

Volume LXIV
Fall 2025

MTSO is
the new home
of the Center
for Integrative
Pastoral Practice

Inside-Out is
a justice-centered
class within
prison walls

The liturgical
calendar
expands with
Kate Common's
Season of Origins

WomanPreach!
celebrates
15 years
of prophetic
voice

Our newest
students share
their stories
and aspirations

THE STORY

MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT



Methodist Theological School in Ohio

www.mtso.edu

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Greenhouse gala ✧ *A little rain – OK, a lot of rain – did nothing to dampen spirits at Sunset on the Farm. Friends of Seminary Hill Farm gathered Sept. 25 for fresh hors d’oeuvres, live music and umbrella-aided tours of the north fields.*



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Volume LXIV ✧ Fall 2025

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

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Valerie Bridgeman
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METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO

Founded in 1958, Methodist Theological School in Ohio is one of 13 seminaries formally affiliated with and funded in part by the United Methodist Church. Located in Central Ohio, MTSO offers five graduate degree programs: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Public Theology, Master of Arts in Social Justice, Master of Theological Studies and Doctor of Ministry. In addition, MTSO provides courses for General Board of Higher Education and Ministry certifications.

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

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

CIPP@MTSO: a major step forward

By Jay Rundell
President

It is a privilege to greet you on behalf of our seminary and to provide you with this look at the people and programs impacting our community. We live in unsettling times. Our mission – to provide theological education and leadership in pursuit of a just, sustainable and generative world – is as important as ever.

I am excited to share news of a significant development. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church (GBHEM) has, following a competitive process with peer institutions, chosen MTSO as the new academic home of the Center for Integrative Pastoral Practice (CIPP), its Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program.

The CIPP program, which GBHEM has operated since 2018, is a vital component in the preparation of future chaplains, spiritual-care providers and pastoral counselors, integrating theological knowledge with practical clinical training. CIPP uses students' existing ministry settings for the clinical assignments needed for CPE certification rather than requiring them to complete those assignments in different settings.

The program comes with current accreditation through the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE), significant funding from GBHEM and, importantly, their endorsement for CPE education across the United Methodist connection.

CIPP@MTSO, as it will be known, will serve students who are forging ministry pathways in both traditional and non-traditional contexts, from chaplaincy settings to churches to nonprofits. We are collaborating with the CPE network

of OhioHealth, a nationally recognized, not-for-profit healthcare outreach of the United Methodist Church. Two of OhioHealth's people will be on our leadership team.

Already we've brought 18 ACPE-certified educators on board to serve what we expect will be a wide-ranging student population. While building on the United Methodist foundation, CIPP@MTSO will be an ecumenical and interreligious program.

Though MTSO students will still have many CPE options, this will be a very good one for them and for students across theological education. We are already in extensive conversation with church leaders and educators across the country and internationally regarding the expansion of CPE access through CIPP@MTSO. We expect this to become a very significant aspect of our service to the church and the world.



New to the board ✧ Alston, Aschenbach and McCoy

Speaking of service, I want to take a moment to express appreciation for the Board of Trustees that guides our work. In particular, together with board Chair Jeff Taylor, I am pleased to announce the election of three new trustees.

Judy Alston is professor and chair of the Department of Educational Leadership at Miami University in Oxford, as well as associate pastor at Woodland Christian Church in Columbus. Dr. Alston earned a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Penn State, as well as three master's



degrees, including an M.Div. from MTSO. She is a member of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a recipient of MTSO's Mount Alumni Award.

Doug Aschenbach is a retired commercial real estate developer and former president of Campus Partners for Community Urban Redevelopment, spearheading the South Campus Gateway development with Ohio State University. He is a graduate of OSU. He also earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Doug is an alum of the Ohio State marching band and is the founder of the Script Ohio Club.

Myron McCoy recently retired as senior pastor of First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple. Previously, he was president of Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. Dr. McCoy holds an M.Div. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and a D.Min. from United Theological Seminary. His bachelor's degree is from Ohio Wesleyan University, where he serves as a trustee. He has held leadership positions in the Northern Illinois Conference, the North Central Jurisdiction and the general church.

I remain enormously grateful for the work of a devoted team and the support of our many wonderful stakeholders. Please be in touch with any thoughts or questions as we move forward in our important work. ✧

A wealth of talent and aspirations

An attorney, a Marine Corps veteran and a longtime lay leader are among the promising new students who have chosen to take the next steps in their vocational journeys at MTSO. Here are profiles of a few of them, including quotes from their admissions essays.

PARENTING, PASTORING AND STUDYING, THANKS TO HYFLEX

"I was already 50 when I gave my life to Jesus," **Todd Vosper** said. A Marine Corps veteran "valuing the pursuit of excellence," he set about learning all he could about his faith and planning a path to ministry. But life intervened.

"My wife was battling cancer," Vosper said. "I felt drawn to seminary but also knew, as my wife's health declined, that it would not be possible. After she passed away, I didn't want to get ahead of myself with twin 10-year-olds who needed my attention."

Now, six years later, "I am seeing where God wants me, and that the timing is also right." A lifelong learner who earned an MBA while an active-duty Marine, Vosper has enrolled in MTSO's Master of Divinity program while serving as executive pastor in a United Methodist church near his home in San Diego. MTSO's HyFlex option allows him to attend classes primarily online with occasional visits to campus.

With these options in place, he said, "I am confident I can find the time to be a good dad, pastor and student."



EXPLORING THE BALANCE BETWEEN JUSTICE AND MERCY

Applying to MTSO prompted **Ashley D. Flores** to review her successful law school application from a dozen years earlier.

"I was so excited and filled with fire to go out and somehow single-handedly prosecute each monster who worked in sex and human trafficking," she recalled.

During her second year of law school, she worked in the federal public defender's office in Dayton. "I found myself working directly on cases involving human trafficking – only I was on the defense team for the traffickers!" Her job was to make the case for lenient sentencing.

That work inspired Flores to reflect on the story of Jonah and his anger over God's command to assist the evil people of Nineveh. "The lord told Jonah that the people of Nineveh did not know their left hand from their right, and I learned throughout my interviews with clients that many were in the same situation."

Flores entered full-time United Methodist ministry in Indiana several years ago. Now, as she seeks a Master of Divinity degree, she'll explore the balance between seeking justice and loving mercy: "This is the essential skill that I wish to hone at MTSO."



LEADING A CHURCH AMIDST DIFFERENCE

Growing up, **Patrick Dailey** envisioned a career in business and marketing. He stuck to the script while earning a business degree and working for a startup company. And yet, he said, "I felt a tension between the marketplace and ministry."

From high school on, Dailey was deeply involved in his church, where those he worked with sensed a calling for him. "But this calling was something I wasn't yet ready to accept," he said. "It took a series of events for me to not only recognize God's call but to finally want to follow it."

Dailey now serves as pastor of Ontario Community Church, a historically Japanese-American congregation on the Oregon-

Idaho border that straddles "different cultures, political ideologies, denominations, demographics and faith traditions."

Attending MTSO remotely via HyFlex allows Dailey to pursue a Master of Divinity degree while continuing to pastor a diverse congregation: "I have no regrets about being a pastor who builds bridges between faith traditions, denominations, opposing political sides and demographics. I know that this is my calling, and I lean into it."



MOVING THE CHURCH BEYOND A CONSUMER MENTALITY

A pastor's kid, **Beata Ferris** opted not to pursue professional ministry herself, though she has brushed up against it throughout her adult life.

"I tried to live out my calling in various ways," she said, "being a public-school teacher and coach, and serving as an active lay person in a local church; stepping into local church and conference church leadership roles; becoming a certified lay minister in the United Methodist Church."

And yet, "None of these activities of serving seemed to fully address the call I felt."

Now Ferris will pursue a Master of Divinity degree and ordination as a United Methodist deacon, attending MTSO primarily remotely from her home in South Dakota, while drawing on her many life experiences and observations.

She believes the church could use a course correction when it comes to congregants' engagement.

"One significant challenge I see in the church today is a consumer mentality, where people passively receive rather than actively participate in their faith," she said. "I am passionate about helping people move beyond this mindset."



CONFRONTING BIASES AND DRAWING A NEW MAP

Three decades ago, when **Eleanor Brown** was a teenager, her mother attended an Episcopal seminary but chose not to seek ordination because she was a woman. "This personal stand for her beliefs seemed admirable to me then," Brown said, "but after decades spent similarly ceding my personal agency, I faced a reality that my 'choices' within an internalized patriarchy were merely outgrown adaptive preferences."

Recently, as a middle-school special-education teacher who has raised seven children, Brown reached a conclusion: "I needed to unlearn my assumptions, excavate my biases and live out new theologies. Find – or maybe draw – a new map."

She drove to an MTSO discernment event unsure of what she would find, thinking, "What if it's all about one way to read the synoptic gospels? What if everybody else has a developed five-step ministry plan? What if I just ... get itchy and run?"

Brown's fears were unfounded. Her interactions with students, faculty and staff left her inspired and ready to begin pursuing a Master of Theological Studies degree.



BRIDGING GAPS BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND THE CHURCH

Sophia A. Evans, who holds an MBA with an emphasis on leadership and organizational development, has most recently served as an adjunct professor and leadership trainer, designing and teaching courses that integrate biblical principles with leadership theory. This background has shaped her vision for putting an MTSO Master of Divinity degree to work.

"As a woman of color, spiritual leader and educator, I am burdened by the gaps in biblical literacy, leadership development and holistic discipleship, particularly among women and emerging leaders in underserved communities," she said. "My long-term goal is to help bridge the gap between the academy and the church by making

theological education accessible, relevant and transformational."

Evans envisions serving as a theological educator, leader and spiritual director. "This includes developing curricula, facilitating workshops and retreats, and writing devotionals and spiritual-formation resources that speak to real-life issues with theological depth and pastoral care."

"Seminary, for me, is not simply an academic pursuit but an act of obedience," she said. "It is a sacred space where calling, character and competence converge."



A five-year project helps congregations strengthen kids' worship

MTSO has received a five-year grant of \$1,250,000 from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help establish “Kids Incorporated: Incorporating the Next Generation into the Full Life of Congregational Worship.”

The program is funded through Lilly Endowment’s Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative.

The purpose of MTSO’s “Kids Incorporated” program is to empower partner congregations to better serve children and their families by enhancing children’s spiritual development and increasing understanding, accessibility and engagement opportunities for kids within worship settings. With a focus on children ages 4-12, MTSO will address developmental differences across various age groups and promote intergenerational worship experiences.

MTSO is creating three successive cohorts of ministry professionals and church leaders, representing six churches per cohort, who are committed to implementing change within the congregational worship setting.

The grant is directed by MTSO Associate Dean Lisa Allen-McLaurin, who also serves as professor of worship, music and spirituality. MTSO Grants Liaison Richard Hinkelman serves as the program’s church liaison.

“I’m pleased that we are receiving support from Lilly Endowment on this new initiative,” said MTSO President Jay Rundell. “We believe we can increase children’s engagement in meaningful expressions of worship and prayer within the congregational experience.” ✱

Museum exhibit features Seminary Hill Farm

Underground Railroad Freedom Center explores ‘Faith & (in)Justice’

After a tornado ripped through MTSO’s Seminary Hill Farm in 2024, one thing remaining in a damaged hoop house was a painted sign bearing the Soil Keeper’s Prayer. Named for a group of farm volunteers, the prayer begins, “We give thanks for the blessing of all life on Earth.”

When Stephanie Lampkin, the curator of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, spotted it on a tour of MTSO, she decided it was the perfect addition to the center’s new exhibit about religion and social justice. “The prayer is spot-on with the theme of how people are using faith in the realm of environmental justice,” she said.

The Cincinnati museum’s exhibit, “Faith & (in)Justice,” explores how America’s three largest religions – Christianity, Islam and Judaism – play a part in the country’s struggle around equity. Through artifacts, photos, films and music, the exhibit invites visitors to think about long-held stereotypes of religion and how faith and social justice work together – and sometimes against each other.

Visitors will see a sample of lead-contaminated water from Flint, Michigan, where churches helped provide clean water to residents; a Ku Klux Klan robe owned by a Quaker family in Ohio; and a recreated praise house where enslaved people in the South would gather to worship.

MTSO’s involvement began after Lampkin reached out about the school’s commitment to ecological justice. “She hadn’t realized that we were a seminary with a dedicated degree program in social justice, and this sparked her interest in visiting,” said Elisebeth Boyer, MTSO’s director of academic affairs and assessment.

The school’s contributions are found in the exhibit’s section on faith and environmental



“The prayer is spot-on” ✱ Seminary Hill Farm Liaison Laura Ann Bergman (left) and Director of Academic Affairs and Assessment Elisebeth Boyer with the Soil Keeper’s Prayer display

justice. (The other three sections explore faith and gender, faith and human dignity, and faith and economic justice.) Included in a display case with a replica of the Soil Keeper’s Prayer are seed pods from the farm. “Being able to dry and reuse seeds from season to season is in and of itself environmental justice,” Lampkin said.

The exhibit also features a large photo of an MTSO Earth Day chapel service in the Seminary Hill Farm greenhouse and a quote from MTSO student Shema Roberts about how the farm has enriched her theological education. “It was deeply moving to see MTSO’s presence so vividly and meaningfully represented,” Boyer said.

The exhibit, developed in partnership with Cincinnati Museum Center and partially supported by Lilly Endowment Inc., runs through Dec. 7 at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. It will then tour nationwide. ✱



The Children's Garden: A 'happy place' for kids

Newly created space lets children explore and connect with food

Children run through a leafy tunnel lined with tomato plants, hunt for ripe zucchini and skip through the sprinkler, squealing with joy. It's another Tuesday evening in the Children's Garden at MTSO's Seminary Hill Farm, as Community Supported Agriculture members arrive to pick up their boxes of produce.

The space is doing exactly what it was made for: providing a place where kids can explore, learn, and connect with food and the natural world.

The Children's Garden was established last year to replace a smaller plot the farm had for kids. Farm staff and volunteers enclosed a circular spot 90 feet in diameter by building a fence with downed branches from the tornado that touched down on the farm in March 2024.

Follow grassy paths through the Children's Garden and you'll see rows of beans, cucumbers and potatoes alongside patches of zinnias and sunflowers, a teepee made from tree limbs, and colorful

signposts painted by kids. You also might come across volunteers David Mansperger, Chris Walsh and Mark Marston – dubbed the Three Musketeers by the farm team – who take the lead in tending the garden.



"The gathering place for the farm" * Inside the Children's Garden

The crops are all planted and harvested with help from children of the CSA families, but the space is open to everyone, including campus families and visiting school groups. "It's really become the gathering place for the farm," said Farm Liaison Laura Ann Bergman.

"The children's garden is truly a happy place," said Mallory Sribanditmongkol, a CSA member and parent who also works for People in Need Inc. of Delaware County, one of the farm's partners.

"The children have developed a sense of ownership and autonomy in the garden and have seen the entire process from seed to fruit."

There was an additional perk any parent could appreciate: Spending time in the garden has encouraged Sribanditmongkol's daughter to try a bunch of new vegetables. *

MTSO Board of Trustees

MTSO is committed to engaging many stakeholders, led by its Board of Trustees, an elected panel legally responsible for and personally dedicated to the well-being of the school. The board is composed of 15 at-large members and four ex officio members. The ex officio members include the United Methodist bishop from the West Ohio Area, an MTSO faculty representative, an MTSO student body representative and the president of the school.

Judy Alston
Doug Aschenbach
Andy Call
Emanuel Cleaver III
Cyndy Garn
Alex Giffin
Grace Imathiu
Maggie Jackson
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung
Susan A. Kyser, Vice Chair
Myron McCoy
Colleen Ogle
James Roberson
Jay Rundell
Mark Rupp
Jeffrey A. Taylor, Chair
Timothy Van Meter
Ed Yuhas

For more information about MTSO's trustees, visit mtso.edu/governance.

In memoriam

We have learned of the deaths of the following alumni and friends of the school since the publication of last year's magazine. We mourn their passing and give thanks for the many ways they contributed to MTSO.

Perry L. Cain '81
James H. Cattran '66
Frederick P. Cooley '65
Dale C. Hoak '64
Priscilla Keenan
Deborah J. Ling '92
Donald D. Meighen '71
Mikal Outcalt '74
Donald M. Rose
John W. Ross '65
Dana E. Schwendeman '16
Elizabeth D. Stone '82

A justice-centered course meets within prison walls

Inside-Out class brings MTSO students and Marion Correctional Institution inmates together in one room

As an undergraduate at Canadian Mennonite University, Ryan Schellenberg was a chaplain intern at Headingly Correctional Centre in Winnipeg. “I was only 22 and probably not a very effective chaplain,” he said with a laugh. But the experience planted a seed in his mind that grew – and led him back into a prison to change students’ lives.

An interest in the experience of incarceration is a natural fit for Schellenberg, a scholar of the apostle Paul. While Paul might be best known to some as the author of the 1 Corinthians passage read during wedding ceremonies, he also spent a lot of time sitting in a prison cell.

In researching the letters Paul wrote from prison, Schellenberg, professor of New Testament at MTSO, drew connections between ancient writings about justice and the modern experience of incarceration. He also became passionate about restorative justice and alternatives to incarceration.

“Prison is very different now than it was in the Roman world,” he said. “But those who are incarcerated now still struggle to live and endure and hold onto their dignity.” The United States ranks at or near the top of multiple lists of worldwide incarceration rates.

When Schellenberg went looking for ways to bring his teaching to a prison setting, he learned about the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program at Temple University in Philadelphia. The program brings incarcerated and non-incarcerated students together in the same room to learn as equals, addressing issues around



“We might be talking about a Socrates text one moment and the parole board the next” * Marion Correctional Institution

crime, justice and mass incarceration. Since its founding, the Inside-Out program has formed 200 correctional and higher-education partnerships and impacted tens of thousands of students worldwide.

After completing mandatory Inside-Out training and enduring a two-year COVID-related delay, Schellenberg launched his course, “Justice in the New Testament World,” in the Spring Semester of 2022. He has taught the course at Marion Correctional Institution, a half-hour north of MTSO, every spring since.

Using Jewish, Greek, Roman and Christian texts from the Roman empire, the class explores different ideas of justice

(both human and divine) in the context of modern-day, lived experiences. “We might be talking about a Socrates text one moment and the parole board the next,” said Schellenberg. “They actually connect pretty seamlessly with each other.”

By design, the course leans heavily on discussion. Students often work in small groups, prioritizing building relationships and learning from each other.

“There’s an emotional intensity to teaching there,” said Schellenberg. “The reality is that at the end of class, some of us get to go home and some of us don’t. That pushes some of the simple answers out of the way.”

Also pushed away are preconceptions non-incarcerated students may have held when they first entered the classroom. “MTSO students encounter caring fathers and grandfathers, deeply kind and generous people, people of various ages and backgrounds and people who have advanced degrees. They quickly find out that they are at least equaled in academic capacity to their inside classmates,” he said. “They learn a lot from the wisdom of the men there.”

Likewise, the incarcerated students in Schellenberg’s class – which has included Christians, Muslims and outspoken atheists – seem relieved to encounter openness and respect from their MTSO peers, not the judgment and sense of superiority they’ve come to expect from others.

“Students from the outside are allowed to stand in solidarity with those who don’t generally receive kindnesses nor consideration,” said Kelly Collins, a student in MTSO’s Master of Divinity and Master

of Arts in Social Justice programs who served as Schellenberg’s teaching assistant. “Likewise, students from the inside are richly reminded that there are people who love and care about them out in the world.”



“There’s an emotional intensity to teaching there” ✱
Professor Ryan Schellenberg

While Schellenberg said it’s not uncommon for both groups of students to feel nervous at the beginning of the course, they’re laughing, joking and bonding with each other by the end of that first class: “It’s fun to watch their sense of hesitancy melt away.”

As co-learners, students in the class call each another by their first names, something rare for the incarcerated men, who are typically addressed by their inmate numbers or last names.

“One of my most memorable moments from class was when an inside classmate said, tears welling in his eyes, ‘You call me the name my mother gave me,’” Collins said.

“The opportunity to be received as fully human is not routine in the life of our inside co-learners. It is hard to articulate what it feels like to experience the recognition of one’s humanity in another beloved of God.”

Schellenberg recalled one of his most meaningful pieces of feedback from an inside student: “On Wednesdays, it feels like I’m not in prison.”

Because the class has been so popular, Schellenberg and other MTSO faculty are developing more Inside-Out courses around topics such as leadership, community organizing and crisis ministry. MTSO Assistant Professor of History Beth Stroud has a history course in development for spring 2026 at Marion.

Schellenberg’s class concludes each May on a bittersweet note. In the last two weeks, students come together for group presentations, collaborating on everything from dramatic skits and musical numbers to mock game shows – and to celebrate in a place where celebrations are decidedly hard to come by.

“By the end of the entire course, students have come to care about each other deeply,” he said. “The most difficult part of the class is saying goodbye when it is over.” ✱

Catch up on campus events you might have missed

MTSO hosts events of interest to those who learn and teach on our campus, as well as the broader community. Recorded video from those events is available for viewing at mtso.edu/archive and on our YouTube channel, youtube.com/mtsovideo. Keep tabs on upcoming events at mtso.edu/events.



In February, **Leah Schade**, associate professor of preaching and worship at Lexington Theological Seminary, led the Schooler Institute on Preaching under the theme “Ministry in

a House Divided: Navigating Faith, the Church, and the Public Square.”



In March, **Ralph Basui Williams**, the Peachtree Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth at Columbia Theological Seminary, delivered two Williams Institute lectures on the power

of images to help us envision the future of the church.



In September, **Gregory Cuéllar**, professor in the Ruth A. Campbell Chair of Biblical Studies at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, delivered Williams Institute lectures on the first two chapters of Lamentations.

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 mtso.edu/update.

1974

Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, who is serving as chaplain in the Unitarian Universalist Church in Muncie, Indiana, now has dual ordination as an interfaith minister and a Unitarian Universalist minister. juliahemeyer@comcast.net

1975

Patricia Lawrence is now fully retired and living in the Philadelphia area with her daughter, Rachael Lawrence, who is a current M.Div. student at MTSO. "She is pictured in my arms when I graduated 50 years ago. Lots of wonderful memories!" revslaw@gmail.com

1978

Dave Meister is serving Wolf Lake Methodist Church in Michigan. revdmeister@gmail.com

1980

Sylvia Howe and her husband, Paul, are living in the Westwood retirement community in Columbus. sylhowe42@gmail.com

1985

Peter Johnston retired from active ministry at the 2025 West Ohio Annual conference after 42 years of active service. He has been pastor of Faith UMC in Luckey for 27 years and is currently serving as chaplain at Otterbein Senior Life in Pemberville. pjohnston550@gmail.com

Richard Thewlis was appointed in 2024 to serve Lakeside UMC in Lakeside, Ohio. "I would love to hear from any friends from a long time ago." revrich@lakesideohumc.com

1987

Bruce Kent, who retired in 2014, is serving LaPointe UMC near Oak Harbor, Ohio. brucekent0859@gmail.com

1990

Alan Morrison retired in July as pastor of Unionville Church in Rochester, Pennsylvania. morrisonalanj@gmail.com

1996

G. Fred Finzer retired to Marietta, Georgia, 13 years ago. He and his wife, Lois, are active in a 32-member church and live in a home surrounded by the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. "I volunteer at the park by walking the trails almost daily, and my chief function is 'to be nice to everyone.'" pastorfred5123a@yahoo.com

1997

After serving for 20 years at Grace UMC in Somerset, Pennsylvania, **Eric Raygor** began serving at the South Holderness Circuit in East Yorkshire, United Kingdom, on Sept. 1. "Thanks to the encouragement of Bill McCartney, we spent the 1995-96 academic year serving in the U.K., and we've always wanted to return. We've loved serving in small-town Pennsylvania, and we look forward to the challenges of a more urban setting, with churches on the east side of the city of Hull. We'll be living a few miles away in the small town of Hedon. We'd love to catch up with any alums who happen to be traveling that way." eraygor@gmail.com

1999

Michael Ludle and his wife, **Stephanie** ('99), have moved to Kingwood, West Virginia, where he began an appointment at Wesley UMC in July. pastormludle@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

Alumni Day moves to March 2, 2026

Mark your calendar for MTSO's Alumni Day, March 2, 2026. It has been shifted to spring due to renovations in Dunn Dining Hall.

Damage from the tornado that struck campus in March 2024 revealed asbestos above the ceiling that hadn't been found during previous remediation efforts. While remediation was completed quickly, replacing the dining hall's uniquely contoured ceiling is taking time.

Alumni Day will take place the day before the Schooler Institute on Preaching, scheduled for March 3 and 4 and led by HyeRan Kim-Cragg, principal



Awaiting its makeover ✨ *Dunn Dining Hall*

and professor of preaching at Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto.

Watch Facebook, Instagram and upcoming issues of *Campus View* for more details.

Bruce Smith was elected director emeritus by the Bexley Seabury Seminary Board of Directors in May, after serving on the board for nine years. He is a retired Episcopal priest, serving the Diocese of Southern Ohio as a supply priest and as a chaplain to retired clergy. revabs0630@gmail.com

2001

Kofee Mostella serves as senior pastor of the Remnant Church of Northern Ohio and is the owner and CEO of a growing counseling agency, FocusCare LLC. "It was during my time at MTSO that I developed a true relationship with God. Thank you for a great education and spiritual journey." kofee.lilly@gmail.com

2002

Charles Neff has joined the faculty of Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, as professor of religious studies, university chaplain, and director of religious and spiritual life.

2005

Rebecca Stephens began a new appointment at Mayfield UMC in Chesterland, Ohio, in July. prchrbeck@gmail.com

2012

Jennifer Huff is mission engagement liaison for the North Central Jurisdiction with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. jennifer.huff@inumc.org

2016

Pamela Denzer is serving as a hospice chaplain with Gentiva Hospice in Marana, Arizona. purehollownote@yahoo.com

2017

Matthew Chapman has been hired as the CEO of Love Thy Neighbor, a nonprofit in Traverse City, Michigan, whose mission is "Empowering change with love and dignity

by helping our neighbors overcome today's challenges and build a better tomorrow." He also serves as pastor of Williamsburg UMC and the supervision elder at South Boardman UMC.

pastor.matthew.chapman@gmail.com

2020

Malcolm Himschoot has authored *Reading Secrets: A Queer Inheritance of Life and Scripture*, a work of lyrical non-fiction, uncovering the cultural and family dynamics behind religious harm and healing for a trans man and his father. revhimschoot@gmail.com

2021

Rob Musick was ordained as an Episcopal priest in December 2024. He serves as chaplain and assistant dean of health and wellness at the University of Pikeville. robertmusick@upike.edu

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.

Anglican Church in North America

Received as full-standing priest:

- **John Kincaid**, serving as rector of Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church, Kennewick, Washington

Christian Mission Ministry International

Consecrated to the office of bishop:

- **Jawwad Love**, serving as bishop and presiding officer for the U.S. Jurisdiction

United Methodist Church Desert Southwest Conference

Elder commissioning:

- **Deontez Quamone Wimbley**, serving Cross Roads UMC, Phoenix

East Ohio Conference

Deacon commissioning:

- **Nichole Fewell**, serving as director of communications and digital ministries at Strongsville UMC

Deacon ordination:

- **Tammy Palermo**, serving as pastor of children and family ministries at Mentor UMC

Elder ordination:

- **James Lance**, serving Wooster Church of the Cross and Smithville UMCs.

Michigan Conference

Elder commissioning:

- **Kim Metzger**, serving as pastor of Burton Open Door UMC and Burton Christ UMC

Elder ordination:

- **Sunhwa Hopgood**, serving as lead pastor of Richmond First UMC and Washington UMC

Northern Illinois Conference

Elder commissioning:

- **Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton**, serving as senior pastor of Community UMC, Naperville

West Ohio Conference

Deacon commissioning:

- **Kyra Leckrone**

Deacon ordination:

- **Seonyoung Chang**

- **Lucy Kelly**, serving as associate pastor at Church of the Master United Methodist in Westerville and as director of faith and spiritual life at Otterbein University
- **Michele Luebbers**, serving as associate pastor at Short North Church, OhioHealth chaplain, and chair of the West Ohio Disability Ministries Committee
- **Ashley Wynn**, serving as outreach pastor at Sylvania First UMC

Elder commissioning:

- **Tracy Chambers**
- **Sujin Kim**
- **Justin McCall**

Elder ordination:

- **Jennifer L. Miller**, serving as pastor of Christ Church (a United Methodist Community), Findlay
- **Carrie Schwab**
- **Shin Sung**

Western Pennsylvania Conference

Elder commissioning:

- **Jennifer Gordon**, serving as senior pastor of Bethel UMC, Lower Burrell

ADVENT, LENT ... AND NOW, THE SEASON OF ORIGINS

Kate Common introduces a new liturgical season

In Kate Common's first semester of seminary, they had what they call a record-scratch moment. During class, their professor mentioned archaeological evidence that countered biblical stories about the origins of Hebrew people in ancient Canaan (present-day Israel and Palestine). Rather than coming in as a violent force, as depicted in the book of Joshua, evidence shows that they formed farming settlements on the edges of the Egyptian empire – settlements that didn't even have weapons or fortification against warfare.

"I was having this internal, mind-blowing moment, and the professor just kept on moving along," said Common, assistant professor of public and practical theology at MTSO. "I'm looking around, thinking, 'This is huge. Why is no one else freaking out about this?'"

After all, that ancient conquest narrative in Joshua has been used for hundreds of years to justify seizing land from indigenous people through violence and war, as well as promoting ideas such as Manifest Destiny and Christian nationalism, in which people declare themselves God's chosen people.

"It's a convenient narrative to leverage," Common said. As a queer feminist theologian, they said, they're all too familiar with what it's like to have biblical passages used against them.

Common dove into studying this new evidence and writing about it for their 2024 book, *Undoing Conquest: Ancient Israel, the Bible, and the Future of Christianity*. But the topic felt even bigger than a book. As a former graphic designer and art director for marketing campaigns, they knew that to get people to put these ideas into practice, they had to bring the story to life. When

Common's advisor asked if they'd ever considered developing a liturgical season, "I was like, boom, that's it."

So in the last chapter of *Undoing Conquest*, they propose "The Season of Origins," a four-week liturgical season in October, beginning the Sunday before Indigenous People's Day. It's designed as a yearly, justice-centered season to acknowledge and repair the legacies of colonialism, genocide, patriarchy and white supremacy.

Everything about Origins is intentional. The name "Origins" both refers to the origins of the Hebrew and Israelite people and invites congregants to think about their own origins in the places they live. The season's main color, burnt orange, represents flames and autumn. And a spiral symbol signifies the fact that healing work isn't linear. As with Advent, each week of Origins has a theme: Invite, Name, Repair and Imagine.

This year, Common received a Louisville Institute Grant for Researchers to bring together eight church leaders from across the country to begin designing and implementing Origins across their churches.

In October, these eight churches piloted Origins. (In 2024, MTSO student Ben Hueleskamp launched the very first Season of Origins at Blue Ocean Faith Columbus.) The churches include a historic Black church, a predominantly Native American church, a mostly white suburban church and the Riverside Church in New York City.

"I hope Origins creates a fresh sense of unity and clarity around who we are and what God is calling us to do in this season," said Rev. Elijah Gipson-Davis, minister of administration at the Myrtle Baptist Church



Countering the traditional conquest narrative * Common

of West Newton, Massachusetts, one of the pilot churches.

After the first season, Common will meet with church leaders to figure out best practices and plan for next year. The next phase of the project includes developing a website rich with Origins resources for churches to use, recording a podcast, and possibly forming a nonprofit and board. In addition, MTSO student and filmmaker David Pate is producing an *Undoing Conquest* documentary.

It's not lost on Common that Origins comes at a time when some are actively trying to dismiss or even erase past harms.

"The option of just ignoring the past, in my mind, is basically keeping the past alive," they said. "It's our call as Christians to seek to repair and reconcile it. We can't be in right relationship with each other if we're ignoring centuries of past harm. So it doesn't matter if we're directly responsible. Once we enter into these communities, we become responsible." *

Beyond the classroom

Faculty activities 2024-25



Lisa Allen-McLaurin
Associate Dean
Professor of Worship,
Music and Spirituality

Publications

Quarterly columns for the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church Sixth Episcopal District's "Epistle" newsletter, July, October and December 2024, and February and June 2025.

Academic lectures and presentations

Preacher, MTSO chapel service, September 2024.

Guest panelist, Lancaster Theological Seminary's annual Rt. Rev. Dr. Nathan D. Baxter Fund for African American Studies, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, February 2025.

Performed original piano arrangement, "Impromptu on God's Faithfulness," as guest artist for Sacred Symphonies: The Word in Song in Concert, the opening concert for the 2025 Bandy Preaching Conference at Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, March 2025.

Preacher, MTSO chapel service, April 2025.

Guest panelist on the Theological Education workshop panel, 2025 Holy Convocation for The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, Atlanta, June 2025.

Professional and guild activities

Represented MTSO and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church at the Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies in London, England, serving on the Worship and Spirituality Sub-Committee and leading Wednesday morning worship, London, England, August 2024.

Attended the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2024.

Attended the Association of Theological Schools 2024 School for New Deans, Pittsburgh, December 2024.

Attended the Phillips School of Theology Pastors' Conference, serving as musician for the

Women in Ministry Service, Atlanta, January 2025.

Attended the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Little Rock, February 2025.

Attended the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Black Religion, Montgomery, Alabama, April 2025.

Attended the Association of Theological Schools 2025 Chief Academic Officers Conference, Newport Beach, California, April 2025.

Co-chaired the Wendell P. Whalum recital series and also served as plenary speaker at the 2025 Hampton Ministers Conference/Choir Directors and Organists Guild Workshop, Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia, June 2025.

Church and popular speaking

Artist/musician-in-residence, West Georgia and Georgia North region annual conferences of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Sixth Episcopal District, July 2024.

Preacher, Missionary March service of the West Georgia Region Annual Conference at Holsey Monumental Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbus, Georgia, July 2024.

Served on the Music Team for the Christian Methodist Episcopal Unity Summit, Dallas, September 2024.

"For Christ's Sake: Addressing the Conflict between Pastors and Musicians," Christian Training Institute virtual presentation, for the Christian Methodist Episcopal Sixth Episcopal District, October 2024.

Planned, led and preached at the Advent worship service at the Christian Methodist Episcopal Sixth Episcopal District's Winter Gathering, Macon, Georgia, December 2024.

Guest presenter and panelist at the First Episcopal District's Spring Gathering (presentation title: "Woke Worship: A Presentation in Two Parts"), Chattanooga, Tennessee, March 2025.

Preacher, Hamlett Chapel CME Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, March 2025.

Musician and choral accompanist, Pan-Methodist Gathering, Central UMC, Atlanta, March 2025.

Preacher, Central UMC, Atlanta, March 2025.

"Development Comes Before Destiny," presentation as featured speaker, Women of Vision Leadership Summit, March 2025.

Workshop presenter (presentation title: "Over My Head: The Power of Ancestral Music to Future the Black Church") and soloist, 2025 Freedom Assemblies Worldwide Holy Convocation, Seattle, May 2025.

Preacher, 109th Church Anniversary of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Alcoa, Tennessee, June 2025.

Other activities

Inducted into the Society for the Study of Black Religion, April 2025.



Jee Hyun Baek
Visiting Assistant
Professor of Theology
Louisville Institute
Postdoctoral Scholar

Academic lectures and presentations

Faculty panelist, book discussion of *Undoing Conquest: Ancient Israel, the Bible, and the Future of Christianity* by MTSO Assistant Professor Kate Common, MTSO, Oct. 24, 2024.

President, "Asian American Religious Formations and the Disciplinary Regimes of U.S. Secularism," co-sponsored by the Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit and the Secularism and Secularity Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2024.

Professional and guild activities

Steering Committee member, Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit, American Academy of Religion.

Church and popular speaking

"The Eye of the Night," sermon, Korean Ecumenical Clergy Gathering, hosted by the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, Dec. 17, 2024.

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Valerie Bridgeman

Dean

Vice President for
Academic Affairs

Associate Professor
of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible

Publications

"From Whose Womb? An Ecotheological Exploration of the Speech from the Whirlwind in Job 38-41," Working Group Papers at 2024 Institute, Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies.

"Facing the Truth: A Reflection for Juneteenth 2025," June 19, 2025, churchanew.org.

Academic lectures and presentations

Panelist, "Up Against Crooked Gospels & Public Spectacles: Leading from the Margins," Womanists at the Inkwel, the Black Religious Scholars Group's Second Annual Consultation Gathering, Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, July 21-24, 2024.

"From Whose Womb? An Ecotheological Exploration of the Speech from the Whirlwind in Job 38-41," presented at The Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies in association with the World Methodist Council, Aug. 4-11, 2024.

Panelist, "Womanism for Such a Time as This," Womanist Conclave, Virginia Theological Seminary, during the installation of Judy Fentress-Williams into the Dodge Professor of Biblical Studies Chair, Oct. 16, 2024.

Panelist, "Nurturing Creativity in Teaching, Research, and Service," Women in the Profession Breakfast, Society for Biblical Literature National Meeting, San Diego, Nov. 24, 2024.

Panelist, "Why Theological Education Need Black Church Studies," Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan University, Rochester, New York, April 7, 2025.

Panelist, "Sustaining Our Souls: The Power of Sisterhood with the Womanist Conclave," SOS: A Safety Planning Gathering for Black Women Leaders Under Attack, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, April 29-May 2, 2025.

Professional and guild activities

Co-convenor of the OT/Hebrew Bible Workgroup, Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies

in association with the World Methodist Council, Aug. 4-11, 2024.

Attended the African American Caucus Meeting of the Academy of Homiletics, Dec. 3, 2024.

Attended the Association of Theological Schools' Women in Leadership Cohort Gathering in Toronto, March 16-19, 2025.

Delivered the invocation for the installation of President Maisha I. Handy, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, March 28, 2025.

Attended the Society for the Study of Black Religion as an inducted member, Montgomery, Alabama, April 5, 2025.

"Developing the Capacity for Generosity," centering moment, Symposium on Philanthropy and the Black Church, Indianapolis, April 11, 2025.

Book Award Jury member, American Academy of Religion, 2023-2026.

Church and popular speaking

Workshop leader, "Interpreting the Times & Speaking with Boldness," with Forrest Harris, at the Hall-Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry, Clinton, Tennessee, July 14-18, 2024.

Panelist, "A National Call for Peacemakers: Battlegrounds Beyond the Ballot Box," National Coalition of Faith in Public Life, online, Sept. 17, 2024.

Moderator of panel discussion on the film, *gOD-Talk, Reimagining Faith in the 21st Century*, presented by the National Museum of African American History & Culture in Association with the Pew Research Center; sponsored by MTSO in collaboration with Mt. Olivet Baptist Church and Payne Theological Seminary, MTSO, Oct. 8, 2024.

Panelist, "Revolutionary Leadership Forwarding Spirituality and Human Rights," for Faith, Advocacy, and Religion Symposium, powered by SisterReach, Memphis, Oct. 10-12, 2024.

Preacher, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Columbus, Feb. 2, 2025.

Panelist, respondent and preacher, "Making it Plain: Lessons from the Black Church for Preaching to All God's People," Sankofa Institute for African American Pastoral Leadership at Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, Feb. 7-8, 2025.

"Vision Quest," sermon on Luke 4:1-13, Friendship West Baptist Church, Dallas, March 9, 2025.

"A Passion for God," sermon on Psalm 63:1-8, Family Church, Columbus, March 23, 2025.

"At the Cross," sermon for Good Friday service,

New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Cincinnati, April 18, 2025.

"Who Are These?" Sermon on Revelation 7:7-19, West Hunter Baptist Church, Atlanta, May 11, 2025.

"Making Room at the Table," sermon on Proverbs 9:1-6, Festival of Homiletics, Atlanta, May 15, 2025.

"Leadershift: Theology for Our Times," lecture, Prophesy Deliverance: Theology, Technology & Justice, Black Prophetic Futures Holy Convocation, May 22-25, 2025.

"An Unexpected Answer to Prayer," sermon on Acts 16:9-15, Hilliard UMC, May 25, 2025.

"Remember Whose We Are," keynote, West Ohio Conference Social Justice Coalition Gathering, May 29, 2025.

Other activities

By invitation of the institute, wrote and presented words of thanks for MTSO Professor Sarah Lancaster's service to the Oxford Institute for Methodist Theological Studies, Aug. 13, 2024.

Participated in International Womanist Consultation, Cambridge, England, Aug. 13-14, 2024.

Provided invocation for Delaware City Council Meeting, March 10, 2025.

Provided endorsement for the new reader, *Reading Scripture in Wesleyan Ways* (forthcoming), March 20, 2025.

Participated with faculty members in panel for potential students, "The Relevance of Theological Education in 2025 and MTSO's Role In it," MTSO, March 26, 2025.



Kate Common

Assistant Professor
of Public and Practical
Theology

Publications

"Collective grief," column in the *Times Argus*, Barre, Vermont, Feb. 19, 2025. And "Normal" Is Dead; Collective Grieving Begins" (same text as the *Times Argus* column) in *PacificSun*, Marin County, California, Feb. 25, 2015.

Academic lectures and presentations

Race and Education panelist, Race and the Freedom to Learn Conference, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey, Nov. 9, 2024.

Spoke to Smith College Women's Ordination Freshman Seminar on the film *Forging Voice*, Northampton, Massachusetts, Nov. 18, 2024.

"Desiring Utopia: Church as Queer Performance," presented at Society of Biblical Literature Latino/a/e and Latin American Biblical Interpretation Section/Reading, Theory, and the Bible Section/Utopian Studies Section/Islands, Islanders, and Scriptures Section, AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, November 2024.

"Undoing Conquest: Ancient Israel, the Bible, and the Future of Christianity," presented at the AAR/SBL Women's Caucus New Books on Gender and Religion Panel, AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, November 2024.

"Forging My I: Film, Theopoetics, and Feminist Pedagogy," presented at the Women and

Religious Leadership Symposium, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, March 6-8, 2025.

Undoing Conquest discussion, "Religion Matters" Zoom webinar, Religious Research Association, March 28, 2025.

"Bible 'Detox': Disarming the Conquest Narratives with Kate Common," presentation at the Center & Library for the Bible and Social Justice, April 1, 2025.

"Design Thinking for Racial Resilience," facilitator, MTSO Racial Resilience cohort meeting, Los Angeles, May 19-21, 2025.

Season of Origins Design Retreat, bringing together church leaders from seven congregations around the U.S. to design the inaugural Season of Origins, St. John's Episcopal Church, Northampton, Massachusetts, June 20-22, 2025.

Professional and guild activities

Communications editor, Association of Practical Theology.

Member, Society of Biblical Literature Bible and Practical Theology steering committee.

Church and popular speaking

Theologian-in-residence, 10 hours a month, St. John's Episcopal Church in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Interview about *Undoing Conquest* on the *Rethinking Faith with Josh Patterson* podcast, July 3, 2024.

Book interview focusing on *Undoing Conquest: Ancient Israel, the Bible, and the Future of*

Continues

WomanPreach! marks 15 years

Fifteen years ago, MTSO Dean Valerie Bridgeman helped lead a weeklong session at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., to assist women in finding their preaching voices and dealing with a world of sexism and other marginalizing forces. "I thought we would have a one-off event and be done," said Bridgeman.

Encouraged by attendees to grow it into something larger, Bridgeman founded WomanPreach! Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to preparing and supporting preachers, pastors, activists, and community and faith leaders. In October, the group marked its 15-year anniversary with a weekend of fellowship and celebration.

"Proclaim & Persist: Honoring 15 Years of Prophetic Voice" was held Oct. 16-19 in Alexandria, Virginia. The weekend included an alumni gathering, an award luncheon, a poetry reading, a panel discussion and worship services.

"Seeing so many faces, seasoned preachers and new voices alike, gather to celebrate what we've built together affirmed why this work matters," said WomanPreach! Director of Programs Tierney C. Ridley. "WomanPreach! continues to grow, but our commitment to amplifying prophetic voices remains as strong as ever."

WomanPreach!, which partners with MTSO to support prophetic preaching through the Lilly Endowment's Compelling Preaching Initiative, also honored three women during the



An October celebration in Alexandria ✱ WomanPreach! staff with guest keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart, second from left (photo by Rev. Dr. Ty'Reanna Harris)

luncheon: Rev. Dr. Marsha Brown Woodard received the Waymaker Award, which honors a person who helps and supports others in ministry; Rev. Dr. Melva Sampson received the Ella P. Mitchell Pioneer in Ministry Award, which honors people doing innovative ministry; and Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart received the Prathia Hall Social Justice Award, honoring people doing preaching ministry in the public square.

Bridgeman said that over the years, she's been flagged down at conferences, in airports and in the hallways of seminaries she visits by people who want to share how WomanPreach! changed their lives and their preaching for the better. Seeing the transformation of people who come through the group's programs is one of the things she's most proud of.

"People change and grow before our very eyes," she said. "That makes me happy."

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Christianity, in Grace Ji-Sun Kim's *Loving Life* Substack, Aug. 6, 2024.

Leader, staff retreat on biblical interpretation, Hilliard UMC, Aug. 26, 2024.

Bible study discussion about *Undoing Conquest*, First Christian Church, Chico, California, Oct. 12, 2024.

"One in Christ," sermon, at Hilliard UMC, Oct. 27, 2024.

"Rebuilding Foundations," sermon, Blue Ocean Columbus, Oct. 27, 2024.

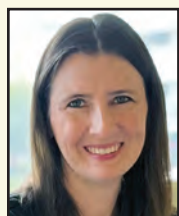
Discussion of *Undoing Conquest* at book club led by MTSO Emeritus Professor of New Testament Robert Tannehill, Jan. 24, 2025.

Q&A around *Undoing Conquest*, Columbus Mennonite Church adult Sunday school class, March 14, 2025.

Other activities

Awarded GBHEM grant for research project "Exvangelicals and the Future of Theological Education."

Awarded the Louisville Institute Grant for Researchers for project titled "Season of Origins: Centering Decolonial Justice in the Liturgical Year."



Taylor Denyer

**Fully Affiliated
Faculty, United
Methodist Studies**

Academic lectures and presentations

"The Salvation of The United Methodist Church," Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, August 2024.

Professional and guild activities

Planning committee member for the next Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies.

Vice president, Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies-Africa Region.

Attended the 2025 meetings of the Association of Methodist Professors of Mission and the American Society of Missiology.

Church and popular activities

Conducted leadership training for the UMC's Tanzania Conference.

Other activities

Serve as the anglophone executive assistant to Bishop Mande Muyombo, president of the UMC's Africa College of Bishops.



Eugene Gibson

**Assistant Professor
of Homiletics and
Church Leadership**

Publications

"True Disciple': Minister Louis Farrakhan's Eulogy of Clay Evans and the Emergence of the Son of Abraham Rhetoric," *Sermon Studies* volume 8, no. 1, 2025.

Academic lectures and presentations

Intensive teaching, Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, July 8-11, 2024.

Preacher, MTSO chapel, Sept. 17, 2024.

Conference facilitator, Mixed Methods, Indianapolis, Oct. 21-24, 2024.

Pedagogy intensive teaching, Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Jan. 13-16, 2025.

Writing colloquy facilitator, Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, March 10-14, 2025.

Professional and guild activities

Presenter, National Communication Association Forum: "Religion & Politics: A Reflection on the 2024 Presidential Election," New Orleans, Nov. 23, 2024.

Church and popular speaking

Preached 35 of 52 weeks at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Columbus.

Preacher, St. Paul Baptist Church, Charlotte, July 14, 2024.

Preacher, Bates Memorial Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky, July 20 and 21, 2024.

Preacher, Bible Tabernacle Christian Center, York, Pennsylvania, Sept. 15, 2024.

Preacher, New Calvary Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia, Oct. 13, 2024.

Preacher, First Baptist Church, Chillicothe, Nov. 20, 2024.

Preacher, West Hunter Street Baptist Church, Atlanta, Nov. 24, 2024.

Preacher, MTSO chapel, Feb. 4, 2025.

Facilitator, Marriage Workshop, Covenant United

Church of Christ, South Holland, Illinois, Feb. 15, 2025.

Preacher, Covenant United Church of Christ, South Holland, Illinois, Feb. 16, 2025.

Preacher, Lott Carey Closing Session, Trinity Baptist Church, Columbus, March 20, 2025.

Preacher, Seven Last Words, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, April 18, 2025.

Preacher, Bates Memorial Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky, June 7 and 8, 2025.



Jeffrey Jaynes

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

Publications

"Reforms in Context: Assessing Protestant Church Ordinances," in a Special Edition on Protestant Church Orders in the Reformation Era, edited by Simon Burton, of *Renaissance and Reformation Review*, volume 25, June 2025. On-line edition: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14622459.2025.2505936>.

Academic lectures and presentations

"Imagining the Indigenous: North American Mission for Moravians and Methodists," Working Group for Ecumenical and Inter-religious Relationships, Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, August 2024.

"Pastoral Care (Seelsorge) and the Incarcerated: Insights from Lutheran Church Ordinances"; North American Luther Research Forum, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, April 2025.

Professional and guild activities

Chair, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Presbytery of Scioto Valley, Ohio, 2024.



Paul Kim

**Professor of Hebrew
Bible**

Publications

"The World Is My Parish, or My Parish Is the World?: Isaiah's Call for Ecclesial Repenting, Reckoning, and Restoring," Proceedings from the Fifteenth Oxford Institute of Methodist Studies, 2024.

"Sheol or Saul: Finding Saul in the Intertextual Oceans of the Books of Samuel, Kings, and Isaiah," in *Explorations in the Interpretation of Samuel: Intertextuality and Reception*, edited by Rachelle Lynda Gilmour and Benjamin J.M. Johnson, Berlin: de Gruyter, 2024.

"Isaiah in Intertextual Perspective," in *Cambridge Companion to Isaiah*, edited by Christopher B. Hays, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024.

Editor, with Amy L. Balogh, Jina Kang and Tammi J. Schneider, *A New Era of Comparison in Biblical Studies: Case Studies in Applied Methodology*, Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2025.

Academic lectures and presentations

"Isaiah and Jonah Meet Again: Intertextual and Theological Exchanges via Theophany," Catholic Biblical Association International Meeting, August 2024.

Guest lecturer, "Isaiah and Intertextuality," Isaiah class at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C., Oct. 2, 2024.

"Can AI Learn 'Shame'? What Religion, Arts, and Humanities Need to Teach for the Future," 100th Anniversary of the Founding of the German Academic Exchange Service, New York, April 3-4, 2025.

Professional and guild activities

Editor, Hebrew Bible Series, Resources for Biblical Study, SBL Press, SBL Annual Meeting, November 2024.

Co-chair, Israelite Prophetic Literature unit at SBL Annual Meeting, November 2024.

President, Korean Biblical Colloquium at SBL, SBL Annual Meeting, November 2024.

Church and popular speaking

Co-speaker with MTSO Assistant Professor Eugene Gibson and Professor Fulgence Nyengele, "Spaces for Thriving," Thriving in Ministry, MTSO, July 11-12, 2024.

Co-speaker with MTSO Professor Fulgence Nyengele, "Conference on Trauma and Community Wellbeing," Thriving in Ministry, MTSO, Oct. 17-18, 2024.

"Book of Exodus," Lifelong Bible Study for Korean-American Pastors, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California, Jan. 19, Feb. 23 and March 2, 2025.

Supply preacher at Granville Presbyterian Church, Marysville Presbyterian Church, Condit Presbyterian Church and Korean Presbyterian Church of Columbus.

Other activities

Sabbatical fellowship recipient, Catholic Biblical Association, 2025-26.



Sarah Lancaster

Professor in the
Werner Chair of
Theology

Publications

Review of *Good Book: How White Evangelicals Save the Bible to Save Themselves* by Jill Hicks-Keeton, in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, April 2025.

Review of *Sola Scriptura* by Ben Witherington III, in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, October 2025.

Academic lectures and presentations

Response to *Open Theism* by Alan Rhoda, Open and Relational Theology Conference, online, Feb. 20, 2025.

Church and popular speaking

"Understanding Salvation as Healing," World Methodist Council webinar on the anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, March 4, 2025.

"United Methodism and the Nicene Creed," LARCUM (Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic-United Methodist) Conference of West Virginia, Charleston, May 12-14, 2025.



Paul D. Numrich

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

Professional and guild activities

Reviewed a manuscript for *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

Other activities

Attended a meeting of the Joint Ethics and Advisory Committee, Grady Memorial Hospital, Delaware, Ohio, as a community representative. Nov. 21, 2024.

Quoted in "Here's How a Lutheran and Baptist Church Share the Same Space in Lancaster," article by Gayle Johnson in *LancasterOnline*, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, April 20, 2025.



Fulgence Nyengele

Professor of Pastoral
Care and Counseling
in the L.A. Beeghly
Chair

Director, Doctor of Ministry Program

Publications

"Grief and Cultural Melancholia among African Immigrants in the United States," in *God Help Us! The Bible and Pastoral Care Concerns for Black Churches*, edited by Raynard Smith and Terry Smith, Pilgrim Press, August 2025.

Academic lectures and presentations

"Frantz Fanon and the Renewal of Humanness and Intercultural Empathy," Society for Pastoral Theology Annual Meeting, online, June 5, 2025.

Professional and guild activities

Attended Society for Pastoral Theology Annual Meeting, June 4-6, 2025.

Editorial Board meeting, *Journal of Pastoral Theology*, June 4, 2025.

Co-chair, "Postcolonialism, Globalization, and Pastoral Care" Study Group, Society for Pastoral Theology Annual Meeting, online, June 5, 2025.

Other activities

Host and co-speaker (with Paul Kim), Conference on Trauma and Community Wellbeing, Thriving in Ministry Initiative, MTSO, Oct. 17-18, 2024.

East Ohio and West Ohio Bishop's Day of Thanksgiving and Hope, Worthington, Ohio, Nov. 23, 2024.

Hosted the Thriving in Ministry Workshop on Pastoral Flourishing, MTSO, Jan. 23-25, 2025.

Served on Clinical Pastoral Education Advisory Committee, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Sept. 16, 2024, Jan. 27, 2025, and June 10, 2025.

Conducted appreciative inquiry/exit interview with CPE students, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Feb. 6, 2025.

Attended Lilly Grant Thriving in Ministry Annual Gathering, Indianapolis, March 25-27, 2025.

Attended West Ohio Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Columbus, May 28-31, 2025.

Appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Pastoral Theology*, 2025-28.

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Susan Ritchie

**Fully Affiliated
Faculty, Theology
Director, Unitarian
Universalist House of
Studies**

Publications

“Universalist Professions of Faith: Articulating Non-Creedal Belief,” in *The Universalist Herald*, Dec. 16, 2024.

Academic lectures and presentations

Keynote address for the national Universalist Convocation, Sept. 20, 2024.

“Unitarian Universalist Rites of Passage,” for the UU Ministers Association Ministerial Formation Network, March 3 and 24, 2025.

Professional and guild activities

Director, Harvard Square Library (digital resource library of Unitarian Universalist history).

Member, James Luther Adams Foundation Advisory Board.

Church and popular speaking

Preach every Sunday at the North Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lewis Center, Ohio.

“Mountains, So Many Mountains: A Theology of Unitarian Universalist Pluralism,” at the UU Church of Akron, March 23, 2025.



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

Publications

“‘Were Not Our Hearts Burning Within Us?’ (Luke 24:32): Dysregulated Passions, Righteous Fervour and an Emotional Regime Change in the Roman Empire,” in *Emotions: History, Culture, Society Journal* 8, 2024.

“The Brothers in the Praetorium: Syntax and History in Philippians 1:12–14,” *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 86, 2024.

Academic lectures and presentations

“A Cultural History of Early Christian

Emotions: Prayer and Gottesfurcht,” Religion and Politics Excellence Cluster, Theory Platform Emotionality, University of Münster, July 9, 2024.

“Prayer and Emotion in the New Testament,” European Association of Biblical Studies annual conference, Sofia, Bulgaria, July 18, 2024.

“‘Were Not Our Hearts Burning within Us?’ (Luke 24:32): An Exegetical Puzzle and the History of Early Christian Emotions,” Faculty of Protestant Theology, University of Münster (online), Sept. 20, 2024.

“Reverence and Fear: Plutarch, Paul, and the Social History of Religious Emotions,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, Nov. 23, 2024.

“Rejoicing as If Not Rejoicing: Apocalyptic Rupture and the History of Emotions,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, Nov. 25, 2024.

“Kissing Paul’s Chains: Relics of Paul’s Imprisonment in Ancient and Modern Christianity,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, Nov. 26, 2024.

Church and popular speaking

“Communal Lament as a Hopeful Practice for Repair and Healing,” Building Bridges of Opportunity Community Experience, West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church (online), Oct. 16, 2024.

“Paul and the Philippians: Radical Solidarity and Justice that Transforms,” Toward a Justice That Transforms: A Restorative Justice Gathering, Toronto, Oct. 19, 2024.



Beth Stroud
**Assistant Professor of
History**

Church and popular speaking

Keynote speaker, Sunday School speaker and worship participant at Rainbows Resistance Reconciliation, celebrating 11 years as a reconciling congregation, First UMC of Evanston, Illinois, Feb. 15-16, 2025.

Other activities

Honored, with Deen Thompson and Susan Morgan, as LGBT clergy who were reinstated in 2024, by the United Methodist General Commission on Archives and History at event

celebrating full inclusion, Greenland Hills UMC, Dallas, May 1, 2025.

Mentored Rick Huskey, a gay clergy person whose credentials were terminated in 1977, through the process of becoming a United Methodist elder through reinstatement. He was ordained by Bishop Lanette Plambeck at the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania, on June 14, 2025, and died on June 15.

Completed week-long intensive training for the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program in anticipation of teaching a Spring 2026 Inside-Out course, June 23-27, 2025.



**Timothy Van
Meter**

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

Coordinator of Ecological Initiatives

Academic lectures and presentations

“Conspiring for Climate Justice,” United Church of Christ conference, Templd Hills UCC Camp, Livingston, Montana, October 2024.

Professional and guild activities

Led the FaithLands National Conference, Aug. 6-8, 2024.

Preaching mentor, Innovative Preaching and Eco-Justice Initiative, working with the Center for Earth Ethics and Union Seminary to increase the abilities of select students to offer ecologically aware justice centered preaching as a core skill.

Other activities

Member, Executive Committee, Agroecosystems Management Program, Ohio State University, August 2020-present.

Member, Hispanic Scholars Program board.

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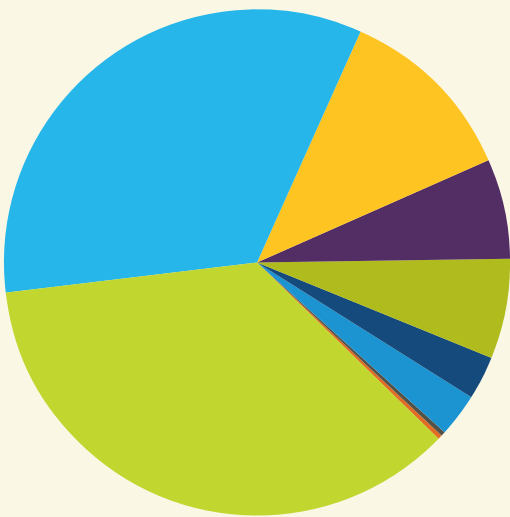
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In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, Methodist Theological School in Ohio had revenues and expenditures of \$8,808,624.

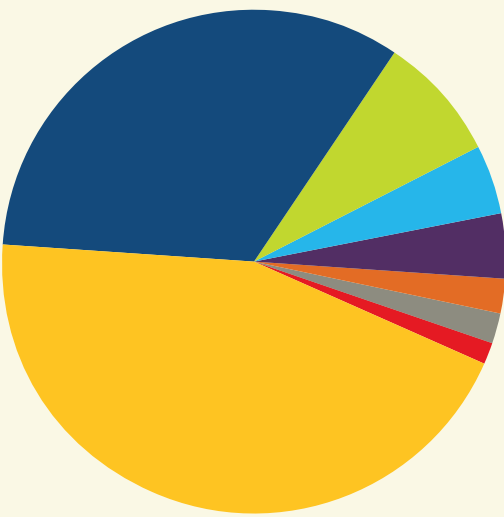
Revenue and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024-25

Revenue



	Revenue	Percent of total
Endowment	\$3,166,423	35.9%
Tuition	\$2,953,825	33.5%
Current grants and gifts	\$1,033,038	11.7%
Ministerial Education Fund	\$567,780	6.4%
Programs and services	\$555,806	6.3%
Methesco Fund gifts	\$266,287	3.0%
Student aid gifts	\$228,103	2.6%
Operating reserve	\$22,728	0.3%
Federal work study	\$14,634	0.2%
Total revenue	\$8,808,624	100%

Expenditures



	Expenditures	Percent of total
Compensation and benefits	\$3,935,258	44.7%
Scholarships	\$2,928,545	33.2%
Programs and services	\$716,419	8.1%
General administration	\$383,249	4.4%
Buildings and grounds	\$366,010	4.2%
Information systems	\$201,876	2.3%
Academic support	\$160,876	1.8%
Enrollment and advancement	\$116,391	1.3%
Total expenditures	\$8,808,624	100%

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