

Volume LVII  
Fall 2018

For alum Nancy Day-Achauer, ministry includes confronting the opioid crisis

Associate Professor Francesca Nuzzolese reflects from the frontlines of Italy's immigrant crisis

Valerie Bridgeman frames her work as dean

New students share their stories and aspirations

MTSO welcomes Louisville Institute postdoctoral fellow Kyle Brooks

# THE STORY

## MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT



# MTSO

Methodist Theological School in Ohio

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

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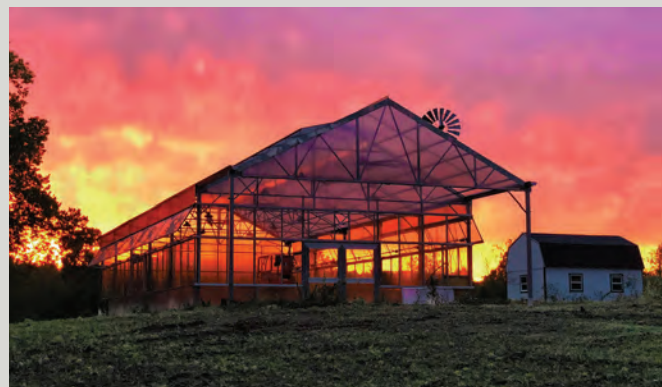
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**No glass-houses jokes, please** ✨ *Farm Supervisor Noel Deehr's photo captures a late-September sunset illuminating MTSO's new donor-funded greenhouse in Seminary Hill Farm's north fields, across the pond from the lower campus*

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### A publication of Methodist Theological School in Ohio

3081 Columbus Pike  
 Delaware, Ohio 43015  
 740-363-1146

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

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**Printer:** Baesman Printing

Founded in 1958, Methodist Theological School in Ohio is one of 13 seminaries formally affiliated with and funded in part by the United Methodist Church. Located in Central Ohio, MTSO offers five graduate degree programs: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Practical Theology, Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries, Master of Theological Studies and Doctor of Ministry. It also offers graduate-level certificate programs in Basic Theological Education, United Methodist Deacon Studies and the Advanced Course of Study in the United Methodist Church. In addition, MTSO provides courses for General Board of Higher Education and Ministry certification in Engaging in Ministry with the Poor.

MTSO is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Its degree programs are authorized by the Ohio Board of Regents and approved by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.

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

# A world in need; a school fit to the task

By Jay Rundell  
President

I write to all of you who make up our extended seminary community: students, faculty and staff, alumni, those who hold our work in trust, and those who are friends and stewards of our mission with your various resources. I write from a stance of gratitude on behalf of all those preparing for ministry and service and for all those who will be shaped and nurtured by our graduates in the years ahead. MTSO is a grand partnership consisting of a wide variety of people, each committed to responding to God's call upon our lives to make this world a better place.

I write in the midst of a most challenging time for our world, for our wider American society and for most of our religious communities. Division and divisiveness are rampant, becoming ensconced even in longstanding institutions and relationships. Hate speech and action are expanding and in many cases seeing a perverse legitimization in ways not experienced in more than a generation. Xenophobic prejudice based on race, sex, gender, culture and national origin too often goes unchallenged and unchecked.

These things matter in this world. They should matter in all faith communities. They most definitely matter at MTSO, where we take love of God and love of neighbor seriously. They matter here because we take the teachings of Jesus to heart and because we believe God is calling us forward to become a world that is yet to be. They matter here because serious study of sacred texts, religious history, theology and ethics inform and shape a faithful stance of love, inclusion, justice and integrity. They matter here because we have the audacity to believe that our graduates will engage the world's

**I write in the midst of a most challenging time for our world, for our wider American society and for most of our religious communities.**

challenges – sharing a prophetic message that sometimes by necessity troubles the water – while simultaneously drawing disparate people together rather than pushing them apart.

So, what do we bring to this task? To start, we bring a clear statement of mission, approved by our trustees in 2016 and embraced in the time since: *MTSO provides theological education and leadership in pursuit of a just, sustainable and generative world.*

To fulfill that mission, we apply the talents, the dedication and the generosity of everyone associated with our seminary. While our calling is daunting, our resources are many. It's worth taking stock of a few:

- Our faculty and curriculum offer a diverse and rich resource for our learning community.
- Our campus facilities and technology have been further strengthened in the past year. Among the many projects, we have remodeled two housing units to be fully ADA compliant, created an accessible new meeting and dining space adjacent to Dunn Dining Hall, expanded our donor-funded solar array, and built a new permanent donor-funded greenhouse that features geothermal heating and classroom technology.
- There is a growing sense of community on campus, from our busy lunches to our Tuesday chapel services, where attendance has more than doubled over the past two years.
- Our Board of Trustees has reorganized as a smaller, nimbler body, providing a strengthened role in governance.
- We gained valuable insights from a community-wide self-study in



preparation for our regular 10-year visits by accreditation bodies.

- A major gift from Barb and Mike Cantlin will allow us to fund multiple new scholarships.
- We presented 38 public events during the 2017-18 year, covering a wide array of contemporary issues.

The things on this wide-ranging list all have value. We realize, though, that their real worth must be measured in how they drive our preparation of leaders whose skills, grounding and perspectives are sorely needed.

Our students arrive here with many different vocational goals, and they graduate to serve in many roles and contexts. But they have one thing in common: They aspire to lead lives of significance in service to a complicated, hurting world. What a privilege we all share to be part of a place that these individuals trust to shape them for the work ahead.

# Mark your calendar for 2019 events

We hope you'll join us at these public events in the coming year. 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. 12 AND 13**

## Schooler Institute on Preaching, led by Frank A. Thomas

**Thomas** is the Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Homiletics and director of the Ph.D. program in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric at Christian Theological Seminary. He will lecture on the theme "How to Preach and Survive a Dangerous Sermon."



**MARCH 26, 7 P.M.**

## Francesca Nuzzolese faculty lecture

Nuzzolese, MTSO associate professor of pastoral care and counseling, will reflect on her clinical and educational work with victims of trauma, including her most recent experience in Nepal, in her lecture "Redefining the Trauma Zone: A Psycho-Spiritual Assessment of the State of the World."

**APRIL 4, 7 P.M.**

## Lecture on World Religions and Interreligious Relations by Najeeba Syeed

**Syeed**, associate professor of interreligious education at Claremont School of Theology, will speak on the topic "The Death of Civility: On the Birth of Dignity Based Interfaith Ritual and Practices." The lecture is presented by the Theological Consortium of Greater Columbus, a collaborative effort of MTSO, Pontifical College Josephinum and Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.



**MARCH 5 AND 6**

## Williams Institute Spring Lectures by Mai-Anh Le Tran

**Tran**, associate professor of religious education and practical theology, will deliver two lectures. The first, "To Set One's Heart in a Violent World," begins at 7 p.m. March 5. The second, "From My Lai to Ferguson: Militarized Orientalism, Benevolence, and Racism," begins at 1 p.m. March 6. In addition, Tran will preach at MTSO's chapel service at 1 p.m. March 5.



**MAY 7, 7 P.M.**

## Ryan Schellenberg faculty lecture

What does it mean to read Paul's prison letter cognizant of the over 2.2 million persons currently in jail or prison in the United States? **Schellenberg**, MTSO assistant professor of New Testament, considers the question in his lecture "Reading Philipians in the Age of Mass Incarceration."



**MARCH 18, 7 P.M.**

## Fearless Dialogues community conversation

The 2013 verdict that found George Zimmerman not guilty of second-degree murder in the lethal shooting of Trayvon Martin raised critical questions about the American legal system. In its wake, Fearless Dialogues, led by Gregory C. Ellison II, associate professor of pastoral care and counseling at Candler School of Theology, has created unique spaces for unlikely partners to engage in hard, heartfelt conversations that see gifts in others, hear value in stories, and work for change and positive transformation in self and other.

*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.*

# A fresh perspective on chapel

In 2015, Valerie Bridgeman collaborated with Jorge Lockward to lead MTSO's Schooler Institute on Preaching. In planning for the current academic year, Bridgeman, now MTSO's dean and vice president for academic affairs, invited Lockward to return to campus on a regular basis. He is working with a newly formed student-led worship team that coordinates the school's weekly chapel services.

Lockward, who serves as minister of worship arts at the Church of the Village, a United Methodist congregation in New York City, is former director of Global Praise for the United Methodist Church and former chair of the Worship and Liturgy Committee of the World Methodist Council. He exudes passion for worship as he describes the work he shares with MTSO's new worship team.

"Chapel is about the life of the seminary itself," Lockward said. "It's a place where the paradigm is set about where it is that we meet God. And that's no small thing in the life of this place."

Bridgeman said she saw Lockward as a fitting mentor and colleague to the worship team: "I wanted to try student leadership over worship, but I also knew they would need quality support and guidance. I could think of no one better than Jorge Lockward, who has taught and led worship worldwide and in several ecumenical settings. Jorge and I were part of the United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries for about four years. I saw how he took lay leaders and made them competent worship developers and leaders."



**"Chapel is about the life of the seminary itself" \* Jorge Lockward advises a student-led worship team**

At a summer retreat, Lockward met with a small group of faculty, staff and students to craft a vision for chapel services that reflects MTSO's commitment to justice and inclusiveness.

"We were committed to worship that was relevant to the lives of the community," he said, "one that allowed for a wide range of spiritualities."

Lockward comes to campus once a month to meet with the worship team, overseeing workshops for students in areas including song leading and writing prayers and liturgy. For the remainder of the month, he and the 10-member team meet through weekly videoconferences.

"One of the things that's giving me hope is that the group is starting to mature to the level that we don't all have to be in the same place to plan a service," Lockward said. "We have a very set plan for each time that we meet or videoconference. Our first task is always theological. We call that an intention-setting conversation. Then we begin creating a journey for the service."

Bridgeman is grateful for Lockward's arrival on campus. "I knew he would bring a variety of worship experiences and a depth of spirituality to this work," she said. "And I knew students would be empowered and enabled to lead and pass on what they learn. Students are already sharing their learning and equipping other students so that we can keep this up. I don't know how long we will go in this direction, but so far, students, staff, visitors and administrators have been excited to come to worship and to pray together." \*



## MTSO and ONU offer a 3+3 M.Div. program

Ohio Northern University and MTSO announced in July an initiative to offer incoming college students a unique 3+3 program leading to a Master of Divinity degree. The program is the only one of its kind in Ohio and one of only a few in the country.

A high school graduate's typical path to an M.Div. requires seven years of study. Through the 3+3 program, students will save time and money by completing the degree in six years.

**The program is the only one of its kind in Ohio and one of only a few in the country.**

Starting the program at ONU in Ada, they may major in religion, youth ministry, or religion and ecology. The religion and ecology major incorporates interdisciplinary courses in environmental studies from the perspectives of science, law and spirituality.

The next step is three years of study at MTSO. After their first year at MTSO, 3+3 students will complete a Bachelor of Arts from ONU. After completion of seminary coursework, they will earn an MTSO M.Div. degree.

Learn more about this unique program at [www.mtso.edu/3plus3](http://www.mtso.edu/3plus3).

**FOOD HUB PROJECT**

# Ohio State's InFACT awards grant to MTSO

The Ohio State University Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) has awarded a \$35,000 grant to MTSO. The grant will help fund the development and testing of a food hub model in Franklinton, a low-income Columbus community.

To increase Franklinton residents' access to affordable, local food, this project tests online ordering, a departure from the



traditional brick-and-mortar model of food hubs. Contrary to some assumptions about

people in low-income communities, a high percentage of Franklinton residents maintain regular access to the internet.

The project included a Nov. 9 conference at MTSO, Building Regional Food Hubs, sponsored by MTSO, InFACT and Franklinton Farms. The event brought together more than 70 practitioners, researchers, activists and others engaged in the development of regional food hubs to network and share best practices.

## Tour Israel/Palestine with students and faculty

MTSO is offering alumni and friends a rare opportunity to explore Israel/Palestine as part of a cross-cultural trip June 14-28, 2019.

This trip is not a pilgrimage but a learning seminar in which participants will travel and learn with current MTSO students taking this trip for academic credit. Israel/Palestine is a complex historical, religious and cultural area with endless opportunities for encounter and insights.

We'll focus on Jewish life just before and during the time of Jesus, as well as contemporary religious, political and daily life in the region. This includes the opportunity to encounter rich and varied religious traditions, spanning Muslim, Christian and Jewish beliefs.

The trip will be led by two members of MTSO's faculty. Dr. Yvonne Zimmerman, associate academic dean and associate professor of Christian ethics, is leading this trip for the fourth time. Dr. John Kampen, professor in the Dunn Chair in Biblical Interpretation, is leading the trip for the fifth time and has made 15 trips to the region for research and academic conferences.

The estimated cost of the trip is \$4,000 per person, which covers travel, lodging, entrance fees to archaeological sites and museums, travel insurance, and most meals. To reserve a spot on the trip, a \$200 deposit is required by Jan. 10.

Learn more at [www.mtso.edu/holylandtrip](http://www.mtso.edu/holylandtrip).



**Leaders of the cross-cultural trip ✧**  
*Zimmerman and Kampen*

### IN MEMORIAM

**We have been made aware of the deaths of the following alumni and friends of the school since June 30, 2017. We mourn their passing and give thanks for the many ways they contributed to MTSO.**

Dallas E. Bailey  
Carol I. Brody '84  
James F. Brucklacher  
Robert E. Burkey '73

E. Lynn Champion '63  
George R. Copus '66  
Charles L. Cordle Sr. '65  
Sidney E. Davis Sr. '86  
Michael W. Donnally '78  
M. Gilbert Dunn  
Mary Jane Frazer  
Katherine A. Greenleaf '96  
Lyle P. Hinkle '69  
Richard P. Jameson  
Patrick D. Kaufman '15  
Gretchen Lamphere  
Doris Mauck

Thomas V. McGranor '68  
Edward C. Meyer  
Ilse J. Meyer  
Haskel W. Moore '63  
Millicent M. Moore '76  
Percy L. Moore '80  
Robert E. Nida  
Douglas K. Olsen '72  
Myron E. Oyler '65  
Richard H. Parks '81  
Donald A. Rock '94  
Charles K. Rodgers  
James H. Scott '64

Doris J. Shover '82  
Budd L. Sprague '63  
Charles E. Stenner '81  
Blair L. Stewart '66  
James W. Stiles '69  
Valerie W. Stultz '86  
Jean R. Tyler  
William D. Van Nostran  
Margaret VanSickle  
James G. Walker '65  
Thomas A. Wilber '72  
Jeffrey A. Williams '98  
Elsie B. Worst

# The installation of Dean Valerie Bridgeman

The MTSO community came together with new friends and honored guests Nov. 2 for the installation of Valerie Bridgeman as dean and vice president for academic affairs. The morning ceremony began a day of celebration that included a panel discussion moderated by Bridgeman and a jazz concert by the Mark Lomax Trio. Read an interview with Dean Bridgeman on page 13, and view video of her installation at [www.mtso.edu/bridgemaninstallation](http://www.mtso.edu/bridgemaninstallation).



Friends surround Bridgeman after the ceremony



President Jay Rundell installs Bridgeman as dean



Professor and former dean John Kampen delivers the charge on behalf of the faculty to the new dean



The dean moderates a panel discussion on the topic "Building a Community of Care and Accountability Around Your Life"



Mark Lomax brings the day to a musical conclusion

# Visions for seminary and beyond

## Meet six of MTSO's promising new students

Members of the incoming class bring a wide range of experiences and perspectives to campus. While they are well aware of the challenges facing the church, they are energized by the possibilities for change and renewal in themselves, the ministry contexts they

will serve and the world they seek to transform. Here are the profiles of six of these promising new students, featuring quotes from their admissions essays.

### KELLEY FOX

*Compelled to be a voice for God's people*

Fox isn't shy about seizing opportunities for ministry. She spent the summer of 2017 working as an intern with Central City Church, a United Methodist church plant in the Columbus suburb of Grandview Heights. She had worked with the leaders of the startup previously and wanted to be part of the new venture, so she raised the necessary funding for her internship herself.

During her third year at Ohio Northern University, Fox lost a close friend to suicide. In the days that followed, Fox founded the university's first Out of the Darkness Walk, which raises

money for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

For Fox, an M. Div. student pursuing United Methodist ordination with the help of MTSO's Legacy Scholarship, these two experiences shaped a call.

"I feel compelled to be a voice for God's people, especially women, people of color, people who are bullied, and those who struggle with mental illness," she said. "I feel that God is calling me to learn more about his word to show marginalized people that God loves them, no matter what."



### JEFFREY WHITE

*Called to work with young men of color*

As a religious studies major at Gettysburg College, White's desire to work in youth ministry began to grow. "God gave me the vision of taking youth ministry beyond the walls of a church building," he said. Having been awarded the Burton Morgan Scholarship in Youth Ministry, he enters MTSO with a desire to "implement change in the community through service and mentorship of the minority population, specifically young men of color."

Prior to entering MTSO as an M. Div. student, White had several experiences that have solidified his decision to work with adolescents. He spent three school years working as a resident assistant and five summers at a Christian summer camp and retreat

center in Maryland. Additionally, he spent the fall of 2017 in Uganda working with youth displaced by the Rwandan genocide. In both of these experiences, White discovered "when ministering to individuals, the love of Christ must be shown before anyone will trust the message of the Gospel."

Writing on White's behalf, his academic advisor reflected on his campus leadership positions and his time in Uganda: "Through all of these experiences, I have seen his faith grow stronger and stronger, as well as his determination to work with people from backgrounds of marginalization and violence."





## TAYLOR JOHNSTON

### *Bringing ecology to the rural church*



Johnston envisions connecting her passion for the environment to working in the rural church: "I feel called to serve in a rural church setting. And I believe that connecting God and the environment is something that could be extremely powerful."

After graduating from college with a degree in environmental science, Johnston traveled to South Africa in July as a delegate to the Global Young People's Convocation. This

United Methodist gathering ignited Johnston's imagination about creating a network of partnerships to serve and support environmental efforts in the United States as well as in other countries.

Having received a John and Mary Alford Scholarship, she'll pursue a Master of Divinity degree and seek United Methodist ordination. The school's focus on ecology and justice was a factor in Johnston's decision to attend MTSO.

"I have a desire to seek out the needs of those outside the walls of the church, and as a church or team, determine ways to address and equip each other for success," Johnston said. "What I seek to gain during my graduate studies is how to connect my pre-existing knowledge about the challenges in the environment to theology."

## RONALD MARCOUX

### *Seeking to experience diversity of thought*



At a 2016 Ash Wednesday service, Marcoux asked God's help in dealing with family medical issues and pledged to become more active within his Scipio, Indiana, church. In the ensuing years, he found himself chairing the congregation's non-traditional service and making a decision to attend seminary and pursue ministry.

"I chose to apply to MTSO to be challenged academically," said Marcoux, a John and Mary Alford

Scholarship recipient. "I want to experience diversity of thought and a truly immersive learning environment that will equip me to fulfill my call. I am intrigued by how my theology will be challenged and shaped during my seminary experience."

Before deciding to pursue his Master of Divinity degree and United Methodist ordination, he spent time talking with others who had completed the process: "Each graduate advised that the seminary experience is not learning about scripture, it is learning how to interpret scripture and apply it to real life. Each also stressed how challenging the work would be. In addition, each graduate told me the seminary experience was transformational, and they met many great people who would be lifelong friends."

## ASHLEY WYNN

### *Committed to listen to both sides*

After two mission trips to Colombia, Wynn created a nonprofit to support the work of a foundation where she had cared for, played with and taught children. She has since raised thousands of dollars through the nonprofit Search.Love.Rescue, contributing to everything from funding groceries to paying off the building.

In addition to completing United Methodist ordination and her Master of Divinity degree, Wynn's long-term goals include planting a new church start with her husband, who is currently a provisional elder in the denomination's West Ohio Conference.

Wynn, a recipient of the Barbara and Michael Cantlin Endowed Scholarship, is well aware that she is entering seminary at a challenging time. "In my lifetime, this is the most polarized political atmosphere I can remember," she said. "This seems to have permeated the church. People want to argue, but they do not want to listen. I want to listen. I want to listen to those on both sides because when you listen to people then they are more open to you ministering in their lives."



## CHASKA YODER

### *Embracing new possibilities*



In a series of service roles, Yoder discovered spirituality as a strength of persons in crisis with whom she worked. She was disheartened, however, to find spirituality's absence in the structures where she was working. Interning at a domestic violence shelter in Virginia, working in a displacement camp in Iraqi Kurdistan, and doing crisis work with individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Pennsylvania, cemented her desire to merge faith and work more closely.

Yoder, who has received the Harding Scholarship, grew up in a conservative Mennonite setting and still embraces her roots, while identifying with more progressive Mennonite thought: "Experience aided my progressive theological shift. I experienced the grace of an LGBTQ friend and his faithful, unwavering commitment to God and to the church. I witnessed the power and truth-telling of female faith leaders and the necessity of multiple perspectives."

Yoder's theological shift brought a new possibility of pastoral leadership for her, and she is now pursuing a Master of Divinity degree. Blending leadership gifts with a passion for spirituality in her vocation, she said, "Chaplaincy seems to be the intersection where my gifts and passions collide."

# Ministry without walls

## After fighting the opioid epidemic for years, Pastor Nancy Day-Achauer gets a title making her work official

As she approached graduation from MTSO in 2008, it was Nancy Day-Achauer's intent to return to the West Coast, where in a previous career she had been assistant to the general counsel of Dignity Health, the fifth largest not-for-profit hospital system in the country. A United Methodist, she hoped to become a pastor within the California-Nevada Conference.

"I fully intended to go back to California," she said, "but when I graduated, there was already a two-year waiting list to get a first appointment that would only be part-time." So she decided to stay put, transferring to the West Ohio Conference.

California's loss.

In her adopted home state, Day-Achauer has forged a ministry unbounded by the walls of the churches she serves, seeking to tackle community challenges others might choose to steer around. Most visibly, she has enlisted congregations and community groups in the effort to combat opioid addiction, an unofficial role that became official in July when she was named director of addiction ministries for West Ohio's Capitol South District.

Day-Achauer said Capitol South District Superintendent Tim Bias approached her with the idea: "He said, 'What if we just created this position? You would go around to churches and help them create programs to address the epidemic.'" In addition to the half-time addiction ministries role, Day-Achauer is pastor of two congregations, New Horizons UMC on the southwest side of Columbus and Harrisburg UMC. "You're not a real Methodist preacher if you can only do one church," she deadpanned.

After earning her Master of Divinity degree from MTSO, Day-Achauer served York Center UMC, followed by Ostrander and New Dover congregations in a two-point charge. In 2012, she was appointed to St. Mark's UMC on the West Side of Columbus, where she oversaw a congregational transformation and emerged as a prominent social and political advocate for an often forgotten part of the city.

During her time at St. Mark's, it went from an Anglo congregation to being 50 percent immigrant Hispanic, 5 percent African and 45 percent Caucasian. Not long after Day-Achauer arrived, the West Ohio Conference – noting that almost half the children in St. Mark's after-school daycare were Hispanic – approached her about hosting a new Hispanic congregation. The congregation responded with an alternative vision.

"My church said, 'We don't want a tenant. We want them to be a part of it,'" she said. "We're in a multicultural community. We should be a multicultural church." With a motto of "One church, two languages," St. Mark's began holding a traditional early



**Teaching churches how they can make a difference**  
\* Day-Achauer is pastor of Harrisburg UMC and New Horizons UMC, shown here, in addition to her role as director of addiction ministries

Sunday service in English, followed by a contemporary service in Spanish. On Christmas Eve, the two styles and languages were blended. "It was a wonderful mash-up."

The area surrounding St. Mark's struggles with myriad challenges. Large businesses have left the West Side, replaced by a casino that's done little for the neighborhood. There is also a widely held perception that political

leaders have other priorities in other parts of town. Within that challenging environment, Day-Achauer was appointed to the city of Columbus' Westland Area Commission. Engaging with other West Side leaders, most of them secular, she began to focus on one issue above all others: "We noticed that all of our challenges could be linked to the opioid epidemic. We're not going to fix the other stuff if our core problem is still rampant."

Soon Day-Achauer was working with the Ohio attorney general's office and connecting with sheriffs and hospitals. She joined the Franklin County Opiate Crisis Task Force, which spawned the Franklin County Opiate Action Plan. She spoke at the plan's rollout event in June 2017 and now serves on three subcommittees: prevention and education, harm reduction and public health, and faith-based community engagement.

"I started going around to churches and community groups and giving the 'Opiate 101' education so they can see what churches and community groups can do to be engaged in making a difference," she said. "There are actually all sorts of things they can do. They just don't know it because nobody told them about the variety of options."

"If your church has a great children's ministry, you could create an after-school program for kids whose parents are active users, so these kids have a safe place to go after school. Maybe you're great with older-adult ministries. We have so many grandparents who are taking care of their grandchildren due to the epidemic, and they are overwhelmed. They could use a hand. Maybe what you need to do is create a grief-support program, so that people whose loved ones have died or are actively using can come together and have support. Maybe if you're a super-small church, you just make your church available to programs that other people run."

Beyond her work around the opioid epidemic, Day-Achauer has confronted other issues on the West Side. In 2017, she was part of an effort to found Jordan's Crossing, a resource center for the homeless. Now she is lobbying Franklin County and the organization Age Friendly Columbus to help offer senior resources to an area sorely lacking them: "No senior center. No go-to place for information. Nothing."

"The answers they have for senior services in other parts of the city don't work in impoverished communities," she

said, noting that the senior services option recommended by Age Friendly Columbus has dues that can run up to \$700 a year. "Poor people need the same services, but they will never ever be able to afford that."

Day-Achauer believes the area she serves deserves more representation at City Hall, and she'd like to provide it. "Nobody even remembers when somebody from the West Side was on City Council," she said. "I am campaigning to be appointed to the next open seat."

She was a finalist for a recent open seat, and while she wasn't chosen, she said the process "got me an opportunity to spend an hour talking about what I cared about to the entire City Council."

For now, Day-Achauer serves in her many other roles, inspired by Matthew 25:35-36: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

"If Jesus were here today," she said, "Matthew 25 would say, 'I was addicted and you helped me recover.'" ✱

## **PATRICK KAUFMAN, 1978-2018**

# **Celebrating a life of impact**

MTSO and the Columbus community lost a tremendous force for good Sept. 13, when alumnus and staff member Patrick Kaufman died after a 10-month struggle with melanoma. Kaufman, 40, coordinated MTSO's Community Food and Wellness Initiative and worked alongside his neighbors on the west side of Columbus on projects including Franklinton Farms, which he co-founded. His work and life were marked by a commitment to social justice and food security.

Family, friends and colleagues gathered at MTSO Sept. 18 to celebrate Kaufman's life. The celebration began in MTSO's Alford Centrum and concluded outdoors, overlooking the fields of MTSO's Seminary Hill Farm.

Patrick Kaufman is survived by his wife Karen, an MTSO alumna; children Jeremiah, Emma and Christian; parents David and Marion Kaufman; sister Stephanie (Marcus) Loree; and grandparents Ruby Kaufman and George Beyer.

Read more and view video of the indoor portion of the celebration of Kaufman's life at [www.mtso.edu/kaufman](http://www.mtso.edu/kaufman).



# 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.

## 1965

**Dr. Thomas (Tim) McCarthy** pursued further graduate studies after leaving MTSO and completed a Masters in Social Work at Case Western Reserve University. He also completed a three-year post-graduate program at the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland and a Ph.D. in psychology at Kent State University. For the past 25 years, Tim has worked with the geriatric population. In 1996 he founded Psychology Consultants Inc., where he is now president and CEO. [joesephi5@outlook.com](mailto:joesephi5@outlook.com)

## 1968

**William Kaster** has retired from ministry and now enjoys volunteering with congregations in his area. [kaster@earthlink.net](mailto:kaster@earthlink.net)

**Sue (Ralph) Spirit** (M.Div. '68 and MA in Liturgical Arts '90) has been working for 33 years for her women's retreat center, Degrees of Freedom. She enjoys leading writing workshops at the center, writing a lot of essays and poems, and traveling the world. [degreesoffreedom@frontier.com](mailto:degreesoffreedom@frontier.com)

## 1972

**Marvin Krieger** has recently retired from ministry after serving 45 years. The last 31 years were spent in New Jersey as director of the Hoboken Clergy Coalition Shelter for the homeless and as the Hudson County director for HIV/AIDS health services. He feels truly blessed to continue to work as a consultant for HIV planning councils throughout the U.S. during his retirement. [MWKrieger@aol.com](mailto:MWKrieger@aol.com)

## 1975

**Timothy Farabaugh** recently published his sixth book, *In the Beginning: A Look at our World Through the Lens of Environmental Science and Christian Theology*, co-authored

by his son, Chris. "Chris provided the scientific information. I provided the biblical and theological information." Timothy is retired and lives with his spouse, Deborah, in Virginia. [tdfarabaugh@vaumc.org](mailto:tdfarabaugh@vaumc.org)

**Catherine (Wood) Luck** (MA in Christian Education '75, M.Div. '76) recently retired from 10 years as a volunteer founder and spiritual community director of Oasis of Northwest Arkansas. Oasis offers a safe, sober, spiritual community of women survivors of abuse, addiction and sexual exploitation. As of 2013, Catherine retired from the Iowa Conference.

**Fred Shaw** serves as chair of the Native American Comprehensive Plan and UMC executive director of the Native American Course of Study for local pastors. He preached for the 2018 ordination service of the Alaska Annual Conference. [fshaw@juno.com](mailto:fshaw@juno.com)

**Lyle Shiffert** has retired after spending the last three years at Zion UMC in Luckey, Ohio. [lshiffert@buckeye-express.com](mailto:lshiffert@buckeye-express.com)

## 1976

**Robert Graybill** is completing his second year of retirement after serving over 40 years in the Susquehanna Conference in Central Pennsylvania. He now lives in rural Pennsylvania on a farm, where he enjoys raising goats and selling cage-free chickens eggs to those who come by. For entertainment, Robert has been driving a school bus, worshipping freely without the responsibility and accepting a few preaching assignments when needed. [rgraybill@susumc.org](mailto:rgraybill@susumc.org)

## 1978

**Joseph Burris** has recently retired but still serves as a chaplain with the Maryland State Police and director of travel ministries with Educational Opportunities Tours. [josephburris53@gmail.com](mailto:josephburris53@gmail.com)

## 1980

**Bruce A. Jones** has retired from ministry within the Baltimore-Washington Conference in June of 2018. [bajones15@gmail.com](mailto:bajones15@gmail.com)

## 1983

**Bob Long** is a retired elder serving part-time with Centenary UMC in Granville, Ohio. He is also working part-time in two long-term care facilities, doing behavioral management for residents with mental illness. He also enjoys portraying St. Nicholas in venues throughout the state during the Advent season. [boolong246@gmail.com](mailto:boolong246@gmail.com)

## 1984

**Elaine Clinger Sturtz** (M.Div. '84, MA in Counseling Ministries '08) has published her fourth book, *Living in the Different*. It addresses the passages of grief, change and loss. [ejsturtz7@gmail.com](mailto:ejsturtz7@gmail.com)

## 1985

**Lawrence Michael Cameron** recently completed 35 years of ministry. He is presently serving Bethany Union Church of Chicago, where he has been for the past five years. Bethany Union just celebrated its 145th year of ministry in its Chicago location. He has recently published his 14th book and continues his private practice in spiritual direction and counseling. [pilgrim1959@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrim1959@gmail.com)

After 18 years as a faculty member in the Sociology & Justice Studies Department at Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio, and serving as chairperson of that department for seven of those years, **Dale Lanigan** is phasing into retirement. He plans on doing some adjuncting, becoming more involved in his church, umpiring baseball games, doing volunteer work with the Special Olympics and spending more time with grandchildren. "Would love to hear

from any of my 1985 fellow MTS grads.”  
[dlanigan@buckeye-express.com](mailto:dlanigan@buckeye-express.com)

## 1987

**Phyllis Cole-Dai** has co-edited the book *Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems*.  
[phyllis@phylliscoledai.com](mailto:phyllis@phylliscoledai.com)

## 1989

**Cindy Parsons** is excited to share that she recently retired from ministry. She and her

husband, Jeff, live in Sebewaing, Michigan.  
[RevCindy47@gmail.com](mailto:RevCindy47@gmail.com)

## 1990

**Alan Morrison** is the pastor of Wattsburg UMC and Phillipsville UMC in the Erie-Meadville District of the Western Pennsylvania Conference. [morrisonalanj@gmail.com](mailto:morrisonalanj@gmail.com)

## 1992

**Ashwin Welch** has become Galion, Ohio’s first police chaplain in many years. The mayor

swore him in to this role after Welch assisted in the de-escalation of a crisis involving a firearm discharged within city limits.

## 1993

**Nancy Zahn** has retired from the position of full-time elder in the Western Pennsylvania Conference after serving from 1993 to 2017. She plans to continue in pastoral ministry during her retirement.  
[nanz07@comcast.net](mailto:nanz07@comcast.net)

Continues

# 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.*

## California-Nevada

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

## Detroit

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

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

## East Ohio

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

The following are being commissioned as elder:

- **Randall May**, serving Firestone Park UMC in Akron.

- **David St. Aubin**, serving Dover First UMC in Dover.

The following are being ordained as elder:

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

## Indiana

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

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

## Minnesota

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

## Upper New York

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

## West Ohio

The following are being commissioned as deacon:

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

- **Jeeyoung Kim**.

The following are being commissioned as elder:

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

The following are being ordained as deacon:

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

The following are being ordained as elder:

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

## West Virginia

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

## Western Pennsylvania

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

from previous page

## 1997

**David Hess** is in his 12th year of serving as lead chaplain and director of volunteer services at the Indiana Veterans' Home in West Lafayette. [dhess@ivh.in.gov](mailto:dhess@ivh.in.gov)

**Sherry Parker-Lewis** married George Lewis in 2015. She currently serves as senior pastor at First United Methodist Church of Brighton, Michigan. In July 2018, the church she serves "adopted" another United Methodist Church, creating "one church in two locations." [sherry@brightonfumc.org](mailto:sherry@brightonfumc.org)

## 1998

**Mark Butler** has started a new ministry as the education resource coordinator for the Dominican Sisters of Peace. His role is to ensure that Catholic identity and Dominican charism are integrated within each ministry founded by the congregation across many states in the region. [markwbutler@live.com](mailto:markwbutler@live.com)

**Candy Thomas** began as interim Pastor at Christ Congregational Church in Palmetto Bay, Florida, on July 1. [candacedt@live.com](mailto:candacedt@live.com)

## 1999

**Emily Hall** is currently working at the Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital in New Jersey as the director of chaplaincy services. [emilybhall@optimum.net](mailto:emilybhall@optimum.net)

**Kathie Jones** is currently serving in Northeast District of the Indiana Conference as an associate superintendent. Officially retired from active status, she served Forest Park UMC in Fort Wayne until June of 2018 and walked with them through the transition to become a third campus for LifeHouse/Huntertown UMC. [kathie.jones@inumc.org](mailto:kathie.jones@inumc.org)

## 2003

**Jackie Burns** was featured as Artist of the Month for the Chapter 57 online bookstore with the Erie Benedictine Sisters in Pennsylvania. [jaslan@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jaslan@columbus.rr.com)

## 2004

**Michelle (Zearing) Beissel** is working at Elysburg and Miller's Crossroads UMCs in Pennsylvania. Michelle and her husband, Brian, finalized the adoption of their son, Timothy, in May. [mbeissel@susimc.org](mailto:mbeissel@susimc.org)

**Chiyona Bourne** has been appointed associate pastor at High Street UMC in Muncie, Indiana. She will be leading programming and missions on a local and global level. She also has completed training as a dance fitness instructor. With this training, she hopes to continue bridging the gap between the church and the world through group fitness experiences that combine body, heart, mind and soul while also providing community connections. [revchiyona@gmail.com](mailto:revchiyona@gmail.com)

## 2005

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

**Rev. Maureen Webber** is the associate minister of pastoral care at the Bath Church United Church of Christ in Akron. [revmowebber@gmail.com](mailto:revmowebber@gmail.com)

## 2006

**Kerry Wood** began serving Jan. 1 at Mt. Moriah UMC in the Ohio River Valley District of the West Ohio Conference. [Kerry.wood@mtmoriahumc.org](mailto:Kerry.wood@mtmoriahumc.org)

## 2009

**Katherine Beckett** is pastor at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Rockford, Ohio. [kabeckett1001@gmail.com](mailto:kabeckett1001@gmail.com)

**David Jones** is ordained in the United Church of Christ, serving St. Mark's and St. John's UCCs in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. He has recently been elected vice president of the Lebanon Association and also serves on the Penn Central Board of Directors. [dave698809@gmail.com](mailto:dave698809@gmail.com)

## 2010

**Abby Caseman** is serving as pastor at Atwood UMC in Colby, Kansas. She is currently working with nine northwest Kansas counties to end poverty and help families thrive in rural communities. [alcaseman@yahoo.com](mailto:alcaseman@yahoo.com)

## 2014

**Kyle Bucholz** is serving six counties in Central Ohio as the spiritual care coordinator for Heartland Hospice. [kylejbucholz@gmail.com](mailto:kylejbucholz@gmail.com)

**Becky Guthrie** is proud to have recently become a grandparent to Jackson Reid Guthrie, who was born to John and Eliza Guthrie on Nov. 12, 2017. [blg41@hotmail.com](mailto:blg41@hotmail.com)

**Phyllis Plear** graduated in August from a year of chaplain residency at Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center. [pplear1@gmail.com](mailto:pplear1@gmail.com)

## 2017

**Beth (Staten) Gedert** was ordained in the United Church of Christ Sept. 22 and was married to Sam Gedert on Oct. 6. She serves as the pastor of Zion UCC in Delaware, Ohio. [pastorbeth@uccdelaware.org](mailto:pastorbeth@uccdelaware.org)

## 2018

**Nicholas Shaw** and his wife, Renee, are in the process of becoming UMC missionaries after receiving recommendation from the West Ohio Conference. [nicholasshaw@gmail.com](mailto:nicholasshaw@gmail.com)

**Lorenzo Thomas** is beginning a new position with OhioHealth as a Chaplain Resident this fall.

## MTSO Board of Trustees

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

# ‘How do we make people aware?’

## Beginning a three-year term as dean, Valerie Bridgeman frames her role

“My call has never changed: train the church’s leaders. I felt like that was my call when I was a pastor, that was my call during chaplaincy, and it is my call in this place,” Valerie Bridgeman said.

Since arriving at MTSO as a visiting professor in 2014 and being appointed associate professor of homiletics and Hebrew Bible in 2015, Bridgeman has lived out that call in a dizzying array of leadership, scholarship and discipleship endeavors. She has been published dozens of times, preached more than 50 sermons from Philadelphia to Denver, and given a multitude of academic lectures over the past four years.

In addition to all of this, Bridgeman was appointed to a three-year term as dean and vice president for academic affairs at the May 2018 Board of Trustees meeting. Her Nov. 2 installation ceremony began a day of events, including a panel discussion and jazz concert.

Bridgeman spent her year as interim dean honing the questions that will frame her tenure.

“The question driving me is: Is our school a prophetic witness in the midst of all kinds of theological contexts?” she said. “The thing that is most fascinating to me is how our commitments across faculty, staff and administration are toward the gospel in relationship to social justice. We do not believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ can be unmoored from what is right in the social realm.

“How do we continue to infuse in the work we do and in the publics we encounter this sense of moral imagination in God’s theological project? How do we join the movements that are God’s theological projects? How do we make people aware? At the end of the day, we are an educational community, so whatever we do around social justice ought to be at its core a learning opportunity for us.”



**A call that has never changed ✧ Bridgeman embraces the work of preparing students for ministry**

After receiving a Master of Divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Seminary, Bridgeman earned a Ph.D. in biblical studies from Baylor University, with a concentration in Hebrew Bible and secondary studies in ethics. At Baylor, she realized she wanted to be a part of an institution that truly valued teaching, not just research. At MTSO, she has found a deep commitment to teaching and preparing students for life beyond classroom walls.

“Our graduates go out into the world and know how to think,” she said. “They don’t just have techniques. They don’t just have tools. They know how to think so that when things change, they can continue to do their good work in the world. I

want us to keep honing and strengthen that in our programs.

“My role, besides answering emails and pushing paper, is to keep us oriented as an institution to the idea that God is a part of social justice activities already, and we are joining in that work with a God who’s already there waiting for us.”

Bridgeman’s scholarship and impact are being recognized far beyond the MTSO campus. She was recently named to the publisher Rowman and Littlefield’s Womanist Readings of Scripture advisory board. And over the summer, she was selected as one of 70 delegates from 36 countries to the Carter Center Human Rights Defenders Forum. With this group of international leaders, hosted by President Jimmy Carter, Bridgeman spent four days in July discussing issues from income inequality to the resurgence of authoritarianism to repercussions facing human rights defenders.

Bridgeman was deeply inspired by the discussions at the forum: “Being in a room where you listen to these human rights violations – not just from around the world but also from your own government and country – helps me recommit myself to the work of justice. And it is my deepest hope that I can help to send out emissaries from this school who will put their hands to this work, too.” ✧

# A religious pilgrimage by the non-religious?

## Reflections on conversations along the Camino de Santiago

By Linda Mercadante

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

Walking the Camino de Santiago, an ancient Catholic pilgrimage in Spain, was never on my bucket list. But my husband, with his Catholic Cuban roots and Spanish heritage, really wanted to walk the Camino. And I saw a valuable connection to much of my work.

My book *Belief without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious*, explores why so many people are rejecting religion and the church today. This set up a dilemma for me. About 80 percent of the *peregrinos* (pilgrims) who walk this long and difficult ancient Catholic pilgrimage route are not at all religious. Some are “spiritual but not religious,” many are thoroughly secular and, as I found out, a few are actively hostile toward religion.

And yet every year, tens of thousands of people walk the Camino, a route abounding with ancient churches, crosses, plaques, shrines, and statues. The ultimate goal is to reach the massive Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela, where the apostle James is said to be buried. While you wait at the cathedral to get your certificate of completion, you have to fill out a form which asks if you have done this for religious or spiritual reasons. The point of the journey seems clear-cut: It has always been religious.

Why would someone undertake this arduous and often painful Catholic pilgrimage if they were uninterested in or negative about religion and the church? As we walked and as we rested at various albergues, cafes and stops, I set about asking people just that.

On the surface, it was obvious that some people, especially the younger, fitter ones, were doing it to challenge themselves, to have an outdoor adventure, to take a trip with their friends. One middle-aged man was walking with his 20-something daughter. He said he wanted to give her a fun trip before she starts medical school. Another man, who actually was a practicing Catholic, insisted he was not doing this for religious reasons but simply because he liked to be outdoors and to walk.

But by probing deeper, I also found more transcendent motivations. We did meet some religious people, and they often said they were walking to express gratitude for their lives, to pray for something, or because this was an important religious pilgrimage.

Non-religious people, though, had entirely different reasons. Many were trying to tend to their mental and emotional states. One 40ish woman, having recently gotten divorced, said she wanted to “empty my mind,” something she considered a spiritual goal. A young software engineer from Seattle spurned the idea that the Camino was religious or spiritual.

One 30ish English man recounted spending a previous vacation touring Spain on his motorcycle. One day a man rushed up to him with a big smile on his face and gave him a bear hug. “I was surprised, of course, and asked him why. The man said, ‘I just got done walking the Camino, and you are the first person I have seen.’ Right then and there, I wanted to trade my motorcycle key for his hiking sticks! I wanted what he had.”

The real question is: Do deeper spiritual motivations underlie any of this? Can we claim, as did some of the nuns and monks



**Most who walk the Camino aren't religious \* The author at the Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela; the inset shows the badge she wore**

I spoke with, that these are, deep-down, essentially *religious* reasons, especially since the Camino ends at the tomb of St. James?

Is it spiritual to want to be distracted from the cares of life, rather than specifically seeking an encounter with God? Are the health and fitness motivations about as close to a this-worldly salvatory goal as secular people can get? Can the spiritual but not religious get to God simply through being out in nature? Or do they need something more specific to help them open to the divine?

I will be working on these questions as I continue to think about this arduous but ultimately transformative journey. I discovered that the Camino has a unique way of giving God better access to you – if you are willing. \*



# Finding Christianity at its best

## Sicily's Casa delle Culture is a beacon of hope for refugees

By Francesca Nuzzolese

Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling

A native of Southern Italy, I make regular pilgrimages to special childhood spots, to reconnect with my beginnings and soak in the Mediterranean air. These visits are a source of psycho-spiritual renewal, something I look forward to every year, especially swimming in the Mediterranean Sea.

Sadly, over the past few years the Mediterranean coasts have become hosts to horror stories, and the sea has been described as a merciless blue cemetery. No longer the place for my idyllic escapes, nor a promised land for refugees, Southern Europe is struggling mightily to handle mass migration from the Middle East and East Africa.

For millennia a geographic and symbolic divider of two very different worlds, the Mediterranean is still a highly traveled corridor, used by both humanitarian and criminal organizations to move large numbers of human beings into Europe. Fleeing political, social, religious and economic oppression, hundreds of thousands attempt the treacherous crossing for the possibility of a more dignified life. Many never make it to shore due to the precarious conditions in which they are transported. Those who make it often find the land of their dreams to be an unwelcoming and hostile place.

On a quest to better grasp the predicament of refugees and the European politics of immigration, this past summer I visited refugee camps and faith-based organizations in Southern Italy and Sicily. I can affirm that the pressure to accommodate the large human flow is causing a real identity crisis for Europe as a whole. Yet, in



**Shared vulnerability and resilience** \* *The author (back row, third from right) with the people of Casa della Culture*

some of these places I have also witnessed tangible expressions of humanity and Christianity at their best.

A particular beacon of hope was Casa delle Culture (House of Cultures), a First Help Refugee Center sustained by the work of a small local Methodist church. Located a few kilometers from a highly trafficked port in Sicily, the center is part of a larger organization called Mediterranean Hope, which is an initiative of the Association of Protestant Churches in Italy.

The center hosts unaccompanied and undocumented minors from East Africa, Syrian women and children with legitimate refugee status, and Nigerian girls who have escaped the sex trade. While the diversity poses a cohabitation challenge for this transient community, I was struck by the ethos of mutual care and solidarity, of shared vulnerability and resilience, endorsed by the Italian leadership team and upheld by the young volunteers coming from all over Europe.

The intention of the center is to grant a healthy sense of belonging and an orientation to the ongoing diversity the

guests will continue to experience as they get permanently relocated in different countries of the European Union. At Casa delle Culture everyone, guests and hosts, is invited to maintain – or regain – a sense of personal dignity, maximizing the use of creativity and the gifts and wisdom inherent in every culture and person.

This is a huge undertaking, given the climate of rejection spreading in Europe and the misappropriation of funds aimed at refugee and migrant care. Challenges aside, I gained a vision of what *kin-dom* life is about: Syrian children learning Italian from German volunteers; Sudanese teens babysitting Nigerian girls while their mothers work; Muslim moms shopping at Sicilian markets; the center's director advocating for migrant children's rights in the local school districts. And everyone sharing life and stories over pasta, couscous or gelato.

As a pastoral theologian, I find it essential to immerse myself in pastoral praxis, to bear witness and support those who work directly with the most vulnerable people in our midst. The projects of Mediterranean Hope have been particularly inspiring for me due to the Methodist legacy. The refugee crisis, however, remains a severe problem of our time, and not only for Europe. Prayer and action are needed to deal not only with the symptoms but also with the political and economic root causes of mass migrations all over the world.

The invitation by the center leadership is for us at MTSO to engage in the amazing and difficult work they are doing. My hope is to inspire others to immerse with me in the near future – whether in Italy or somewhere closer to home. To experience this work firsthand is to appreciate how pastoral theology is best learned in spaces of shared humanity and vulnerability. \*

# Teaching the art and science of preaching

## MTSO welcomes Kyle Brooks to a two-year Louisville Institute postdoctoral fellowship

At long last, MTSO has a molecular biologist teaching homiletics.

If you knew only that Kyle Brooks holds a bachelor's degree from Yale in molecular, cellular and developmental biology, you could be forgiven for wondering how that degree – while laudable – has qualified him to prepare a new generation of preachers. There's more to know, of course. Depending on which part of his life story you read, you might find his vocation shaping graduate theological students either mildly surprising or utterly obvious.

With the start of Fall Semester, Brooks began a two-year Louisville Institute postdoctoral fellowship as MTSO's visiting assistant professor of homiletics and black church and African diaspora studies. The Louisville Institute, which supports those who lead and study North American religious institutions, chose Brooks for the award and approached MTSO about hosting him. The institute provides compensation, insurance, and housing and moving benefits.

This is far from Brooks's first classroom position. After college, he taught high school biology. But in 2008, early in that career, he changed course dramatically.

"My shift toward theological education really was born out of crisis," he said. "It came when I was 25, almost 10 years ago." Earlier that year, his father had died young after a lengthy illness. Then Brooks endured a difficult breakup. The two events inspired him to reflect on the brevity and uncertainty of life.

"It wasn't lost on me that at the point of my father's death, I was half his age. At 24, who thinks of himself as middle age?" he said. He was left confronting "the recognition that none of us gets out of here alive."

Further, before the breakup, "My mind was set on this particular future," he said. So



**"Teaching preaching does not allow me to settle into a pattern" \* Brooks will spend two academic years at MTSO through his fellowship**

he asked himself, "Given that the future you imagined no longer is possible, what do you want to do right now?" The answer: "I want to go to divinity school, and I think I want to do it now."

While the decision was abrupt, it didn't come out of the clear blue. "I preached my first sermon when I was 6," said Brooks, who grew up in the Church of God in Christ tradition and comes from generations of preachers on both sides of his family.

"My ability to be thoughtful and perceptive and articulate as a 6-year-old gave to many this sense that I was destined to do something powerful and meaningful as a preacher," he said, while acknowledging, "This was also a highly gendered practice. Articulate little girls weren't being pushed forward in the same way."

In 2009, Brooks returned to Yale for a third time; he had earned an MA in Urban Education Studies in 2008 while teaching school in New Haven, Connecticut. He

received his Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School in 2012 and also won the school's Jess H. and Hugo A. Norenberg Prize, awarded for excellence in preaching and leading corporate worship.

Brooks is now completing his dissertation in pursuit of a Vanderbilt University Ph.D. with a concentration in homiletics and liturgics, along with a minor concentration in practical theology. At Vanderbilt, he taught the course Black Religious Leaders from the Civil Rights Era to the Present in January of this year, and Preaching and Public Proclamation during Spring Semester.

Louisville Institute Executive Director Edwin Aponte approached MTSO Interim Academic Dean Valerie Bridgeman at the 2017 meetings of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature about the possibility of MTSO hosting a postdoctoral fellow. The two worked together to make it happen.

Bridgeman, who also serves as associate professor of homiletics and Hebrew Bible at MTSO, called Brooks "a wonderful person." She first met him at a gathering in 2012. "He's a great scholar, he's a great thinker, and he's an amazing poet. I'm looking forward to being part of his institutional development into the guild. We have two years of him shaping us and us shaping him."

Brooks is energized by the unique challenges of teaching homiletics: "Teaching preaching does not allow me to settle into a pattern. It has taught me some good habits and practices to maintain, but it has also taught me that the best preaching practice does not come out of doing the same things you've always done. It comes out of an active response to a clear and thorough reading of your current situation.

"What I see in the text may not be what I see five years down the road, but that's good. That's growth." \*

# Beyond the classroom | Faculty activities 2017-18



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

## Publications

Commentary on Genesis 1:1-5, [workingpreacher.org](http://workingpreacher.org), Jan. 7, 2018.

Commentary on 1 Samuel 3:1-10, [workingpreacher.org](http://workingpreacher.org), Jan. 14, 2018.

Commentary on Jonah 3:1-5, [workingpreacher.org](http://workingpreacher.org), Jan. 21, 2018.

Commentary on Deuteronomy 18:15-20, [workingpreacher.org](http://workingpreacher.org), Jan. 28, 2018.

"Justice as a Gospel Mandate," [ecclesio.com](http://ecclesio.com), April 17, 2018.

"Proving Jesus Wrong about Poverty," [ecclesio.com](http://ecclesio.com), April 23, 2018.

## Academic lectures and presentations

"Project Access," Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, New Orleans, July 16-21, 2017.

Panelist, Black Theology and Leadership Institution, Princeton, New Jersey, July 22, 2017.

Plenary speaker, Union of Black Episcopalians, Philadelphia, July 24, 2017.

"It's All Good Until a Bee Stings You: On Not Romanticizing the Work," Midwest Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education, MTSO, October 2017.

"Writing Phone Numbers on My Arm: Activism and Scholarship in the Age of #BlackLivesMatter," Society of Biblical Literature on Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation, Boston, Nov. 18, 2017.

Panelist, Schooler Institute, MTSO, Feb. 6, 2018.

## Meetings

Interfaith Partners for Peace Divinity School Leaders and Scholars study tour in Israel-Palestine, Aug. 2-11, 2017.

Wabash Peer Mentoring Group Gathering,

Washington, D.C., Oct. 7-10, 2017.

American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, Nov. 17-21, 2017.

Academy of Homiletics, Denver, Dec. 7-9, 2017.

Mystic Soul Gathering: Spiritual Care for Activists, Chicago, Jan. 11-13, 2018.

Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference: The Social Justice Network, Memphis, Feb. 12-15, 2018.

Power Rising Summit: Building an Agenda for Black Women, ritualist for final worship service, Feb. 23-25, 2018.

Women in Leadership, Association of Theological Schools, Pittsburgh, Feb. 28-March 2, 2018.

Society for the Study of Black Religion, Memphis, March 15-17, 2018.

Association of United Methodist Theological Schools gathering of deans and presidents, Dallas, March 25-17, 2018.

Inaugural Conference on Womanist Leadership, Center for Womanist Leadership, Richmond, Virginia, April 5-7, 2018.

Moderator for Panel on Activism, 50 Years after Dr. King's Assassination, Ecumenical Advocacy Days, Washington, D.C., April 20-23, 2018.

United Methodist Women Assembly, Columbus, May 18-20, 2018.

Presented at Forum for Theological Exploration Grantee Consultation, Atlanta, May 29-30, 2018.

Association of Theological Schools Pre-Biennial Deans' Meeting/Deans' and Presidents' Biennial Meeting, Denver, June 19-21, 2018.

## Church and popular lectures

"Pride and Protest: A Community Conversation," preached at Summit on 16th UMC; facilitated a conversation on racism in the LGBTQIA+ community in and around Columbus, July 2, 2017.

"How Do You Read It?" preached at Ohio Northern University, Sep. 28, 2017.

Guest on WURD radio Philadelphia via phone

on prophetic preaching as imagining a new world, Oct. 17, 2017.

"A Brave New World: Safe(r) Space for LGBTQIA+ Kin," South Euclid UCC Leadership Summit, Cleveland, Nov. 3, 2017.

Preached at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Rockville, Maryland, Nov. 4, 2017.

"The Bible and Sexuality," Destiny UCC, Cincinnati, Feb. 3, 2018.

"The Bible and Sexuality," Congregational Teach-in, St. Paul's Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Feb. 17, 2018.

Preached four services at Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia, March 3-4, 2018.

"Worship, the Bible, and Justice," Mt. Aery Baptist Church, Bridgeport, Connecticut, March 24, 2018.

Preached at Mt. Aery Baptist Church, Bridgeport, Connecticut, March 25, 2018.

Preached at Emory Fellowship (UMC), Washington, D.C., April 29, 2018.

Preached at Christ Missionary Baptist Church, Memphis, May 13, 2018.

## Other activities

Podcast: "The Overwhelming Challenge of God," [thethread.ptsem.edu](http://thethread.ptsem.edu).

Named Distinguished Alumna, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Jan. 31, 2018.

Endorsement for *Womanist Sass and Talk Back: Social (In)Justice, Intersectionality, and Biblical Interpretation* by Mitzi Smith.

Served as peer reviewer for article for *Teaching Religion and Theology Journal*, Feb. 7, 2018.

Wrote and performed "Falling" for the Sixth Word in the production "Rhythms of the Cross: Good Friday Moves," St. Paul's Baptist Church, Philadelphia, March 30, 2018.

Inside-Out Training for Teaching Prisons, Fairmont, West Virginia, June 10-16, 2018.

Study Tour to Black Religious Impact in Paris, France, with the Society for the Study of Black Religion, June 23-July 2, 2018.

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

**Publications**

*Christianity Beyond Christendom: The Global Christian Experience on Medieval ‘Mappaemundi’ and Early Modern World Maps*, Wolfenbüttler Forschungen no. 149, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, May 8, 2018.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“Whose ‘Holy Land’? The Contested Representation of Israel/Palestine in Early Modern Cosmographies and Regional Maps,” Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Reformation Era: Joint Conference Verein für Reformationsgeschichte and the Society for Reformation Research, Nuremberg, Germany, July 2017.

“Church Ordinances and Printing,” 13th International Conference on Luther Research, Wittenberg, Germany, August 2017.

**Meetings**

Seminar Participant, “Ecclesiology in the Early Luther,” 13th International Conference on Luther Research, Wittenberg, Germany, August 2017.

Seminary Hill Colloquy, MTSO, April 18-19, 2018.

**Church and popular lectures**

“A World Divided: Considering the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation,” Series at First Community Church, Columbus, September-October, 2017.

“Was not Martin Luther an Extremist?’ The Legacy of the Reformation in the Family of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,” lecture with Tejai Beulah, MTSO, Nov. 1, 2017.

Preached “The Story of a Skeptic,” First Presbyterian Church, Fredericktown, Ohio, April 8, 2018.

“Reformation Radicals: Violence, Non-Violence, and Social Change in the Cause of Religion,” Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Columbus, April 2018.



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

**Publications**

“Wisdom Collections,” *Dictionary of the Bible and Ancient Media*, ed. London: Bloomsbury T & T Clark, 2017: 454-56.

“The Puzzle of Torah and the Qumran Wisdom Texts,” *HĀ-’ĪSH MŌSHE: Studies in Scriptural Interpretation in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature in Honor of Moshe J. Bernstein*. ed. Binyamin Y. Goldstein, Michael Segal and George J. Brooke. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah 122. Leiden: Brill, 2017.

“Our Commitment to Jewish Dialogue,” *The Mennonite*, March 2018: 32.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“The Gospel of Matthew and Antisemitism,” Mennonite Scholars and Friends, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature meeting, Boston, Nov. 17, 2017.

“Torah and Wisdom in the Rules Texts from Qumran,” The Dead Sea Scrolls Seventy Years Later: Manuscripts, Traditions, Interpretations, and Their Biblical Contexts, University of Lublin, Lublin Poland, Oct. 26, 2017.

“The Gospel of Matthew and the Challenge of Antisemitism,” Believers’ Church Conference, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, Sept. 15, 2017.

“Does the Use of Isaiah 40:3 Necessarily Point to the Wilderness?” The Dead Sea Scrolls at Seventy, The Sixteenth International Orion Symposium, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, April 29-May 2, 2018.

Respondent to Francis Borhardt, “Judean Scribal Culture Through the Lens of Graeco-Roman Compositional Practice,” Nangeroni Meeting of the Enoch Seminar, “The Period of the Middle Maccabees: From the Death of Judas through the Reign of John Hyrcanus,” Gazzada, Italy, June 10-15, 2018.

**Meetings**

International Congress on Luther Research, Wittenberg, Germany, August 2017.

Believers Church Conference, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, Sept. 14-16, 2017.

Dead Sea Scrolls at Seventy, Catholic University, Lublin, Poland, Oct. 25-26, 2017.

National Council of Churches, Jewish-Christian Dialogue, Washington, D.C., Nov. 1, 2017.

American Schools of Oriental Research, Boston, Nov. 16-18, 2017.

Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, Nov. 18-21, 2017.

Mennonites and the Holocaust, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas, March 16-17, 2018.

Mennonite Interagency Consultation on Interreligious Relations, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, March 23, 2018.

Alumni Leadership Council Meeting, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, April 9-10, 2018.

**Church and popular lectures**

“The Abnormality of Hope,” sermon, Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship, Cincinnati, Dec. 3, 2017.

Benediction, installation of president of West Virginia Wesleyan University, Buckhannon, West Virginia, Oct. 13, 2017.

“Unexpected and Unusual Wisdom from the Dead Sea Scrolls,” Beth Tikvah, Columbus, March 14, 2018.

**Other activities**

Elected incoming vice-president, Alumni Leadership Council, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, appointment effective July 1.

Appointed to a second three-year term, Honors and Awards Committee, American Schools of Oriental Research.

Participant, monthly electronic meetings of the Mennonite-Jewish Relations Working Group.

Consultant to Mennonite Church USA on Jewish-Christian Relations.



## Paul Kim

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

### Publications

“Two Mothers and Two Sons: Reading 1 Kings 3:16-28 as a Parody on Solomon’s Coup (1 Kings 1-2),” *Partners with God: Theological and Critical Readings of the Bible in Honor of Marvin A. Sweeney*, ed. Shelley L. Birdsong and Serge Frolov; Claremont Press, 2017.

“Pursuing Happiness across Cultures: Positive Psychology, Ecclesiastes, African Ubuntu, and Korean Jeong in Creative Dialogues,” *Bridging the Divide Between the Bible and Pastoral Theology*, co-authored with M. Fulgence Nyengele, ed. Denise Dombrowski Hopkins and Michael Koppel, Cambridge Scholars, 2018.

### Academic lectures and presentations

“What Might Biblical Scholarship Learn from Korea Under Japanese Occupation About Yehud Under the Neo-Babylonians?” Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Berlin, Aug. 6-11, 2017.

“Joseph vis-à-vis Moses” Presidential Address at Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society Meeting, Akron, March 15, 2018.

### Meetings

Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, Nov. 18-21, 2017.

Eastern Great Lakes Bible Society (Society of Biblical Literature regional meeting), Akron, March 15-16, 2018.

### Church and popular lectures

Sermon: “Back to the Future,” Condit Presbyterian Church, Sunbury, Ohio, July 2, 2017.

Sermon for World Communion Sunday (Exodus 17:1-7; Matthew 21:23-32), Glen Echo Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Oct. 1, 2017.

Sermon at Hilliard Presbyterian Church, Hilliard, Ohio, Oct. 15, 2017.

Sermon at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Worthington, Ohio, Nov. 12, 2017.

Sermon: “Are We There Yet?” (Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Matthew 25:31-46) at Condit

Presbyterian Church, Sunbury, Ohio, Nov. 26, 2017.

Sermon at Fredericktown Presbyterian Church, Fredericktown, Ohio, March 22, 2018.

Sermon at Condit Presbyterian Church, Sunbury, Ohio, April 8 and May 20, 2018.



## Sarah Lancaster

**Professor in the Werner Chair of Theology**

### Publications

“Ecumenical Insights for Overcoming Obstacles to Unity in Christ,” *Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality*, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2017.

“Unity begins in baptism,” commentary for United Methodist Forum: What Does Unity Look Like? “Many Voices, One Faith.”

“The Power of Non-Coercive Miracles,” *The Uncontrolling Love of God: Essays Exploring the Love of God*, eds. Craig Drurey, Lisa Michaels, Chris Baker, Gloria Coffin, Donna Fiser Ward and Graden Kirksey, Sacrasage Press, 2017.



## Randy G. Litchfield

**Professor in the Browning Chair of Christian Education**

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Evoking Places: Vocation, Roots, and Routes,” Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Nov. 3-5, 2017.

### Meetings

United Methodist Association of Scholars in Christian Education, July 28-31, 2017.

### Other activities

Chaired Association of Theological Schools focused visit at United Lutheran Seminary.

Two prayers were accepted by Friendship Press for publication in *Toward Racial Equity: Prayers and Resources for the Journey*, a resource to support the work of the National Council of Churches’ racial equity initiative.

Book proposal for *Evoking Places* was accepted and put under contract with Abingdon Press, with a targeted release date of March 2019.



## Linda Mercadante

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

### Publications

“‘Cheesy’ and the Church: Cultivating Space for Authentic Emotion,” *Bearings Online*, July 2017.

“Start by Listening: How Christians Can Find Common Ground with SBNR,” *Bearings Online*, November 2017.

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

“Does Sexual Harassment Prove the Doctrine of Sin? SBNRs on Human Nature,” *Bearings Online*, Collegeville Institute, February 2018.

“What Do You Mean by ‘God?’” in *Bearings Online*, Ecumenical Institute, March 2018.

### Academic lectures and presentations

Scioto Valley Clergy Women group, monthly discussion.

Collegeville Institute, Theological Writers’ Conference, August 2017.

“Addiction and Ministry,” workshop, Princeton Seminary Women in Ministry Conference, October 2017.

Panelist and presenter, American Academy of Religion, Exploratory Session on the Spiritual but not Religious: A Roundtable Discussion on the Past, Present and Future(s) of Research, November 2017.

“Understanding the Spiritual but not Religious,” World Religions Series, sponsored by First Community Church, held at First Unitarian Church, Columbus, December 2017.

“The Beliefs of the Spiritual but not Religious,” Harvard Divinity and Center for Study of World Religions, April 13, 2018.

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**Meetings**

Traverse City Film Festival, July 2017 and July 2018.

Clintonville Progressives, September 2017.

National Speakers Association, September 2017.

Interfaith March for Peace and Justice, planning committee, November 2017.

American Academy of Religion, November 2017.

“The Future of Spiritual but not Religious,” Academic Conference, Harvard Center for the Study of World Religions, April 12-15, 2018.

SUN Behavioral Health, consultant on chaplaincy with SBNRs, Feb. 23 and March 2, 2018.

Iftar Celebration, Central Ohio Community Leaders, Noor Islamic Center, May 22, 2018.

Clergy Women Covenant Group, Presbytery of Scioto Valley, January, March, April and May 2018.

**Church and popular lectures**

“Reaching the ‘Spiritual but not Religious,’” Worthington Presbyterian Church, Presbytery event, April 10, 2018.

“Inside the Minds of the SBNR,” public presentation, “The Future of SBNR,” Harvard Divinity School and Center for Study of World Religions, April 12-15, 2018.

“History of Immigration to the U.S.,” Columbus Mennonite Church Adult Forum, March 11, 2018.

“The Barmen Declaration and Its Meaning Today,” Columbus Mennonite Church, Adult Forum, May 13, 2018.

Report on walking the Camino de Santiago, Columbus Mennonite Church, June 2018.

**Other activities**

Award from *Bearings Online*: “Best of Bearings Online 2017.”

Honored by Worthington Chamber of Commerce honoring public officials, November 2017.

Planning Committee, Interfaith March for Peace and Justice.

Marshall, Interfaith March for Peace and Justice, April 29, 2018.

University of Virginia Press, chosen as peer reviewer of manuscripts.

*Current Drug Abuse Reviews*, chosen as manuscript reviewer.

Victory Drummers, Ohio State University James Cancer Medical Center.

Named president, Worthington Libraries Board of Trustees.



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

**Publications**

“Por Uma Práxis Decológica [Towards a Decological Praxis],” *Religião, Gênero, Violências e Direitos Humanos*, ed. Wanderley Pereira da Rosa and Reginaldo P. Braga Junior, Editora Unida, 2018.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“A Pedagogy of Decoloniality,” paper presented at “Making Alliances, Breaking Taboos, and Transforming Religions,” Feminist Studies in Religion Visioning Conference, July 18, 2017.

“Connecting Theology, Ecology and Race: A Conversation on Environmental Justice,” lecture, MTSO, Sept. 28, 2017.

“Teaching Methodologies for Ecotheological Classes,” paper delivered in the pedagogy panel, Midwest Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education, MTSO, Oct. 18, 2017.

Organized and presided over “Rethinking Resistance and Resilience” panel, Women’s Caucus at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, Nov. 17, 2017.

Presented paper, “Towards a Decological Praxis,” First Consultation on Religion, Gender, Violence and Human Rights, Faculdade Unida de Vitória, Vitória, Brazil, May 16-18, 2018.

**Meetings**

“Making Alliances, Breaking Taboos, and Transforming Religions,” Feminist Studies in Religion Visioning Conference, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, July 18-21, 2017.

Midwest Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education, MTSO, Oct. 16-18, 2017.

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, Nov. 17-21, 2017.

Seminary Hill Colloquy, MTSO, April 18-19, 2018.

**Activities**

Women’s Caucus of the American Academy of Religion, Steering Committee, 2017-present.

International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture Board of Directors, 2016-19.

*Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*, assistant editor, 2016-present.



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

**Publications**

“When Congregations Share Their Properties – 5 Principles for Good Decisions,” *studyingcongregations.org*, April 25, 2018.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“A Social Exchange Theory Analysis of Religious Space-Sharing,” paper presented in the Anthropology and Sociology of Religion Section, American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Annual Meeting, Muncie, Indiana, March, 3, 2018.

“The Rhetoric of American Exceptionalism in Interfaith Initiatives in the United States,” paper presented in the Religion and American Culture Section, American Academy of Religion Midwest Region Annual Meeting, Muncie, Indiana, March 3, 2018.

“Space-Sharing Principles for Religious Organizations and Groups,” lecture, MTSO, March 7, 2018.

**Other activities**

Conducting field research for project on space-sharing by religious organizations and groups.



## Francesca Nuzzolese

Associate Professor  
of Pastoral Care and  
Counseling

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Dislocating Spirituality – or a Spirituality for the ‘Dislocated,’” lecture for the Spirituality and Worship Commission of the Baptist World Alliance, Bangkok, Thailand, July 6, 2017.

“Identity and Belonging for Third Culture Kids,” a five-day seminar for third-culture kids, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship-sponsored event, Green Lake, Wisconsin, July 15-22, 2017.

Keynote speaker at Leadership Training Seminar for International and Migrant Methodist Congregations in Europe.

“The Re-Humanizing Project: A Theological Response to the Phenomenon of Dehumanization,” presenting at consultation on Religion, Gender, Violence and Human Rights, Vitoria, Brazil, May 16-18, 2018.

### Meetings

“Oriented to Love,” on-site spiritual director for dialogue retreat on sexual/gender diversity in the church and across the theological spectrum, Philadelphia, Sept. 17-19, 2017.

### Church and popular lectures

“The Art and Science of Theological Reflection,” didactic teaching for chaplains in training at Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus, March 2018.

“Embodying Diversity,” Didactic Teaching for Chaplains in Training at Riverside Methodist Medical Center, Columbus, April 2018.



## Fulgence Nyengele

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

### Publications

“Pursing Happiness across Cultures: Positive Psychology, Ecclesiastes, African Ubuntu, and Korean Jeong in Creative Dialogues,” *Bridging the Divide Between the Bible and Pastoral*

*Theology*, co-authored with Paul Kim, ed. Denise Dombrowski Hopkins and Michael Koppel, Cambridge Scholars, 2018.

### Church and popular lectures

“An Inconvenient Compassion,” sermon at University Circle UMC, Cleveland, April 29, 2018.

“Joined as One in the Act of Giving,” sermon at Ebenezer UMC, Columbus, May 13, 2018.



## Joon-Sik Park

Professor in the E.  
Stanley Jones Chair of  
World Evangelism

### Publications

“Victory Through Surrender: E. Stanley Jones’s Understanding of Conversion,” *E. Stanley Jones and Sharing the Good News in a Pluralistic Society*, ed. Douglas Powe and Jack Jackson, Wesley’s Foundry Books, 2018.

### Meetings

Course of Study Directors Meeting, Nashville, Oct. 17-19, 2017.

Steering Committee of the Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships of the UMC, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, Nov. 1-3, 2017.

North American Lausanne Evangelism Scholars Group, Wheaton, Illinois, Dec. 18-19, 2017.

World Council of Churches Conference on World Mission and Evangelism, Arusha, Tanzania, March 8-13, 2018.

American Society of Missiology Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting, South Bend, Indiana, June 15-17, 2018.

### Church and popular lectures

“Holocaust and Christian Rescuers,” Trinity UMC, Columbus, July 20, 2017.

“Biblical Foundations for Multiculturalism,” All People Conference, Columbus, Oct. 23, 2017.

“Facing God,” sermon at Amen Korean Methodist Church, Seoul, Korea, Jan. 21, 2018.

### Other activities

Recipient of the 2018-19 Florence Bell Scholar Award for academic research (“The Worldwide

Nature of The United Methodist Church: A Historical and Missiological Reflection”) at the United Methodist Archives and History Center at Drew University.



## Ryan Schellenberg

Assistant Professor of  
New Testament

### Publications

“Release to the Captives,” *Sojourners* 46, No. 8, August 2017.

“Subsistence, Swapping, and Paul’s Rhetoric of Generosity,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 137, 2018.

“Did Paul Refuse an Offer of Support from the Corinthians?” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 40, 2018.

Review of *Philippians* by Gordon Zerbe, *Conrad Grebel Review* 36, 2018.

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Indifference, Embodiment, and Resistance, from Paul to Herman Wallace,” Prison States and Political Embodiment, Centre for Comparative Studies, University of Lisbon, Sept. 8, 2017.

Response to papers presented in “Approaching Pauline Biography” session, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, Nov. 19, 2017.

“Care for Prisoners in Early Christianity,” Premier Scholarship Day lecture, MTSO, Feb. 19, 2018.

### Church and popular lectures

“The Language of the Kingdom,” lecture in honor of Robert C. Tannehill, Alumni Day, MTSO, Oct. 9, 2017.

“Prison, Paul, and Black History,” NAACP Black History Month event, Marion Correctional Institution, Marion, Ohio, Feb. 11, 2018.

### Other activities

Instructor Training, Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, Fairmont, West Virginia, June 10-16, 2018.

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**Tim Van Meter**  
Associate Professor  
in the Alford Chair of  
Christian Education  
and Youth Ministry

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“Ecological Initiatives at MTSO as a Model for a Sustainable Campus,” Spirituality and Sustainability Conference, Rome and Assisi, Italy, July 2, 2017.

“Ecology and Theology in Dialogue,” presentation with Greg Hitzhusen, Ecological Society of America, Aug. 11, 2017.

“Walking Toward Ecological Curriculum,” workshop at Midwest Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education, MTSO, Oct. 17-18, 2017.

“Teaching Theology in Place,” pedagogy panel at Midwest Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education, MTSO, Oct. 18, 2017.

“Extending the Table: Hospitality as Church,” GBHEM Missio Dei conference, Boston, Nov. 19, 2017.

“Ecology and Theology in Dialogue,” Working Summit on Climate Change, Stratford Ecological Center, Delaware, Ohio, Jan. 19, 2018.

“Who’s at the Table? Intersections Between Ecology and Evangelism,” March 21, 2018.

“Ecology in Theological Curriculum,” keynote at Southern Symposium for Ecology in Theological Education, March 22, 2018.

**Meetings**

Sustainability and Spirituality Conference, Rome and Assisi, Italy, June 26-July 3, 2017.

Harmony in Food and Farming, Llandoverly, Wales, July 10-12, 2017.

Ecological Society of America, Aug. 7-11, 2017.

Planned and led Midwest Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education, MTSO, Oct. 17-18, 2017.

Transition Toward Ecological Civilization, Center for Process Studies, Claremont, California, Nov. 6-10, 2017.

National Food System Resilience and Equity consultation, part of Ohio region team, May 2018.

**Church and popular lectures**

“Theology in Place,” keynote, Hoosier Creation Care Summit, Oct. 7, 2017.

Sermon on Food Security, Gobin UMC, Greencastle, Indiana, Oct. 8, 2017.

Climate Change and Theology, Asbury UMC United Methodist Women, Delaware, Ohio, Oct. 26, 2017.

“Growing Theology,” Nabrit Community Garden Celebration, Dec. 9, 2017.

**Other activities**

Consulted on startup of Jubilee Farm, Larne, Northern Ireland, July 7, 2017.

Stinner Summit, Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences sustainable visioning meeting, Sept. 29, 2017.

Consulted with Franciscan sisters on farm transition at Michaela Farm, Oldenberg, Indiana, Oct. 8, 2017.

Consulted on Lima Urban Farm Project, Oct. 10, 2017.

American Academy of Religion, Nov. 17-22, 2017.

Ohio Interfaith Power & Light Board.

Be the Spark Organizing Training, Ohio Interfaith Power & Light, Dec. 1-2, 2017.

Executive Board, Green Seminary Initiative.

Seminary Hill Colloquy, March 18-19, 2018.

Treasurer, Hispanic Summer Program.



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

**Publications**

*The Hymn* 68:4, editor, Autumn 2017.

“Christmas Carols: Something New with the Old,” *AIM: Liturgy Resources*, Winter 2018.

“Singing Our Christmas: Carols New and Old,” *Worship, Music and Ministry: A Journal of the United Church of Christ Musicians Association* 16:1, Fall 2017.

Review of *The King of Love: 10 Traditional Hymns for Piano and Solo Instrument* by Kevin Keil, in *The Stanza*, February 2018.

Review of *Come, O Holy House, and Worship* by Benjamin Brody in *The Hymn* 69:2, Spring 2018.

Review of *British Methodist Hymnody* by Martin V. Clarke at [readingreligion.org](http://readingreligion.org), July 9, 2018.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

“For Such a Time as This,” keynote, annual meeting of Northwest Ohio Association, April 28, 2018.

“Worship for ‘Such a Time as This,’” workshop, annual meeting of Northwest Ohio Association, April 28, 2018.

**Meetings**

Chaired Editorial Advisory Board meeting, Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada, July 16, 2017.



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*Campus View*

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

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



Annual Conference, Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada, Waterloo, Ontario, July 16-20, 2017.

Executive Committee, Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada, July 15, 2017.

### Church and popular lectures

Participated in leadership in the ordination services of four MTSO alumni.

Preached at Zion UCC, Feb. 11, 2018.

“Shaped by Prayer,” five-week adult education series, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Worthington, Ohio, Feb. 18-March 18, 2018.

### Other activities

Book cover endorsement of *Santo, santo, santo/Holy, Holy, Holy: Cantos para el pueblo de Dios/Songs for the People of God*, GIA, 2018.

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



### Lisa Withrow

Professor in the  
Dewire Chair of  
Christian Leadership

### Academic lectures

### and presentation

Presentation on intercultural competency for training of new United Methodist district superintendents and directors of connectional ministry, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, Aug. 22-23, 2017.

“Conflict Styles and Polarity Management,” presentation at International Conference on Conflict Resolution Education, Case Western Reserve University, May 2018.

### Meetings

Completed Change Leadership certificate from SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University.

### Church and popular lectures

Critical Response Training, East Ohio Conference of the UMC, Aug. 19, 2017.

“Celtic Spirituality,” Faith UMC, North Canton, Ohio, July 8-9, 2017.

Ongoing preaching as lead pastor on interim transition team, University Circle UMC, Cleveland, spring 2018.

### Other activities

Consultation for theological school, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Sept. 7-9, 2017.

“Women Writing for a Change: #MeToo” roundtable, Nov. 28, 2017.

Coaching UCC national and regional leaders regarding futures of ministry.

Developing a women’s entrepreneurial network across two states for clergywomen and counselors.



### Yvonne Zimmerman

Associate Academic  
Dean and Associate  
Professor of Christian  
Ethics

### Publications

“Disrupting Religious Privilege: Code of Conduct for Religious Institutions, Faith Communities and Faith-based Organizations for Their Work with Survivors of Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery,” *Routledge Handbook of Human Trafficking*, ed. R. Piotrowicz, C. Rijken and B. H. Uhl, Routledge, 2018.

“Christian Ethics and Human Trafficking Activism: Progressive Christianity and Social

Critique,” with Letitia M. Campbell, in *Sex and Gender: Christian Ethical Reflections*, ed. Mary Jo Iozzio and Patricia Beattie Jung, Georgetown University Press, 2017.

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Religion Is as Religion Does: The Role of Religion in U.S. Antitrafficking Politics,” guest lecture in forced labor and human trafficking, Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, Oct. 25, 2017.

“Beyond the Politics of Rescue: Organizing, Empowerment and Harm Reduction in the Movement to End Human Trafficking,” lecture with Letitia Campbell, MTSO, May 1, 2018.

### Meetings

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, November 2017.

Association of Theological Schools Women in Leadership 20th Anniversary Celebration: “Having Our Say: Celebrating and Moving Forward,” Pittsburgh, Feb. 28-March 2, 2018.

### Church and popular lectures

Chloe’s Circle Wisdom Conversation Partner, WomanPreach! Inc., MTSO, Sept. 29-30, 2017.

### Other activities

Religion Compass editorial board.

## EMERITUS PASSAGE

### Ed Meyer, 1926-2018

Edward Cecil Meyer, emeritus professor of homiletics, died March 21. He served on the MTSO faculty from 1961 to 1986. Ilse Johanna Meyer, his wife of 63 years, died Feb. 13.

Ed Meyer earned a Ph.D. from Boston University after receiving degrees from Cornell College, Drew University Divinity School and Harvard Divinity School. He served Methodist churches in Iowa and Massachusetts before his appointment to MTSO, and he later served as pastor of churches in Boone and Calmar, Iowa.



The Meyers lived full lives devoted to each other, their family and the communities where they lived. They strove to make the world a better place

through their service to others, in their pursuit of truth and social justice. They were parents to Edith (David Helms), Judith (Bob Pavlowsky), Elizabeth and Philip, as well as nine grandchildren.

A memorial service for both Ed and Ilse Meyer was held Aug. 18 at Calmar Lutheran Church.

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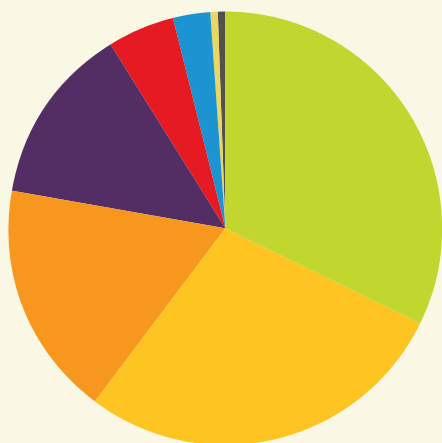
# Financial information

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, Methodist Theological School in Ohio had revenues of \$7,335,116 and expenditures of \$7,322,361. If you have questions about this information, please contact our business office at 740-363-1146.

## Operating budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18 (unaudited)

### Revenues

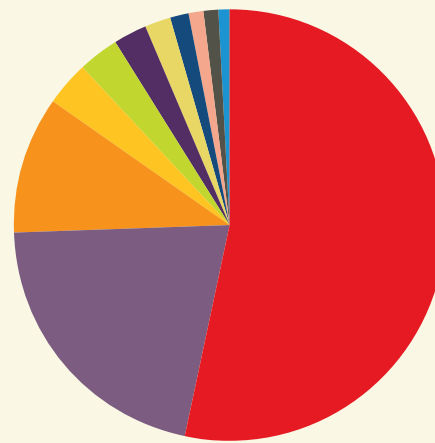
MTSO relied primarily on two sources of income: endowment earnings (32.2 percent of total revenue) and tuition and fees (28.2 percent). Combined gift revenue accounted for 8.2 percent of total revenues.



	Revenues	Percent of total
Endowment	\$2,365,000	32.2%
Tuition and fees	\$2,070,898	28.2%
Other programs and services	\$1,273,476	17.4%
Ministerial Education Fund	\$985,059	13.4%
Release of restricted gifts	\$361,747	4.9%
Methesco Fund gifts	\$197,167	2.7%
Student aid gifts	\$42,235	0.6%
Federal work study	\$39,534	0.5%
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$7,335,116</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Expenditures

Compensation of faculty and staff accounted for 53.6 percent of the MTSO operating budget, followed by student financial aid (21.1 percent) and other programs and services, which include such items as the Course of Study School of Ohio (10.1 percent).



	Expenditures	Percent of total
Compensation	\$3,926,174	53.6%
Financial aid	\$1,544,648	21.1%
Other programs and services	\$739,194	10.1%
Plant maintenance	\$244,200	3.3%
General administration	\$224,312	3.1%
Academic support	\$193,063	2.6%
Business administration	\$141,463	1.9%
Information systems	\$106,655	1.5%
Institutional advancement	\$79,822	1.1%
Enrollment	\$74,200	1.0%
Instruction	\$48,630	0.7%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$7,322,361</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.**

My gift to MTSO is:  \$1,000  \$500  
 \$250  \$100  \$50 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my gift designated for the following fund:

- No preference  
 Methesco's Greatest Needs  
 Seminary Scholarship  
 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check payable to MTSO.

Please charge my  Visa  MasterCard

Account no. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Please contact me to discuss:*  scheduling recurring gifts  a planned estate gift

To begin that conversation today, contact Director of Development  
Claudine Leary at 740-362-3323 or [cleary@mtso.edu](mailto:cleary@mtso.edu).



# Three ways to invest in our students

Each of these three methods of giving enables us to provide a meaningful theological education and enhance affordability.

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## Give now

You may make your tax-deductible online donation at [www.mtso.edu/giveonline](http://www.mtso.edu/giveonline), or if you wish to give by mail, you may return the form above with your check or credit card information.