, Bellefontaine, Ohio, Jan. 13, 2019.

“Paul, Prison, and the Justice of God,” Columbus Mennonite Church, Jan. 21-26, 2019.

“Early Christianity and Mass Incarceration,” Worthington UMC, Worthington, Ohio, March 31, 2019.



**Timothy Van Meter**  
**Associate Professor in the Alford Chair of Christian Education and Youth Ministry**  
**Coordinator of Ecological Initiatives**

**Academic lectures and presentations**

Southwestern Symposium on Ecology in Theological Education, March 14-16, 2019.

Boston Regional Symposium on Ecology in Theological Education, April 4-5, 2019.

Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center and Waterman Farm, Ohio State University, May 29, 2019.

On Food and Faith: Ministry in the Time of Climate Change, MTSO, May 30-June 1, 2019.

**Meetings**

Hispanic Summer Program annual board meeting, Oct. 24-26, 2018.

Food Hubs and Farming conference, held in partnership with Ohio State University InFACT, MTSO, Nov. 9, 2018.



Duke Inaugural Food and Faith Convening, Duke World Food Policy Center, Nov. 12-13, 2018.

Central Ohio Communities Project Sustainability Summit, Feb. 2, 2019.

Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Conference, Feb. 15-16, 2019.

United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries Sustainability and the Built Environment Gathering, March 10-11, 2019.

Sustainability Throughout the Curriculum Workshop, presented by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, Emory University, Atlanta, June 2-4, 2019.

Organizing meeting for the Spirituality and Sustainability Network invited gathering, Washington, D.C., June 14-16, 2019.

U.S. Climate Action Network meeting, St Paul, Minnesota, June 19-21, 2019.

Hispanic Summer Program 30th Anniversary Gathering, San Antonio, June 27-29, 2019.

### Church and popular lectures

Canton United Methodist Pastor Urban Network, monthly Bible studies on food, ecology and justice, September 2018-May 2019.

Charles R. Foster Conference on Theological Education, presented, April 25-27, 2019.

### Other activities

Board chair, Ohio Interfaith Power and Light, 2019.

Treasurer, Hispanic Summer Program, 2016-present.

Executive board, Green Seminaries Initiative.

Grant director, Ecology in Theological Education, Luce Fund for Theological Education.



**Robin Knowles Wallace**

**Professor in the Taylor Endowed Chair of Worship and Music**

### Publications

Review of "British Methodist Hymnody: Theology, Heritage, and Experience" by Martin V. Clarke in *The Hymn*, Summer 2018.

Review of "British Methodist Hymnody: Theology, Heritage, and Experience" by Martin V. Clarke in *Reading Religion*, July 9, 2018.

"My life flows on': A Multidimensional Study," *Bulletin of The Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, Winter 2019.

"Each Breath is Borrowed Air," United Methodist Church Annual Conference 2019, with Chi Yi Wolbrink, *The Hymn*, Winter 2019.

### Meetings

The Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland, July 2018.

Charles Wesley Society, Bristol, England, July 2018.

### Church and popular lectures

"My Life Flows On': A Multidimensional Study," presentation for the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Bishop Burton, U.K., July 27, 2018.

Keynote speaker and workshop leader, Town and Rural Resource Program of the East and West Ohio Annual Conferences: "Theology of Hymns for the 21st Century," "Creative Worship Planning" and "Planning for Advent," Christ UMC, Baltimore, Ohio, Sept. 15, 2018.

Leadership in ordination of Beth Staten, Zion United Church of Christ, Delaware, Ohio, Sept. 22, 2018.

Leadership in ordination of Joanna Samuelson, North Congregational United Church of Christ, Columbus, Oct. 20, 2018.

Leadership in the installation of Rev. Imani and Rev. Colin Jones at Advent United Church of Christ, Columbus, Nov. 3, 2018.

Leadership in the service of leave-taking for Rev. Mindy Quelhorst at Grace United Church of Christ, Lancaster, Nov. 11, 2018.

Leadership in ordination of Nicole Pickens, Radnor Congregational (United Church of Christ) Church, Dec. 8, 2018.

Liturgist twice at North Congregational United Church of Christ.

### Other activities

Reviewed article for the *Yearbook for Ritual and Liturgical Studies*, Summer 2018.

Reviewed article for *Wesley and Methodist Studies*, Summer 2018.

Sang with chorus for Messiah, Church of the Messiah UMC, Westerville, Dec. 16, 2018.

Keyboardist for Radnor United Church of Christ, Dec. 23-24, 2018.

Research in the Elias Hymnology Collection, Westminster College, Cambridge, England, August 2018 and April-May 2019.

Research on Iona, Scotland, Holy Week 2019.

Serve on Department for Church and Authorized Ministry, Central Southeast Ohio Association, Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.



**Yvonne Zimmerman**

**Associate Academic Dean**

**Associate Professor of Christian Ethics**

### Publications

"Human Trafficking and Religious Movements," *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion*, edited by Paul A. Djupe, New York City: Oxford University Press, April 2019.

### Academic lectures and presentations

Panelist, "Violence, Humanity, and Citizenship," with Jennifer Harvey and James McCarty, LGBT and Queer Studies in Religion Interest Group, Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Louisville, Jan. 5, 2019.

Co-facilitator, "Queer Sexual Ethics and Deep Theology," with Joshua Stokes at Q Christian Fellowship, Chicago, Jan. 12, 2019.

### Meetings

American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, Denver, Nov. 17-20, 2018.

Association of Theological Schools School for New Deans, December 2018.

Association of Theological Schools Chief Academic Officers Conference, April 2019.

### Church and popular lectures

Panelist, "The Intersection of Religion and Human Trafficking," Second Annual Monica Peterson Memorial Lecture, University of Denver, March 8, 2019.

"Justice in Acts," Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio Big Reads Colloquium, Dayton, April 30, 2019.

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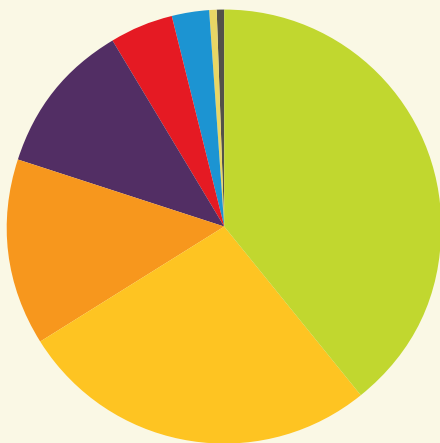
# Financial information

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, Methodist Theological School in Ohio had revenue of \$7,800,884 and expenditures of \$8,590,964. President Jay Rundell discusses the 2018-19 fiscal year in his column on page 1.

## Revenue and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2018-19 (unaudited)

### Revenue

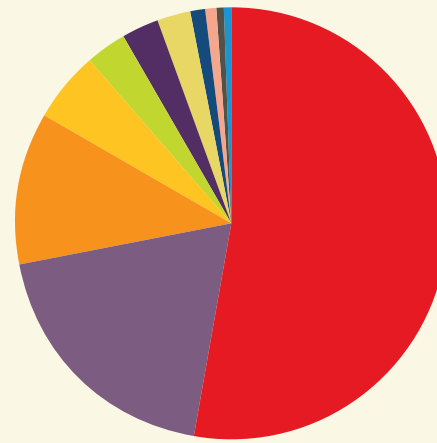
MTSO relied primarily on two sources of income: endowment earnings (39.3 percent of total revenue) and tuition and fees (26.9 percent). Combined gift revenue accounted for 8 percent of total revenues.



	Revenue	Percent of total
Endowment	\$3,064,144	39.3%
Tuition and fees	\$2,098,774	26.9%
Other programs and services	\$1,074,213	13.8%
Ministerial Education Fund	\$898,364	11.5%
Release of restricted gifts	\$372,217	4.8%
Methesco Fund gifts	\$211,984	2.7%
Student aid gifts	\$41,654	0.5%
Federal work study	\$39,534	0.5%
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$7,800,884</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Expenditures

Compensation of faculty and staff accounted for 52.8 percent of the MTSO operating budget, followed by student financial aid (19.4 percent) and other programs and services, which include such items as the Course of Study School of Ohio (11.4 percent).



	Expenditures	Percent of total
Compensation	\$4,531,853	52.8%
Financial aid	\$1,670,338	19.4%
Other programs and services	\$983,220	11.4%
Plant maintenance	\$447,197	5.2%
Business administration	\$267,846	3.1%
Academic support	\$237,757	2.8%
General administration	\$196,840	2.3%
Information systems	\$106,482	1.2%
Enrollment	\$75,324	0.9%
Institutional advancement	\$39,507	0.5%
Instruction	\$34,600	0.4%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$8,590,964</b>	<b>100%</b>



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