

Volume LIII
Fall 2014

The president
reflects on a
transformative
year

This fall: A
community
organizing
conference, an
art exhibit and
Alumni Day

Seminary Hill
Farm is an
integral part
of a larger
commitment

New Dean Lisa
Withrow has
a love
of leadership

Meet six of our
newest students

Remembering
the 1964
faculty arrests
in Mississippi

THE STORY

MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT



Methodist Theological School in Ohio

www.mtso.edu

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MTSO's educational spaces and resources have taken another big step forward ✱ This photo shows Gault Hall Room 150, which includes capabilities for sharing media and communicating live with students and educators in other locations. The teaching chapel also was expanded and renovated, creating a more open and better illuminated space for homiletics classes.

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, or Danny Russell, MTSO, 3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

Reflecting on a transformative year

**By Rev. Jay Rundell
President**

It is my distinct privilege to greet you on behalf of MTSO and to express deep appreciation for the many ways you extend the seminary's mission through your work, ministry and stewardship.

Last year in this space, I indicated that we were in for an eventful year with major new commitments to educational technology, development of our ability to prepare students for new forms of ministry, further development of our collaborative partnership with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and a deliberate step forward in our commitments to ecology and sustainability. It was indeed an eventful year along these lines.

Three campus classrooms were renovated with new furniture and state-of-the-art, interactive technology, vastly enhancing our work in the new Connections Master of Divinity degree pathway and across the curriculum. The teaching chapel in Gault Hall was enlarged, brightened, and equipped with subtle but powerful educational and worship technology.

An increasing number of seminary students are exploring new ways to be in ministry and service. The program we instituted last year in vocation discernment and community engagement has quickly made an impact. More than 100 students have been involved in vocational discernment panels and counseling. Our new College Central Network advising software is in place with several hundred student, alumni and employer accounts. This work aligns well with the work of the Theological Commons, through which we connect students, faculty, alums and area leaders in communities of inquiry and practice.

Institutional collaboration continues to be important to us. Our collaborative partnership with Garrett moved forward during the year with the joint faculty appointment of Dr. Timothy Eberhart as assistant professor of theology and ecology, and with a joint faculty retreat on the MTSO campus.

For several years we have offered ecology specializations in both the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Practical Theology degrees. A year ago in this space I shared my hope that we could continue to align campus life and services with what we teach in the classroom. As it turns out, last year's announcement of the appointment of a campus steward to lead our buildings and grounds work was just the beginning of a very fruitful year. Visitors



What began as an effort to utilize campus land sustainably and live into our food-justice and environmental values turned quickly to an enterprise that transformed not only the land but eating practices on campus and beyond.

regularly note that the campus looks as good as they've ever seen it. I am pleased to say that this has been achieved with a reduction in both costs and environmental impact.

And – as you may have heard by now – we started an organic farm. You can read more about this development in this publication. As the hoop houses were constructed over the winter and the fields were plowed and planted in the spring, it became apparent we were onto something. What began as an effort to utilize campus land sustainably and live into our food-justice and environmental values turned quickly to an

enterprise that transformed not only the land but eating practices on campus and beyond.

It turns out the farmers and their apprentices and interns are foodies, and Dunn Dining Hall has become a popular place for events and catering. The name "Seminary Hill Farm" is popping up as a supplier to restaurants and farmers' markets across Central Ohio. What's more, several

churches in Michigan and Ohio have sought guidance as they initiate urban farming and food programs in their communities.

Moving forward into this new year, we have a lot to build on. The academic program is under new leadership. Dr. Lisa Withrow, Dewire Professor of Christian Leadership, has been appointed academic dean and vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Randy Litchfield, our academic dean for the past five years, will reconnect with his discipline of religious education. Dr. Withrow will oversee a busy year for the academic program, which will include the implementation of a new Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree pathway as well as searches for new faculty in homiletics, New Testament and pastoral care and counseling.

After several years of carefully recovering from the economic recession of 2008, it seems we've moved from playing defense to offense, and it feels good. I am so very grateful for your prayers and support as we move into this new school year together!

UPCOMING EVENTS

From preaching to pomp to provocative artwork

Come to campus to celebrate, reconnect and learn

The past year brought a dramatic increase in the number of special campus events, and the momentum will continue in the year to come. Under the Theological Commons, MTSO presented a cornucopia of lectures, films, music and celebrations in 2013-14.

The Commons has a new web presence at www.mtso.edu/theologicalcommons. There you'll find details and registration resources for upcoming events along with archival material from many of those we've already held, including streaming video and reproductions of printed programs. We'll be adding new events and archiving past ones on a regular basis. Here's what we've already planned for coming months:

Sept. 19 and 20 Community Organizing and Development Through Nonprofits

This two-day conference will guide you through the basics of community development. You'll hear enlightening anecdotes and glean valuable nuts-and-bolts advice from successful leaders of both faith-based and non-faith-based nonprofits.

Along with the practical knowledge it offers, this time spent with others who share your passion for nonprofit work provides a great opportunity to broaden your network of friends and colleagues.

Topics include grant writing; nonprofit tax law; and starting a nonprofit, from the basement to the streets. We have three accomplished keynote speakers. Rev. Peter Goodwin Heltzel, Ph.D., and Rev. Alexia Salvatierra are coauthors of the book *Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World*. Rev. Dr. Troy Jackson's books include *Becoming King: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Making of a*

National Leader, which explores the critical role the grassroots Montgomery Movement played in King's development.

Tuition is \$50, or \$75 with 1 CEU included. The student rate is \$10. Saturday's continental breakfast and lunch are included. Register online through the Theological Commons.

Oct. 6 Alumni Day

The day begins with a presentation and discussion of MTSO's commitment to sustainability and ecotheology, led by MTSO faculty members Tim Van Meter and Tim Eberhart. At lunch, enjoy a delicious meal featuring food from our farm as the latest Mount Alumni Award recipients, April Blaine (M.Div. '09) and Roy Mitchell (M.Div. '05) are honored.

The afternoon features the installation of Lisa Withrow as dean in a ceremony preceded by Joshua Brodbeck's organ prelude and followed by a reception in Dean Withrow's honor. In addition to the day's events, a Cokesbury representative will be present. You'll have the opportunity to browse the Cokesbury display and place orders.

All events are presented at no cost to guests, though we ask you to help us to plan by completing a short RSVP through the Theological Commons website.

Oct. 23-Nov. 14 Art Exhibition: "Liberation from Bondage"

Uniting art and theology, "Liberation from Bondage" will be curated by MTSO student Ellice Park, who is working with other Greater Columbus artists around this powerful theme.

A panel discussion of the artwork and its



Worth repeating * Last year's inaugural Alumni Day gets a sequel Oct. 6

theme will be held Oct. 29. No registration is required.

Feb. 2-3, 2015 Schooler Institute on Preaching

Valerie Bridgeman, MTSO's visiting associate professor of homiletics and Hebrew Bible, brings her expertise in preaching, her creativity and her boundless energy to Schooler. Save the date. Registration will be open soon.

Once again, we invite you to visit www.mtso.edu/theologicalcommons for information on special events past and future. *

A Russian connection

With a love of linguistics and a passion for ministry, Katya Oreshina brings her international perspective to MTSO

Six years ago, when Katya Oreshina left her native Russia to live and work in the United States, Ohio wasn't on her itinerary. She set out for a slightly higher-profile locale: New York City.

A native of Samara, a city of more than 1 million people 500 miles southeast of Moscow, Oreshina put her undergraduate degree in linguistics and intercultural communication to work as an office assistant for a major jewelry company.

While she was working and enjoying life in bustling Manhattan, she also was part of a Russian speaking church. It was there that her desire to serve as a pastor began to grow.

An opportunity to fulfill that desire arose two years ago with a serendipitous meeting. In July of 2012, Oreshina joined a team from her home church in Samara to meet with members of Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati. Hyde Park has been a partner with Samara UMC for over two decades through a global outreach ministry.

During the two-week Cincinnati visit, Oreshina had the opportunity to spend time with Bishop Bruce Ough, who at the time presided over the West Ohio Conference of the UMC and was an MTSO trustee. She shared with him her growing desire to serve as a pastor. Ough arranged for Oreshina to visit MTSO's campus the next day.

During that first trip to MTSO, Oreshina got a chance to hear about the curriculum and meet a few members of the faculty and staff. By the end of the visit, it was clear to Oreshina that MTSO was the place for her to pursue



Translating *The Upper Room* to Russian * Oreshina

She has translated for Skype-enabled communion services between Ohio and Russian congregations.

ministry. Her time as a student has reinforced her belief that she came to the right place.

"I'm finding a balance between the theology that I'm learning and the training of my heart from my home church," she said. "I feel the call to social holiness now more than when I first arrived. It's making me more tolerant of other cultures, worldviews, genders and ideologies."

Oreshina, who has earned a full-tuition MTSO Scholarship, is finding ways to combine her training as a linguist and her seminary studies. She has acted as the translator for a world communion service that spanned the globe between small churches in Ripley, Ohio, and the Volga District in Russia. With Oreshina's help, the two congregations were able to celebrate communion together via Skype.

"It was so fun to wave hello, sing hymns and share communion with people who were sitting miles and miles apart," she said.

Buoyed by the response of these small churches, Oreshina also has served as translator for a communion service shared by Hyde Park Community UMC and her home church in Samara. "I was translating the words, but it was the Holy Spirit that was working in both places," she said.

In addition to her studies and her work with churches, Oreshina finds time to translate articles for *The Upper Room*, a daily devotional magazine produced by the United Methodist Church.

"Because of my studies at MTSO, I am able not just to translate the words from English to Russian but also to provide deeper understanding," she said. "It's important for people in Russia to have this Christian publication. I like playing a part in getting it to them."

Oreshina, who has begun working at Trinity UMC in Marble Cliff through MTSO's field education program, plans to graduate in December 2015 with a Master of Divinity degree. She sees the next 15 months as a time to discover what is next for her – and where.

"The biggest question is: Here or Russia? I feel so at home in the U.S. It's so comfortable here. At the same time, I feel a tug to observe, learn all I can and take it back. I'll just have to wait and see what seems best at the time." *

The newest seminarians

These six entering students reflect the breadth of backgrounds and aspirations the latest class brings to MTSO

The next generation of religious leaders for the church and the world arrived on campus Aug. 22. A day of orientation and getting to know each other was followed by their first class: The Educated Spirit, through which they will develop an understanding of seminary as a place to cultivate both the spirit and the intellect.

Each of these 42 new students brings a unique personal history and unique desires for service. They expect to be challenged and invigorated by their time within this unique community. Here are profiles of six of these promising new students, featuring quotes from their admissions essays.

ELIZABETH STATEN

Helping others answer their own questions

Growing up in Evangelical churches, Staten was taught that the Bible "can answer all of your questions. There are no contradictions that can't be explained." Then, six years ago, she moved to Columbus and joined the staff of Continuum Church, which "is made up largely of people who are rethinking the teachings from backgrounds similar to mine."

Now, having earned a Methesco Scholarship, she is taking a new step as an M.Div. student.

"I believe graduate level education is essential for pastors," she said. "It is essential for me because I want to avoid inflicting the harm that has been done to individuals and societies by bad doctrine. As a pastor, I hope to be able to lead people through a process of answering their own questions, instead of simply giving them answers."

"My study of religion must be pursued in the real world. It must take into account technological advances and scientific discoveries. It must also acknowledge the potential for global cooperation and communication. I believe that the human capacity for understanding what we mean when we say 'God' is changing."



MARCO PETERSON

After seeking good money, an evolving focus

When he was awarded his Master of Divinity diploma in 2012, Peterson said he had a hunch that "my journey was probably not finished at MTSO." Now he returns to seek a Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries, aided by an MTSO Scholarship.

"I have been working with youth at a Christian teen center," he said. "The youth who I work with come from various backgrounds, and many of them are facing difficulties in their lives that I could not even imagine before I started with this ministry."

"I know that in the capacity that I have worked with youth, it is not my responsibility to address all their issues, but it would be nice to help or at least be able to better understand them. I believe by having the education that I will receive by obtaining a MACM, I will be able to serve others better in my community."

"When I was younger, I was interested in jobs that I could make good money," Peterson said. "My focus now is on serving others, and I believe becoming a professional counselor will give me that opportunity."



JUDY ALSTON

Opening doors for the disenfranchised

If anyone should be comfortable in an academic environment, it's Alston.

"In 2010, I was promoted to full professor at Ashland University, so in the view of the academy, I had arrived," she said. "Yet I felt as if I was missing something.

Friends and family have always acknowledged that there was an obvious call on my life, but I just wasn't ready to seriously walk in it."

Alston is seeking a Master of Divinity degree with help from an MTSO Recognition Award. She's likely to use it in a variety of ministries. She is a worship and praise leader, leads an online Facebook ministry and has taught a weekly Bible study in a retirement community.

"Looking ahead, I would also like to start a non-profit ministry for LGBT youth and seniors," she said. "As an out black lesbian, I have something unique to offer in the ministry that God is forming in me. The notion of representing and opening the doors for the disenfranchised and misaligned is a priority for me."



LUIGI PEREZ PEREZ

Narrowing the gap between the secular world and the church

Throughout Perez's youth in Cuba, his family told him he was destined for ministry – predictions he didn't take seriously until he was an adult. Having earned a Methesco Scholarship, he now hopes to pursue his M.Div. and ordination as a United Methodist elder at MTSO. He was referred to the school by alumnus Jerry Krueger.

"I relate to the Methodist belief system and its teaching that holiness is not reduced to a self-righteous code of morality with only personal implications," Perez said. "Holiness also has social repercussions. This means that Christians are called to be part of the movement that is eradicating the gap that exists between the secular world and the church."

"Seminary will provide me with tools to put into practice this concept in relevant ways. It's one of the essential components for effectiveness in ministry, and it will be key in my formation as a spiritual mentor as well as a community leader."



SARAH ALEXANDER

A passion for helping young adults serve God

For a time, Alexander thought her life's work should be teaching school. As she pursued her undergraduate degree, though, she felt the tug of ministry: "While I realized I wanted to teach students and be in relationship with them, this calling is much more purposeful to me when paired with leading them toward the source of love, peace and joy: Jesus Christ."

Alexander has worked extensively with the Mission Intern Program of the Detroit Conference of the United Methodist Church, most recently as director.

"The interns provide programming for children and families living in poverty," she said. "I had the honor of supervising 27 college-aged missionaries. This work has revealed in me a passion for connecting young adults to opportunities to serve God and to use their gifts to share God's love."

"A theological foundation will supply me with the tools needed to go wherever God is calling me," said Alexander, who has been awarded a Zook Scholarship. "After receiving formal education, I plan to continue work in a local church setting with youth programs and young people."



JOEL WILDERMUTH

Pursuing ministry with patience, understanding and java

As a student at Bluffton University, Wildermuth discovered a love of theology. "Thinking and talking about God in ways that deconstructed the image of God I had learned all through childhood was refreshing and intriguing," he said. "I loved encountering new perspectives of old topics and traditions."

An M.Div. student with a Harding Scholarship, Wildermuth said his decision to pursue pastoral ministry "is a culmination of a variety of life experiences and many hours of thought, prayer and meditation."

"My wife, Anna, and I have had discussions about this next step in our lives, and we both agree it will be challenging. But we are also confident in the relationship that we have and in our commitment to one another's hopes and dreams in life. We view this next step as necessary and right, and will pursue it with patience, understanding, probably many cups of coffee, and, as most things in life, one step at a time."



Strong leadership

As she becomes dean, Lisa Withrow is determined to bridge cultures and help *all* people to thrive



The spire of Rooke Chapel rises above the west side of the Bucknell University campus in Pennsylvania's Susquehanna Valley. Its Georgian colonial interior, bathed in white and graced by a wraparound balcony, holds 700 people when it's full. It was empty on the day in 1985 when Lisa Withrow walked in, sat down, and decided to change the course of her education and her life.

She was in the midst of her last finals week at Bucknell, finishing a dual degree in political science and biology. Next up: graduate school. Though her mother, MTSO alumna and former trustee Susan Bowman, was in ministry, "I was resisting moving in the same direction she was," Withrow said. So she had decided to study law at Case Western Reserve University in her native Cleveland.

"I had already been accepted to law school, and something in me said, 'No, do not go there.' So I went to the chapel, and I sat there. And two hours later I thought, 'I'm going to divinity school, and I'm going to Duke.'" With that, she addressed a lingering internal conflict and chose a path that would

lead to a vocation in parish ministry and then theological education.

Now, almost three decades later, Withrow has taken a new step along that path, becoming MTSO's dean. Concurrent with her appointment as dean June 15, she became vice president for academic affairs, and she continues to hold the Dewire Chair of Christian Leadership. She replaces Randy Litchfield, who after five years as academic dean has chosen to return to the classroom, continuing his role as the Browning Professor of Christian Education.

"We're fortunate to have two such strong leaders on our faculty as Dr. Withrow and Dr. Litchfield," said MTSO President Jay Rundell. "I look for Lisa to do excellent work, building on the successes of Randy's time in the dean's office."

Withrow, who has served as associate academic dean since 2011, will be installed as dean at 2 p.m. Oct. 6 in the Alford Centrum. The ceremony will be part of MTSO's Alumni Day. All are welcome to attend. More information and an opportunity to RSVP are available at www.mtso.edu/alumniday.

The internal conflict Withrow negotiated in that chapel pew would not be the last one she confronted. Conflict management has been central to her teaching in church leadership classes, and she expects it to be a valuable tool in the dean's office. "I'm not afraid of conflict, and that's going to be really helpful," she said with a laugh.

A journey to academia

As she was completing her Master of Divinity degree at Duke, Withrow interviewed with a Church of Scotland minister who had an associate position available in Glasgow. Though she initially had "no intention of going," the conversation went well and led to four fruitful years across the Atlantic. She earned her doctorate from the University of Glasgow and was invigorated by her work with the congregation she served.

"It was a cultural immersion," she said. "I loved ministry there. I loved that parish. I loved the country. I loved the people. I learned cultural openness because I was the stranger for four years."

Returning to Ohio in 1992, Withrow be-

came pastor of a United Methodist congregation in Youngstown. Ironically, her return to a church near her childhood home felt like another form of cultural immersion. “I felt more Scottish at that time than American,” she said. “That was difficult.”

After three years in Youngstown and four as an associate pastor at Faith United Methodist Church in North Canton, Withrow felt the tug of academia. “My mom’s cousins are all scientific Ph.D.’s and teachers,” she said, “so it’s kind of our tradition.” In 1999, she accepted an appointment as assistant professor at MTSO, directing the field education program, which oversees the placement of students with churches and other organizations as part of their seminary education.

Withrow’s nine years as field education director were followed by two stints directing the Doctor of Ministry program. During her tenure in that role, MTSO and Trinity Lutheran Seminary established and gained accreditation for the two schools’ joint D.Min. program. She credits Litchfield and his expertise in assessment with playing a significant role in that process.

Not long after arriving at MTSO, Withrow saw a need for curriculum focused on church leadership, inspired in part by conversations with Bishop Judith Craig, who had come to the school as bishop in residence. “We started talking about what a curriculum on church leadership would look like,” Withrow said, “because I didn’t get that in seminary, and she didn’t get that in seminary.”

MTSO, she said, was “generous” to encourage her work on the church leadership curriculum. “That formulated a significant loyalty in me to this institution.”

A focus on gender and race

Among the leadership courses Withrow teaches is Women and the Ethics of Leadership. “I want to mentor women as they find their own voices,” she said. “Women are generally less confident than men in the

workplace, and I want to get at why that is. I also want to look at how women can move forward in the workplace without losing who they are.”

She believes addressing the challenges women in leadership face has particular relevance in the church: “I think the church can get away with more discrimination against women than the corporate world or the nonprofit world or government because religion can claim that it’s divinely inspired. The God figure has been so masculinized that to have a woman in leadership is either wonderful or horrible, and there’s nothing in between. It’s not neutral ground to have a woman in leadership.”

“Women’s ordination helped women move forward,” she said. And yet, “I think we’re in a backlash time in the last seven or eight years. We’re in a backlash in U.S.

“We have an ethic here of inclusion and equality, so there are men who are clear about equality as well as women,” Withrow said. “I can’t think of any male faculty member here who I can’t trust in a feminist/womanist conversation to uphold women’s value.”

society in general. There are more women in higher positions, but they are attacked much more intensely.”

Against this broader societal background, she is generally pleased with the way MTSO handles gender issues: “We have an ethic here of inclusion and equality, so there are men who are clear about equality as well as women. I can’t think of any male faculty member here who I can’t trust in a feminist/womanist conversation to uphold women’s value.”

Withrow also has been instrumental in guiding a major anti-racism initiative on campus. She successfully applied for a grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and

Learning in Theology and Religion, which funded campus-wide meetings and reflection on intercultural issues and anti-racism.

“It opened the door to conversations that were not happening in any intentional way,” she said. “It also brought some resistance to the conversation, which is to be expected. Where there’s resistance, we’ve hit a nerve, and I’m not afraid of conflict.”

Withrow’s strong commitment to anti-racism work was spurred by her experience leading an MTSO cross-cultural immersion trip to South Africa: “We were dealing with stories of apartheid, and we were also struggling in our travel group around issues of race, and that struggle became rather severe.”

“I realized I needed a lot more education myself and always will,” she said. The experience led her to sign up for training, “where I had to confront my own perceptions.”

“That gave me some tools to bring back to MTSO and pushed me to go after the Wabash grant so we really could continue this work at greater depth,” she said. The grant has now run its course, “but I’m not letting go of this work. We have to continue.”

A vision for connecting cultures

As dean, Withrow said she intends to foster stronger connections across cultures and among different academic disciplines. Further, “My hope is to get more international partnerships. That’s been my dream for a long time for this school.”

“We have a strong cross-cultural immersion program. Two weeks gives a person a taste of a different culture. But to have the opportunity to have exchange programs with our partners would be really important for our students. If we have a course with the seminaries in Moscow and Cuba and Korea, we’ve got a very interesting educational opportunity for our students. We need a curriculum where we are in conversation with people who are in very different places in the world. That’s the wave of the future.”

Continues

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Withrow also wants to see MTSO become a more interdisciplinary school: “Faculty tend to self-develop through their fields of study, and what we need to do further here is to develop a community of faculty who are public theologians in conversation with each other.” One example of that cross-pollination is occurring in a course called Bible, Pastoral Care and Counseling, co-taught by Professor of Hebrew Bible Paul Kim and Professor Fulgence Nyengele, who directs the Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries program.

Beyond campus, Withrow hopes to see MTSO faculty members interacting in a more intentional way with colleagues at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, with which MTSO has a collaborative institutional relationship. “We really have to be cross-cultural in all these ways,” she said.

“I like our agility,” Withrow said. “Because we’re a small and solid institution, we’re able to change quickly in times that are changing quickly.”

An appreciation for agility

Withrow’s appointment as dean is one of a number of transitions on campus, “so we are going through our own cultural shift as an institution,” she said. When cultures shift, there are opportunities to apply skills in conflict management.

“Most people don’t like the term ‘conflict management,’” Withrow said. “They want

conflict resolution, but that’s not always possible. And not all conflict is bad either. Conflict leads to change. It can lead to deepening relationships if it is managed well. The analogy I give to students involves traffic flow at an intersection. When you put a traffic light there, it manages things. Traffic never ends; it’s just managed.”

One of the things Withrow appreciates about MTSO is the school’s ability to switch lanes when an opportunity arises. “I like our agility,” she said. “Because we’re a small and solid institution, we’re able to change quickly in times that are changing quickly. Even better, it’s informed change, not just change for change’s sake.”

It’s a keen bit of analysis – both of MTSO and of the person who realized three decades ago that it was the ministry and not the law where she was meant to serve. ✱



“We need a curriculum where we are in conversation with people who are in very different places in the world” ✱
Withrow delivered the message at Opening Convocation

Growing more than food

Seminary Hill Farm is part of MTSO's expanding commitment to stewardship of the planet



Six young farmers leaned over raised soil beds, planting onions inside a newly constructed hoop house. Outside, a blustery March wind whipped the plastic walls of the structure. Inside, the discussion turned to a subject that had little to do with onions. Each shared a story of a time when they felt the real presence of God.

The setting was MTSO's fledgling Seminary Hill Farm, and one of the farmers was Tadd Petersen, manager of farm and food. For Petersen, such conversations are no surprise.

"There's a connection made when people are out digging in the dirt," he said. "Understanding who others are and being able to communicate with them about something that's touched them deeply is commonplace on the farm. That's where the connection between theology and farming can be made."

Connecting ecology and theology

During a forebodingly cold December, MTSO began erecting two 96-foot hoop houses in the southwest corner of campus, the first visible sign that the school would be expressing its commitment to sustainability in bold new ways. President Jay Rundell credits students with posing the challenge that led to the farm.



A colorful, campus-grown bounty * *Participants in community-supported agriculture have their pick of great produce every Thursday afternoon*

"Students have asked us to align campus life better with what we're teaching in classes on ethics and environment, theology and ecology," Rundell said. "We're in a position now to actually begin living a little bit of what we've been teaching."

The farm fields, which cover more than 6 of MTSO's 80 acres, are just steps from Dunn Dining Hall, providing fresh fruits and vegetables for every meal. The food grown on the farm also enables MTSO to foster connections with those with food needs in the community through outreach to food banks, community organizations and churches.

Continues

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“For us, it makes sense,” Rundell said. “Food and faith in a lot of ways go together.”

In the classroom

For all of its benefits at mealtime, Rundell has made it clear Seminary Hill Farm would not exist if it weren't such a good fit with the academic and theological ethos of MTSO. It allows professors to connect the theology taught in the classroom to the practical ways in which students can live out commitments to a just and sustainable world.

“Having a farm on campus will allow a real integration of the classroom and the environment,” said Tim Eberhart, assistant professor of theology and ecology. Adds Tim Van Meter, associate professor in the Alfred Chair of Christian Education and Youth Ministry: “MTSO is a place where I can live out my deepest passion. This is the one place where I can bring the combination of youth ministry, ecology, local food and local justice issues into the classroom. Then I can step outside the classroom with my students into a laboratory farm.”

MTSO offers ecology-focused specializations in both its Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Practical Theology degree programs. Students may choose from six courses that specifically address issues of ecology and sustainability. Some might even choose a farm internship, a specially



Going green, turning blue ✱ The hoop house frames went up on frigid December days

designed program that blends the practical aspects of farming with the classroom studies of ecotheology. All of these things together help prepare them to lead others in developing economic, political, social and technological lifestyles for a more ecologically equitable planet.

“We are doing a new thing in theological education at MTSO,” Eberhart said. “We are the first seminary to offer the integration of theological reflection, biblical study and preparation for ministry alongside practical skills for caring for the land, growing food and connecting to communities.”

“As a professor, I am excited that I can flow from the classroom experience to the field to the dining hall. And the conversa-

tions I'm having with students in all three spaces are about holiness and health and wholeness. Best of all, we can explore how the church can be a redemptive presence in the world.”

Life on the farm

When Eberhart, Van Meter and others step onto Seminary Hill Farm, they find USDA-certified organic fields sprouting 130 varieties of plants. Currently, about half of the dining hall's produce comes from these fields. Expectations are that within three years the farm will supply 100 percent of the fruits and vegetables served on campus.

The two heated hoop houses, similar to greenhouses, will extend the growing season. Additionally, the dining hall staff is canning, preserving and pickling much of this summer's bounty to be used in the cold winter months when production slows down.

Along with the internships the farm offers for MTSO students, it employs apprentices who are provided stipends and on-campus living arrangements. Apprentices work directly with Petersen and other experts in organic farming and farm-to-table culinary service. Their responsibilities include planting, watering, weeding (no small task on a farm that doesn't use chemical herbicides), harvesting, cooking, selling

An IT ace wired for sustainability

It's not uncommon to see MTSO students, faculty or staff members up at Seminary Hill Farm. They might be filling bags with the week's harvest on a Thursday afternoon, visiting Gonzo the farm dog or just checking out the red pepper plants.

You might find Matthew Rehm doing any of those things, but you're just as likely to see him behind the wheel of the tractor, pulling a tiller. Rehm, MTSO's director of informa-

tion technology, has been a supporter of the farm from the start, and he has invested more than his share of sweat. Starting in March, he added hours to his Monday-through-Thursday work week, freeing him up to work in the fields on most Fridays.

The launch of the farm last year coincided with some personal soul-searching Rehm had been doing. “A little over a year ago, I got to thinking about food and eating healthier,” he said. “When the farm was an-

nounced, it made me start thinking about where my food comes from even more than I had before. It interested me in eating more local foods, especially organic food.”

Though his interest in food has been piqued recently, his appreciation of the natural world is nothing new. He has a degree in biology and is an avid reader of nature literature. “I've always loved the outdoors,” said Rehm, who has to be one of

at weekly farmer's markets and assisting with community-supported agriculture distribution.

The intent of the program is that apprentices will leave the one-year program equipped with the knowledge to start organic farming operations beyond the MTSO campus.

Farm outreach

While a major focus of the farm is providing farm-to-table fare for the dining hall, plans also are being made to make fresh organic produce available to low-income individuals. MTSO is connecting with churches, nonprofit organizations and future church leaders during their time at the seminary to show them ways to reach those most in need of nutritious and affordable food.

"It can create this new sense of hope," Petersen said. "When you're able to grow something with your own hands and watch it grow from seed, I think it changes your perspective. It opens your eyes to what creation means."

Like Petersen, Van Meter sees the connection to the creation story in the development of the farm.

"If we go back to the earliest Genesis narratives that ground the Christian faith, we



"It's a good feeling to help the school in multiple ways" * Rehm works long days so he can help with farming on Fridays

speak of ourselves as being created and God as creator," Van Meter said. "As we continue through the biblical narrative, there are echoes of that throughout. Later in the Gospels, we talk about the renewal of creation and the idea that Jesus comes to bring us back into right relationship with creation. So faith and food and the way we use our land are natural connections that MTSO is uniquely poised to explore."

By engaging with community leaders, current and past students, and church leaders, MTSO faculty members are beginning to envision ways in which the farm can make positive changes in the world.

"Imagine bishops, alumni, students gathered on this campus working together in the soil," Eberhart said. "Growing food side-by-side, learning about the implications of climate change and ecological degradation while participating in the healing of the earth. All the while, each will be imagining new creative possibilities for ministry in rural, urban and suburban settings"

Momentum builds quickly

Many on campus have been pleasantly surprised to see how quickly the farm has influenced the quality of meals in the dining hall. Creative, beautiful, nutritious food began showing up almost immediately. Students were among the first to notice the difference. Hope Hutchison, an M.Div.

the few computer network professionals in America to earn a genuine farmer's tan.

He still remembers hearing the official announcement last November that MTSO would begin a farm: "That got me thinking about helping the school in new ways. Then, once I met those guys up there, something just really clicked."

In December, he was among the shivering volunteers pulling plastic sheathing over the hoop house frames. Since then, he has helped plant seeds, transplant seedlings from trays into the ground, run irrigation lines

You'll find more information about the farm and MTSO's commitment to sustainability – including a new video – at www.mtso.edu/farm.

student and farm intern, was among those impressed.

"The change in the dining hall has been so significant," she said. "It's really wonderful to be eating fruits and vegetables that I've seen growing in our fields."

"I knew I was committed to the idea of a farm and raising the food we eat here," said President Rundell. "I had no idea it would be so good, so fast."

The result in the dining hall – as well as in classroom and in the broader community – is a momentum that comes with doing something unique in American theological education.

"There's an energy that comes with the idea that we've done something no one expected us to do," Rundell said. "The energy stems from saying we have a future. And we connect the past of this school, the present of this school and the kinds of communities our students will serve with what we know to be the future. And that's a more sustainable world, a more ecologically sound world. A better place." *

and dig holes for new blueberry bushes.

"I think things are more efficient than I expected," he said. "It's amazing how many seeds you can plant in an hour."

After spending three Fridays a month farming during the spring, Rehm was kept at his computer by a heavy load of IT duties over the summer, but he expects to be back in the fields again on Fridays this fall.

"It's a good feeling getting to help the school in multiple ways," he said. "There's more to Matthew than just being the IT guy." *

The farm before Seminary Hill

Beginning in the early 1800s, MTSO's land was owned by Frederick Weiser, who grew potatoes, corn, oats and maybe – just maybe – famous apples

By Paul Burnam
Director of the Dickhaut Library

Soon after MTSO's announcement of its land use and sustainability initiative last year, Assistant Library Director Dave Powell and I started getting questions about the history of the land on which this institution sits. With most of my undergraduate and graduate course work in history, the questions about the history of the land upon which we tread presented an irresistible reference question. And that was before I imagined that a little research might lead to a close encounter with a celebrity of elementary school history books.

Academic Affairs Director and Registrar Sue Lamphere helped to open the doors about land use in southeastern Delaware Township when she shared research she performed for her articles about Delaware County history appearing on Delawareo.com. The first strong source she sent along was an 1849 map of Delaware County, the earliest indicator of who owned this land in the early 19th century. In looking at the current highway map for Delaware County, easily accessible on the county engineer's website, the viewer sees that most of the campus occupies the southeast corner of Delaware Township. A hard look at the boundary between Delaware Township and Liberty Township suggests that the border between the townships separates the MTSO property from that of the Delaware Golf Club.

The 1849 map presents the same view, showing this land just south of the community of Stratford on the east bank of the Olentangy River. This piece of land is separated from the tracts to the north and east of the Olentangy by a creek (Weiser Run, which is the source of the pond on the north side of the campus).



Planting a seminary ✱ *The construction of the MTSO campus (this photo from Sept. 17, 1959, shows the library) followed a century and a half of recorded agricultural history on this site*

The owner of the tract south of this creek is shown as F. Weiser. (Interestingly, the tract immediately north is shown as belonging to J. Christ.) “F. Weiser” refers to John Frederick Weiser, who apparently was better known by his middle name. Frederick Weiser was born in Northumberland County, Pa., in 1775. He was a direct descendant of Johann Conrad Weiser, who immigrated to colonial Pennsylvania from the Duchy of Württemberg (Germany). Johann Conrad became one of the leading figures in Pennsylvania prior to the American Revolution.

According to volume one of Weiser Families in America (New Oxford, Pa.: The John Conrad Weiser Family Association, 1997), Frederick married Mary Worline in 1800, and they moved to Circleville in Pickaway County, Ohio, in 1805. Historical sources disagree about when Frederick and Mary Weiser moved to Delaware County. The History of Delaware County Ohio

(1880), of which the Dickhaut Library owns a copy, states that the Weisers arrived here in 1810-11. Weiser Families in America contends it was 1816-17. The dates offered by Weiser Families in America is supported by stronger documentation consisting of the records from St. Mark's Lutheran Church (of which Frederick was a founder) and Delaware County deeds.

So, what did pre-Seminary Hill farmers grow on the Weiser land? Research from Emily Chapman, a volunteer at the Delaware County Historical Society, turned up some answers. Searching the Mendenhall file of land transfers, Chapman learned that Frederick raised Irish potatoes, corn and oats. Frederick died on May 5, 1855, and his son, Peter, inherited the property. Chapman's check of the 1860 U. S. Agricultural Census showed that Peter grew wheat, rye, corn and oats.

To conclude this history of Section 1 of Delaware Township, I am going to include the most tantalizing story about this land – which, unfortunately, I cannot verify. One of the frequent frustrations of historically researching a known entity is coming across some unconnected facts that make for a rousing story.

As I learned more about this land, the story of Frederick Weiser and some of the early 19th century agricultural products common to Central Ohio, an idea germinated in my mind about this land having a connection to one of the giants of American folklore. Unfortunately, I could not pull together enough historical evidence to prove my theory. Still, in legal circles, one might say that there is sufficient circumstantial evidence to say my theory has merit.

In January, I received an email from Paulette Weiser, the great-great-great granddaughter of Frederick Weiser. Paulette Weiser is a trustee of the Weiser Family Association and lived in Ohio for many years. She mentioned that she traveled by the campus frequently in going from her home in Bowling Green to Columbus and knew the connection between the land and her family. In fact, she stopped on campus once to get a first-hand look at the property and was told the Weiser family barn was used as a student center in the first years of the school.

My theory had its origins in what Paulette Weiser next suggested in her message. Having served as the archivist and curator at the Hancock Historical Museum in Findlay for several years, she became familiar with the practice of early wall-sized Ohio plat maps (1860s-1880s) to show signs of orchards, indicating which farms had fruit or nut trees. Unfortunately, the earliest maps of Delaware County (1849 and 1866) that Sue Lamphere shared with me did not show any graphics suggesting orchards on the Weiser property. Still, the periodical Ohio Cultivator reported in 1848 that the hilly areas of

Delaware and Morrow counties were well suited for growing apples.

Given the nature of the terrain on the property, it caused me to wonder whether apples were another crop Frederick Weiser might have pursued. This led to my conjecture regarding John Chapman, better known in American folklore as Johnny Appleseed, who started many early apple orchards in Ohio during the early 1800s.

After I sent an inquiry to the Delaware County Historical Society to find out if any evidence existed of Chapman being active in Delaware County, society volunteer Susan Logan wrote back with some stirring find-



A little slice of Delaware Township * This 1849 map shows that "F. Weiser" owned the land that would become the MTSO campus

ings. She talked to Brent Carson, a retired public school history teacher and president of the society.

Over the years, Carson assimilated vast quantities of facts and stories about Delaware County's past. Yes, he said, John Chapman did visit Delaware County. Mr. Carson related an account of him in Kingston Township, in the northeast part of the county. He visited the home of the Rosecrans family on Rosecrans Road, staying in their cabin and arguing religion with Mr. Rosecrans well into the night. Some recorders of Chapman's life recognized him as a missionary for the Swedenborgian Church,

so this account points to the possibility of a little good old-fashioned proselytizing on the part of Mr. Appleseed.

Carson also talked about the Gooding family, who lived in the south part of Delaware County, having contact with Chapman. The Goodings came from western Massachusetts, close to New York and to Chapman's family when they lived in New York. After the Chapman family moved to the Marietta area, Chapman would visit them. Bud Gooding told Carson that Chapman planted fruit trees on their land. He indicated that there was still a row of apple tree stumps in a field on the property. The Gooding homestead is on the west side of

U.S. Route 23, just north of Orange Road. The home still stands and is marked with a marker from the Ohio Historical Society. It is known as the Gooding Tavern, a stagecoach stop in the early to mid-1800s.

Susan Logan at the Delaware County Historical Society also offered a reference to Chapman's own journal. Some years ago, the president of the Linworth Historical Society in Franklin County called her to say he had read that Chapman was traveling to Delaware County to plant seeds. Chapman later recorded that he had planted seeds near a school in Delaware County.

These references to Johnny Appleseed's presence in Delaware County fascinate, to say the least. It is frustrating not to find enough pieces to prove that he helped Frederick Weiser start an apple orchard on the latter's land. However, if he did sow seeds on the Gooding property south of MTSO, then he probably traveled along the Sandusky Military Highway, which we now know as U.S. Route 23. So it is very likely that Chapman at least traveled through what is now our campus.

And who knows? Perhaps he did sow some seeds to launch agricultural activity that has been renewed in our parcel of Section 1 of Delaware Township. *

‘We could not remain on the sidelines’

Paul Minus recalls his arrest in Mississippi in 1964 – and sounds the call for engagement in a new struggle

Emeritus Professor Paul Minus was one of four MTSO faculty members who were arrested in 1964 for an act of civil disobedience that drew national attention. Fifty years later, with the enthusiastic support of the graduating class, President Jay Rundell invited Minus to deliver the 2014 commencement address.

Video of the ceremony is available at www.mtso.edu/commencement.

Below are highlights of the address.

I’m very pleased to be here on this important occasion. I spent 24 of the best years of my life as a teacher at this school, working with some wonderful people. I am particularly honored to have been chosen to help you commemorate the event that occurred 50 years ago, on Easter Sunday 1964, in Jackson, Mississippi.

And I am so very pleased that some who were a part of this community back then are here today. The four Methesco faculty who went to Mississippi knew we were expressing commitments that ran deep and wide in this school; we knew we had your support. In fact, that solidarity became wonderfully tangible when the first message from the outside world we received in the Jackson jail was a telegram of support from Methesco students. And, shortly after that, the lead role in raising bail money for us was

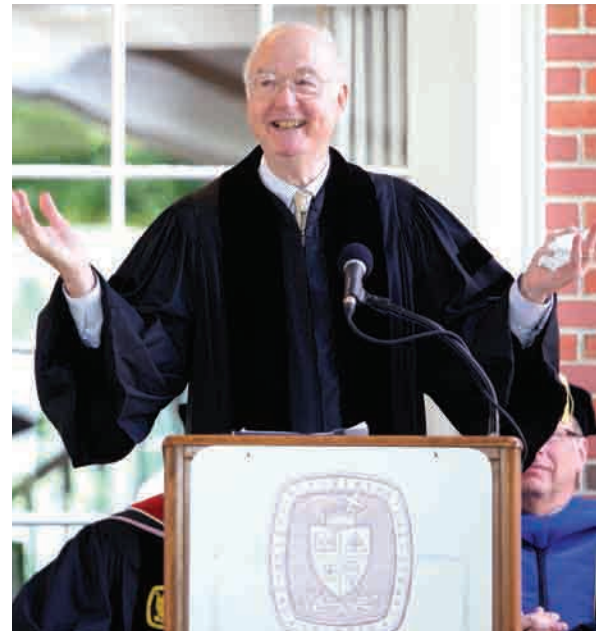
taken by faculty colleagues at this school. So, to all of you, from the bottom of my heart, I say thank you for your support.

The first reason the four of us went to Jackson was that a tiny minority of Methodists in Mississippi thought we might be helpful in their struggle to overcome segregation in the churches. As someone

“I want to say this to you who are graduating: My deepest hope is that you will be caught up in a vast, important, difficult struggle that calls for the full investment of your talent, your courage, your love, your energy.”

accurately said back then, “Eleven to twelve o’clock Sunday morning is the most segregated hour in American life.” This was true not only in the Deep South, but it was most blatantly true in the Deep South.

The small group of whites and blacks leading the struggle against racial segrega-



“I urge you to quicken the pace” * Minus speaking at commencement May 24.

tion in Mississippi Methodism was concentrated among leaders at Tougaloo College, which was started shortly after the Civil War to provide education for former slaves and their children. By 1964, Jackson area residents were accustomed to hearing about drive-by shootings into the homes of Tougaloo faculty and staff. Ed King, the white Methodist clergyman who was our host in Mississippi, was the courageous chaplain of Tougaloo, and his disfigured face was a result of the earlier bombing of his car.

The preceding year, King and his colleagues had lost about a dozen valued allies who were talented white Methodist pastors, all of them Mississippi natives. In 1963, these young men had issued a public statement, called “Born of Conviction,” declaring their support for the relatively mild affirmation of the 1960 Methodist General Conference that all men are brothers and that racial discrimination is contrary to the teaching of Christ. In the months following their statement, it became clear that these rebels had made themselves outcasts to most Methodists in the state, and that if they remained, their future would be grim. One of those courageous young Mississippi pastors

was Buford Dickinson, who 18 years later became the second president of this school.

In January 1964, the Tougaloo planners decided to invite a team of Methodist seminary professors to be in Jackson on Easter Sunday. They knew which seminary to contact. When their call came to this school, Van Bogard Dunn, Everett Tilson, Jeffrey Hopper and I quickly accepted the invitation. We also recruited three Methodist seminary professors from elsewhere to join us.

The 1964 General Conference of the Methodist Church was scheduled to meet in late April and early May in Pittsburgh. Our Jackson hosts believed that if Methodist leaders from around the country were given a first-hand experience of the Southerners' determination to preserve the old ways, these leaders from elsewhere would be effective allies in the effort at the Pittsburgh General Conference to turn our denomination more vigorously against racial segregation.

The second reason we went to Jackson was that, for this Ohio foursome, our earlier experiences had given us convictions that made us ready to go. One of those convictions was that the world in 1964 was undergoing far-reaching change: Longstanding patterns of oppression and injustice were being overturned by powerful new forces affirming human dignity, freedom and equality. That, we believed, was the great, defining fact of our time. We believed that the God of justice and mercy was somehow involved in this struggle, and we knew that we could not remain on the sidelines.

Let me now say something briefly about what actually happened to us in Jackson those four days. Our faculty group met for much of the Saturday before Easter with leaders of local Methodist churches to discuss the racial situation in Jackson, as well as the national Methodist Church's position against racial segregation. They were

courteous conversations, but by the end of the day, it was clear that no one's position had changed.

The next morning, Easter Sunday, we seven white Methodist professors were joined by two young black Methodist students at Tougaloo College. We went together to Capitol Street Methodist Church, in downtown Jackson, hoping to worship the Risen Lord with the congregation. We were met outside the church entrance by a group of ushers. They told us it was the congregation's official policy that whites could worship there but not blacks. Our spokesman, Bogie Dunn, asked if we could quietly stand there together, blacks and whites, in front of the church. The ushers told us we could not. They added that if we did not leave, they would ask the police to arrest us. Bogie then responded that we would stand there, whereupon the head usher asked the police (who were standing nearby) to arrest us. This conversation lasted only two or three minutes. No one raised his voice. It was strangely civil – in fact, it was so low-keyed that no one inside the church could know what was happening outside.

So, off we went to jail, and the rest of Easter Sunday was spent getting used to being in a different kind of cell group. Whites and blacks were put in separate, segregated cells, and generally we were treated decently. The next day, a judge quickly found us guilty of disturbing public worship. He fined each of us \$500 and sentenced us to six months in jail.

When our attorney indicated that he was going to appeal, the judge set bail at \$500 for each of us. By the next afternoon, the bail money arrived, and we were released.



**“An Easter assault on racial barriers” *
The New York Times was among the
national newspapers that covered
the arrests**

Continues

From previous page

When the General Conference of the Methodist Church met in Pittsburgh a month later, we seven were part of a large, peaceful demonstration urging delegates to end racial segregation in the Methodist Church. As it turned out, some progress was made down that road, but we were disappointed that delegates did not go further.

Approximately six months later, the U.S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans overturned the Jackson judge's verdict, and we no longer had to face the prospect of spending six months in a Mississippi jail.

Whatever impact our experience in Jackson might have had on Methodism in Mississippi, its impact on me and on others connected to our Easter Sunday witness was profound. It pointed us firmly in the direction of lifelong, active involvement in the struggle for racial justice and racial reconciliation. It solidified deeply held convictions about the Gospel, the church's mission and our own ministries. It gave us an abiding awareness that our lives can make a difference – and with that came a peace and joy that the world can neither give nor take away.

I want to say this to you who are graduating: My deepest hope for you is that you will be led into paths where you, too, are caught up in a vast, important, difficult struggle that calls for the full investment of your talent, your courage, your love, your energy.

I want now to tell you how – about 15 years ago, at a fork in the road for me – I came to realize that God was calling me to give myself to the struggle to end people's abuse of the planet. It started soon after I had retired, when my wife, Jean, and I were living near a small pond in eastern Massachusetts. We and our neighbors became concerned that the pond was filling up with water lilies, threatening to make it no longer fit for fish or humans. We learned that for years, people living around the pond had paid no attention to the fact that the nitrogen and phosphorous from our fertil-

ized lawns and septic systems were leaching into the pond, creating a perfect place for the growth of those unwanted plants. We created the Orleans Pond Coalition as a way to begin to address the problems. My new ministry had begun.

I soon discovered that people all around the world have been acting for generations like those of us on that pond in Massachu-

“I do indeed believe in the God who is the Maker of heaven and earth, who has given humans the awesome natural world to enjoy – and to care for.”

setts – but doing so on a far vaster scale and with much more serious consequences. As we have discarded our waste products into the ground, the water and the air, we have badly disrupted the friendly natural systems that have nourished human life for thousands of years. Most serious is the fact that today carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses released into the atmosphere by people's burning of fossil fuels for energy are chiefly responsible for the steady warming of the planet. That, in turn, has resulted in the current drought and wildfires in Southern California, but also in such things all around the world as melting glaciers, rising sea levels, worsening storms and floods, colder winters and summers, and failed crops.

Virtually all climate scientists agree that so much has already been done to poison our planet that the results are likely to get worse before they have a chance of getting better. But most of them agree that there is still time for the worst effects of climate change to be avoided. To make this happen will require a massive mobilization of people, governments and institutions.

You also need to know that many scientists are saying that this crisis is too big and too difficult for technological and political means alone to solve it. Twenty-five years

ago, an organization called the Global Forum of Scientists affirmed that planet earth cannot be saved unless people learn to treat it as sacred, and this means, they added, that “religious teaching, example and leadership” are necessary to make such a change happen.

Why have I jumped into this struggle – and why do I encourage you to be alert to the possibility that God may be calling you to do likewise?

I do indeed believe in the God who is the Maker of heaven and earth, who has given humans the awesome natural world to enjoy – and to care for. And I do believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of the Creator God, who calls his followers to reach out in love

to people near and far, so as to protect them from the ravages of climate change. And I do believe in God's Holy Spirit, who is working now to awaken men and women around the world to the urgency of the planetary crisis.

And, dare I say it, I believe in this Methodist Theological School in Ohio, this verdant, vibrant place, and the important role you can play by moving to the frontlines of God's effort to awaken the church and renew the face of the earth. You have already taken significant initial steps, especially with the new farm on this lovely campus and the new joint faculty appointment in environmental ethics. I urge you to quicken the pace of your travel down this road, so that you become the foremost seminary in America leading the way to a green future.

Perhaps you have heard this story from the Sufi tradition of Islam. A woman who had long wanted to talk with God finally got her chance. “Why is it, O Holy One,” she asked, “that there is so much suffering, so much pain in the world, and You have done nothing about it?”

Whereupon God replied, “I have done something about it. I created you.”

“I created you.” ✱

Alum news

If you're an alum or former faculty or staff member of MTSO and have news to share about your ministry or personal milestones, please submit it via the link at www.mtso.edu/update. If you don't have an Internet connection, you may mail your news to us at Alum News, MTSO, 3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware, Ohio 43015. Alum news also can be found online at www.mtso.edu/alums.

1969

Richard Taylor is retired and living in New Mexico. revrich4033@gmail.com

1974

Brian C. Briggs retired from the East Ohio Conference of the UMC in 2014.

Julia Corbett-Hemeyer published her "intelligent self-help book for female survivors of childhood sexual abuse," called *Reclaiming Our Souls*, in May 2013. She is also a part-time community minister for a Unitarian Universalist church and is a part-time chaplain at the IU Health/Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Ind. julia@manypathsinterfaithministries.net

1975

Lyle Shiffert was named assistant director of the Northwest Ohio Emmaus Community and also serves on the board for the Northwest Ohio Chrysalis Community. lshiffert@buckeye-express.com

Stein Skjørshammer started and runs an off-grid solar power electric company operating in Africa. The same grid offers cable television and Internet, thus giving people access to the outside world. Additional activity includes entrepreneurship training and micro-financing resulting in viable and sustainable community and business development, enabling people to escape poverty and look toward a brighter future. stein.skjorshammer@gmil.com

1976

David Broyles retired from the U.S. Air Force in August 2007. He is currently serving as pastor at Southern Hills UMC in Dayton. He's going to Pignon, Haiti, in October, as he has each year since 2004. dbroiles@woh.rr.com

R. Karl Watkins retired July 1 after 40 years of ordained ministry. karl.watkins@iaumc.net

1977

Wendy Guion has recently retired and is living in Bowling Green, Ohio.

1978

Nanette Hubbell retired in June as a local pastor in the Florida Conference of the UMC. She continues to serve in the Pinellas County Schools. nanhubbell@tampabay.rr.com

1980

Brad Martin has been appointed pastor of Liberty Chapel UMC in Liberty Center, Ohio. bmartin4477@gmail.com

1982

Carl Lakota was named superintendent of the Kaskaskia River District in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the UMC. lakotaeastin@gmail.com

1983

Terry Turner retired June 30, 2013, after 30 years of ministry. teturner48@gmail.com

1984

Donald Jackson is the senior pastor at First UMC on the campus of Illinois State University in Normal, Ill. djonwater@aol.com

Elaine Clinger Sturtz is the licensed professional counselor of Peace within Counseling Ministry, a community-based counseling service at Peace UMC in Pickerington, Ohio.

1985

Lawrence Cameron was interviewed for a September 2013 Examiner.com article about mental illness stigma. pilgrim1959@gmail.com

1986

Valerie Stultz has retired after 28 years of serving in the East Ohio Conference of the UMC, and she is now living just behind MTSO. stultz704@gmail.com

1987

Sue Chidley has been appointed to Bellevue Seybert and Flat Rock Ebenezer UMCs in Ohio. suechidley@yahoo.com

Phyllis Cole-Dai was presented with the 14th annual Dorothy and Eugene T. Butler Human Rights Award. This is presented to "someone in the community of Brookings, South Dakota, for their dedication to promoting human rights." coledai@brookings.net

1992

Paul Tran retired on Jan. 1 after 41 years of full-time ministry in Laos, the Philippines, France, Europe and with West Ohio Conference of the UMC. tranpaul51@gmail.com

1994

Charles DeMaris has recently retired.

1997

Linda Carter retired from active ministry. revlindacarter@aol.com

1999

Stephanie Lee is serving as the pastor of Christ UMC in Alliance, Ohio.

stephaniel@cumcalliance.org

2000

Carol Layton is chair of the Great Northern District Committee on Ordained Ministry as well as the California/Nevada Committee on Native American Ministries in the United Methodist Church.

pastorcarol.layton@gmail.com

Rebeka Maples is publishing a book through Palgrave Macmillan titled *The Legacy of Desegregation: The Struggle for Equality in Higher Education*. She is director of spiritual formation for the Course of Study School of Ohio.

revrebeka@earthlink.net

Lynda McClanahan was commissioned by *Hinduism Today* magazine to paint a Hindu map of Europe. This painting was published as the cover of the magazine's January 2014 issue. Also, the Columbus Cultural Arts Center presented the exhibit "Strange & Wonderful: A Retrospective of Works by Lynda McClanahan" during the month of August.

knepp4350@aol.com

2001

Brooke (Hubbs) Hilliard is the Cokesbury community resource consultant in the Columbus region.

hilliard@cokesbury.com

2002

David MacDonald received his Doctor of Ministry degree in spiritual direction from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary on May 16.

d-macdonald@onu.edu

Charles Neff was named vice president for church relations and dean of the chapel at Oklahoma City University.

cneff@akcu.edu

2005

Bruce Benzing is chaplain and bereavement coordinator for the Hospice Services at Methodist ElderCare. He was formerly a hospice chaplain with Gentiva Healthcare. He has been attending Scioto Ridge UMC in Hilliard and is thinking of becoming a member there.

Bruco213@msn.com

2008

Jennifer Bradshaw is currently pursuing a master's degree at the School for Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa.

Patrick Broz created an evangelism primer as a resource for local churches to use called Guest Quest. It is now offered as a course on the Great Plains Conference website and can be found at www.guestquest.org.

pbroz@kingmanumc.org

2010

Abby Caseman has been appointed as associate pastor at First UMC in Wichita, Kan.

alcaseman@yahoo.com

John Cramton was given his professional certification for chaplaincy by the Association of Professional Chaplains in April 2013 and is currently working as a hospice chaplain at the Kobacker House in Columbus.

john.cramton@att.net

2013

Mathias Akih was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon in 2006 and was received into the Scioto Valley Presbytery as a member in November 2013. He has been serving as a stated supply pastor at Ramseyer Presbyterian Church in Columbus.

Alethea Botts has been appointed to New Beginnings UMC in Pomeroy, Ohio.

pastorbotts@gmail.com

Matthew (Jess) Peacock is moving to Chicago to begin his Ph.D. work at Chicago Theological Seminary.

jesspeacock@ymail.com

2014

R. Lorraine Brown was appointed to the Growing Seed Cooperative Ministry in Glenwood, Md.

rlcbsbjr@gmail.com

Deborah Caulk recently transferred her ministerial candidacy for ordination to the Methodist Church in Britain. She is a student presbyter/probationer with MCB, completing her ministerial training at the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education in Birmingham, England, where she has a scholarship to begin a research Ph.D. program in September.

deborahcaulk@gmail.com



Get MTSO gear online

New alumni and Seminary Hill Farm T-shirts are among the items available for purchase at MTSO's online store. You'll also find everything from mugs to mousepads. Check out the full selection at www.cafepress.com/mtsostore.



Beyond the classroom

Faculty activities 2013-14



Jeffrey Jaynes
Professor in the
Warner Chair of
Church History

Academic lectures and presentations

"Maps and Territorial Reforms in Sixteenth Century North Germany," session on "Politics and the Lutheran Reformation" at the North American Luther Research Forum, St. Louis, Mo., April 25-27, 2014.

Meetings

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

Church and popular lectures

Played the role of the "Narrative Traveler" in the performance of "Journey to the Cross" at Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Columbus, April 13, 2014.



John Kampen
Professor in the Dunn
Chair in Biblical
Interpretation

Publications

"Ethics, Second Temple and Hellenistic Judaism," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Berlin: De Gruyter. Volume 8, online version.

Academic lectures and presentations

"Wisdom in Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literatures," keynote paper, Conference on Aspects of Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literature, Sapientia College of Theology, Budapest, Hungary, June 4, 2013.

"Sectarianism and Wisdom: A Comparative Study of Instruction, 1QS, and Matthew,"

International Organization of Qumran Studies, Munich, Germany, Aug. 7, 2013.

Meetings

Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Baltimore, Nov. 21-22, 2013.

Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Baltimore, Nov. 23-26, 2013.

Honors and Awards Committee, American Schools of Oriental Research, 2014.

President, School of Graduate Studies Alumni Association, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 2014.

Church and popular lectures

"The Dead Sea Scrolls: Ancient History, Unexpected Wisdom," Chautauqua Lecture Series, Lakeside, July 9-10, 2014.

"The Many Faces of Partly Dave," presentation on the coffeehouse Kampen managed from 1968 to 1971, Elkhart County Historical Museum, Bristol, Ind., April 25, 2014.



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

Publications

Formation and Intertextuality in Isaiah 24-27 (co-edited with J. Todd Hibbard, *Ancient Israel and Its Literature* 17; Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature) 2013.

"Little Highs, Little Lows: Tracing Key Themes in Isaiah," *The Book of Isaiah: Enduring Questions Answered Anew. Essays Honoring Joseph Blenkinsopp and His Contribution to the Study of Isaiah* (ed. Richard J. Bautch and J. Todd Hibbard; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014), 141-66.

"Reading the Joseph Story (Genesis 37-50) as a Diaspora Narrative," *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 75 (2013): 219-38.

Academic lectures and presentations

Panel Presentation for A Special Session Honoring Joseph Blenkinsopp and His Contribution to Isaiah Studies, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Baltimore, November 2013.

"Reading Isaiah as a Companion to the Twelve Prophets," Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Baltimore, November 2013.

Meetings

Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Baltimore, November 2013.

Attended as the chair of Hebrew Scriptures at Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society Meeting, Erie, Ohio, March 27-28, 2014.

Attended the Korean Church Coalition for North Korea Freedom, Washington, D.C., July 14-17, 2014.

Church and popular lectures

"Prayer (Genesis 18:22-33)," sermon, Canton Korean United Methodist Church, Canton, Ohio, Sept. 1, 2013.

"Religion of Love (John 13:1-15)," sermon, Canton Korean United Methodist Church, Canton, Ohio, Sept. 22, 2013.

"The Bible and Spiritual Well-Being," six-week seminar taught with Professor Fulgence Nyengele, Trinity United Methodist Church, Columbus, March 2-April 6, 2014.

"Good Christian (Micah 6:6-8)," sermon, Saegil Christian Church, Burbank, Calif., June 1, 2014.

Continues

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Sarah Heaner Lancaster
Professor in the Werner Chair of Theology

Publications

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

Meetings

Attended Faith and Order Commission, Monastery of Bose, Italy, March 18-21, 2014.

Church and popular lectures

Participant in discussion about online communion, Nashville, sponsored by General Boards of Discipleship and Higher Education and Ministry, United Methodist Communications, and Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2013.

Panelist, “Current Ecumenical Realities for Leadership,” presidential installation, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Oct. 27, 2013.

Presentation to United Methodist Council of Bishops, “Wesley and Ecclesiology,” Lake Junaluska, N.C., Nov. 11, 2013.



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

Publications

“How Faiths Can Reach ‘spiritual but not religious,’” interview for *Columbus Dispatch*, Jan. 10, 2014.

“Good News about the Spiritual but not Religious,” blog for CNN.com, Feb. 22, 2014.

Belief without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious, Oxford University Press, March 2014.

“Spiritual but not Religious: Knowing the Types, Avoiding the Traps,” *Oxford University Press* religion blog, March 2, 2014.

“Are the Spiritual but not Religious Turning East?” blog for *Huffington Post*, April 14, 2014.

“Examining the Growth of the ‘Spiritual but not Religious,’” interview for *New York Times*, July 19, 2014.

Meetings

Workgroup on Constructive Theology: planning committee, book contributor, April 2013.

Awards and appointments

Appointed Worthington Libraries trustee, January 2013.

Church and popular lectures

“I Was an SBNR,” Columbus Mennonite Church, April 2014.

“Spiritual but not Religious?” workshop, St. John’s Evangelical Protestant Church, May 18, 2014.

“God Community?” sermon, St. John’s Evangelical Protestant Church, May 18, 2014.

Dialogue sermon, Columbus Mennonite Church, June 2014.

Performance with the Victory Drummers, Survivors’ Day, the James, September 2013.

Performance with the Victory Drummers, Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, staff event, May 7, 2014.

Performance with the Victory Drummers, Hills Market, June 2014.



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

Publications

“Human Subjects Research: Lessons about Interreligious Relations beyond the Research Thesis,” *Teaching Theology and Religion* 16.4 (October 2013): 392.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Multireligious America: Facts and Implications for Health Care,” OhioHealth Ethics Advisory Committee, Columbus.

Meetings

Faith and Order Commission, Ohio Council of Churches, Sept. 12, 2013.

Healthy Boundaries – Ethics in Ministry Relations Training, Illinois-Wisconsin District, Church of the Brethren, Mount Morris, Ill.

Attended memorial mass for Chiara Lubich, founder of the Focolare Movement, St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Sunbury, Ohio.

Church and popular lectures

Led West Ohio Conference Certified Lay Ministers Academy, Oct. 5, 2013.

“Interreligious Relations,” University Interfaith Association, Ohio State University, Columbus, Nov. 7, 2013.

“Multireligious America,” Larry Larson Middle School, Columbus.

Fielded inquiries from Pluralism Project (Harvard University) and Faith and Leadership (Duke Divinity School).

Fielded inquiries from *Columbus Dispatch*, Ohio State University, WBEZ Radio Chicago.



M. Fulgence Nyengele

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

Publications

Book Review of *Missing Us: Re-Visioning Psychoanalysis from the Perspective of Community* by Ryan LaMothe, *Journal of Pastoral Theology*, Volume 1, 2014.

“Cultivating Ubuntu? An African Postcolonial Pastoral Theological Engagement with Positive Psychology,” *Journal of Pastoral Theology*, Volume 1, 2014.

Academic lectures and presentations

“African Spirituality and the Wesleyan Spirit: Implications for Spiritual Formation in a Multicultural Church and Culturally Pluralistic World,” presented in the Practical Theology Group at the Thirteenth Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Oxford, England, Aug. 12-19, 2013.

“Cultivating Ubuntu? An African Postcolonial Pastoral Theological Engagement with Positive Psychology,” plenary presentation, Society for Pastoral Theology, June 19-21, 2014.

Meetings

American Academy of Religion, Nov. 23-26, 2013.

Co-chair, “Globalization, Postcolonialism, and Pastoral Care,” Society for Pastoral Theology, June 19 -21, 2014.



Joon-Sik Park

Professor in the E. Stanley Jones Chair of World Evangelism

Publications

“The Church as Embodiment of Transformative Trinitarian Faith,” *Ethics as if Jesus Mattered: Essays in Honor of Glen H. Stassen*, edited by Rick Axtell, Michelle Tooley and Michael L. Westmoreland-White, 57-73. Macon, Ga.: Smyth & Helwys, 2014.

“Han’gug gaeshingyo,” *Korea Anabaptist Journal* 2 (Spring 2013): 6-12; 3 (Summer 2013): 3-8; and 4 (Winter 2013): 6-12. (Korean Translation of “Korean Protestant Christianity: A Missiological Reflection,” *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 36 (2012): 59-64.)

Academic lectures and presentations

“Missional Legacy of R. Archer Torrey: Mystic, Prophet, and Pioneer,” American Society of Missiology, Chicago, June 21, 2014.

Church and popular lectures

“Journey into Faith,” sermon, Phum Phnov Methodist Church, Svay Rieng, Cambodia, Jan. 12, 2014.

“The New Jerusalem,” sermon for Mission Weekend, Fredericktown UMC, Fredericktown, Ohio, Nov. 10, 2013.

“Pentecost and Mission,” sermon, Lakeside, June 8, 2014.



Timothy L. Van Meter

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

Meetings

Trinity Seminary Sampler, July 2013.

Capitol Area North and Capitol Area South Youth Justice Initiative training, spring 2013 to present.

Church and popular lectures

Delaware Ministerial Association, Oct. 2, 2013.

Presentation at Beehive Books, Oct. 8, 2013.

Interfaith Power & Light retreat, Nov. 22, 2013.



Robin Knowles Wallace

Professor in the Taylor Chair of Church Worship and Music

Publications

Editor, 2013 autumn issue, *The Hymn: A Journal of Congregational Song*.

Editor, 2014 winter issue, *The Hymn: A Journal of Congregational Song*.

Editor, 2014 spring issue, *The Hymn: A Journal of Congregational Song*.

Articles published in *The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology* (online subscription resource, 2013): “Benjamin Franklin Crawford”; “Children’s Hymnody, USA”; “Episcopal Church, USA, Hymnody”; “Methodist Hymnody, USA”; “Albert Edward Bailey”; “Fred Gealy”; “LindaJo McKim”; and “William Watkins Reid.”

Review of Christian Congregational Music: Performance, Identity, and Experience, Monique Ingalls, Carolyn Landau, Thomas Wagner and Martyn Percy, in *The American Organist*, 48:1 (January 2014), 76-77.

Are you getting Campus View emails?

The next 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. Meanwhile, if you’d like to catch up on our archives of *Campus View*, *The Story* and news releases, you’ll find them at www.mtso.edu/news.



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Meetings

Executive Committee, Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, Richmond, Va., Nov. 5-7, 2013.

Executive Committee Meeting, Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, July 12, 2014.

Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, July 13-17, 2014.

Editorial Advisory Board Meeting, Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, July 13, 2014.

Sectional: "How to Write for Publication in 'The Hymn' or 'The Verse,'" with Tina Schneider; coordinator of Night Prayers, Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, July 13-17, 2014.

Church and popular lectures

Oak Chapel UMC, Wooster, Ohio, Adult Sunday school, "Song Since Vatican II," Nov. 10, 2013.

Oak Chapel UMC, Wooster, Ohio, directed choir for Hymn Festival, Nov. 10, 2013.

Organist at Johnston UMC, July 6, 2014.



Tamara Francis Wilden

Director of Field Education

Church and popular lectures

Presenter at "Love Across the Spectrum" conference, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, November 2013.



Lisa Withrow

Dean

Professor in the Dewire Chair of Christian Leadership

Publications

"Creating Knowledge in Hybrid Format," *Teaching Theology and Religion*, July 2014.

Co-editor for academic journal *The Journal of Religious Leadership*.

Academic lectures and presentations

"Seeking Meaningful Discourse through Disruption of the Center/Margin Dichotomy," Oxford Institute, 2013.

Meetings

Academy of Religious Leadership, April 2014.

Chair of the Pastoral Advisory Committee for OhioHealth.



C. Jeff Woods

Fully Affiliated Faculty in Congregational Studies

Publications

"What Type of Follower Attends Our Church?" *The Parish Paper*, Vol. 22, No. 7, July 2014.

"A Parable about Pastoral Leadership." *The Parish Paper*, Vol. 22, No. 2, February 2014.

"Alternative Pastoral Models." *Sharing the Practice*, Vol. 36, No. 4, December 2013.

"Not All Teams Are Created Equal." *Congregations*, Vol. 40, No. 4, 2013.

Meetings

World Futures Conference, Orlando, July 2014.

Evaluating Truth and Credibility, Paul Eckmann Conference, April 2014.



Yvonne Zimmerman

Associate Professor of Christian Ethics

Publications

"Religious Liberty Past and Present: A Conversation with Mennonite and United Methodist Histories," *Ecumenical Trends* 43 (10) November 2013.

"Christian Ethics and Human Trafficking Activism: Progressive Christianity and Social Critique," with Letitia M. Campbell, *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 34 (1) 2014, 145-172.

Academic lectures and presentations

"Good Freedom: 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," at the Social Practice of Human Rights conference, University of Dayton, Oct. 4, 2013.

Panelist for "Defrocked, Still Faithful," with Rev. Frank Schaeffer at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, May 1, 2014.

Meetings

American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Baltimore, November 2013.

Society of Christian Ethics annual meeting, Seattle, January 2014.

Church and popular lectures

"Building an Inclusive Movement to End Human Trafficking," Ohio Ministries Convocation keynote, with Letitia Campbell, Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Columbus, January 27, 2014.

"Ethics and Human Trafficking Activism: Why Progressive Christian Values Matter," at First Community Church (UCC), Columbus, March 26, 2014.

"Leading with Values: Progressive Christianity and Social Ethics in Ending Human Trafficking," Western Pennsylvania UMC Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Pittsburgh, March 3, 2014.

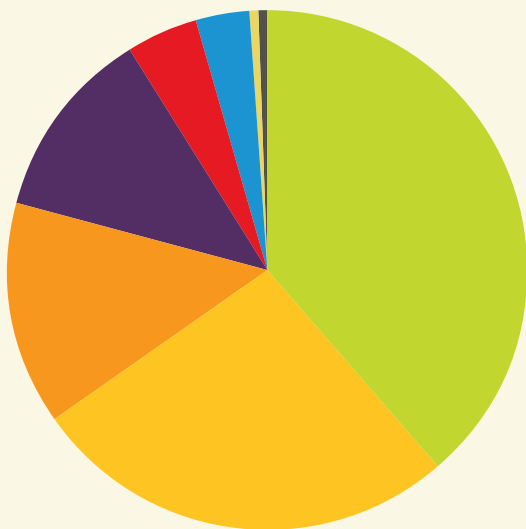
Financial information

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, Methodist Theological School in Ohio had revenues of \$6,248,153 and expenditures of \$6,246,672. If you have questions about this information, please contact our business office at 740-363-1146.

Operating budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14 (unaudited)

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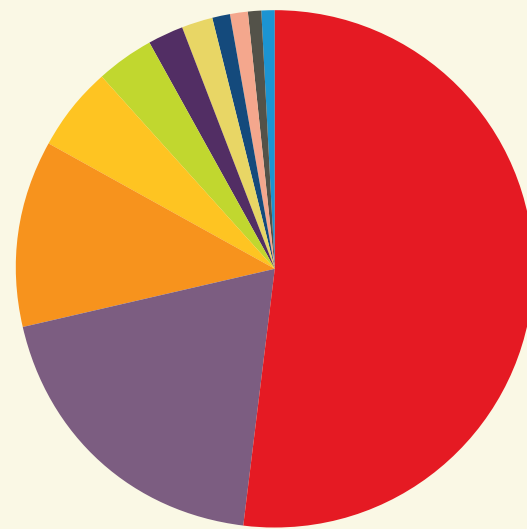
MTSO relied primarily on three sources of income: tuition and fees (38.6 percent of total revenues), endowment earnings (26.7 percent) and the Ministerial Education Fund of the United Methodist Church (13.9 percent). Combined gift revenue accounted for 8.2 percent of total revenues.



	Revenues	Percent of total
Tuition and fees	\$2,413,509	38.6%
Endowment	\$1,668,600	26.7%
Ministerial Education Fund	\$868,234	13.9%
Other programs and services	\$743,045	11.9%
Methesco Fund gifts	\$282,512	4.5%
Release of restricted gifts	\$207,698	3.3%
Federal work study	\$38,695	0.6%
Student aid gifts	\$25,860	0.4%
Total revenues	\$6,248,153	100%

Expenditures

Compensation of faculty and staff accounted for 51.9 percent of the MTSO operating budget, followed by financial aid (19.6 percent) and other programs and services, which include such items as the Course of Study School of Ohio and Dunn Dining Hall (11.6 percent).



	Expenditures	Percent of total
Compensation	\$3,244,751	51.9%
Financial aid	\$1,225,617	19.6%
Other programs and services	\$721,489	11.6%
Plant maintenance	\$338,065	5.4%
General administration	\$223,577	3.6%
Academic support	\$131,848	2.1%
Information systems	\$125,799	2.0%
Enrollment	\$70,289	1.1%
Business administration	\$68,040	1.1%
Instruction	\$50,989	0.8%
Institutional advancement	\$46,208	0.7%
Total expenditures	\$6,246,672	100%

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