

Volume LII  
Fall 2013

# THE STORY

MAGAZINE  
AND ANNUAL REPORT

Four recent grads  
off to fast starts  
in ministry

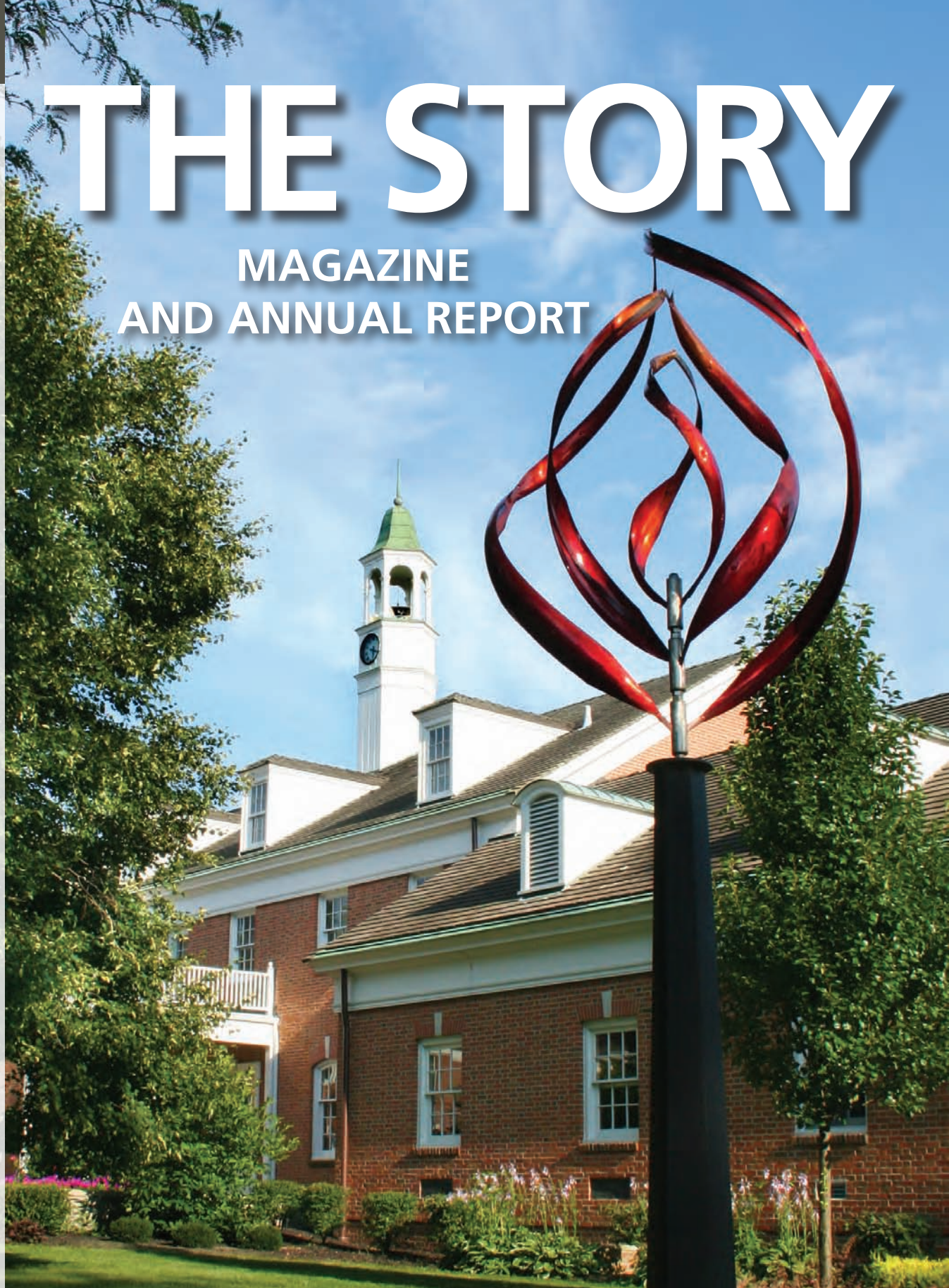
Alumni Day  
events: Honoring  
Bill McCartney,  
Mount Awards,  
jazz vespers

Denise Lewis  
joins the  
counseling  
faculty

MTSO  
welcomes its  
first vocational  
discernment  
director

New initiatives  
from an  
expanded  
admissions team

Incoming  
M.Div. students  
embrace the  
Connections path



**MTSO**

Methodist Theological School in Ohio

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

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## THE STORY

### MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT

Volume LII ✱ Fall 2013

#### A publication of Methodist Theological School in Ohio

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*Got gear? MTSO now has an online store, making stocking up on school regalia easier than ever. T-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies are just the start. The store also has logo coffee mugs and water bottles, mousepads and window stickers. Buy yours today – or start hinting around for Christmas. Visit [www.cafepress.com/mtsostore](http://www.cafepress.com/mtsostore) to see the full selection.*

Founded in 1958, Methodist Theological School in Ohio is one of 13 seminaries formally affiliated with and funded in part by the United Methodist Church. Located on a 72-acre campus in Central Ohio, MTSO offers five graduate degree programs: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in 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, Engaging in Ministry with the Poor and the Advanced Course of Study in the United Methodist Church.

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

# Evolving within a changing context

**By Rev. Jay Rundell  
President**

Over the past few years, you have heard me reflect on significant changes in higher education, in preparation for ministerial leadership, and especially in our own student community and the ways these students are likely to serve in the future.

Within our field, so-called “delivery methods” for higher education are in flux. Online courses, many of which are little more than correspondence courses utilizing the Internet, are expanding rapidly. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) – simply a not-for-credit means of sharing course content a year ago – now constitute entire graduate degree programs at major universities.

Against this backdrop, seminaries are confronted with demands for new options for students and concern over cost structures that contribute to rising student indebtedness. We also face the paradox of a drop in demand for ordained mainline clergy with a corresponding expectation of higher skill levels and preparedness for those who will be ordained. Ministry is growing in complexity, both for those in traditional pulpit-centered ministry and for the increasing number of people who are serving in new ways.

Just in the past year, we at MTSO have made several moves to address our changing context. We have implemented our Connections degree pathway, which integrates an online approach with a campus-based, face-to-face experience that we believe is vital to the integrity of theological education. Please see page 5 for more information on Connections.



While technology helps us mediate educational interaction and experiences, it doesn't replace them. Over the summer, we have substantially improved our already extensive classroom technol-

ogy in ways that will help us teach across distance and within the traditional classroom. The article on page 4 describes this new strength. We are not aware of another seminary campus with a higher level of classroom technology.

We have continued to expand our ability to work collaboratively with other institutions. Our work with Trinity Lutheran and Bexley Hall seminaries in Columbus is stable and strong. We share a tenured faculty member, a jointly administered degree program and active cross registration. Our relationship with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Chicago has taken important steps forward in the past year and will be a major focus for us in the year to come.

New G-ETS president Lallene Rector has been a part of that work, alongside retiring president Phil Amerson, and she will lead the Garrett dimension of the collaboration going forward. A task force including trustees and faculty from the two schools has proposed five action areas for future commitment and collaboration: 1. Understanding our two cultures, our shared assets and our differences. 2. Addressing student indebtedness. 3. Exploring joint tech-ed-based course opportunities. 4. Maximizing

faculty resources together. 5. Promoting and resourcing public theology voices.

Another new step for us this year is the development of a program to facilitate vocational discernment for students. This includes building networks of engagement with alumni and other leaders to foster opportunities for new ministry. You can read more about this on page 4.

Finally, I am proposing that MTSO strengthen its commitment to ecological and sustainability efforts. The final line of our Identity and Purpose statement underscores our commitment to a “just and sustainable world.” Over the past several years we have endeavored to make our campus greener. We have instituted theology and ecology specializations in both the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Practical Theology programs. Through a recent staffing transition, we have reworked the lead position on our buildings and grounds team, which now bears the title “campus steward.” By committing to new and emerging forms of land stewardship, we can make our expansive campus a vital asset in recruiting and for our community.

Your comments and questions regarding what I've shared and what you read on the following pages are important to me. I invite you to get in touch at [jrundell@mtso.edu](mailto:jrundell@mtso.edu) or 740-362-3121.

On behalf of our students, I also want to thank you for your continuing investment in their preparation for religious service and leadership. In particular, gifts to scholarship endowments and our Seminary Scholarship Fund are helping us make ministry a reality for those whose financial resources are exceeded by their aptitude and commitment.

With gratitude for your partnership, I wish you a good autumn.

**Seminaries are confronted with demands for new options for students and concern over cost structures that contribute to rising student indebtedness.**

**FLO GAULT, 1927-2013**

# A lasting message from a true steward

For many years, MTSO's students and faculty have shared the classrooms and offices of Gault Hall, a 2000 gift of the family of Stanley C. and Flo K. Gault. The Gaults' generosity has deeply enhanced the programming and administrative work of the seminary as well.

Flo Gault, who died April 16, was a particularly devoted supporter of the work of this school. She joined the board of MTSO in 1987 and was named an emeritus trustee in 2010. "Throughout that time, we benefited from her insight, her commitment to our mission and her interest in the future of theological education," said MTSO President Jay Rundell. "She understood what it means to hold MTSO in trust."

At Mrs. Gault's April 22 memorial service at Wooster United Methodist Church, her devotion to the church and her passion for education were recurring themes. Fifteen years ago, she wrote a column for *The Story* in which she reflected on those things. With deep gratitude for her generosity and wisdom, we share highlights of that piece:

*Through God's grace, the United Methodist Church is a connectional church and though*

*our religion is of the heart, it is also pragmatic in its struggle with the great moral and social issues of the day. We are encouraged in our personal theology and we are free to think and grow spiritually as individuals. This freedom involves choice and is one of the greatest gifts God has given us. What we do with this gift of choice involves the goals, ideals and pattern for our lives.*

*The responsibility for the gift of choice, and all the other gifts God has given us, is what I call stewardship. It is the key to living a life of fulfillment.*

*Stewardship is not just a matter of money but concerns the use of our time, our talent and the care of the world around us. The giving of ourselves to service and the sharing of our resources leads to abundant living, at least Stan and I have found it so. It is part of the great Wesleyan tradition. The refusal to share our gifts diminishes the spirit.*

*The future of our seminaries and our church are yoked together on a journey into the new century laden with opportunity. New ministries must continue to develop to meet the challenges of the future. The training for these new ministries will take place within*



**"The refusal to share our gifts diminishes the spirit" \* Gault on the MTSO campus for the dedication of Gault Hall in May 2000**

*our theological schools. Here at MTSO, the combination of our creative faculty, our able administration and our dedicated trustees have given us a fresh and vibrant momentum to move with confidence into the year 2000.*

*It is a privilege and a great responsibility to serve as a trustee at our school.*

## MTSO Board of Trustees 2013-14

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

# 'This is a perfect fit for me'

## New faculty member Denise Lewis embraces the unique benefits of counseling as ministry

Denise Lewis may be the newest member of the MTSO faculty, but she feels at home in a myriad of respects. Appointed assistant professor of pastoral care and counseling effective July 1, Lewis is now teaching some courses she took herself when earning a Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree.

Lewis's MTSO education was bookended by her BA in sociology and psychology at Ohio Dominican College and her doctorate in counselor education and supervision at Ohio University. She has taught at a number of universities and served as an MTSO adjunct instructor.

"I've seen the program through three different sets of eyes," she said. "As a commuter student, I came here, did my work and went home. Then I came back as an adjunct – seeing students, being able to participate in their learning, but not really being attached to the community. Now, as a full-time faculty person, it's a completely different view of the school, of the community, of my place here. It's been a beautiful transition."

President Jay Rundell said her transition is one that benefits MTSO students. "Dr. Lewis has an instinctive understanding of the counseling ministries degree and why it has unique value," he said. "It's part of who she was as a student and, now, who she is as a counselor and teacher. I know our current students respond to that."

The MACM, under the direction of

Professor Fulgence Nyengele, is MTSO's second-most-popular program, and Lewis is struck by the sense of community among counseling students and faculty. "I just met with a student," she said recently, "and that's one of the things I was talking to her about. Seeing students involved – seeing students invested in the program – is huge. I've had students approach me on so many different levels about their sense of responsibility to each other."

One of the things that unites MACM students is their approach to counseling as ministry. "What we offer is more than just the requirements for the counseling degree," Lewis said. "Our students get the theological portion in addition to a solid clinical background."

"Oftentimes clients have a sense of spirituality, and I have found some secular counselors don't talk about it because it's something they're uncomfortable with. Here, we teach them how to have the conversation."

"We also challenge our students to know where they stand in regard to their own spirituality. We create the environment here where our students are able to grapple with that."

Conversations with clients about religion can run the gamut, she said. "There are people who have been hurt by church. If you go in and start talking about church and religion, it could be seen as something that's divisive for them."

At the other end of the spectrum, "There are times when clients want you to pray with them. Do you close with prayer? Do you



**"I've seen the program through three different sets of eyes" ✱ Lewis in the classroom**

open up a session with prayer? Those things are important."

When Lewis was a student seeking a graduate counseling program, she was happy to find MTSO. "Because I was looking for a counseling program that also embraced who I am in regard to spirituality, this is a perfect fit for me," she said. "I also like that it's a small school. It's not someplace you can come and hide, where teachers don't know who you are."

"There's a community of people here who are truly invested in who you are as a person, not just academically. You'll be challenged here. You'll be held accountable here. You'll be encouraged here."

# Dickson arrives as director of vocational discernment

Seminaries have long struggled with the notion of placement offices. Given the key role of many denominations in placing ministry candidates in appropriate settings, it has often seemed unclear what else a theological school could or should offer.

With a changing ministry landscape, though, the number of potential vocations for well-educated religious leaders has expanded dramatically. The range of possibilities can be exciting for seminary students and alumni – and potentially overwhelming.

This is where Katherine Dickson steps in. After 10 years' experience in the field – the past seven as director of career development at Bluffton University – she has been appointed MTSO's director of vocational discernment and community engagement.

"There are very few seminaries doing anything like this," said MTSO President Jay Rundell. "Kathy's expertise and passion for vocational guidance give us a unique ability to expand the ways we serve not just our students, but our alumni and community."

Dickson, a 2012 MTSO M.Div. graduate, assumes a number of roles in which

she'll help connect students and alumni to the wider community. She'll also assist with community development projects.

"My role in vocational discernment is to work with individuals but also to support the efforts of the community's vocation as a whole," Dickson said. You'll notice she doesn't use the word "placement."

"Placement' is an archaic term," she said. "When you have placement, you're just trying to shove people into positions and meet your numbers. Vocational discernment is, at its best, looking at how the whole person fits within the communities of which he or she is a part. Work and jobs come into that, but it's a whole-person approach."

Dickson intends to serve both students and alumni, and to bring the two together in mentoring relationships and other ways. Toward that end, she plans to develop a database of community contacts and organizations that can offer opportunities from field-education placement to permanent, full-time positions.

Dickson's interests also include issues of disability, an area in which she has volun-



**"Placement' is an archaic term" ✱**  
*Katherine Dickson*

teered, studied and written extensively. She hopes to help MTSO identify ways it can make an impact there as well.

"MTSO is uniquely placed to be thinking – as it has done so well about so many other social-justice issues – about the work to be done in the area of disability and even how that work connects with other areas of social justice," she said.

It all makes for a sizable job description, and Dickson said she's eager to get started: "I see a chance to make an immediate impact at a school I love."

## A great classroom returns, with a major update

This fall's returning students noticed a continuing evolution within MTSO's academic spaces, with technology that facilitates learning both in the classroom and across distances. In one case, this means going back to the future.

Classes will once again meet in L200, a dramatic second-floor library room surrounded on three sides by windows offering expansive views of the campus. The room was used for classes until its abundance of natural light became a hindrance to the use of projected video. At that point, it was retired and became a periodicals room.



**One of several campus upgrades ✱**  
*L200 was ready just in time for Fall Semester*

Ironically, the latest leap in technology made L200 a viable classroom option once

again. Two 70-inch video displays are easily visible, even in a brightly lit room. The room also features new seating, carpeting, and a whisper-quiet heating and cooling system.

Elsewhere, two Gault Hall classrooms have new smart video displays, and G150 is being redesigned for both videoconferencing over distance and collaborative interactive learning within the classroom. Four tables will seat five students each, and each table will be outfitted for videoconferencing.

All of the technological upgrades have been made possible by grants and donations.

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

# McCartney and Craig will open Alumni Day

Also on tap: Mount Awards, tours and jazz vespers

MTSO's new Alumni Day will begin by honoring a much-admired emeritus professor and end with a rollicking jazz vespers service. At lunch, the latest Mount Alumni Award recipients will be honored, and the afternoon will bring campus tours, fellowship time and a demonstration of the ways MTSO is living into the future of theological education.

Alumni Day features events from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, just as fall colors begin to appear on the canopy of trees gracing the MTSO campus. All events are being presented at no cost to guests, though everyone who plans to attend is asked to register at [www.mtso.edu/alumniday](http://www.mtso.edu/alumniday). Advance registration will help immensely with food preparation and other planning.

A full slate of events will be offered.

A morning service of thanksgiving, led by MTSO Bishop in Residence Judith Craig, will honor Emeritus Professor of Field Education Bill McCartney.

The John and Ruth Mount Alumni Awards for Distinguished Service will be presented at a luncheon in Dunn Dining Hall.



**A morning service of thanksgiving \* Bishop Craig will lead a service honoring Emeritus Professor McCartney**

Professor Diane Lobody and Jeremy Huffer, MTSO's director of instructional design, will demonstrate how educational technology is being used in new ways – throughout and well beyond the campus – to enhance learning.

Tours will include familiar spaces that have

been updated to best serve today's students. Among the highlights will be a newly restored library classroom. (See page 4.)

A combo led by Hammond B-3 organist (and MTSO alumnus) Michael Padula will lead jazz vespers service. This fresh approach to great hymns of the church will bring a special day to an inspiring close.

The Schooler Institute on Preaching, which for many years was held in the fall, will be held in February for the second straight year.

“Our post-Epiphany, pre-Lent timing for the Schooler Institute proved very popular,” said MTSO President Jay Rundell. “At the same time, we know what a special season fall is on this campus, so we're happy to be able to bring everyone together for an autumn Alumni Day.”

Easy registration for Alumni Day is at [www.mtso.edu/alumniday](http://www.mtso.edu/alumniday).

**Connections**  
A meaningful M.Div., accessibly

## Students embrace hybrid M.Div. path

The new Connections path to the Master of Divinity degree has received a vote of confidence from MTSO's first-year M.Div. students. Roughly half of those entering this fall are taking advantage of all or a significant portion of the Connections schedule.

Connections blends the best in-person and online teaching methods to offer a three-year M.Div. degree that requires just one day per week on campus. On that day, Tuesdays Together, Connections students will generally take four classes, gather for chapel and share a community lunch with others on campus. Those students not on the Connections path continue to meet for classes throughout the week, as they have traditionally done.

Connections was designed for students who want a rigorous seminary experience but don't have the scheduling flexibility to spend multiple days on campus. The goal was to help them avoid an agonizing either/or decision by offering great on-campus classroom experiences along with the very best hybrid online learning.

In creating their hybrid classes, MTSO professors look for ways the online component can enhance – never replace – the in-class experience. For Professor Diane Lobody, developing a hybrid version of a class she had taught for years was transformative.

“The challenge of producing sophisticated multimedia course materials was terrifying and thrilling,” she said, “and the process drew out of me a level of creativity I had never before experienced.”

Learn more about Connections at [www.mtso.edu/connections](http://www.mtso.edu/connections).

# New ways to find the next seminarians

## Among admissions initiatives: connecting with regional college campus pastors

If you're a college student considering a theological education, you're likely to learn about MTSO and the seminary experience in new ways this fall. The new approach to communicating with college students is one of several ways the admissions team is refining and enhancing its approach.

The team also has expanded to reach more potential students, including candidates for the Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries program.

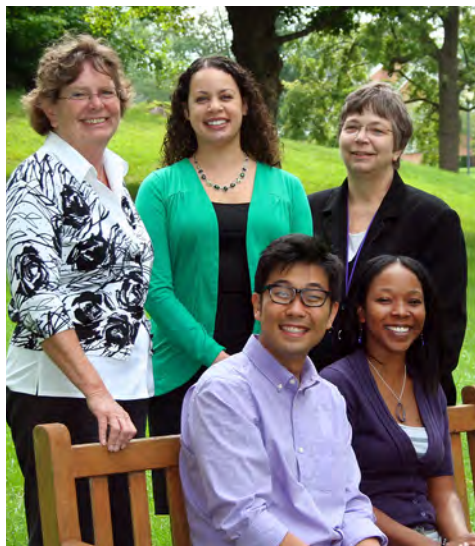
April Casperson, who leads the admissions staff, is now director of enrollment management and scholarship development. In the redefined position, she'll continue to work toward bringing new students to MTSO in addition to reducing financial barriers to a theological education.

"A big part of enrollment management includes providing financial support to strong candidates for ministry and service," Casperson said. "It is a joy to speak with students as they're discerning a call and entering seminary, and now I have an opportunity to take those stories to donors so that we can continue to strengthen our scholarship offerings."

The admissions team now features five people, all of whom know MTSO well. All five welcome calls and email from prospective students or anyone who might know of a potential seminarian.

**Recruiter David Allen** did his undergraduate work at Kent State University before earning an M.Div. at MTSO. While in seminary, David worked in the Connectional Ministries office at the West Ohio Conference. He can be reached at 740-362-3448 or [dallen@mtso.edu](mailto:dallen@mtso.edu).

**Recruiter Tashea Campbell** received



**The MTSO admissions team** \* (Back row) Molly Hoffman, April Casperson and Sally Murphy; (front row) David Allen and Tashea Campbell

a BS in human resource management from Franklin University and enjoyed a successful career with Verizon Wireless before choosing to pursue a MACM degree. She is an intern counselor trainee at Pomegranate Health Systems, working with adolescents with mental health and behavior disorders. She is available at 614-582-9898 or [tcampbell@mtso.edu](mailto:tcampbell@mtso.edu).

**Financial Aid Director Molly Hoffman** has served many MTSO students in a number of capacities. She was assistant admissions director before taking over the financial aid office. Her phone number is 740-362-3373 and her email is [mhoffman@mtso.edu](mailto:mhoffman@mtso.edu).

**Recruiter Sally Murphy** holds a BS in communication from Ohio University and a MACM degree from MTSO. She has worked extensively in the criminal justice system and is a family therapist for an addiction treatment center in addition to her work at MTSO. Contact her at 740-362-3447 or [smurphy@mtso.edu](mailto:smurphy@mtso.edu).

**Casperson**, an Otterbein graduate,

holds M.Div. and Master of Theological Studies degrees from MTSO and is an ordained United Methodist deacon. She has headed the school's admissions efforts since 2007. She can be reached at 740-362-3372 or [acasperson@mtso.edu](mailto:acasperson@mtso.edu).

Casperson said the team is establishing new ways of relating to potential students and those who influence them.

"We're fortunate to have two recruiters with backgrounds in counseling fields," Casperson said. "Sally and Tashea are able to speak to the unique contexts that are of interest to counseling ministries students, in both secular and religious areas."

This past spring, Allen contacted campus pastors and chaplains at colleges and universities throughout the region, offering to connect with students considering a graduate theological education in whatever way seems best for each school. He's been encouraged by the response and will hit the road for well-planned campus visits this fall.

"We recognize that college students participating in campus ministry are not all the same," Casperson said. "As a result, David is engaging with student populations in a variety of ways. We are participating in worship, facilitating conversations about vocational discernment and hosting meals where college students can talk about what it means to go to seminary."

MTSO welcomes visits by those considering seminary throughout the year.

"When students come, they have an authentic experience of what it means to be a student at MTSO," Casperson said. "We tailor individual visits to specific students, but we avoid an overly packaged approach."

MTSO's Fall Open House will be held Oct. 1. Highlights include opportunities to sit in on a class, tour apartments and residence halls, learn about financial aid options, and talk with current students, faculty and admissions counselors. More information is at [www.mtso.edu/campusvisit](http://www.mtso.edu/campusvisit).



# MTSO sends two into West Ohio residency

## The two-year program prepares promising leaders for churches that are positioned to thrive

Anna Guillozet, a 2011 MTSO graduate, and Joseph Barker, who is currently completing his final classes at MTSO, received welcomed news this spring. Both were selected for the West Ohio Conference Residency Program.

Since the program's inception in 2008, conference leaders have selected one to four recent seminary graduates per year to spend the first two years of post-seminary ministry alongside an experienced United Methodist pastor in a healthy congregation. Similar to a medical residency, this will give Guillozet and Barker the opportunity to learn alongside ministers who are demonstrating leadership skills in growing and innovative churches.

The intention of the residency program is for residents such as Barker and Guillozet to make positive changes in their assigned churches and for them to have a guided ministry experience that will equip them to be leaders who are ready to transform com-



Part of a "welcoming spirit" at King Avenue UMC \* Anna Guillozet

munities they will serve in the future. Upon completion of the program, they will be appointed to larger congregations that appear to be ready to blossom.

Guillozet will spend the next two years at King Avenue United Methodist Church in Columbus. Long identified as a reconciling church, King Avenue provides a comfortable backdrop for issues that are important to Guillozet.

"The welcoming spirit and practice of the church are amazing. Gay, poor, rich, student, elderly, all are welcome in the whole life of the church, not just in worship," Guillozet said.

During her time at King Avenue, Guillozet will serve as minister of discipleship and mission. By intentionally emphasizing the connection between discipleship and mission, Guillozet hopes to ignite informed discipleship that leads to enthusiastic mission work.

"The concepts of discipleship and mission are best lived out in harmony. There couldn't be a better position for me," Guillozet said.

Though her tenure will, by design, be relatively short, Guillozet recognizes the need to fully engage at King Avenue: "In short appointments it's important to build relationships and live into those relationships without fear."

Like Guillozet, Barker felt an immediate connection to his appointed church, Peace UMC in Pickerington. Peace is a 200-year-old church experiencing booming growth in one of the fastest growing communities in Ohio. From 2011 to 2013, average weekly attendance jumped from 300 to more than 530. Despite the large size of the congregation, the leadership within the church has created an environment that encourages all



Finding "there are no spectators" at Peace UMC \* Joseph Barker

members to be involved.

"When I first arrived here, I was surprised to find an environment where there are no spectators. Everyone has someplace where they are called to serve, and there's a place to live out that calling," Barker said. "Peace is not just a program church. We are rallied around a mission statement, and that sets the stage for transformation to happen. I'm happy to be a part of that process rather than just a sideliners."

During his first year of residency, Barker will have a full range of duties, including planning worship services, preaching, assisting with the music program, and working with children and youth. Barker's desire to bridge the gap between the academy and the local church is central to his goals for his time at Peace.

"MTSO gave me a solid grounding in academics and what it means to appreciate the learning process," he said. "The key was learning to connect the dots between theology, biblical criticism and church history. Now my job is to filter all of that to a congregation."

# Faststarts

These MTSO grads from the past five years are making a difference in a hurry

## Educating up and coming counselors

Each spring, Ohio University selects one of its many doctoral students to receive the Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership Award. In April of this year, the honoree was Laura Pressley, who two years earlier had received her Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree from MTSO.

The award is one in a series of affirmations that Pressley made the right decision in continuing her graduate studies in counseling. After graduating from MTSO, she immediately began pursuing her Ph.D. in counselor education and supervision. Her goal is to prepare future generations of counselors.

"I was one of only two MTSO graduates in my class to go straight to doctoral work, and that was a little scary," she said. "I had plenty of encouragement from professors like Denise Lewis. She was the first person who told me how I could do this and helped me set my sights on Ohio University."

Pressley, who earned bachelor's degrees in psychology and women's studies at the University of Michigan, has served as a doctoral intern for the Ohio Mental Health Counselor's Association during her time at Ohio University, focusing on substance abuse and gender issues within pastoral and professional counseling.

"Initially, I wanted to focus on substance abuse with minority women," she said. "But MTSO helped me integrate faith issues into the recovery process. A lot of counselors feel uncomfortable talking about faith. But if clients can't openly speak about certain things in their faith, it could shut down the therapeutic process."

Pressley has presented her understanding of the therapeutic process and modern trends in substance abuse at conferences in



**"I'm interested in showing counselors ways to consider new models" \* Pressley received Ohio University's highest award for doctoral students**

**Laura Pressley**

Class of 2011  
Whitewater, Wisconsin

Orlando and San Diego during the past year. "I'm interested in showing counselors ways to consider new models," she said.

She will have the opportunity to do that in her new role as an adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater this fall. A Licensed Professional Counselor, Pressley is confident that her classroom learning and her experience have equipped her to bring new understanding to her students.

"I want to show students the ways that new therapies and new drug therapies require a wrap-around counseling model to ensure clients' recovery," Pressley said. She explained wrap-around counseling models have a better success rate than some traditional models among those battling addiction because counselors work to ensure that clients can be successful at work, at home, and with family and friends.

"Wrap-around models can provide more stability and increase the chance for total recovery. The goal is for clients to not want to use again and to develop a good support system. This is the best chance for that," Pressley said.

While settling into her new home in Wisconsin, Pressley still reflects on the ways her time within the MTSO campus community and the MACM program prepared her for

this new chapter in her life.

"I loved living on campus and am grateful for that time because I could immerse myself in a community of like-minded learners," she said. "My classes in addiction were the most important. No program in the country with the exception of MTSO was talking about addiction and issues of faith – and how faith impacts recovery." \*

# Connecting and innovating in Big Sky Country

When Jeremy Scott received his first appointment in 2010 to serve at a 95-year-old church in Billings, Mont., he fought the temptation to burst through the door armed with a grand vision for change.

As the youngest pastor ever to serve at Evangelical United Methodist Church, Scott, a 2010 graduate of MTSO, spent some time getting to know his congregation while preaching a nine-week sermon series on the Book of Acts. The in-depth study of Acts allowed Scott to explore with his EUMC congregation the roots of discipleship and Jesus' call to serve the world. At the end of the study, there was an urgency in the congregation to redefine its place in the community.

"Our motto has been 'Act Your Faith' for years, but now the congregation could see why we needed to live out that motto," Scott said recently.

Six months later, emboldened to break away from some of the more traditional forms of mission work, the congregation dedicated itself to starting a groundbreaking concept for the area: a free store. Little-used classroom space on the second floor of the church was converted into shopping space and storage areas for donations. Community members are invited two Saturdays a month to shop for clothing and household goods at no charge and with no requirement for proof of income or need. The free store is run completely with volunteers from the church and community.

Scott credits his MTSO New Testament professor, Stephen Ahearne-Kroll, for "teaching us to dig into the scriptures. My congregation doesn't want to be spoon-fed, and MTSO gave me the background to fill their need."

Without a deep focus on scripture, Scott does not believe the congregation would have been ready to commit to the changes that now define EUMC. Recently, the congregation was approached by the chaplain at a nearby women's prison to provide a Sunday worship experience for the prisoners. Six members of the congregation have completed the training and are planning to begin the services this fall.

Another initiative to be launched soon is the free medical clinic being developed by members of the congregation and Scott's wife, Daen, a nurse practitioner.

In an effort to connect with remote parts of Montana and increasingly busy families, EUMC is embracing technology and



Casey Page/Billings Gazette

**"My congregation doesn't want to be spoon-fed, and MTSO gave me the background to fill their need" ✱ Scott in Evangelical UMC's recently opened free store**

## Jeremy Scott

Class of 2010  
Billings, Montana

exploring the limits of defining a congregation. In addition to on-line Bible study, Scott has reached out to rural residents through live Internet streaming of worship services.

"In our part of the country, it's not uncommon for folks to drive two hours for stock-up runs every two or three months in Billings and return home to towns no bigger than 600 people. In those towns, there's very little organizational church and very often no United Methodist church."

Scott had contact with several of those families when they attended EUMC while in Billings. In an effort to stay connected, Scott is formulating a plan for families who live close together to gather in homes to watch the live streaming of the worship service.

"It's important for people to gather for worship and fellowship," he said. "It may not be necessary for them to gather in a church building – or at least not in ours."

In developing these changes and many others, Scott said he relied on the practical knowledge learned while a seminary student.

"The single most important class I took at MTSO was Lisa Withrow's conflict-management course. The changes we've made at EUMC haven't been without conflict, but knowing how to deal with it – and not be surprised by it – has made all the difference." ✱

# Harnessing a congregation's sense of the new

In July of 2012, less than two months after graduating from MTSO, Brian West began his appointment as senior pastor of Laingsburg United Methodist Church in Laingsburg, Mich. He found a congregation energized by the recent completion of a new sanctuary and ready for renewed life and vitality. At 25 years old, West brought an enthusiasm for ministry that matched the excitement building in the church.

“When I arrived, there was an urgency in the congregation to find what we could do now that the building process was complete,” West said.

Harnessing and directing all that energy became West's goal. He quickly recognized the need for intentional leadership to drive the momentum of the eager congregation. Rather than launching a raft of scattershot projects, West worked with members and staff to develop new mission and purpose statements. His goal was to focus the efforts of his 195 members without eroding their excitement.

“Everything we do must meet our mission and purpose statements. We've carefully crafted them with the idea that they are short enough for people to memorize. Every decision that's made in every committee or every group will fit our goals, or we won't do it.”

One of the first ways this new focus manifested itself was in the life of families with children. A revamped children's education program was introduced soon after West's tenure began. While the new Sunday school rooms weren't immediately brimming with children, the church has seen a steady increase in attendance. This summer, Vacation Bible School was reimagined and moved to evenings rather than daytime to better serve the needs of busy families.

Worship attendance has shown steady growth during West's first year, but he's quick to dispel the notion that he's driven by those numbers.

“I've emphasized to my congregation that our first intention is not to bring in new members but to meet families' needs,” he said. “By working in partnership with families, it becomes something more important than numbers. It's helping people raise kids for the kingdom of God.”

Laingsburg UMC's focus on children led to a read-a-thon sponsored by the church this summer. West envisioned a program that would both promote literacy and connect kids to the church. Children and youth were encouraged to stop by the church to chat with West or his administrative assistant about books they'd finished reading.



“Our first intention is not to bring in new members but to meet families' needs” \* West at Laingsburg UMC

**Brian West**

Class of 2012  
Laingsburg, Michigan

In the spring, the youth of the church launched a program to help stock the shelves of the local library, which had few children's books. Middle school and

high school youth held bake sales and committed their weekly Sunday school collections to the project. In June they donated 148 new titles to the Laingsburg Public Library.

For West, working toward a vision that addresses the specific needs of his new community meant adjusting some of his preconceived notions. A native of the Detroit area, he has found that his congregation is most comfortable in areas of spiritual development and discipleship, while he has a passion for social justice and action. Through the process of learning while leading, he has drawn on things he learned as a seminarian.

“I enjoyed my time MTSO partly because I was allowed to think freely but encouraged to support my ideas with theology, church history and ethics,” he said. “I gained confidence in my ability to discern a situation and community in order to arrive at a solution that helps solve a problem or fill a need.”

“I was not given the answers in the coursework or from the faculty. I had to work hard to find solutions that supported my ideas. That's paid off now that I'm in a church that's wanting change and to make a difference.” \*

# Energizing an urban church and its community

When April Blaine arrived as pastor at Summit on 16th United Methodist Church in June 2010, she found a church struggling to survive and find its place in a complicated community. Situated just steps from Ohio State University, Summit counts massive fraternity houses and the Wexner Center for the Arts among its neighbors. Yet a few blocks away is one of Columbus' poorest neighborhoods.

One year after earning her 2009 M.Div. from MTSO, Blaine was leading a church with valid concerns about its future. But she believed Summit could become a neighborhood beacon.

After spending some time analyzing the needs of both the congregation and its neighborhood, Blaine, her staff and her parishioners developed a plan for growth and vitality. The result, three years later, is a church that's living out a bold vision through a dizzying blend of initiatives. For instance:

- Summit leads the University Area Enrichment Association, which works to improve residents' quality of life by focusing on housing, economic development, the environment, health and education.
- Yay Bikes! was founded by members of Summit to provide safety education and community-building activities aimed at encouraging a shift from using automobiles to using bicycles.
- Neighbors are invited to grow fresh produce in individual plots within Summit's Community Garden.
- Summit sponsors six paid interns from Ohio State whose mission is to connect their faith with their areas of study.
- Summit's single largest project is the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School, which it has hosted for each of the past four summers. The six-week program promotes a love of reading in kids who most need assistance with literacy skills. This summer, 100 children and their families participated in the program, which is staffed by trained members of the congregation.

The Freedom School is one of several areas in which Blaine has provided service opportunities to Ohio State and its students. She has enlisted the dean of the College of Education and Human Ecology, Cheryl Achterberg, and education students from the university to work with parishioners to provide the children with the best possible tutoring. Students from the university's nutrition program have developed a healthy and economical lunch menu for participants.

"The university was a natural partner for us," Blaine explained.



"We are helping to shape education for the neighborhood" \* Blaine at Summit on 16th UMC

**April Blaine**  
Class of 2009  
Columbus, Ohio

"We are helping to shape education for the neighborhood with the symbiotic relationship that exists between the university and our church. Not only are we seeing benefits in the education of the kids,

but we're also changing the culture of food for the neighborhood."

Under Blaine's leadership, Summit has also found new ways to express an existing part of its identity. For seven years, it has been a reconciling church, welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. In recent years, the congregation has evolved into a leader in the movement. Summit often hosts groups with differing views on the issue for open discussions. Additionally, members of the congregation educate other churches and community members about the inclusion and participation of all people in the United Methodist Church.

The successes of Summit on 16th are especially impressive considering that this is the first congregation Blaine has led. (She was youth pastor and associate pastor at Riverside UMC in Upper Arlington for seven years before being appointed to Summit.) Since Blaine arrived in 2009, weekly attendance has nearly doubled. She believes her theological education prepared her for the challenges and opportunities she has found.

"At MTSO," she said, "you are challenged to think about theology, ethics and church history and to integrate them into the context where you serve. Thinking with a new lens helped prepare me for life at Summit. I was not taught to think in a certain way, but to think with a new lens."

Seeing Summit's challenging neighborhood in a new way, Blaine was able to help her congregation make changes in the community: "By building trusting relationships with our families and neighborhood, and becoming invested and involved in their lives, we have changed their ideas about church." \*

# Alum news

If you're an alum or former faculty or staff member of MTSO and have news to share about your ministry 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. Alum news also can be found online at [www.mtso.edu/alums](http://www.mtso.edu/alums).

## 1964

**Walter R. Dickhaut** (M.Div. '64, D.Min. '74) published *Building a Community of Interpreters*, a book arguing that the practices of reading and listening are no less creative than writing and speaking. The book focuses specifically on the reader or hearer of biblical texts. *Building a Community of Interpreters* is available at the publisher's website, [wipfandstock.com](http://wipfandstock.com), where purchasers who enter the code word "BUILD" receive a 40 percent discount.

[victoriastation.32@gmail.com](mailto:victoriastation.32@gmail.com)

## 1969

**Robert Henderson** and his wife, Janis, are co-authors of a three-volume book titled, *Living with Jung: "Enterviews" with Jungian Analyst*. He also has a part-time counseling practice. [Rob444@cox.net](mailto:Rob444@cox.net)

## 1970

**Margaret Barno** continues to mentor authors and write book reviews. [marnie.barno@gmail.com](mailto:marnie.barno@gmail.com)

## 1972

**John Brittain** retired on Dec. 31, 2012, after serving 10 years as dean of the chapel and professor of religion at Houghton College. He has a total of 43 years in ministry through the United Methodist Church. Thirty-four of those were on college campuses. [brittain@houghton.edu](mailto:brittain@houghton.edu)

**Ed Garten** will be completing his fifth year as program director for the Doctor of Education program at Walden University. He came to Walden after retiring from the University of Dayton, where he was named dean emeritus. He is starting his service on the President's Advisory Council and Strategic Planning Committee at the Christ Hospital School of Nursing Health Sciences in Cincinnati.

**Ken South** has been working with inter-faith HIV organizations for many years now. He is also enjoying his time on the staff of the American Academy of HIV Medicine. "I plan on working as long as I can." [southy2222@gmail.com](mailto:southy2222@gmail.com)

## 1973

**Margaret "Peggy" White Paige** retired from the Detroit Annual Conference July 1, 2012. She moved to a retirement home in Ingalls, Mich., located in the Upper Peninsula. [revspaige@yahoo.com](mailto:revspaige@yahoo.com)

**Brian Wood** is retired and currently living in Nashville, Tenn. [debnagen2@comcast.net](mailto:debnagen2@comcast.net)

## 1974

**James "Jim" Paige Jr.** retired from the Detroit Annual Conference in 2008. In 2012, Jim moved into a retirement home in Ingalls, Mich., located in the Upper Peninsula. [revspaige@yahoo.com](mailto:revspaige@yahoo.com)

## 1975

**Timothy Farabaugh** is the president and CEO of Glenwood Park Inc., which is a retirement corporation.

## 1976

**Bruce Moon** is the founder of the first Doctorate of Art Therapy program in the United States. Currently, Bruce is working at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee.

## 1978

**Edward Ross** retired in June 2012 after serving 18 years as the senior pastor of First UMC in Jackson, Mich. [edward.c.ross@gmail.com](mailto:edward.c.ross@gmail.com)

## 1979

**Joyce (Mauler) Michael** translated a book by the Czech pastor, dissident and professor Jakub S. Trojan. Published by Peter Lang International Academic Publishers, the book is entitled *From Christ's Death to Jesus' Life: A Critical Reinterpretation of Prevailing Theories of the Cross*. Joyce is also teaching courses on Czech cultural expressions for international students at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague. [jmaule@volny.cz](mailto:jmaule@volny.cz)

## 1981

**William Schnell** recently completed a two-year term as President of the Ohio Council of Churches. The council is comprised of 18 Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant denominations, representing 6,000 congregations and 3 million church members in Ohio. [wsch@aol.com](mailto:wsch@aol.com)

**Douglas Williamson** became the pastor of the Union Church of Proctor, Vt., on April 1, 2013. [Djwnscaa@earthlink.net](mailto:Djwnscaa@earthlink.net)

## 1982

**H. Wayne Gregory** is the pastor at Peace Church in Christ, located in Browntown, Wisc.

## 1983

**James Adams** is the CEO of the Geauga Board of Mental Health. He has been actively working in the community of Chardon, Ohio, after a tragic shooting at Chardon High School. James also spends his time providing workshops around Ohio that focus on trauma informed care and how to respond to trauma in schools and in the community. Currently, he is work-

ing with the Newtown, Conn., community.  
[jadams@geauga.org](mailto:jadams@geauga.org)

## 1987

**Theodore Whitely Sr.** has served in the military for over 25 years. From 2010 to 2012, he served as the senior state chaplain of the Michigan Air National Guard. He retired from the Michigan Air National Guard in 2012. He was the recipient of honorary doctorate degrees for involvement in civic affairs. [bettytedwhitely@aol.com](mailto:bettytedwhitely@aol.com)

## 1988

**Georgia Adamson** has been serving in the Central Texas Conference for 25 years. She currently serves as assistant to the bishop and executive director of the Center for Leadership. [Georgia@ctcumc.org](mailto:Georgia@ctcumc.org)

## 1989

**Dale Sparlin** has been active in church music and workshops during retirement. He is still involved in consulting through Mindful Labyrinths, which he founded more than a decade ago. [drsparlin@yahoo.com](mailto:drsparlin@yahoo.com)

## 1998

**Candy Thomas** is an interim pastor at First United Church of Christ in Austinburg, Ohio. [candacedt@live.com](mailto:candacedt@live.com)

## 1999

**Faith Proietti** is the director of the Pastoral Care Department at MedCentral Health System in Mansfield, Ohio. She is also a board-certified chaplain with APC. Faith finds hospital ministry to be very challenging but very fulfilling.  
[FProietti@MedCentral.org](mailto:FProietti@MedCentral.org)

**Bruce Smith** retired Jan. 1, 2013, from parish ministry. He is still busy, however, serving the Joint Episcopal / Presbyterian Ministry in McArthur, Ohio, as well as Trinity Episcopal Church. Bruce also serves on the Finance Committee of the Diocese of Southern Ohio and is the chair of the Affirmative Aging Commission.

## 2000

**Joseph Branch** has been deployed to Germany as chaplain in the Air National Guard.

**Lynda McClanahn** participated in two art shows: the Ohio Online Visual Art Registry Juried Exhibition in the fall of 2012 and the Holiday Hop Artist's Open House in December 2012. Both events were in Columbus.

[www.lyndamccclanahanart.com](http://www.lyndamccclanahanart.com)

**Sandra Spahr** is completing her time in San Luis Valley and is returning to her home in Pueblo, Colo. "It has been a wonderful three years!" [revsandy40@hotmail.com](mailto:revsandy40@hotmail.com)

## 2001

**Nancy Willwater** completed her time as the interim pastor at Immanuel United Church of Christ in St. Bernard (Cincinnati), Ohio, at the end of December 2012.

**Matthew Wooster** graduated from Chicago Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry degree on May 18, 2013.

## 2003

**Elizabeth Cooper** retired on June 16, 2013. [Pastorbetsy1@verizon.net](mailto:Pastorbetsy1@verizon.net)

## 2004

**Chiyona Bourne** was appointed to serve as associate pastor at Memorial UMC in Terre Haute, Ind., on Aug. 1, 2012.  
[revechiyona@gmail.com](mailto:revechiyona@gmail.com)

**Karen Brantley** and her family recently moved to Grove City, Ohio.  
[kbrantley@wocumc.org](mailto:kbrantley@wocumc.org)

## 2005

**Timothy Paroz** is the pastor of Edinburg United Church, which is affiliated with the United Church of Christ. He is also the Army Reserve chaplain for a combat support hospital in Twinsburg, Ohio.  
[chaproz19@gmail.com](mailto:chaproz19@gmail.com)

**Gail Simonds** gave a lecture titled "The Bible and Homosexuality: Queering the Good Book" at Nebraska Wesleyan University in October 2012.

## 2006

**Jerry Krueger** is now serving Trinity UMC in downtown Youngstown, Ohio. His wife,

Susan, is the lead pastor at Canfield UMC in Canfield, Ohio. [jkru421066@aol.com](mailto:jkru421066@aol.com)

## 2009

**Jeffrey Gordon**, formerly senior pastor of the Monroe UMC in Monroe, Ore., withdrew his membership as provisional member of the Oregon Idaho Annual Conference so that he would be able to spend more time with his family "while I am in good health."

## 2011

**Cheryl Douglass** recently accepted a position at North Central Mental Health as a dual diagnosis clinician. She will work primarily with AOD clients who suffer from other mental illnesses.  
[chradgls@yahoo.com](mailto:chradgls@yahoo.com)

**Jean Feeney** was hired by Dublin Methodist Hospital, located in Dublin, Ohio, to be manager of the Pastoral Care Department. This happened after graduating and completing a year-long chaplain residency with OhioHealth (Grant Hospital).  
[jfeeney16@yahoo.com](mailto:jfeeney16@yahoo.com)

**James Hildebrand** is currently serving as the pastor of the Powhatan Point/Amity charge. [hildeumc@comcast.net](mailto:hildeumc@comcast.net)

## 2013

**Bradley Luck** has been appointed to Hudson First UMC in Hudson, Mich., starting July 1, 2013.  
[Blucky33@comcast.net](mailto:Blucky33@comcast.net)

**Jess Peacock** was named editor-in-chief of a social-justice magazine in Columbus called *Street Speech*. This magazine falls under the umbrella of Columbus Coalition for the Homeless. Next summer, Jess is planning on moving to Chicago to begin Ph.D. work at Chicago Theological Seminary.  
[jesspeacock@ymail.com](mailto:jesspeacock@ymail.com)

## FACULTY

**Alice Tannehill**, wife of Emeritus Professor of New Testament and **Emeritus Academic Dean Bob Tannehill**, died July 5. Alice is fondly remembered by many members of the MTSO community whose lives she enriched over the years.

# Beyond the classroom

## Faculty activities 2012-13



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

### Publications

“Genesis in Mark’s Gospel,” in *Genesis in the New Testament* (ed. Maarten J. J. Menken and Steve Moyise; London: T & T Clark, 2012), 27-41.

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Correcting the Corinthians Through Memory and Recollection of Jesus’ Death,” presented at the Columbia University New Testament Seminar, New York, September 2012.

“The Corinthian Last Supper in Light of the Ritual Dimensions of Memory in Greece,” presented in the Corpus Hellenisticum Novi Testamenti group at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Chicago, November 2012.

### Meetings

Attended the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Chicago, November 2012.



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

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Luther’s Beasts of Daniel: Maps and Images of Empire in the Middle Sixteenth Century,” International Luther Research Congress, Helsinki, Finland, August 2012.

“The Vision of Mount Sinai: Jews and Christians on Early Modern World Maps,” Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Cincinnati, Oct. 25-27, 2012.

### Meetings

Community representative and grant writer, German Village Oral History Project, 2012-13.

### Church and popular lectures

“Christianity post-Christendom: Reclaiming early church models of being people of faith,” St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Nov. 4, 2012.

“The First Francis: Francis and Clare of Assisi and the Franciscan Movement,” presentation at First Community Church, Columbus, May 2, 2013.



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

### Publications

“Forward” to *Hebrew Union College and the Dead Sea Scrolls* by Jason Kalman, Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 2012.

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Archaeology and the Dead Sea Scrolls,” East Carolina State University, Greenville, N.C., March 18-19, 2013.

“Unexpected and Unusual Wisdom in the Dead Sea Scrolls,” East Carolina State University, Greenville, N.C., March 18-19, 2013.

“Wisdom in Matthew,” East Carolina State University, Greenville, N.C., March 18-19, 2013.

### Meetings

Review panelist, National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship Program, August 2012.

Evaluator, Faculty Summer Grants Proposals, Bluffton University Research Center, February 2013.

### Church and popular lectures

“Modern Research on Ancient Texts: The Story of the Dead Sea Scrolls,” Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Oct. 29, 2012.

“The Non-Biblical Texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls,” podcast, Classics Department, University of Cincinnati, November 2012.

“Modern Research on Ancient Texts: The Story of the Dead Sea Scrolls,” video production, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, December 2012.

“Modern Research on Ancient Texts: The Story of the Dead Sea Scrolls,” Anderson Hills United Methodist Church, Cincinnati, Jan. 13, 2013.

“Modern Research on Ancient Texts: The Story of the Dead Sea Scrolls,” Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church, Cincinnati, Jan. 15, 2013.

Infant dedication for the family of a pastor, Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship, Feb. 10, 2013.

“The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Peculiar Kind of Wisdom,” Staff Lecture, Cincinnati Museum Center, March 21, 2013.



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

### Publications

“Reading the Joseph Story (Genesis 37-50) as a Diaspora Narrative,” *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 75 (2013): 219-238.

Kay Weißflog, *Zeichen und Sinnbilder: Die Kinder der Propheten Jesaja und Hosea* (Arbeiten zur Bibel und ihrer Geschichte 36; Leipzig, Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2011) in *Biblica* 94 (2013): 297-301.

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Like Father Like Son: Is 1 Kings 3:16-28 a Parody on 1 Kings 1-2?” Easter Great Lakes



Biblical Society meeting, Erie, Ohio, April 4-5, 2013.

### Church and popular lectures

“Dialogical Hermeneutics of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament,” Trinity United Methodist Church, Jan. 6-Feb. 17, 2013.

“You Are What You Feed,” sermon on Isaiah 5:1-7, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Aug. 18, 2013.



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

### Publications

Review of *John Wesley's Teachings*, Volume 1, *God and Providence*, and Volume 2, *Christ and Salvation*, for *Methodist History* 51:3, April 2013.

### Meetings

United Methodist Instructors Consultation in Atlanta, April 4-6, 2013.

Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Oxford, England, Aug. 12-19, 2013.

### Church and popular lectures

Presentation at United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Training, Columbus, April 8, 2013.

“The Work of Faith and Order,” Highland Park United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas, June 9, 2013.

Presentation on process theology, First Community Church, Columbus, June 11, 2013.

Sermon, Church of the Messiah, Westerville, Ohio, July 7, 2013.



**Denise Y. Lewis**  
Assistant Professor  
of Pastoral Care  
and Counseling

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Cultural Differences in Career Decision

Making,” presentation, 2013 Italy Career Counseling Institute, Tuscany, Italy, September 2013.

### Meetings

Member, Pastoral Care Advisory Committee at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.



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

### Publications

“Theology of Trauma,” *Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*, Cambridge University Press, 2012.

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Religious Conversations Unit,” American Academy of Religion, collaborative presentation, November 2012.

“Creativity Section,” Workgroup on Constructive Theology, Nashville, April 26-29, 2013.

### Meetings

American Academy of Religion, co-chair and founder, Religious Conversions Unit, November 2012.

Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce Forecast Breakfast, representing Worthington Libraries Board of Trustees.

Workgroup on Christian Theology, Nashville, April 26-28, 2013.

### Awards and appointments

Appointed Worthington Libraries trustee, January 2013.

### Church and popular lectures

*Conversations About Faith*, interview with Fred Andrie, WOSU 89.7 FM NPR News, Dec. 9, 2012.

“Religious Revival in Cuba,” interview on *All Sides with Ann Fisher*, WOSU 89.7 FM NPR News, Feb. 21, 2013.

“Where Have All God’s Children Gone?” Buckeye Ministerial Association, Medina,

Ohio, April 11, 2013.

“Cuba, Yesterday and Today,” Central Ohio Peace Association, April 22, 2013.

“The Victory Drummers,” performance, Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, staff event, May 7, 2013.

“Who is SBNR and Why?” Call to Action, Catholics of Columbus, May 15, 2013.

Presentation for addiction continuing education event “Don’t Chase Rabbits with a Brass Band: Working Effectively with Clients on Matters of Spirituality,” Methodist Theological School in Ohio, July 18, 2013.

Presenter, “Spiritual but Not Religious,” College of Christian Life retreat, Illinois conferences of the United Methodist Church, Peoria, Ill., Aug. 5-7.



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

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Worldview Competence in Health Care,” Jim Barlow Memorial Lecture, 23rd Annual Bioethics Network of Ohio Conference, Dublin, Ohio.

### Meetings

Met with a representative of OhioHealth.

Met with a representative of Ohio Wesleyan University.

Met with Faith and Order Commission, Ohio Council of Churches.

Met with a representative of World Relief Columbus.

Met with a local Somali leader.

Met with a Thai businessman about proposed Buddhist complex in Pataskala, Ohio.

### Church and popular lectures

“America’s Growing Cultural and Religious Diversity,” Edison Intermediate Middle School, Columbus.

“Christians in Multi-Religious America,”

**Continues**

from previous page

Westminster Thurber Retirement Community, Columbus.

“Cultural and Religious Diversity in America,” Navigator Management Partners, Columbus.

Other

Fielded an inquiry from local pastor regarding religious symbolism.

Fielded an inquiry from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago regarding a conference on science.

Fielded an inquiry from Nottingham Trent University, U.K., regarding sexual ethics in Buddhism.

Fielded an inquiry from local interfaith leader regarding religion.

Fielded an inquiry from Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, regarding Hinduism and Buddhism.

Fielded an inquiry from WOSU radio regarding forgiveness and world religions.

Visited Sri Saibaba Temple, Lewis Center, Ohio.

Visited Columbus Focolare house, Westerville, Ohio.

Visited Columbus African Seventh-day Adventist Church, Worthington, Ohio.

Visited Bhyaratiya Hindu Temple, Powell, Ohio.

Critiqued an online publication school project on Buddhism.



**M. Fulgence Nyengele**

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

Academic lectures and presentations

“Beyond Liminality and Transitional Space: Practicing Multicultural Spirituality,” United Methodist Leadership Seminary for Migrant and International Congregations, Stuttgart, Germany, Jan. 27-31, 2013.

“Multicultural Spirituality for Pilgrims,

Strangers, and Exiles,” United Methodist Leadership Seminary for Migrant and International Congregations, Stuttgart, Germany, Jan. 27-31, 2013.

“Tending the Spirit in a Globalizing World: Challenges for Multicultural Spirituality,” United Methodist Leadership Seminary for Migrant and International Congregations, Stuttgart, Germany, Jan. 27-31, 2013.

Meetings

Wabash Project for Team Teaching in Biblical Studies and Pastoral Care and Counseling, Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, March 1-4, 2013.

Co-convener, “Globalization, Postcolonialism, and Pastoral Care,” study group, Society for Pastoral Theology, Atlanta, June 13-15, 2013.

Church and popular lectures

“Who Is My Neighbor?” Sermon, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Columbus, July 14, 2013.



**Joon-Sik Park**

**Professor in the E. Stanley Jones Chair of World Evangelism**

Meetings

Lausanne Global Leadership Forum, Bangalore, India, June 17-21, 2013.

Steering Committee of the Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (formerly the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns of the United Methodist Church), San Diego, May 9-10, 2013.

The United Methodist Instructors Consultation, Atlanta, April 4-6, 2013.

Church and popular lectures

“God the Potter,” sermon, Harpster United Methodist Church, Harpster, Ohio, May 26, 2013.

“Renewal of the Church,” sermon, Mansfield Korean United Methodist Church, Mansfield, Ohio, Feb. 10, 2013.



**Timothy L. Van Meter**

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

Publications

*Created in Delight: Youth, Church and the Mending of the World*, Wipf & Stock, March 2013.

Academic lectures and presentations

“What If They’re Right? Young Adults Leaving Church,” Presentation at International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry European conference, April 2012.



**Robin Knowles Wallace**

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

Publications

Editor, Spring 2013 and Summer 2013 issues of *The Hymn: A Journal of Congregational Song*.

Academic lectures and presentations

Emcee and hymn sing leader, Celebrating Contemporary Hymnody: A Symposium Honoring Dr. Ruth Duck and Her 24 Years of Service to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, May 31-June 1, 2013.

“You Can’t Sing That!” The Switch in Religious Register Since the RSV and Vatican II, sectional and encore, Annual Conference of the Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada, Richmond, Va., July 14-18, 2013.

Eschatology, Ethics, and Diversity, panel paper, Christian Congregational Music: Local and Global, Ripon College Cuddesdon, Cuddesdon, England, Aug. 1-3, 2013.

“Universal Redemption’ and ‘Catholic Love,” working group paper, Oxford Institute of Methodist Studies, Christ Church College, Oxford, England, Aug. 12-19, 2013.

### Meetings

Executive Committee of the Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada, Richmond, Va., July 13, 2013.

Editorial Advisory Board of *The Hymn: A Journal of Congregational Song*, Richmond, Va., July 14, 2013.

Annual Conference of the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Swanwick, England, July 23-26, 2013.

Charles Wesley Society Executive Committee, Durham, England, Aug. 7, 2013.

Charles Wesley Society, St. John's College, University of Durham, Durham, England Aug. 7-10, 2013.

Co-chair, Practical Theology Working Group, Oxford Institute of Methodist Studies, Oxford, England, Aug. 12-19, 2013.



### Lisa Withrow

Professor in the Dewire Chair of Christian Leadership

### Meetings

Intercultural Development Inventory Training, Baltimore, Md., February 2013.

Faculty Training Workshop on Intercultural Competency, April 2013.

### Church and popular lectures

"Theological Worlds and Worship Wars," Faith United Methodist Church, North Canton, Ohio, April 2013.

Scenario-building, Oberlin United Methodist Church, April 2013.



### Yvonne Zimmerman

Associate Professor of Christian Ethics

### Academic lectures and presentations

"Fallout: What We Miss When Exploited Labor Becomes Human Trafficking, and Human Trafficking Becomes Sexual Slavery," Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Mich., April 11, 2013.

### Meetings

National Workshop on Christian Unity, Columbus, April 9, 2013.

"Religious Liberty: Starting Points for the Conversation," workshop, panelist with Father John Crossin and Dr. Jim Childs.

## Huffer will oversee the use of technology in education

When Dr. Jeremy Huffer arrived on the MTSO campus, he was immediately impressed by the classroom technology. Huffer, recently appointed MTSO's director of instructional design, has taught at Bowling Green State University and Bluefield State College.

"I've worked at two relatively large state schools in the past three or four years," Huffer said. "Our classroom technology at MTSO far outpaces what larger schools are doing. They're upgrading classrooms to stuff we were doing here eight years ago. Where we can improve right now is in our online learning environment. My main role is to help faculty and students in this transition to a hybrid environment."

Huffer comes to MTSO from McGraw-Hill Education, where he provided wide-ranging digital content for a history textbook. He received his doctorate in history and educational policy this year from BGSU, where he has also earned master's degrees in history and in education, curriculum and instructional design. His bachelor's degree is from Miami University. Having taught college courses both online and face-to-face, Huffer brings technical expertise and an educator's desire to offer a learning experience of the highest quality.

"My teaching experience helps me understand our faculty's expectations and demands for rigor in the classroom, and it helps me explain the ways technology can help them achieve



**"There's no reason to use tech just for the sake of using it" \* Jeremy Huffer**

those goals," he said. "There's no reason to use tech just for the sake of using it."

Huffer's commitment is to ensuring that educational values drive the technology: "This is an extension of the classroom, not a reimagining. We're not telling effective teachers to stop doing things they've always done."

Huffer has been gratified by the receptivity of MTSO's faculty members to hybrid learning.

"I have yet to encounter one who was not sympathetic to reaching students in a new medium," he said. "This is a really unique school with some unique opportunities for growth."

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**PROFILE IN GIVING****Sampling a class inspires direct monthly donations**

In the fall of 2005, June Ladd arrived on MTSO's campus eager to embark on serious study of the New Testament. The seminary had been recommended by her fellow members of Powell United Methodist Church who were taking classes. She enrolled in her first course as an audit student and found an engaging community and welcoming environment.

"Everyone was so nice to me," Ladd recalled. "It changed my life." Among other things, it kindled an intense interest in biblical study: "I never knew there was so much to learn about the Bible and the people in it."

That first course has led to 16 more. And over the course of many readings and class discussions, Ladd found a stability that had been missing from her life.

"MTSO provided a turning point," she said, "and I wanted to give back."

She has given back generously. After a series of single donations, Ladd enrolled in MTSO's Direct Donation program in 2009. Through Direct Donation, her gifts to MTSO are withdrawn monthly from her bank account, allowing her to spread her giving over the course of a year without writing a series of checks.

"I wanted to help provide a place for God to work in other people's lives," Ladd said.

"June loves this campus," said MTSO Director of Development Stan Ling, "and she turned that love into a financial commitment that will benefit our students for a long time."

It's a bonus that some of those who benefit also are Ladd's former classmates.

To enroll in MTSO's Direct Donation program, visit [www.mtso.edu/directdonation](http://www.mtso.edu/directdonation).

Class auditing is available, subject to capacity, for \$200. For those 60 and older, the fee is \$75. For more information, contact Registrar Sue Lamphere at 740-362-3344 or [slamphere@mtso.edu](mailto:slamphere@mtso.edu).



**"MTSO provided a turning point, and I wanted to give back" \* Ladd and Sasha**

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**Leary brings expertise and energy in support of development**

When Claudine Leary greets you with a polite “Hello,” you might not suspect you’re being greeted in one of six languages she speaks fluently. In addition to Kinyarwanda, the language of her native Rwanda, Leary speaks Swahili (as spoken in East Africa), Shona (Zimbabwe), Chewa (Malawi), French and English.

Along with this verbal mastery, she brings financial and organizational skills honed on two continents to her new position as MTSO’s coordinator for development.

Working with Director of Development Stan Ling, Leary manages the school’s donor database and gift recording. She’s no stranger to the work. At Africa University in Zimbabwe, where she earned a Bachelor of Business Studies degree in 2001, Leary maintained the alumni database, traveled as a school fundraiser, and recruited and trained student ambassadors.

A native of Rwanda, Leary came to West Virginia in 2003 with her husband, Allan, and became a U.S. citizen in 2007. She



**“I’m excited to support the mission of this school” \* Leary**

earned an MBA from Fairmont State University in 2009 and will receive her M.Div. from MTSO in the spring.

Before accepting her current position with MTSO, Leary was sponsorship developer for Community Refugee and Immigration Services, a non-profit agency serving refugees, asylees and immigrants in Central Ohio.

“I’ve done fundraising in the past, and I’ve supported nonprofit organizations in the past,” Leary said. “So I’m excited to support the mission of this school by helping to raise resources.”

“When I think about our development work or when I’m speaking with a supporter, I don’t think of it as asking for money. It’s the mission of the school itself and how we can partner with generous supporters to make that mission fulfilled.”

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## Restricted student scholarship giving

**These churches and other organizations have assisted in the sponsorship of individual MTSO students' educations**

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United Methodist Higher Education Foundation  
Florida Conference of the UMC

### ILLINOIS

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Gilman

### INDIANA

Christian Theological Seminary  
First Presbyterian Church, Portland  
Indiana Conference of the UMC

### KENTUCKY

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Louisville

### MARYLAND

Baltimore-Washington Conference of the UMC  
Goshen UMC, Gaithersburg

### MICHIGAN

Clare UMC  
Detroit Annual Conference of the UMC  
First UMC, Farmington  
First UMC, Grand Ledge  
First UMC, Holland  
King of Kings Lutheran Church, Shelby Township  
North Congregational Church, Farmington Hills  
St. Paul's UMC, Monroe  
Wesleyan Fellowship, Portland

### MISSISSIPPI

International Order of the King's Daughters & Sons, Brookhaven  
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Brownhelm Congregational UCC, Vermilion

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### OREGON

Oregon-Idaho Conference UMW

### PENNSYLVANIA

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
Episcopal Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania  
Halifax UMC

### SOUTH DAKOTA

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

### TENNESSEE

General Board of Higher Education & Ministry  
United Methodist Higher Education Foundation

### WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Conference of the UMC

# Financial information

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, Methodist Theological School in Ohio had revenues of \$6,102,667 and expenditures of \$6,101,496. If you have questions about this information, please contact our business office at 740-363-1146.

## Operating budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 (unaudited)

### Revenues

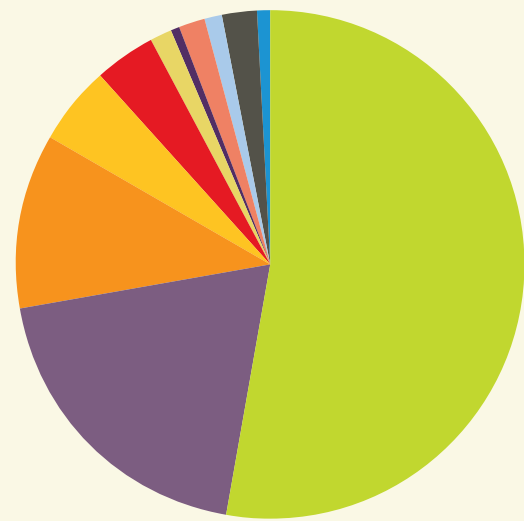
MTSO relied primarily on three sources of income: tuition and fees (38.5 percent of total revenues), endowment earnings (26.4 percent) and the Ministerial Education Fund of the United Methodist Church (14.6 percent). Combined gift revenue accounted for 8.3 percent of total revenues.



	Revenues	Percent of total
■ Tuition and fees	\$2,349,185	38.5%
■ Federal work study	\$39,543	0.6 %
■ Other programs and services	\$708,151	11.6%
■ Ministerial Education Fund	\$888,736	14.6%
■ Endowment	\$1,611,500	26.4%
■ Release of restricted gifts	\$201,558	3.3%
■ Methesco Fund gifts	\$272,694	4.5%
■ Student aid gifts	\$31,300	0.5%
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$6,102,667</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Expenditures

Compensation of faculty and staff accounted for 52.8 percent of the MTSO operating budget, followed by financial aid (19.4 percent) and other programs and services, which include such items as the Course of Study School of Ohio and the Café at Dunn Dining Hall (11 percent).



	Expenditures	Percent of total
■ Compensation	\$3,222,634	52.8%
■ Financial aid	\$1,184,834	19.4%
■ Other programs and services	\$674,033	11.0%
■ Plant maintenance	\$317,522	5.2%
■ General administration	\$226,664	3.7%
■ Business administration	\$87,431	1.4%
■ Institutional advancement	\$36,080	0.6%
■ Information systems	\$110,604	1.8%
■ Instruction	\$54,537	0.9%
■ Academic support	\$136,522	2.2%
■ Enrollment	\$50,635	0.8%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$6,101,496</b>	<b>100%</b>

On behalf of our students and those they're preparing to serve, thank you for your generosity. You may give online at [www.mtso.edu/giveonline](http://www.mtso.edu/giveonline) or return this form with your check or credit card information to: **Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware, OH 43015.**

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*Please contact me to discuss:*  Direct Donation monthly giving  a planned estate gift

We look forward to discussing your philanthropic goals in more depth. To begin that conversation today, contact Development Director Stan Ling at 740-362-3130 or [sling@mtso.edu](mailto:sling@mtso.edu).

# Three ways to invest in our students

Your continuing financial support of MTSO's mission provides vital assistance to our students. Each of these three methods of giving enables us to provide a meaningful theological education and enhance affordability for our students.

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