

Volume LXI
Fall 2022

THE STORY

MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT

Two new grants
bring in
\$1 million each

MTSO offers
unprecedented
advantages for
UM ministry
students

Alum Grace
Imathiu delivers
a stirring
commencement
address

Incoming
students bring
international
perspectives

An alum uses
stimulus money
to launch a
scholarship fund



MTSO

Methodist Theological School in Ohio

www.mtso.edu

Contents

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our work is attracting significant investment 1

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

2022 news digest 2

STUDENTS

Incoming class has an international flair. 4

ALUMNI

Grace Imathiu delivers a compelling commencement address 6

Alum news. 8

How an alum got a scholarship fund rolling. 9

Ordained and commissioned 10

FACULTY

Beyond the classroom: faculty activities 11

Schellenberg wins second Beare Award 12

REPORT TO DONORS

Donor Honor Roll 16

In memoriam: alumni and friends 17

Restricted student scholarship giving 18

The Sterling Society: recognizing planned giving 19

Financial information 20



Save the date for Schooler ✱ *The Schooler Institute on Preaching* returns to an in-person format in 2023, led by Luke Powery, dean of Duke University Chapel and associate professor of homiletics at

Duke Divinity School. Schooler will be held Monday and Tuesday, March 27 and 28, on the MTSO campus. Thanks to the generosity of the Schooler Family Foundation, the institute is offered to the public without cost. Advance registration is required and will be open in coming weeks.

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A publication of Methodist Theological School in Ohio

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Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs:

Valerie Bridgeman

Editor: Danny Russell

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 Social Justice, Master of Theological Studies and Doctor of Ministry. It also offers graduate-level certificate programs in Basic Theological Education, United Methodist Deacon Studies and the Advanced Course of Study in the United Methodist Church. In addition, MTSO provides courses for General Board of Higher Education and Ministry certification.

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

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

Our work is attracting significant investment

By Jay Rundell
President

It is a privilege to greet you once again on behalf of the seminary community. We remain ever committed to our important mission and ever grateful for the support we have from so many of you. Amidst challenging times for the Church and our wider world, and with the impact of significant change and stress for higher education, we are nonetheless thriving. You will see much evidence of that in the following pages.

You will read about several new students, emblematic of a fantastic first-year class. Staff and faculty have led the way in transforming us into a school that maintains a critical sense of place both on campus and in virtual space. Our alumni were represented well in the 2022 Schooler Institute on Preaching, in which eight alums discussed pandemic and post-pandemic ministry and emerging trends.

It might surprise you to learn that since March of 2020 – the start of pandemic shutdowns – we’ve held 17 major educational events, primarily online. You may want to browse recorded videos at www.mtso.edu/eventarchives.

As those of you involved in virtually any church or organization know, much has changed in recent years. Certainly some things have been lost, and not everything will be the same. But much endures, and there is considerable opportunity ahead.

There is also indication that others are taking note of what’s happening here and investing generously in our expanding mission.

A year ago, we shared news of two new grants to support emerging projects: Our Science for Seminaries grant, funded by the John Templeton Foundation, is being

administered by Library Director Elonda Clay and faculty members Tejai Beulah Howard and Elaine Nogueira-Godsey. The “Spaces for Thriving: Cultivating Authentic Pastors for Small Membership Churches and Communities of Color” grant, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., supports work that will continue for another four years under the direction of Professor Fulgence Nyengele.

I am pleased to announce that in the past year we’ve received two additional grants from Lilly Endowment, each in the amount of \$1 million.

Associate Professor Tim Van Meter is leading “Connecting Pathways: A Multi-Faceted Approach to Strengthen and Sustain Current and Future Faith Leaders,” a \$1 million project funded through Lilly Endowment’s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. “Connecting Pathways” utilizes MTSO’s distinct strengths in two distinct parts.

Part One, “Connecting Pathways: Congregations and Other Ministry Partners,” supports existing religious leaders, focusing on anti-racism training and resourcing. Working with partner organizations, MTSO is helping faith leaders to assess land use and church food programs to assist in building community engagement.

Part Two, “Connecting Pathways: Vocational Exploration Intensive for Young Adults,” offers experiential learning, theological reflection, worship, and relationships with healthy community leaders and vibrant faith communities. It broadens the pool of people who see the potential for theological education, connecting participants with faith leaders, including some of those involved in Part One of the project.

We just learned in November that Lilly Endowment has awarded MTSO a five-year grant of \$1 million to support prophetic



preaching through the WomanPreach! program. This is part of Lilly’s Compelling Preaching Initiative.

WomanPreach! was founded 12 years ago by Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs Valerie Bridgeman, who serves as the program’s CEO. Begun as a way to train women, WomanPreach! has grown to include programming for people of all genders who serve as community organizers and in various other vocational spaces where faith-based, justice-centered proclamation is necessary.

The new grant will strengthen the infrastructure, delivery and implementation of established WomanPreach! events and initiatives, with evolution in digital tools and communication. You’ll find more about the work this grant will fund at www.mtso.edu/womanpreachgrant.

It is an honor to be linked in this way to Dr. Bridgeman’s longstanding and well-known Woman Preach! organization and movement.

That is a total of \$3 million in support from Lilly Endowment in the past two years. We are grateful to them and to all of you who invest in our important work.

In the past year we’ve received two additional grants from Lilly Endowment Inc., each in the amount of \$1 million.

News digest: Headlines from 2022



MTSO offers unprecedented advantages for UM ministry students

While many schools, including MTSO, now offer degree programs either in-person or fully online, the United Methodist Church requires that those seeking United Methodist ordination earn at least one-third of their seminary degrees through campus-based attendance.

Fortunately, there is good news for those students: MTSO works diligently to offer them multiple options for meeting UM requirements while providing maximum flexibility in scheduling classes.

Any one of the following options – or some combination of them – can be used to satisfy UMC requirements for campus-based courses at MTSO:

- Attending two semesters in person. It is likely courses during those semesters can be covered by coming to campus only on Tuesday each week.
- Attending week-long residential intensive courses during Summer Terms.
- Attending week-long residential intensive courses during January Terms.

“At no point in our history has earning a degree that meets United Methodist

ordination requirements fit into students’ budgets and busy lives as well as it does today,” said MTSO Director of Enrollment Management April Casperson. “We are able to work with ordination candidates to cover their full tuition and to create a schedule that makes space for living their lives.”

A more detailed explanation of options for fulfilling on-campus options required for ordination is at www.mtso.edu/umcordination.

Virtual Schooler Institute considered preaching in a unique time



The 2022 Schooler Institute on Preaching took place virtually over four weeks in March and April, exploring what it means to lead meaningful worship in our current climate. Under a unique virtual format, MTSO President Jay Rundell hosted a series of four conversations with alumni serving in a variety of church contexts.

Archived video of the Schooler conversations is at www.mtso.edu/schoolervideo.

Rundell discussed how the events of the past two years have shaped sermons, worship services and congregations with eight panelists:

- Nathan Adams, lead pastor of Park Hill United Methodist Church in Denver.
- Andy Call, lead pastor of Church of the Saviour United Methodist Church in Cleveland.

- Emanuel Cleaver III, senior pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Kansas City.
- Kathy Dwyer, senior pastor of Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ in Arlington, Virginia.
- Chris George, pastor of Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia.
- Grace Imathiu, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Evanston, Illinois.
- Colleen Ogle, senior pastor of Bexley United Methodist Church.
- TaNikka Sheppard, executive pastor of the Fountain Church in Miami Gardens, Florida.

The Schooler Institute on Preaching is presented annually through the generosity of the Schooler Family Foundation. Luke Powery, dean of Duke University Chapel and associate professor of homiletics at Duke Divinity School, will lead the 2023 Schooler Institute March 27 and 28 on the MTSO campus. Advance registration will open in early 2023.

MTSO hosts international Institute on Theology and Disability



The international Institute on Theology and Disability convened June 6-9, with participants gathering both virtually and in person at MTSO. Founded in 2010, the institute celebrates, explores and investigates the ways that:

- Disability impacts all major theological disciplines as well as the many dimensions of religious life and faith community practices.
- Theology and practice mutually inform and support one another.
- Diverse perspectives enrich and inform theological formation and religious practice.

To view the program booklet and video of presentations from the institute, visit www.mtso.edu/theologydisability.

Native prairie returns to campus land



The MTSO campus has evolved in noticeable ways over the past decade, with 10 acres of fields devoted to Seminary Hill Farm and a solar array providing clean power to academic facilities.

The latest metamorphosis involves lawn mowing – or the judicious lack thereof. Under the guidance of MTSO Land Steward Tim Bachelor, selected campus lawns are being converted to ecologically rich prairie. The project covers a total of 3 acres on the hillside in front of Dunn Dining Hall and a plot near the back entrance to campus.

Bachelor holds a Master of Environmental and Natural Resources degree from Ohio State University. His

graduate studies spanned natural resource management, sustainability, resilience, biodiversity, stream and forest ecology, soil science, and common native and invasive flora and fauna. He began his work at MTSO in February.

Bachelor said the transformation from turf to prairie will reduce the need for maintenance and harmful emissions from lawn-care equipment, and it will promote the welfare of native flora, fauna and pollinator species.

In spring 2023, a native seed mix will be introduced, followed by ongoing maintenance to help native flora displace unwanted plants.

“It’s a lot of maintenance for the first two years,” Bachelor said.

Three alums honored with Mount Awards

MTSO’s 2022 John and Ruth Mount Alumni Awards for Distinguished Service, the school’s highest honor for graduates, were presented to (from left in photo) Grace Imathiu, David MacDonald and Paulette Buford-James at a Sept. 26 luncheon during Alumni Day.

Buford-James, who earned a Master of Divinity degree from MTSO in 2013, is superintendent of the Starkville District of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Rundell shared comments from Mississippi Conference Bishop James E. Swanson Sr., who wrote of Buford-James, “Her wisdom, insight, innovation, knowledge of the United Methodist Book of Discipline, love for her congregations and parsonage families, coupled with her deep commitment to live out a disciplined life in Christ Jesus, have been an asset to our team.”

“I’m honored and thankful for my journey here at MTSO,” Buford-James said. “Thank you all for this honor. Thank you all for allowing me to be stretched in many ways while I was here.”

Praising Imathiu, a 1987 Master of Divinity graduate, Rundell said, “Grace is

pastor of First United Methodist Church in Evanston, Illinois, one of the storied pulpits of Methodism.” He called her address to MTSO’s 2022 graduating class “simply one of the most amazing commencement addresses I’ve ever heard.”

“I am honored beyond words,” Imathiu said, “and I am thankful that, with God’s amazing storytelling abilities, my story has got so many amazing, amazing threads – most of all, the beautiful thread called MTSO.”

MacDonald, who holds a 2002 Master of Divinity degree from MTSO, is university chaplain at Ohio Northern University. Rundell shared a letter from recently retired ONU President Daniel DiBiasio, who wrote of MacDonald, “His accessibility, relatability and dependable sense of humor are abundantly evident in his work, whether he is preaching, conducting a mindfulness workshop or meeting a student for coffee.”

Accepting his award, MacDonald said, “I think this is especially poignant because this is my 20th year since I graduated from MTSO in 2002. This place was the launching point for my ministry in so many ways, thanks to the excellent and caring faculty and staff and the ministry colleagues and lifelong friends that I made while I was here.”

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



Making a world of difference

MTSO's incoming fall class brings a wealth of experiences and aspirations, including those of an expansive group of international students, some of whom waited through complications arising from

the COVID-19 pandemic for an opportunity to attend school here. Below are profiles of six new students, featuring quotes from their admissions essays.

CHOOSING MINISTRY OVER ENGINEERING

Born in Veracruz, Mexico, **Miguel Rodríguez Cornejo** served regularly at his church throughout his youth. "But I needed more," he said. "I also wanted to go out there and give food to the homeless, hug the children with no parents, help the immigrants. I wanted to show everyone God's love."



At 19, he was studying engineering at a university "but wasn't sure if that was the will of God. Then I got sure it was not."

A good friend invited Rodríguez Cornejo to an event at the seminary the friend was attending. "I do not have the right words to express how those two days were, but they felt like it was just a moment between God and me," he said. He was soon pursuing an undergraduate degree at the Seminario Metodista Juan Wesley in the city of Monterrey.

Now Rodríguez Cornejo has brought a deep love of learning to MTSO's Master of Divinity program, and he looks forward to the ways it will enhance his ministry.

"In Monterrey where I live, there is much need," he said. "There are many immigrants and homeless that need a hand, a hug, a plate of food, a cup of water. Having this master's degree will help me to make better decisions and make a team of people with the passion for loving God and people that can create better strategies to help those in need."

ADVANCING FROM COURSE OF STUDY TO M.DIV.

In 2015, **Kayla Grehl** participated in the Young Generational Preachers Festival at the Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. While at the conference, she attended the commissioning and ordination service, where Bishop Michael Coyner invited the congregation to consider ministry.



Grehl accepted. By 2016, she was serving as a licensed local pastor and looking into seminary, though the schools she initially considered "did not seem to be the right fit for me." A mentor shared advice that stuck with her: "You have time, Kayla. Do not go where you are comfortable. Go where you will be stretched. It will make all the difference."

Grehl began a full-time church appointment in 2018 and enrolled in the Course of Study School of Ohio, a United Methodist program for licensed local pastors hosted by MTSO. "The first weekend on campus, I expected to be nervous, but I was not! The seminary felt right, and I felt at peace. Since that first class in the fall of 2018, I have continued to fall in love with MTSO, the school and the faculty." She realized she had found the place to pursue a Master of Divinity degree.

MTSO, she said, "has indeed been the place where I have been stretched, and it has been the place where I have been able to discern that my calling is to continue beyond my initial path of licensed local pastor. I am called to work toward ordination."

ADVOCATING FOR THE WOMEN OF KENYA

Maureen Mulievi holds bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology. She has a clear goal in pursuing additional degrees – the Master of Divinity and the MA in Social Justice – at MTSO: "It is my desire to acquire knowledge in social justice which can be applied in church ministry and empowering the society at large."

Mulievi is especially driven to advocate for women, who often suffer under patriarchal laws in her native Kenya.

"In African society, women are discriminated against in matters of decision making and property ownership," she said. "Simple household decisions like the number of children to be sired and matters to do with conjugal rights are deemed to be the preserve of men."

While her country's constitution forbids sex discrimination, "those who are tasked with the responsibility of enforcing the law are not following through."

"It is against this background that I have a burning desire to pursue a course that can make me empowered in matters to do with social justice," Mulievi said. "This will enable me to come up with programs tailored towards empowering the needy."



"I will be happy to graduate and return to my motherland, where I will enthusiastically apply this knowledge. The African adage goes, 'When you educate a girl, you have educated an entire nation; when you empower a woman, you have empowered an entire household.'"

SEEKING A D.MIN. AFTER AN ACADEMIC REAWAKENING

After an often difficult college experience,

Damon Nabrit rediscovered his love for learning in earning a Master of Divinity Degree from MTSO. Now he returns to seek a Doctor of Ministry degree with a specialization in Ecology and Justice Ministry.



"My reintroduction to academia has been a wondrous reawakening that has rekindled my joy in research and profound theological dialogue, especially between those who have very different lived experiences than me," he said. "This type of dialogue requires humility and respect for the other that has been at odds with more fundamentalist views within many faith traditions, particularly Christianity."

"I believe that Christians should seek opportunities to reach out and embrace those who are different from us to show them that the love of Christ is not reserved for Christians but is a love of and for all humanity."

Nabrit has worked to spread love and knowledge within and beyond church walls.

"Since 2014, I have been deeply involved in a justice and ecology ministry setting at my church and the Columbus community," he said. "We work with young people, particularly youth of color, and help reconnect them with the natural environment around them through science and agriculture work in garden and farm settings."

"I want to continue exploring ways of restoring the cultural and ancestral relationship between the land we occupy, the food we eat and our faith."

ASPIRING TO BE A BETTER PREACHER AND MENTOR

Derrick Jackson begins seminary after decades of service to his church and community. Raised by parents who grew up in Baptist and Methodist churches, he was active in the church early, though his faith declined during his high school years. In 1991, at the age of 23, he made a "recommitment to an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ" and became involved in various ministries within his local Baptist church.



Jackson spent two years working in the juvenile justice field – an experience that "provided an opportunity to model Christianity to youth that had been rejected by family and society" – before accepting a paid position in his church.

As church administrator and first assistant pastor, his duties included human resources administration, facilities management, teaching and preaching. In 2008, Jackson became the founding lead pastor of a newly planted church.

"My experiences as a lead pastor exposed the need and deepened my desire to complete a seminary education," he said. "Although I have experienced significant spiritual growth and development personally and ministerially, I believe greater growth can occur through seminary."

Jackson is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree with a specialization in Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

"I aim to become a better Christian, a better servant leader, a better theologian, a better preacher and a better mentor," he said. "I expect my faith and worldviews to be challenged and further biblically shaped by my experiences at MTSO."

FIGHTING SOCIAL INJUSTICE IN INDIA

When **Veni Panneerselvam** was 14 years old, she faced a family situation in her native India that led her to consider quitting school: "I sought the help of the Lord and prayed over this."

She received "an answer from God" in the words of her pastor, Jebason John Paul – who is now a third-year Master of Divinity student at MTSO. He convinced her of the importance of education, and she has since earned a Bachelor of Theology degree from Antioch Biblical Seminary & College in the city of Pondicherry.

Veni comes to MTSO from the city of Tiruvannamalai, where she aspires to work with those who suffer from poverty, drug abuse, casteism and other social ills, and hopes to eventually establish a seminary.

"The social justice aspect of an MTSO education would enable me to serve better among the oppressed people in my city," Veni said. "This seminary could greatly empower me and help me to be a channel of blessing to many young and impoverished people in my native community in India."



"Moreover, it could also strengthen me to fight social injustice, which is a crucial aspect in ministering among unfortunate and abused young girls. Following completion of my Master of Divinity degree, I hope to return to my ministerial position in Tiruvannamalai with a renewed strength and empowerment to handle the difficulties that ministering at this location includes."

‘We are characters in God’s parade’

On May 21, **Grace Imathiu** (M.Div. '87), the senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Evanston, Illinois, delivered a heartfelt, humorous and compelling commencement address to MTSO's class of 2022.

Video of the full address is online at www.mtso.edu/commencement22.

Below are highlights, which begin after Imathiu reads aloud the entire “Begats” (Matthew 1:2-16), a recitation of 42 generations establishing the genealogy of Jesus as a descendant of Abraham and David.

Let me give you a pastoral warning. Do not try this text at home. You could get hurt. A few years ago in a church I was serving in Wisconsin, I read this very text to a packed Christmas Eve worship service. Everybody loves Christmas Eve because they know what to expect. But that Christmas Eve, I pulled the Begats on them, and it did not go well. Let me tell you, people in church will forgive you everything except when you mess with their nostalgia. Don't mess with Christmas Eve.

But you know, that text is not begats. That is a parade. Before Jesus is born, Matthew holds a parade, and Matthew surprises us about who turns up in God's parade. The good, the bad, the ugly. Some of them, we say, “What? They turned up? Who let *them* in?”

Look at David, the sexiest man alive. And here comes Solomon, who makes Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos look poor. And look, there is Ruth, an immigrant woman from south of the border. She is without the legal anchoring of a husband or a child. Is she even legal?

And over there, Bathsheba. Say her name because on this, Day 87 of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Bathsheba is surely a woman who experiences war where women become the spoils.

Matthew's parade. Everybody is there: short people, tall people, smart people and not-so-smart people, straight people and queer people. Class of 2022, on this, your graduation day, your eyes focused on the

future, you are asked to pause and look in the rearview mirror at the parade of those who made the path that you have walked these past two, three, four and more years in this place.

Somebody made that path, lest you forget that you are not here because you pulled yourselves up by your own bootstraps. None of us is self-made. To get where any of us



“Class of 2022, wherever God sends you, God is sending you to bless you” * Imathiu

is, there have been privileges bestowed on us. There have been sacrifices made for us. There has been support given to us, by parents, by spouses, by our children, by our teachers and mentors and churches, and by donors and by those who loved us and we knew not.

When I graduated from MTSO, my teacher, mentor and friend, Dean Van Bogard Dunn, gave me a copy of his book titled *God With Us*. We called him Bogie. In his preface, Bogie says, “I am convinced that

God's presence with us is not only in our religious experiences but in the whole range of our humanity.”

I tell you, class of '22, when you see God's parade and you look, you will see Bogie waving you on. This God's parade is not just religious highs. This God's parade that we are invited to takes our whole humanity. The successes are invited. The failures are invited.

The laughter is invited. The tears, the anger, the shame, the mercy, the grace, the beauty, all of it is invited to God's parade.

As you go out into the big, bad, broken world, once in a while bring out the parade so that you remember you are not journeying alone. Matthew wrote this parade in the first century. And since then the parade has grown.

Peter and John and Andrew joined the parade. Lazarus and Mary and Martha, and over there, the first preacher of Easter Sunday, Mary from Magdala. And Paul and Silas and Augustine and John Wesley and Sarah Crosby and Francis Asbury. Harry Hosier and Jarena Lee and Georgia Harkness and Martin Luther King Jr. Oh! And here is MTSO. We are a character of God's parade.

I joined the MTSO parade in the fall of 1985. I chose Methesco because my dad knew the president of the seminary, Buford Dickinson, who had been born and bred in the segregated society in Mississippi. He was a sign to me that where you are born does not mean that's the way you're gonna be forever.

You see, in January 1963, he was only 29 or 30 years old. He was a pastor in Decatur when the first black student was admitted to the University of Mississippi. All hell

broke loose, and the community rioted. And in response, Rev. Buford Dickinson – in whose courtyard you are graduating today, the Dickinson Courtyard – joined 27 other white Methodist ministers in Mississippi. They risked it and they signed a statement called “Born of Conviction.” It was, quote, “a short statement which upheld the equality of all before God and supported public schools as a bedrock institution of the American republic.”

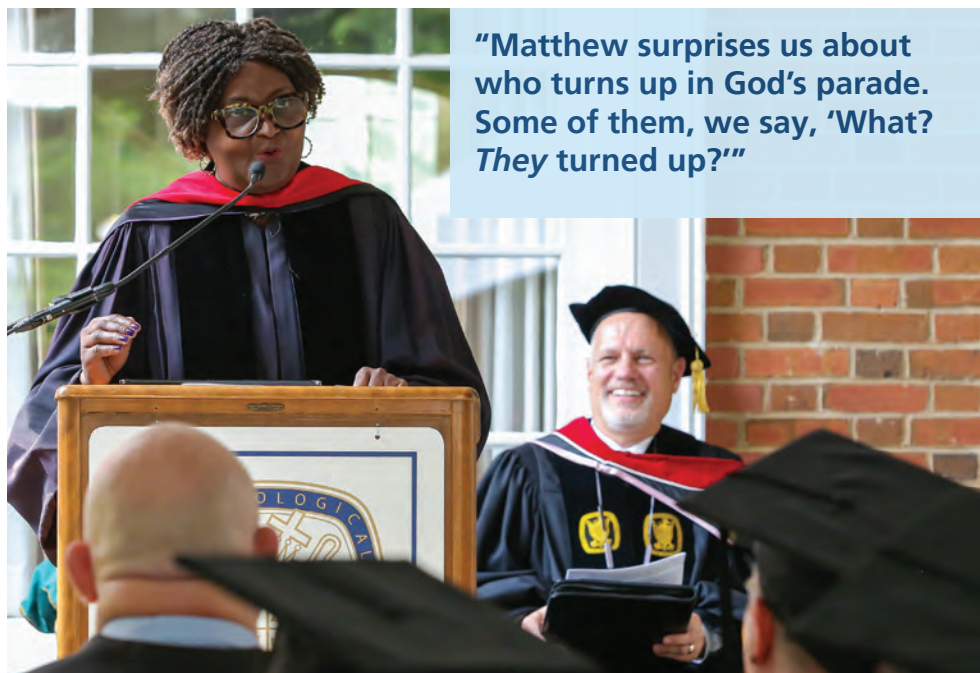
I read that statement, and this is what I know: Methinks that’s the original Black Lives Matter. That is white people interrupting white people because only white people can interrupt white people. Just like straight people interrupting straight people because straight people have to interrupt straight people. Just like men interrupting men because men have to interrupt other men.

And those white pastors paid a price. Class of 2022, you ain’t seen nothing until you see church people angry. I tell you, church people will skin you alive. And they will find a verse in the Bible to support their bigotry. I tell you, white supremacy is so shameless. It will slither into the pews and park itself in the pulpit wearing a collar and a stole.

I tell you, just for standing up for a young Black body to get an education in 1963 in Mississippi, several of the “Born of Conviction” ministers were immediately locked out of their churches. One had his car tires slashed, and one pastor had a cross burned on his lawn.

After signing that “Born of Conviction” statement, Buford Dickinson accepted a position at Claremont School of Theology. Eighteen years later, Buford moved from Claremont and was inaugurated the second president of Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

I joined MTSO when Buford Dickinson was president. And I tell you, you would not have known he was an activist. He looked so normal. He was kind and gentle and did not brag. I did not even know about his activism until his funeral. Class of 2022, here you are graduating in the Dickinson Courtyard,



“Matthew surprises us about who turns up in God’s parade. Some of them, we say, ‘What? They turned up?’”

where I too have sat – Buford perhaps reminding you to not leave seminary without being born of conviction.

The MTSO parade is in my blood. It explains why on Aug. 26, 2019, I asked the bishop of the Kenya-Ethiopia Annual Conference, “What are the protocols of my church at Evanston partnering with a church here in Kenya?” And the bishop said, “Go ahead, Grace.” Two days later, a pastor from a little town on the shores of Lake Victoria that’s not even on any map texted me. We had lunch, and he told me about his congregation.

I was surprised. It turns out that 10 years before, an intersex child was born in that congregation. And rather than kill the child or abandon the child and the family, that little church, where most of the people had not even finished high school, decided to learn more about human diversity and sexuality. And as they learned more about human diversity, some of their members who had been closeted dared to speak their truth.

And when they invited me over, I spent three days in Bible studies with them, but you know what? I learned much more than I had gone to teach. I learned so much about human sexuality and diversity. I learned that the language is already booby trapped, that

the words for LGBTQI siblings are often such shameful words. I acquired a whole new vocabulary.

You see, sometimes you go somewhere to be a blessing, and you find out that God sent you there to bless you. Class of 2022, wherever God sends you, God is sending you to bless you.

That Sunday morning in Moheto, Kenya, they had a special church meeting, unanimously voting to become a reconciling congregation – the first reconciling congregation in Africa, the first reconciling congregation outside the United States. I was there, and so were you, because we are in the parade together.

When we look at the class of ’22 in the parade of the future, we are going to say you are exactly what resilience looks like. We are going to remember how you sat at your kitchen table and learned how to do technology. We will remember how you showed up in a Zoom box and pretended to be OK when you were not OK. We will remember. We will remember, and we will be grateful for you. And we will remember you with joy.

Thank you for joining this parade. Remember that, best of all, in the past, in the future, God with us. Amen. ✱

Alum news

If you're an alum or former faculty or staff member of MTSO and have news to share about your vocational or personal milestones, please submit it via the link at www.mtso.edu/update. 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.

1966

Charles Hill has authored a new book, *Rolling Hills: Vignettes of a Life in Ohio*, about growing up in rural Washington County in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s. It is available from Amazon. hill250@twc.com

1969

Joe Beavon has come out of retirement and is serving as pastor of First UMC in Gainesboro, Tennessee. beavon2@yahoo.com

1975

Fred Shaw, who retired as a United Methodist elder in 2010, has served as an instructor and director for the Native American Course of Study for Indigenous Local Pastors. He chairs the Native American Comprehensive Plan of the UMC and wrote grants in that capacity for COVID relief on Native American reservations. He recently assisted in the Nanticoke language reclamation project. Also, he and his son are members of the only equestrian brass band in the United States. The band is mounted on white horses and plays Civil War-era brass instruments. fashaw@juno.com

1981

Following retirement after 36 years of ministry, **Bill Schnell** (M.Div. '81, D.Min. '87) returned to the classroom to earn a Graduate Certificate in Social Justice from Harvard University. His research at that institution has been published in *The Palgrave Handbook of Global Social Change* and was distilled into a TEDx Talk at Case Western Reserve University. It was also selected to be the lead-off presentation for the Harvard Extension Alumni Association

Annual Symposium. He is currently writing a chapter for *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Mind Engineering*. Bill is a trained Climate Reality Project activist. wsch@aol.com

1987

Theodore Whitely, a retired elder in the Michigan Conference, has graduated from Saint James College Seminary with clinical pastoral education as a professional chaplain. bettytedwhitely@att.net

1992

Ashwin Welch retired from 30 years of pulpit ministry on July 1 and has become a chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol, a U.S. Air Force auxiliary. He also is completing a two-seat airplane and has renewed his private pilot's license. He and his wife, Peggy Welch ('96), have moved to Massillon, Ohio, to be closer to grandchildren. ash1welch@juno.com

1996

Peggy Welch and her husband, Ashwin Welch ('92), have moved to Massillon, Ohio, to be closer to grandchildren.

1997

Having retired from her part-time reference job at a local college, **Judy Johnson** has begun sharing her writing online at judyjohnsonwrites.weebly.com. The site offers three blogs: "Saints Alive!" recaps her recorded noonday prayer services; "Baptist Girl" pays tribute to the church and people who formed her; and "What I'm Reading" offers brief reviews of good books. jjwrites.23@gmail.com

2002

Adrian Sunday retired from Buckland United Church of Christ in April. He and his wife, Becky Sunday ('09), are enjoying living near their children and grandchildren in Westerville, Ohio.

2004

John Kincaid has been received as a priest into the Anglican Church in North America, Diocese of Western Anglicans. He is the priest in charge at St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church in Palm Desert, California. obi1.kennobi@gmail.com

2008

Phyllis Fetzer is now fully retired and enjoying leading small groups and Sunday school classes at North Broadway UMC in Columbus. She is available for preaching and leading worship on an occasional basis. pfetzer30@yahoo.com

2009

Matt Landry began an appointment as senior pastor of Castleton UMC in Indianapolis July 1. pastormattlandry@gmail.com

Becky Sunday began a new call as associate minister at Dublin Community Church UCC in March. She and her husband, Adrian Sunday ('02), are enjoying living near their children and grandchildren in Westerville, Ohio. revbeckysunday@gmail.com

2011

Michele Holloway got married in 2018 to a man she has known since 1976. She attempted to retire in 2020 and again in

2022. She continues to serve a church in retirement. “One day I’ll figure out how to stop.” michele.holloway@yahoo.com

Kate Shaner is no longer serving at First Community Church in Columbus as minister of mission. She is discerning next steps. katehshaner@gmail.com

2012

Alison Linn-Mowery, a psychologist with CompDrug, stays active in her church’s ministry, including participating in worship, involvement in a recent search committee for new leadership, and visioning and implementing a five-year strategic plan. alisonmowery@yahoo.com

2014

Benjamin Hall has accepted the position of vice president of admissions and financial

aid at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., after serving MTSO in various admissions and enrollment roles since 2014. revbjhall@gmail.com

2015

Lauren Dennis-Bucholz is celebrating one year of working at the Center for Survivors at Michigan State University as the survivor support coordinator. laurenkaydb@gmail.com

2016

Judy Alston has been called by Woodland Christian Church in Columbus to serve as associate pastor. jaapsuphd96@gmail.com

Nicole Pickens (M.Div. ’16, MACM ’17) was installed as settled pastor and teacher of St. Mark’s United Church of Christ in New Hamburg, Pennsylvania, and Zion’s

UCC in Transfer, Pennsylvania. Also, she and her husband, **Jonathan Williams** (’16), bought a home in Youngstown, Ohio. revnicolepickens@gmail.com

2017

Jennifer Bass was appointed as lead pastor of Marion Epworth UMC in February. jbass@epworthumc.org

Kevin Orr has received an extension ministry appointment to serve as executive director of the Greater Hilltop Area Shalom Zone, a community development corporation focused on building beloved community on the west side of Columbus. kevin_orr83@hotmail.com

Continues

ONE ALUM’S STORY

Just like that, she started a scholarship fund

Dating back to the days when she was earning her Master of Divinity degree from MTSO in the late 1990s, Lisa Marchal has thought about scholarships.

“I benefited from a scholarship that got me through MTSO,” said Marchal, who received an Alford Family Award. “Largely because of the scholarship I got, I was able to leave grad school debt-free.”

Since then, she said, “I’ve always wanted to be a part of a scholarship,” though she didn’t know if that was a realistic notion. “I always thought you needed to be a big philanthropist to do it.”

The time to test her assumption arrived, oddly enough, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Marchal is an ordained elder in the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church working in extension ministry as a manager of grassroots impact for the RESULTS Educational Fund, which works to alleviate poverty.

“I kept my job through all of COVID, and I was able to get some stimulus money,” she said. Stimulus check in hand, she thought of her scholarship-funding aspirations and concluded, “If there’s ever a time to do this, it will be now.”

Marchal, an MTSO trustee who joined the board in 2018, reached out to Director of Development Claudine Leary: “I just went to her with my nickels and dimes and said, ‘Is this anything we can do?’”

The two discussed different possibilities before landing on the idea of joining forces with Marchal’s fellow 1999 graduates. “My classmates and I were pretty close,” she said, so she embraced the idea of creating the Class of 1999 Scholarship Fund with the goal of raising the \$25,000 required for fully funding an endowed scholarship.

In addition to making the initial donation in the fund, Marchal worked with Leary to craft the protocol for scholarship recipients: “We talked about how to make it competitive without it being restrictive.”

As Marchal and her classmates work toward their scholarship, she encourages alumni from other classes to contact Leary in the development office at cleary@mtso.edu or 740-362-3323 and discuss the ways they can be a part of something bigger than they might have imagined.

“Our scholarship is open for funding,” Marchal said. “Others are open also, or you can start your own. This is something that’s doable.”



“I always thought you needed to be a big philanthropist” * Lisa Marchal

from previous page

2018

Robert Blanchard has been appointed to Community UMC in North Muskegon, Michigan. reverendblanchard@gmail.com

Joyce Wealand has completed a time of interim ministry at Grace UCC in Uniontown, Ohio, and is beginning a call as designated pastor at St. John's UCC in Newark, Ohio. joycewealand@gmail.com

2020

Brad Davis has been selected to participate in the 2023 Bread for the World Justice Collective along with 39 other faith leaders from across the nation. He also will be a featured speaker at January's 2023 UMC LEAD Conference in Asheville,

North Carolina, where he will talk about reimagining the gospel and the church in a rural, Appalachian context.

bradgdavis71@gmail.com

Cassie Oliver is working as a residence life coordinator at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. oliverca@grinnell.edu

Brenda Waddell was ordained into Christian ministry with the United Church of Christ, Living Water Association, Heartland Conference on Aug. 14. bwaddell@bathucc.org

2021

Marcus Burden is completing a Juris Doctor degree at the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C. In the summer of 2022, he worked at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

as a law clerk in the real estate practice group, and at Verizon in the real estate and government contracts practice groups. He is scheduled to graduate law school in 2024. marcusburd2308@gmail.com

2022

Paula Vergowven has begun the commissioning process to become an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. She holds a full-time appointment in the Michigan Conference, serving Webberville and Crossroads UMCs. paula_vergowven@yahoo.com

Students and alums ordained and commissioned

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

East Ohio

Elder ordination:

- **Rebecca Evanoff**, serving Fairhope UMC and The Vine
- **Jacob Heskett**, serving Crystal Park UMC and North Canton Faith UMC
- **Edward Kovacik**, serving Cadiz Scott Memorial UMC
- **Shannon Trenton**, serving Church Hill UMC
- **Hyeran Yu**, serving Wellington First UMC

Kentucky

Elder ordination:

- **Daniel Henson**, serving in the Red Bird Missionary Conference at First UMC and Beech Creek UMC in Manchester, Kentucky

Michigan

Elder commissioning:

- **Sunhwa Hopgood**, serving Washington UMC

Elder ordination:

- **Nicholas Bonsky**, serving Orchard UMC
- **Marva Pope**, serving Sterling Heights UMC
- **Amy Triebwasser**, serving as senior pastor of Saline First UMC

Minnesota

Deacon ordination:

- **Hope Hutchison**, serving as director of children, youth, family and outreach ministries at Richfield UMC

West Ohio

Deacon commissioning:

- **Michele Luebbers**
- **Alycia Boyer Orcena**, serving at MTSO

Elder commissioning:

- **Marcella Ciccotelli**, serving Findlay St. Marks, Ottawa Trinity and Riley Creek UMCs

Elder ordination:

- **Andrew Burns**, serving King Avenue UMC
- **E. Neil Gaiser**, serving Dayton Fairview UMC
- **Hyo-Jin Kim**, serving New Carlisle First UMC
- **Sarah Moon**
- **Cecil Thompson**, serving Toledo Braden UMC
- **Kent Winkler**, serving Delta UMC

American Baptist Churches USA

Ordination into ministry:

- **David Harris**, serving as pastor of First Baptist Church of Syracuse in Jamesville, New York

United Church of Christ

Ordination into Christian ministry:

- **Brenda Waddell**, Living Water Association, Heartland Conference, serving the Bath Church UCC

Beyond the classroom

Faculty activities 2021-22



**Tejai Beulah
Howard**

**Assistant Professor
of History, Ethics,
and Black Church
and African Diaspora
Studies**

Publications

“To Interpret Scripture Intelligently: The Bible, Civil Rights, and Human Dignity,” in *The Other Journal* 33: Reimagination Issue, Dec. 16, 2021.

Reviews of *Black Fundamentalists: Conservative Christianity and Racial Identity in the Segregation Era* by Daniel R. Bare and *Kincraft: The Making of Black Evangelical Sociality* by Todne Thomas, in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* XX, 2022.

Review of *Anchored in the Current: Discovering Howard Thurman as Educator, Activist, Guide, and Prophet*, edited by Gregory C. Ellison, in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 76:2, 2022.

Church and popular speaking

“The Humanity of Our Heroes,” Racial Awareness and Mindfulness 2021: A Virtual Festival of the Arts, Awareness, Healing, and Justice (virtual), 2021.

Baccalaureate speaker, University of Mount Union, 2022.

Chapel speaker, Ohio Northern University, 2022.

Chapel speaker, Bethune-Cookman University, 2022.

“If the Spirit Loves Me I Can Just Be Me: The Liberated Spirituality in Womanist Literature,” at A Moore Mindful Life: Querencia Retreat, Millersburg, Ohio (virtual), 2022.

“King in the Wilderness,” MLK Day Film Discussion for the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church (virtual), 2022.

Book discussion of *We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible with the Poor People’s Campaign*, Drew Theological School Religion and Society Graduate Meeting (virtual), 2022.

Panelist, Drew Graduate Division of Religion Colloquy on Professional Development, 2022.

Other activities

Served on the board of the Spirituality Network through September 2021.

Serve in Freedom Church of the Poor and Reading the Bible with the Poor, two initiatives of the Kairos Center.



**Valerie
Bridgeman**

**Dean
Vice President for
Academic Affairs
Associate Professor
of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible**

Publications

Commentary on 2 Samuel 7:1-14a, Workingpreacher.org, July 18, 2021.

Commentary on Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23, Workingpreacher.org, Sept. 5, 2021.

Commentary on 1 Samuel 1:4-20, Workingpreacher.org, Nov. 14, 2021.

Commentary on 2 Samuel 23:1-7, Workingpreacher.org, Nov. 21, 2021.

“The Thin Place in the Heart of God,” *Journal for Preachers* XLV, No. 1, Advent 2021.

Academic lectures and presentations

“This Is My Story: African American Women in Resistance from 1619 to the Present,” lecture, University of Dayton Maafa Commemoration, Feb. 20, 2022.

Professional and guild activities

Juror, American Academy of Religion’s Textual Studies Book Award Jury.

Member, Women in the Profession Committee of the Society for Biblical Literature.

Church and popular speaking

Guest, *The Barbershop Radio Show*, KABF 88.3 FM, Little Rock, Arkansas, on a religious response to the legal decision to release Bill Cosby and sexual violence in the church, July 3, 2021.

Guest presenter, “Reading Sacred Scripture Faithfully,” Global Pentecostal Perspectives Series with Bishop Johnathan Alvarado, Sept. 25, 2021.

Guest teacher and preacher, “Reading the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible as Testimony,” Worthington United Methodist Church, Sept. 26, 2021.

Panelist, “Preaching When You Don’t Feel Like It,” Multiplied Mini Training for the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, with Bishop Gregory Palmer, Oct. 6, 2021.

Dean of seminarians and Bible study leader on Luke 5:33-39, National Council of Churches Christian Unity Gathering (virtual), Oct. 11-12, 2021.

Guest panelist, “Intersect: A Woman’s Place: Leadership in Social Justice,” for the Ohio Council of Churches, Oct. 12, 2021.

Guest panelist, “Answering the Call: Black Faith Communities & the HIV and AIDS Epidemic,” webinar sponsored by the Interfaith Youth Core, Compass Initiative, and Wake Forest’s Gilead Project, Feb. 7, 2022.

Guest panelist, “Pentecostalism in Public Spaces,” Global Pentecostal Perspectives Series with Bishop Johnathan Alvarado, March 19, 2022.



Kyle Brooks
**Assistant Professor of
Homiletics, Worship,
and Black Church and
Diasporic Studies**

Academic lectures and presentations

“It’s a Homegoing, Not a Funeral: The Sermonic Selection and the Transcendence of Grief,” presentation at Yale Africana Sacred Healing Arts Conference, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, May 2022.

“Beyond the ‘Babel’ – Hard Facts and Hopeful Faith,” lecture at University of Mount Union, April 2022.

Church and popular speaking

Preached at Family Fellowship Church, Gahanna, Ohio, September 2022.

Preached at New Salem Baptist Church, Columbus, November 2021 and May 2022.

Continues

from previous page

“Food Insecurity as Fundamental Alienation,” lecture at the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, October 2021.

Other activities

Monthly contributor, Black Perspectives Blog (published by the African American Intellectual History Society), August 2022.



Kate Common
 Visiting Assistant Professor of Practical Theology
 Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Scholar

Publications

“Rosemary Radford Ruether,” entry submitted to editor for the Creation section of the forthcoming *T&T Clark Encyclopedia of Christian Theology*, 2022.

Finished manuscript of *Undoing Conquest: How an Untold History of Ancient Israel Can Transform Christianity*, 2022.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Creating New Canon: A Feminist Case for Expanding Sacred Texts,” Women’s Caucus

and Women and Religion Unit, Emerging Scholars Panel – Gender, Religion, Poverty and Inequality, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio, November 2021.

Professional and guild activities

Publications coordinator and board member, Association of Practical Theology.

Helped to plan and attended the 2022 Association of Practical Theology biennial conference, April 1-2, 2022.

American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature annual conference (virtual), November 2021.

Church and popular speaking

“Undoing Conquest: Reimagining Sacred Origins and Utopic Destinations,” Cobb & Friends, part of the John Cobb Institute, Claremont, California, June 2022.

“Christian Faith Beyond the Gender Binary,” Theology and Gender Beyond the Binary Series, Burkhart Center, Columbus, August 2021.

Panelist, “Parenting Beyond the Gender Binary,” Theology and Gender Beyond the Binary Series, Burkhart Center, Columbus, August 2021.

Hosted virtual panel discussion on ecowomanism with Melanie Harris and Frances Roberts-Gregory, MTSO Science and Religion Digital Dialogues Series, July 2021.

Guest lecturer on feminist theology, David Penn’s Introduction to Theology class, Rivier University, Nashua, New Hampshire, October 2021.



Jeffrey Jaynes
 Professor in the Warner Chair of Church History

Publications

Review of *Christian Maps of the Holy Land: Images and Meanings* by Pnina Arad, in *Speculum: A Journal of Medieval History* 97 No. 3, July 2022.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Johannes Bugenhagen As architect of the ‘Territorial Church System’ (Landesherrliches Kirchenregiment),” 14th International Congress for Luther Research, Thousand Oaks, California, August 2022.

Professional and guild activities

Chairperson, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Scioto Valley Presbytery.

Church and popular speaking

“Love Song,” sermon at Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church, Pickerington, Ohio, Jan. 30, 2022.



Schellenberg wins his second Beare Award for ‘Abject Joy’

MTSO Associate Professor of New Testament Ryan Schellenberg has won the 2022 Beare Award in recognition of his book *Abject Joy: Paul, Prison, and the Art of Making Do*, published by Oxford University Press. The Canadian Society of Biblical Studies presents the Beare Award annually in recognition of an outstanding book in the areas of Christian origins, post-biblical Judaism or Greco-Roman religions.

This is Schellenberg’s second Beare Award. He won in 2015 for his book *Rethinking Paul’s Rhetorical Education: Comparative Rhetoric and 2 Corinthians 10-13*.

“When I read Philippians, I try to remember that this was a letter from an imprisoned migrant laborer, a representative of an ethnic minority – the sort of person it was easy for the authorities to lock up and forget about,” Schellenberg, a native of Saskatchewan, Canada, said of his work on *Abject Joy*.

In her review of *Abject Joy* for *Christian Century*, Sarah Jobe wrote, “If Paul was actually quite similar to the people currently held in America’s prisons, perhaps America’s churches should be treating incarcerated people the way that the church at Philippi treated Paul.”

Other activities

Scholar in residence, Centre d'études Oecuméniques (Institute for Ecumenical Research), Strasbourg, France, May-June 2022



Paul Kim
Professor
of Hebrew Bible

Publications

“Forever Strangers at the Margin’ in the Context of the United States,” in *The Oxford Handbook of the Bible in Korea*, edited by Won W. Lee, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.

Review of *Unto Us a Child Is Born: Isaiah, Advent, and Our Jewish Neighbors* by Tyler D. Mayfield, in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 76, 2022.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Deutero-Isaiah as a Resistance Poet: Disruptive Dialogues with Genesis, Qoheleth, and Modern Korean Resistance Poets,” Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, San Antonio, Nov. 21, 2021.

Professional and guild activities

Chair, Regional Scholars Committee at Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, San Antonio, Nov. 20-23, 2021.

Co-chair, Israelite Prophetic Literature section at Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, San Antonio, Nov. 20-23, 2021.

Regional coordinator of Society of Biblical Literature virtual regional meeting, hosted by MTSO, March 17-19, 2022.

Co-leader, Wabash peer mentoring cluster, Atlanta, April 8-19, 2022.

Church and popular speaking

Sermon at Pickerington Presbyterian Church, Feb. 6, 2022.

Sermon at Korean Presbyterian Church of Columbus, April 24, 2022.

Four keynote lectures on “Re-reading Genesis,” Hanshin Church Symposium, South Korea, June 13-16, 2022.

Sermon at New Light Church, Hanam, South Korea, June 18, 2022.

Sermons at First Presbyterian Church, Marysville, Ohio, May 29; July 3; Aug. 7, 21 and 28; Sept. 4, 2022.



Sarah Lancaster
Professor
in the Werner Chair
of Theology

Publications

Thy Grace Restore, Thy Work Revive, general editor and contributor, Foundry Press, 2022.

“Treatises Emerging from the Debate with the Moravians,” editor, in *The Works of John Wesley Volume 14: Doctrinal and Controversial Treatises III*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2022.

Professional and guild activities

North American co-chair of the Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies meetings (virtual), Jan. 11, March 9 and July 27, 2022.

Other activities

Participant in a one-year online ecumenical dialogue called a Respectful Conversation, representing the Wesleyan tradition (respectfulconversation.net), July 2021-July 2022.



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

Publications

“Tangible Actions Toward Solidarity: An Ecofeminist Analysis of Women’s Participation in Food Justice,” co-authored with Kelsey Ryan-Simkins, in *Valuing Lives, Healing Earth Religion, Gender, and Life on Earth*, edited by Theresa A. Yugar, Sarah E. Robinson, Lilian Dube and Teresia Mbari Hinga, Louvain, Belgium: Peeters Publishers, 2021.

“Environmental Racism in the ‘True’ America: A Reflection on Race, the Earth, and Moral Action After Trump,” co-authored with Trad Nogueira-Godsey, *Faith and Reckoning After Trump*, edited by Miguel De La Torre, New York: Orbis Books, 2021.

Review of “Mulheres, Religião e Poder: Ensaio Feministas” (Women, Religion, and Power: Feminist Essays) by Ivone Gebara, *CrossCurrents* 71.2, July 2021.

“Race, Religion and Environmental Racism in North America,” co-authored with Laurel

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Kearns and Whitney A. Bauman, in *Bloomsbury Religion in North America*, edited by Laurel Kearns and Whitney A. Bauman, London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022.

“A Decological Way to Dialogue: Rethinking Ecofeminism and Religion,” *The Routledge Handbook of Religions, Gender and Society*, edited by Emma Tomalin and Caroline Starkey, New York: Routledge, 2022.

Academic lectures and presentations

“The Place of Race and Gender in Religion and Ecology,” pre-conference meeting of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio (virtual), Nov. 19, 2021.

“The Role of the Feminist Liberation Theologians’ Network,” Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Meeting of the Feminist Liberation Theologians’ Network (virtual), Nov. 12, 2021.

Panel organizer, “Emerging Scholars’ Research on Gender, Religion, Poverty, and Inequality,” Women’s Caucus, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio, Nov. 20, 2021.

Panel organizer and presider, “Re-engaging Praxis: A Call for Action,” Women’s Caucus and Feminist Liberation Theologian Network, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio, Nov. 20, 2021.

“A Decological Way to Dialogue: Assembling Tools Against Colonial Modes of Being,” Religion and Ecology Unit, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio (virtual), Nov. 21, 2021.

Continues

from previous page

Panel presider, “Liberating Voices/Confronting Coloniality,” Liberation Theology Unit, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio, Nov. 21, 2021.

“Theology, Ecology, and Spirituality: A Decological Perspective,” Restoring Creation: Theology, Policy, and Practice, Lexington Theological Seminary Earth Day Teach-In (virtual), April 20, 2022.

Professional and guild activities

Teaching and Learning Workshop for Early Career Latinx Religion Faculty in Universities, Colleges, and Theological Schools, Wabash Virtual Meetings, June 2021.

Theology of Liberation and Decolonial Thought Summer School, June 8-9, 2021.

Wabash Grant Peer Mentoring Clusters, Erie, Pennsylvania, July 20-24, 2021.

American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio, Nov. 19-23, 2021.

Institute on Theology and Disability, MTSO, June 6-9, 2022.

Society for Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counseling general meeting, July 8, 2022.

Member, Reproductive Ethics Workgroup.

Co-chair, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Women’s Caucus.

Steering committee, Latina/o Religion, Culture and Society Unit, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature.

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

Member-at-large, CreatureKind Board of Directors.

Assistant editor, *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*.

Member, *Journal for the Study of Religion* Editorial Board.

Church and popular speaking

Interviewee, *The Footprint of the Foothills*, documentary produced by the West Ohio Conference in association with the North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, 2021.

Speaker, faculty panel, Forum for Theological Exploration retreat, MTSO, May 11, 2022.

Other activities

Co-director with Elonda Clay and Tejai Beulah Howard of the Science for Seminaries Project.



Paul D. Numrich

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

Professional and guild activities

Reviewed draft articles for *Archiv Orientalni* (journal published in the Czech Republic), Oxford University Press, and by a senior scholar in Buddhist Studies.

Consulted by *Newcity* magazine (Chicago) regarding Buddhist temples and Catholic monasteries.

Invited by New York University Press to review a book proposal on how evangelicals came to see the suburbs as the promised land.

Invited by Cognella Academic Publishing to review a book proposal on Christian perspectives on American history.

Other activities

Attended the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio’s Annual Main Event, “Responding to Religious and Racial Prejudice: Perspectives of Young Adults,” August 2021.

Served on OhioHealth Grady Memorial Hospital Ethics Advisory Committee.



Fulgence Nyengele

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

Director, Doctor of Ministry Program and Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries Program

Academic lectures and presentation

“African Spirituality and the Wesleyan Tradition,” African Methodist Intercultural Theological Network (virtual), Sept. 3, 2021.

“African Spirituality and the Wesleyan Spirit,” in Hendrick Pieterse’s Intercultural Theology class, Garret Evangelical Theological Seminary (virtual), Dec. 9, 2021.

“Envisioning Decolonial Pastoral Practice: Ubuntu as a Resource for Decolonizing Pastoral Care and Counseling,” Williamson Conference on Emerging Concerns and Issues in Pastoral Care and Counseling, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, March 7-8, 2022.

“Grief and Relational Resilience: A Family Systems Perspectives,” Healthy Congregations Conference on Stepping Back: Engaging New Horizons (virtual), May 23, 2022.

Postcolonial global response to “The Enduring Legacy of Strange Fruit: A Case Study of Lynching in Marion, Indiana” by Lee Butler, Society for Pastoral Theology annual meeting, Postcolonial Study Group, Montgomery, Alabama, June 8-11, 2022.

Professional and guild activities

“Society for Pastoral Theology annual meeting, Montgomery, Alabama, June 8-11, 2022.

Co-chair, Postcolonialism, Globalization, and Pastoral Care Study Group, Society for Pastoral Theology, Montgomery, Alabama, June 8-11, 2022.

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Church and popular speaking

“A Religion of Joy: Faith & Human Struggles,” keynote address, Annual Conference of the Association of Ghana United Methodist Choirs - North America, Columbus, Sept. 2, 2022.

Other activities

Clinical Pastoral Education Advisory Board meetings, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, September 2021 and February 2022.

Small-group facilitator, Dismantling Racism Session, North Central Jurisdiction Conference of the United Methodist Church (virtual), Nov. 10, 2021.

Lilly Endowment Thriving in Ministry Round Three National Gathering (virtual), Nov. 10-11, 2021.

Exit interview/appreciative inquiry with CPE students for the Clinical Pastoral Education Advisory Board, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Jan. 3, 2022.

Planned and organized retreat on pastoral flourishing for MTSO’s Thriving in Ministry Initiative, Jan. 27-29, 2022.

Clergy Session of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church (virtual), May 10, 2022.

Facilitator, West Ohio Information Session on Recommendation #8 – A Path for West Ohio Congregations Separating Under Paragraph 2548.2 of the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline, May 24, 2022.

West Ohio Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (virtual), June 3-4, 2022.

Sexual Ethics Seminar, West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church (virtual), June 16, 2022.

Planned and organized follow-up retreat on pastoral flourishing for MTSO’s Thriving in Ministry Initiative, July 14-15, 2022.

Serving on Anti-Racism Task Force of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church.



Ryan Schellenberg
Associate Professor
of New Testament

Publications

Abject Joy: Paul, Prison, and the Art of Making Do, New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

Review of *Nonviolent Word: Anabaptism, the Bible, and the Grain of the Universe* by J. Denny Weaver and Gerald J. Mast, *Menonite Quarterly Review* 94, 2021.

T&T Clark Handbook to the Historical Paul, London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2022 (coedited with Heidi Wendt).

“Beatings and Imprisonments,” in *T&T Clark Handbook to the Historical Paul*, edited by Ryan S. Schellenberg and Heidi Wendt, London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2022.

“‘Making My Prayer with Joy’: Epistolary Prayer as Emotional Practice in Philippians and 1 Thessalonians,” *Novum Testamentum* 64, 2022.

Commentaries on Colossians 1:1-14, 1:15-28, 2:6-15, and 3:1-11, in *WorkingPreacher.org*, Luther Seminary, July 2022.

Academic lectures and presentations

“Reading Paul in Prison,” book launch and colloquium for *Abject Joy: Paul, Prison, and the Art of Making Do*, MTSO, Sept. 28, 2021.

“To Die Is Gain: Prison, Slave Religiosity, and Paul’s Glorious Body,” Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization: Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean, Ohio State University, Oct. 24, 2021.

“Paul, Prison, Affect, Emotion,” the Divinity School, Duke University (virtual), March 22, 2022.

“Prison in the Roman Cultural Imaginary,” University of Copenhagen (virtual), April 28, 2022.

“Love, Fear, and Obeisance: Practice Theory and the Social History of Religious Emotions,” Canadian Society of Biblical Studies annual meeting (virtual), June 1, 2022.

Professional and guild activities

Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, Nov. 20-23, 2021 (virtual).

Canadian Society of Biblical Studies annual meeting, May 30-June 1, 2022 (virtual).

Church and popular speaking

Livestream interview regarding *Abject Joy: Paul, Prison, and the Art of Making Do*, Urbs and Polis, Aug. 26, 2022.

“Reading Philippians as an Ancient Prison Letter.” Worthington United Methodist Church, Sept. 1, 2022.

Recognition

Awarded the F.W. Beare Book Award for *Abject Joy: Paul, Prison, and the Art of Making Do*, Canadian Society of Biblical Studies, June 2022.



Yvonne Zimmerman
Associate Dean
Associate Professor of
Christian Ethics

Publications

“To Shape the Changes for Which We Long,” afterword in *Religious Responses to Sex Work and Human Trafficking: Intersections of Justice*, edited by Lauren McGrow, New York: Routledge, 2022.

“A Catholic and an Agnostic Walk into a Homeless Camp”: Collaborating Across Religious Differences,” afterword in *Religious Responses to Sex Work and Human Trafficking: Intersections of Justice*, edited by Lauren McGrow, New York: Routledge, 2022.

Church and popular speaking

Panelist, “Faith and Antiracism,” King Avenue United Methodist Church, Columbus, Jan. 23, 2022.

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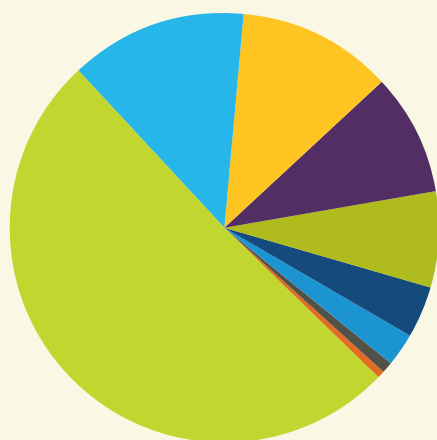
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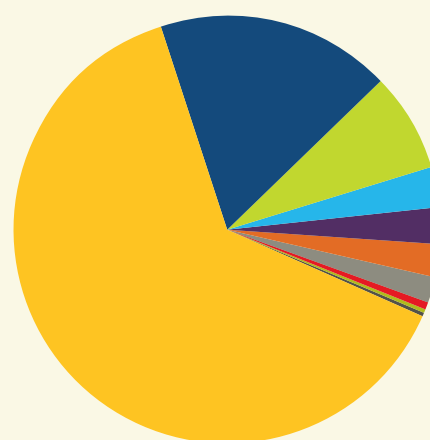
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Revenue



	Revenue	Percent of total
Endowment	\$2,781,436	51.0%
Ministerial Education Fund	\$733,683	13.4%
Other programs and services	\$636,832	11.7%
Operating reserve	\$500,340	9.2%
Release of restricted gifts	\$393,384	7.2%
Methesco Fund gifts	\$206,928	3.8%
Net tuition and fees *	\$139,756	2.6%
Student aid gifts	\$47,552	0.9%
Federal work study and grants	\$17,665	0.3%
Total revenue	\$5,457,576	100%

Expenditures



	Expenditures	Percent of total
Compensation and benefits	\$3,468,706	63.6%
Other programs and services	\$964,618	17.7%
Plant maintenance	\$412,067	7.6%
General administration	\$160,889	2.9%
Business administration	\$151,173	2.8%
Information systems	\$139,042	2.5%
Academic support	\$102,646	1.9%
Enrollment	\$33,664	0.6%
Instruction	\$18,385	0.3%
Institutional advancement	\$6,386	0.1%
Total expenditures	\$5,457,576	100%

* Student tuition and fees	\$1,979,660
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