

Volume LV  
Fall 2016

# THE STORY

## MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT

Ecology-minded  
alums build  
a stunningly  
efficient home

Two new faculty  
members bring  
international  
perspectives

Live from  
General  
Conference,  
it's the MTSO  
student blog

Mark your  
calendar for  
seven fall events

Students reflect  
on cross-cultural  
trips to Korea  
and the Desert  
Southwest



Methodist Theological School in Ohio

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



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Volume LV ✱ Fall 2016

### A publication of Methodist Theological School in Ohio

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**Fine dining ✱** *Our Oct. 3 Alumni Day celebration will once again include a luncheon featuring beautifully presented, locally sourced cuisine, much of it from MTSO's Seminary Hill Farm. Shown here is a portion of last year's family-style Alumni Day meal. From left are roasted spaghetti squash, wild mushroom risotto and roasted butternut squash. RSVP for this year's celebration at [www.mtso.edu/alumniday](http://www.mtso.edu/alumniday)*

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

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

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

# Less impact and more, at the same time

## Our school's carbon footprint shrinks, and our missional reach expands

**By Rev. Jay Rundell  
President**

We have just welcomed MTSO's newest entering class. It's an eclectic bunch, coming from a number of different directions and heading who knows where. These students will no doubt soon learn how different they are from one another – and, we hope, how important and valuable those differences will be for each one's educational journey.

The makeup of this class would likely be unrecognizable to the entering class of 50 years ago or to me even 10 years ago when I arrived on this campus. The current state of the seminary is not so much a state as it is flux. As you know from reading recent MTSO publications, the students are changing, the vocations they pursue are evolving, and we are doing everything we can provide the very best teaching and learning environment possible.

We've welcomed this class with a bit of a mess. Lest these new students come to believe theological education is a neat and tidy affair, we are greeting them this time around with an extensive muddy mess just outside the entrance to our main classroom building.

It's a mess with a purpose. We are drilling 18 deep, closed-loop wells as a part of a geothermal energy system that will enable us to heat and cool the entire Gault-Werner building complex with heat exchangers capitalizing on differences between ground and ambient temperatures year-round.

This project is the latest step in reducing our carbon footprint and bringing our campus life into greater alignment with our ecological commitments. We have nearly completed our campus-wide conversion to high-efficiency LED lighting. Our photovoltaic solar array has been in service for a year, and we are ready to develop the second phase of solar installation. And

great news: We still have opportunities for donors to fund panels if you are interested. The completion of this solar array system will allow us to offset a substantial portion of the electrical supply for the Gault-Werner building complex.

Taken together, our reduced energy usage, solar electric power, and geothermal heating and cooling will have a significant impact financially and, more important, help MTSO do its part to address environmental pollution and climate change. We are one of just a handful of seminaries that can make this happen. We are likely the only seminary that adds to the equation the kind of impact we get from sustainable, local campus dining due to Seminary Hill Farm.

While our carbon footprint is shrinking, our missional reach is growing. We are unwavering in our commitment to our longstanding motto: "To Preach the Word." And we are concurrently reaching in new directions to ensure that in a changing world we are preparing our students to serve and lead in countless ways.

Simply put, MTSO provides theological education and leadership in pursuit of a just, sustainable and generative world. We endeavor to be a vibrant, diverse, inclusive community that faithfully engages the intersections of church, society and academy to prepare leaders for ministry and service in pursuit of a transformed world. Celebrating and appropriating the scriptures, traditions and myriad experiences of Christian faith in an open and challenging formational community, we cultivate learning for ministry and service. If you think this paragraph sounds like a mission statement, you're right. This is language that is emerging as we move toward adoption of a new strategic plan.

Some of our future graduates will preach, some will teach and some will counsel.



Some will work for nonprofits, and some will take a theological perspective into secular careers. Some will be activists. If we've done our work well, many of them will surprise us with their imagination and their courage. All will be prepared to change the world around them for good.

I want to express my deep gratitude for all of you who compose this wonderful institution. You are students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni, church leaders and friends. Some of you are in our midst every week and others, from a distance, hold us in prayer every day. Together, you contribute to the depth and breadth of this place and give us life. I thank God for each of you and for this opportunity we share to shape the church and the world for many years to come.

**PUBLIC EVENTS**

# On tap: Lectures, celebrations and more

Here are highlights of events scheduled for the busy new academic year. All events are free and open to the public. Some require registration. Updates and details regarding these and additional events will be shared via the *Campus View* newsletter, [www.mtso.edu/events](http://www.mtso.edu/events), Facebook and Twitter (@MTSOedu).

**Sept. 20, 7 p.m.**

## A Long Way from Home: Displacement, Lament and Singing Sorrow in Psalm 137

MTSO Associate Professor of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible Valerie Bridgeman will speak on the role of lament when people feel disconnected from their home, whether because of social disparities or immigration.



This lecture was prepared with assistance from a faculty development grant through the Theological Commons at MTSO.

**Sept. 26, 6 p.m.**

## Building Resilience Through Mindfulness

Brandi Lust, who has worked in the fields of education and social justice through her business, Learning Lab Consulting, will share her view that those who practice mindfulness have higher levels of resilience and greater levels of attentiveness to their surroundings and their work.

**Oct. 3**

## Alumni Day

A full day begins by honoring this year's recipients of the John and Ruth Mount Alumni Awards for Distinguished Service: Brice Balmer ('73), assistant professor in spiritual care and psychotherapy at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in Waterloo, Ontario; and Charles Harrison ('86), senior pastor of Barnes United Methodist Church in Indianapolis.

Following a luncheon featuring Seminary Hill Farm produce and other locally sourced food is a presentation by Robin Knowles Wallace, professor in the Taylor Endowed Chair of Worship and Music: "What I Learned in Seminary: Twenty Years of Teaching at MTSO."

Alumni Day is presented at no cost to guests, though we ask everyone who plans to attend to RSVP at [www.mtso.edu/alumniday](http://www.mtso.edu/alumniday).

**Oct. 4, 7 p.m.**

## Keeping Your Head Above Trauma: Lessons to Share

Rita Cavin was serving as interim president of Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, in October 2015 when a shooter killed eight students and a faculty member before taking his own life. Now retired, Cavin will reflect on the school's response, sharing lessons learned about being prepared for the worst, getting through the acute emergency, and finding the path to resilience and recovery.



**Oct. 11, 7 p.m.**

## Finding Deuteronomy in the Dirt: How Farming Informs My Biblical Scholarship

At work, Raymond F. Person Jr. is a professor of religion at Ohio Northern University. At home, he lives on a historic Swiss Mennonite homestead near Bluffton, run by a cooperative of 17 families to produce meat, eggs and vegetables. The author of eight books, Person will lecture on his written commentary and reflect on the influence farming has had on his insights into the biblical text.

**Nov. 17, 1 p.m.**

## Web Your Mission: Online Collaboration and Community Building

MTSO Educational Technology Coordinator Shannon Harper leads a seminar offering the basics of an online ministry or online nonprofit program. The presentation will include both live and Internet-based options for participation, real-time Q&A via chat, printable resources and web-based options for later viewing.

**Nov. 30, 1 p.m.**

## Compassionate Competency

Alex Shanks, faith organizer for Equality Ohio, will lead a workshop on LGBTQ competency and safety within faith communities.

**March 14 and 15**

## Schooler Institute on Preaching

The Schooler Institute will be led by Anna Carter Florence, Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary. A sought-after preacher and lecturer, Florence is interested in historical, theological, aesthetic and performative dimensions of preaching and the ways it engages other fields and different traditions.

# Partnerships expand MTSO's reach

In an increasingly interconnected world, MTSO has been intentional about seeking relationships that allow us to share our resources, benefit from the strengths of other institutions and prepare well-rounded Christian leaders. As a seminary of the United Methodist Church, we always have enjoyed a special connection with the denomination. That relationship is complemented by those highlighted on this page.



## Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

MTSO and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary cooperate through a number of mission and ministry commitments in our shared Midwest region.



## Green Seminary Initiative

MTSO is a participant in the Green Seminary Initiative, which fosters efforts by theological schools and seminaries to incorporate care for creation into their identities and missions. Associate Professor of Christian Education and Youth Ministry Tim Van Meter is a member of the Green Seminary Initiative Steering Committee.



## Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

MTSO and the Pines School of Graduate Studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion have formed a joint Instructional Preparation Program, through which well-qualified HUC-JIC doctoral students teach MTSO students in their fields of expertise, with mentoring by MTSO faculty. Hebrew Union, which has campuses in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles and New York City, is the largest Jewish seminary in North America. MTSO Professor John Kampen earned his doctorate at HUC-JIR and teaches a course on the Dead Sea Scrolls at its Cincinnati campus.



## Methodist Theological University

MTSO and Methodist Theological University, the first school of theological education in Korea, share a relationship that includes the exchange of faculty and students. Professors Paul Kim, Paul Numrich and Joon-Sik Park all have taught at MTU, and MTSO's Korean cross-cultural immersion trip in June included a visit to the school's campus in Seoul.



## National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Through a cooperative relationship, MTSO will join the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center to promote justice and theologies of freedom. The two organizations will work together to further education in liberative and freedom theologies in areas of race, gender and economics and to engage Cincinnati-area churches and the public in conversations and action. Among other shared endeavors, MTSO will offer select for-credit course offerings at the Freedom Center in Cincinnati and looks forward to hosting traveling exhibits from the Freedom Center for the Columbus area. The Freedom Center's mission is "to reveal stories of freedom's heroes, from the era of the Underground Railroad to contemporary times, challenging and inspiring everyone to take courageous steps of freedom today." Its president, Clarence G. Newsome, delivered the MTSO commencement address in May.



## Trinity Lutheran Seminary

MTSO and Trinity Lutheran Seminary, the Bexley-based school of theology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, collaborate on a joint Doctor of Ministry program. D.Min. students benefit from classes taught by the faculty of both schools. Professor of Religion and Interreligious Relations Paul Numrich serves both schools under joint appointment.



## Unitarian Universalist Association

MTSO has formed a Unitarian Universalist House of Studies, serving individuals pursuing ministry within the Unitarian Universalist Association. The house of studies serves degree-seeking MTSO students and provides hybrid and intensive classes for UU students who are preparing in other seminaries. MTSO alum and adjunct faculty member Susan Ritchie, minister of the North Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Lewis Center and past trustee and secretary on the national board of the UUA, serves as director of the house of studies. [www.mtso.edu/uu](http://www.mtso.edu/uu)



## United Church of Christ

Formed in partnership with the United Church of Christ, the UCC Learning Network at MTSO is a house of studies serving students, clergy and lay leaders who are members of the United Church of Christ. The UCC Learning Network will support UCC students throughout their theological education and help them become familiar with the denomination's ordination processes. It also will serve UCC clergy and lay leaders with opportunities for lifelong education through MTSO's Theological Commons. MTSO Professor of Worship and Music Robin Knowles Wallace, an authorized minister in the United Church of Christ, is coordinator of the UCC Learning Network. [www.mtso.edu/ucc](http://www.mtso.edu/ucc)



# The D.Min. gets a fitting new specialization

## Ecology, Justice and Ministry is one of three options for doctoral students

The MTSO Doctor of Ministry program invites students to learn to lead with a profound respect for those they serve and the context in which they live. Consistent with that philosophy, the program has added a new specialization in Ecology, Justice and Ministry.

“Our approach to Doctor of Ministry work is that we’re inviting students into global conversations about ministry, and we are then preparing and prompting them to become contributors to that global conversation,” said Professor Diane Lobody, the D.Min. program director. “That commitment is at the core of our decision to design this new specialization. Ecology and justice are critical global and national issues, crucial for the life and the ministry of the church. To cultivate and nurture a core group of doctoral students to make informed and creative original contributions to their wider communities is incredibly important for us.”

D.Min. students in Ecology, Justice and Ministry will take specialization courses including Creation and New Creation in Christian Tradition; Environmental Theology and Ethics; Justice and the Practices of Ministry; and Ecology, Place and Justice.

Lobody said MTSO is uniquely suited to offer the new specialization in a number of ways, including the presence of Seminary Hill Farm: “It would be easy to theorize about things like how land is used and how you make a network of organizations and farms, but what we have here is a living laboratory of that – on our campus. That kind of resource is tremendously valuable and very rare in the United States.”

MTSO also offers doctoral program specializations in the Mission and Practice of Preaching, and Leadership for Transformational Change, its most popular specialization.



**Leading with respectful knowledge** \* 2015 D.Min. grad Chris George being hooded by Professor Diane Lobody

“Leadership’ is a big buzzword,” Lobody said. “Very often the kind of imaging people are using is ‘this one leader who is going to save us.’ Our approach is that you cannot lead people without having a profound and respectful knowledge of the context in which you are attempting to engage in that leadership. Leaders are not people who come in and force change on a community. That may work on Wall Street, but it does not work in religious communities whose values are deeply human and spiritual.”

One of Lobody’s former students, Chris George, apparently absorbed that lesson during his time at MTSO. George, a 2015 Doctor of Ministry graduate, was featured in an Aug. 13 column by Nicholas Kristof of *The New York Times*. A gas station and convenience store with a Muslim owner was burglarized and damaged this summer near the church George leads, Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Georgia.

From the pulpit, George told the story of the store’s burglary before encouraging the church to “shower our neighbor with

love.” More than 200 members of the Smoke Rise congregation responded by making purchases at the station. “Our faith inspires us to build bridges, not to label people as us and them,” George told Kristof.

MTSO’s D.Min. degree is offered through a Joint Doctor of Ministry Program with Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Bexley. MTSO students in the program receive their degrees from MTSO while having the benefit of working with faculty from both schools. D.Min. students experience small classes, are taught by full-time and fully affiliated faculty, interact with a national, ecumenical student base, and work with attentive project advisors.

Classes meet on campus in two intensive sessions per year – one week each in mid-summer and January – for 3 1/2 years. The remainder of students’ work toward the D.Min. can be done off-campus.

April 20, 2017, is the application deadline for the Doctor of Ministry cohort that will begin study next summer. [www.mtso.edu/doctorofministry](http://www.mtso.edu/doctorofministry)

# Live from UM General Conference

MTSO students covered events in Portland with a timely blog

When the United Methodist Church's global legislative body gathered in May for General Conference, 11 MTSO students had front-row seats. They were enrolled in MTSO's General Conference course, taught by adjunct faculty member and MTSO alumna Valerie Stultz, who led them on a trip to Portland.

To prepare, each student chose an area of interest to research and cover. Wearing black MTSO shirts, the students attended legislative sessions before returning to the press room to file daily posts to the class blog, [mtsogc2016.wordpress.com](http://mtsogc2016.wordpress.com).

"These students were on fire with optimism and enthusiasm for the global church," Stultz said. "The black shirts became markers for people in the newsroom and around the conference. Students quickly became known as serious, level-headed reporters on the committees they were observing. It didn't take long for other conference attendees to seek out our students to get a recap of the day's events."

Below are a few brief excerpts of students' reporting and commentary, edited for length and clarity.

## Inclusion and the UMC

My interest in the human sexuality debate derives from the divisive nature of this issue. When I began to look into it, I found what appeared to me to be a mess of contradictory stances on this issue contained in *The Book of Discipline* and *The Book of Resolutions*.

The denomination is clearly seeking to uphold *The Book of Discipline* while opening the hearts, minds and doors of the denomination as wide as possible. But the fact remains that persons identifying as LGBTQ are still barred from marriage and credentialed ministry in the UMC.



**Pausing for a selfie \* MTSO's bloggers became go-to sources of committee news**

The issue is made much more complex when we realize that the UMC is a global denomination and that the UMC outside of the United States is growing while the UMC within the U.S. is not. This means that the denomination is forced to take into serious consideration the opinions and beliefs of those outside of the U.S. Specific to the issues of LGBTQ inclusion, the globalization of the denomination means that this issue might not take center stage anymore, as the concerns of the African delegation around crippling poverty, polygamy and war move to the forefront.

*Andy Burns*

## Feed my sheep

I have been following Petition 60705, "Uplifting the Poor". Its current status is "committee not considered." I've been frustrated that this is the only petition addressing the issue of poverty, and it does not create any initiatives or actions.

That was especially troubling against the backdrop of the many, many homeless people we encountered as we walked from

the convention center to the various dinners and receptions we enjoyed. It seemed a challenge from God. It seemed odd to me that no one at the conference was talking about the homeless. They certainly could not be ignored.

I didn't see any reference to poverty relief until after I got home and read an article about the United Methodist Rural Advocates, who addressed the homeless situation in Portland in a humane, creative and brave manner. The United Methodist News Service reported that "the group's encounter with the city's homeless population sparked an idea for a hands-on ministry with the poor in the Portland area.... General Conference attendees can pick up one of more than 1,700 cards made by children that hold meal tickets for Sisters of the Road Café and share them as they strike up a conversation with a local homeless person."

*Julie Fairchild*

## Choosing sides

I am struggling with the protests I witnessed at General Conference, as well as those I have read about since. I am social justice-minded and have participated in protests in the secular world and have felt very good about my participation.

In Portland, I witnessed the "official unofficial" ordination of Susan Laurie, who is not eligible for ordination in the UMC due to her status as a lesbian. As I sang songs, stood and watched, and took communion, I was surprised. I was mindful that I was not entirely comfortable in my own skin. And I have been asking myself why. I expect to have to peacefully protest in the secular world. I want a different way in the church.

*Wendy Hansen-Smith*

# Ready for the challenge

These first-year students know the church has work to do, and they want to be part of it

Members of the newest class of MTSO students arrived on campus on Aug. 26, having discerned their call to ministry in different ways. Each is inspired by the possibilities of a life spent as a Christian leader in response to the challenges faced by the church and those it serves. Here are profiles of five of these promising new students, including highlights from their admissions essays.



## Looking to show young people Christ's amazing love

Growing up as a child of a United Methodist minister and MTSO alumnus, **Courtney Jones** might have seemed destined to join the ranks of MTSO students. Her journey to MTSO became complicated, however, as she observed her congregation and the denomination grapple with the issue

of human sexuality. "I struggled with watching my own annual conference yell and shriek at each other on the conference floor. I could not imagine the loving God I knew would be so hateful," she said.

Eventually Jones found a place that answered her desire for inclusivity. "I found a community of faith called the Crossing," she said. "It has traditional liturgy and the most non-traditional congregation I have ever seen. The mix of trans, gay, straight, old, young, black, white, Universalist Unitarians, Methodists, Episcopalians, and Mormons all worshipping God together. My faith was given new life."

While attending Boston University, Jones served as an intern at the school's Marsh Chapel. "Interning at a university chapel has forced me to deal with questions about tradition, and what traditions are important and why. I am forced to justify and critically analyze what I believe and why I believe it. I have gotten a firsthand look at the complexities of appeasing those with generous wallets and being authentic in speaking truth to power. Through all of these experiences, I have been granted the opportunity to really figure out what kind of change I would like to be in this world and more specifically in the United Methodist Church," she said. "I

have seen the need of a young generation who feels ostracized and abandoned by the church," she said. "I would like to show them the amazing love of Christ. Too many people today think that the church and God are irrelevant in today's world."

As the first recipient of the new Bishop Judith Craig Endowed Scholarship, Jones looks forward to pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at MTSO: "A seminary education will provide me with new ways to critically look at modern challenges while also giving me the resources and tools to help find solutions to those challenges."

## A citizen of the world returns to MTSO

**Shin Sung** has lived, worked and studied on four continents and in more than a dozen countries. One locale that made an impression on him was the MTSO campus, where he spent a semester as an exchange student in the spring of 2015. His experiences stoked a desire to return. Aided by an International Student Scholarship, Shin is pursuing a Master of Theological Studies degree.



He envisions a ministry in mission around the world. "Through my experiences in other countries, I learned God's love for the world and felt a great responsibility for our global community," he said.

Feeling the call to work with young adults, Shin has sought out experiences in the United States and Korea that will give him courage to pursue his goals. "I gained a better understanding of God personally through the Youth with a Mission conference in Orlando," he said. "By integrating my learning from Methodist Theological University in Korea with my understanding from MTSO, I focused the Bible study I led on the ministries of Jesus in the synoptic gospels, and I was reminded how important the good news is to people, no matter their age."

While completing his Master of Divinity at MTU, he served as an intern pastor at Gwang-ju Methodist Church in Seoul. "Serving as a Bible study leader and youth worship preacher taught me the meaning of servant leadership," he said. "It also taught me to be truly grateful and compelled me to explore every day how I can become more like Jesus."



## Aspiring to be a counselor in a church setting

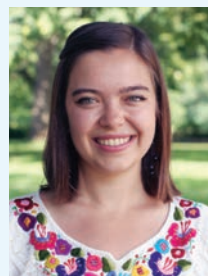
Fearlessly, **Josh Stokes** immersed himself in the discernment process and emerged confident about his role in the church and the world. “To begin my discernment process,” he said, “I prayerfully considered some key questions: I know God wants to work through me, but am I letting him? I have my own plan for the future, but is that God’s plan?”



Seeking the advice of his pastor at King Avenue United Methodist church near the Ohio State University campus, Stokes found a way to merge his interest in psychology with his passion for the church: “I never thought I could mix a career in the church and counseling. However, as she told me about MTSO’s MACM program, I could feel my fears for the future diminish as I realized with certainty the direction the Holy Spirit wanted me to go.”

Stokes, who received a Methesco Scholarship, is seeking a Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree. He envisions a career shaped in some ways by his own experience of rejection from a faith community. “Based on my experience,” he said, “my goal is to work at a progressive church counseling anyone who seeks it, but focusing on college-age students who are facing rejection from their faith communities or are dealing with having identities that are often perceived to be contradictory to that of the majority.”

Stokes champions the possibility that churches might increasingly create staff positions for licensed counselors. “Working at a progressive church is my goal because it was the progressive church that helped me feel at home and fall in love with the church again. After hearing about the MACM licensure program at MTSO, I knew the program was a phenomenal fit for my future career.”



## Finding new meaning in familiar Bible stories

**Kelsey Simkins’** discernment process started with a handful of earthworms pulled from a compost pile. Volunteering at a nonprofit urban farm in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Simkins marveled at “the way an industrial urban space could grow food, build relationships and nourish a community.”

“This sparked a new direction,” she said, “as I also began to rediscover the long familiar biblical stories of my Christian faith tradition and found new richness and meaning in them.”

Following her graduation from Marquette University, Simkins relocated to Denver to join the Colorado Vincentian Volunteer program for a year-long commitment to intentional community, spiritual growth and direct service and advocacy with those on the margins of society. It was here that she began her work with

GrowHaus, a nonprofit urban farm, marketplace, food education hub and community center.

“Through my work as an education coordinator teaching food justice workshops for all ages, I have gained numerous skills,” she said. “Nothing has been more valuable than encountering my coworkers and the immigrant families in our neighborhood with a deepening appreciation for community. At GrowHaus, I found food to be central to our experiences of community and confirmed my passion for food justice.”

A recipient of the Harding Scholarship, Simkins plans to pursue a Master of Arts in Practical Theology degree.

“Because it all comes back to community, I find it difficult, if not impossible, to separate my interests in urban farming and food justice from my faith and theology,” Simkins said. “They are rooted in the same place. For me, faith is an access point when thinking about social change and ethics. Likewise, the practice of ministry, whether in a church or secular setting, is a powerful tool for engaging in communal dialogue about creating a more just society.”

“I feel called to help bring about a world where we are reconnected more deeply with God, the earth and each other.”

## Exploring her social justice heart

“My hope with attending MTSO and graduating with a Master of Arts in Practical Theology with a specialization in Parish and Community Ministry is that I will be better suited to be Christ’s hands and feet in the mission field,” said **Torrianna Foster**.



Foster, a recent graduate of Pfeiffer University, does not feel called to ordained work in the church. Instead, she envisions her life’s work in a nonprofit organization helping women, children and people who identify as LGBTQ. “My call,” she said, “is to practice radical love and hospitality with people who truly need it. I am driven to explore and create change.”

During her time at Pfeiffer, Foster was instrumental in creating a campus-wide campaign known as It’s On Us, which sought to bring awareness to sexual and domestic abuse. The campaign provided a platform for Foster to hone her research skills and sharpen her relational skills through outreach to the campus community. “My senior year was all about exploring my social justice heart and what that means for my journey with Christ,” she said.

A recipient of an MTSO Scholarship, Foster looks forward to pursuing her goal of serving underserved communities and individuals: “I feel that MTSO will cultivate leadership, with a focus on people and solutions for injustices that can be fixed if someone cares enough to work for it.” ✨

# Cross-cultural immersion: Students reflect on trips

## In Korea, hope for an unseen reality

By Anthony Thomas

When I began to explore the options MTSO offered for cross-cultural immersion, the Korea trip seemed to jump off the page. My wife has family in Korea, so when she was approved to travel as an auditing student, I realized that I was Korea-bound.

During the two weeks spent in Korea, we were immersed in a culture seemingly built around religion and faith. We visited Buddhist temples high in the mountains and tucked away amongst the tall buildings of Seoul.

We visited many different churches, including some of the oldest in the country, each with a story of struggle and survival, all with the tenacity to continue to be a shining light.

The tension between Christianity and Buddhism was not terribly evident in our time there, though it was shared that the two have not had the best of relations. It brought to mind that even back here in the United States, relationships between religions have not always been respectful. However, our time with students at a Buddhist seminary demonstrated that it is possible to sit with those of a differing faith and have honest conversation.

The rest of the world may think that there is peace in Korea. Koreans, however, know that there is only a ceasefire. On the two occasions that we visited the Demilitarized Zone, there was a definite tension in the air.

My wife, having family in both North and South Korea, was not able to look at the dividing markers at either site. She could not



**MTSO meets MTU** \* *The trip to Korea included conversations with students at Methodist Theological University in Seoul (the author is on the far right)*

bear to look through the magnifying viewers to catch a glimpse of North Korean farmers – people who might be family.

This experience of division was juxtaposed with prayers in the churches, prayers that always began with a call for unification. Even in the midst of destruction and division, hope survives. The faith of the people astounded me. I am reminded of Hebrews 11:1: “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

The people of Korea hope to be a united people, a reality they can’t see. Yet their faith in God to bring about that unity and peace is unfailing. This is a lesson for everyone: Even in the uncertainty that is life, God does not forsake, and God does not forget.

My experience in church, both as parishioner and pastor, has been somewhat plain. Traditions are kept, time frames are kept, and little change is allowed. I

would imagine that this is a similar reality for churches in Korea. The difference I experienced is how those Korean Christians live into their Christian calling. As a United Methodist, I was deeply moved to see so many people of different ages participating in the Wesleyan tradition of early morning prayer, at 5 in the morning! They would return to church for two other services, essentially spending the day at church. We struggle with spending 45 minutes in church.

I have been challenged to re-examine my own church experience. Am I here to follow tradition or to awaken souls? Are we as Christians called to go about our humdrum existence, always following the status quo? Or are we, possibly, called to much more? The culture and faith of Koreans reminded me to have faith in all things, to pray without ceasing, and to keep a religious fervor (Romans 12:11), always, in all circumstances, serving the Lord.



Twice each year, MTSO faculty lead students on cross-cultural immersion trips of roughly two weeks. This experience, which is available to all students and a requirement for those seeking a Master of Divinity degree, is not a mission trip. Rather it provides an opportunity to truly experience, rather than attempt to impact, a culture different from one's own.

Two cross-cultural trips departed this past spring and summer. Professor Jeff Jaynes and MTSO alum Charlie Knerr led a trip to the southwestern United States June 1-18. Professors Paul Kim and Paul Numrich led a trip to Korea June 17-July 2. Here are student reflections on those trips.

## In the Southwest, shaping responses to difference

By Emily Howard

Before traveling to the Southwest with a cross-cultural class from MTSO this summer, I had been to New Mexico once before. As a teenager, I volunteered to help with a vacation bible school, on a mission trip that both disturbed me and changed my faith.

On that trip, the missionaries we worked with would not allow us to attend any Native American events. I remember the pastor banning Kokopelli charms from church property and instructing our group that yoga was of the devil, like the American Indian beliefs we desired to change. As missionaries, we denigrated American Indians' practices in an attempt to convince them that their culture should be replaced. By doing so, we attempted to strengthen our Christian identity at the cost of shutting others out. I remember feeling so frustrated with these rules. For the first time, I was aware that something was missing for me in the faith I had been given.

Thirteen years later, I enrolled in MTSO's cross-cultural trip to return to the Southwest with a new perspective. I sought to learn from a culture not my own, to hear from American Indian people themselves about the traditions they hold dear and the challenges they face, and to gather alternatives to that mission trip long ago.

As we prepared for the journey, our class talked about cross-cultural skills. Human beings all use coping strategies when faced by difference. When we step out of a comfort zone or when another culture pierces our world, we experience dissonance. In our

response to difference, we could potentially cut off relationships – or we could choose to respond with strategies that have the potential to deepen them.

Every day of our travels brought a hundred opportunities to experience cross-cultural interactions and their accompanying decisions. Hiking the canyon, and gifted by an Indian tour guide with a meal of beans and bread, will you eat it or say no? Praying with Roman Catholic communities, if you are not of that faith, what will you do when invited for a blessing during the Mass? Attending an Indian dance on a Pueblo, where will you sit, and what will you say to the people of the community around you?

Every day was full of spontaneous moments like these. Many times, the response starts before you know what is happening. At the end of each day, we could look back and wonder: What responses would we choose if we could do it again? And what seemed to work in ways that deepened relationships?

The point, for me, in these interactions became wondering how to develop mutual relationships instead of lopsided ones. I learned on the trip that two of my go-to coping skills are to avoid a situation entirely or tell myself that my ways of doing things are superior to others' so that I avert the learning moment. (In that way, maybe I'm not so different from the mission trip leaders from my teenage days.)

I learned that I have other options and abilities as well. I can choose to ask a question from a humble and curious point of view, and I can practice jumping into a moment without having all of my own trepidations resolved.

There has been so much violence against American Indians, and such great trauma



Seeking mutual, not lopsided, relationships ✧ *The author in New Mexico*

within their experience, that the cross-cultural skills we practiced on the trip are crucial for realizing healthy relationships between cultures. When I practice these skills, as a Christian, my prayer will be to play a small part within the mending of a historically troubled interaction.

As a pastor, I want to understand the cross-cultural relationships I live with in my context and to be able to use these skills, both with the people around me most often and those I meet away from home.



# The Pitneys and the house that gives back

*“We are doing something visible” \* Debbie and John Pitney during the construction of their home in Oregon*

## Retiring after four decades of ministry focused on ecology and justice, two MTSO alums have built a home that creates more energy than it uses

### By John Henderson

John and Debbie Pitney graduated from MTSO in 1976, long before ecotheology was a common topic of classroom discussion, before a solar grid was powering classrooms and before Dunn Dining Hall served fresh organic produce grown on campus. Yet it's hard to imagine how anyone could better model the ecological values that infuse MTSO's campus community today.

Most recently, they have built and moved into a new home in Oregon that goes well beyond mere energy efficiency. They call it a “net-zero” home, but even that's a misnomer: It will produce more energy than it uses each year. The Pitneys' amazing new abode is a capstone on four decades of ministry committed to the work of environmental and food-system justice.

Debbie and John met as students at MTSO in 1973 and were married on campus three years later in a ceremony officiated by Professor Chuck Foster and involving a host of other MTSO clergy. Upon graduation in 1976, they headed west to serve congregations in Idaho as ordained United Methodist elders.

In the early 1980s, they were reappointed to Nome Community UMC in the Alaska Conference. John refers to the experience as a “life changer” that deepened his understanding of the ways scripture offers a moral response to land, wealth and economic conditions.

After five years in Alaska, they found their way to Oregon, where John had grown up on a farm and first developed his commitment to using resources wisely. They recently retired after 16 years at First UMC in Eugene, where Debbie served as senior pastor and John served on staff.

At First UMC, they worked with parishioners to develop ministries related to food-system and climate justice. The church installed a photovoltaic power system with the help of the Solar Congregations

Initiative of Oregon Interfaith Power and Light. And through That's My Farmer, a program John started, First UMC was one of more than 20 local faith communities to back community-supported agriculture programs on 15 small, sustainable farms around Eugene. John also writes and performs songs with themes including economic and climate justice, civil resistance, and progressive faith. He has recorded three albums.

Throughout their ministry, the Pitneys lived out their convictions at home, upgrading several parsonages with solar hot water systems. “What we did on Sundays didn't make any difference unless it affected what we were doing every other day of the week,” Debbie said.

Upon deciding to retire to McMinnville, Oregon, a county seat an hour southwest of Portland, the Pitneys considered various options for a low-energy lifestyle before settling on a drastic one: They purchased a 75-year old house in poor repair and tore it down in March 2015 to make way for their new net-zero home, which they also call a “forever house.”





**Efficient to the extreme** ✧ *The Pitneys' "forever house" features rooftop solar panels, 13-inch exterior walls and triple-pane windows more than 3 inches thick*

"A forever kind of house is one that has a good chance of lasting for a long time," Debbie said. "It treats eternity here on earth very seriously."

Construction on the new, 1,000-square-foot house began in September 2015 and was completed by the end of March. They have documented the project extensively online, starting with [johnpitney.org/our-net-zero-life-an-introduction](http://johnpitney.org/our-net-zero-life-an-introduction).

Debbie and John were in the house every day from January on, assisting with construction. This included repurposing wood from the old house. John did much of the work in a wood shop that belongs to a local United Methodist congregation.

With 13-inch exterior walls and triple-pane windows more than 3 inches thick, the 1,000-square-foot net-zero home is exceptionally well insulated. To keep it from becoming "a moldy slime-ball," in John's words, it uses mechanical ventilation that exchanges one-third of the house's air every hour. The water supply comes from 9,000 gallons in rainwater storage.

The home is Passive House certified, meeting a standard for energy efficiency that calls for dramatically reducing a building's energy use and ecological footprint. This allows a photovoltaic solar system to produce a yearly energy surplus – which the Pitneys will use to charge their electric car.

"Bottom line – we are doing something

visible," John said. "It's not going to solve the climate-justice issue, but it becomes an occasion for us to have lot of conversations with people about what's at stake and what we need to be doing."

Opportunities for conversation should come easily since the house is near the middle of town. The Pitneys wanted to build their home in an area with easy access to McMinnville's amenities and high visibility, in hopes of inspiring others to consider a new standard of living. The grocery store, library, church and pool all are within walking distance.

**"We didn't want to build an exclusive house outside of town. We wanted to be in the neighborhood," John said. While the home was under construction, "we were literally giving six or seven home tours per week."**

"We didn't want to build an exclusive house outside of town. We wanted to be in the neighborhood," John said. While the home was under construction, "we were literally giving six or seven home tours per week."

"We are here to encourage people," he said. "We need to move toward everyone living to this standard. There is a lot at stake. If we don't keep 80 percent of fossil

fuels in the ground, we have no chance of maintaining a planet with livability that we can pass on to our children and grandchildren."

"We are made from this wondrous humus under our feet. To live in a way that demeans that in any way is totally demeaning to ourselves."

Although John and Debbie are four decades removed from MTSO, they agree that their seminary experience laid the groundwork for what their ministry became.

"It wasn't supposed to be a theological education that removed us from the world and made us feel set apart," Debbie said. "It was a theological education that put us in the midst of the world and basically said, 'If you are not in the midst of the world, you are not doing your job.' That's what I experienced there."

The Pitneys said they continue to be inspired by MTSO's movement toward an emphasis on ecotheology, with the creation of Seminary Hill Farm and increased dialogue around environmental justice in the classroom.

"I'm very proud to be from an institution that has that kind of vision and insight," John said. "It makes a difference for seminary students." ✧

# Alum news

If you're an alum or former faculty or staff member of MTSO and have news to share about your vocational or personal milestones, please submit it via the link at [www.mtso.edu/update](http://www.mtso.edu/update). If you don't have an Internet connection, you may mail your news to us at Alum News, MTSO, 3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

## 1966

**Cliff Black** continues his prison inmate ministry. He retired as director of the International Justice Center at Texas A&M International University. [cliffmblack@gmail.com](mailto:cliffmblack@gmail.com)

## 1969

**Eugene Finnegan** and his partner, John Rainey, were married after 35 years together, following the Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality in June 2015. Their wedding took place in the chapel of the Parkvue Community retirement home in Sandusky, where they have lived for 17 years. [finneganrainey@yahoo.com](mailto:finneganrainey@yahoo.com)

**Richar Morrison** is retired in Traverse City, Michigan. "Photography, skiing, fishing, golf, traveling, anything not having to do with work is what I am doing these days." [adosuper@aol.com](mailto:adosuper@aol.com)

**Glenn Rohrer** is professor emeritus at East Carolina University and professor of social work at the University of West Florida. He is also an Episcopal priest at Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Pensacola, Florida. [grohrer@uwf.edu](mailto:grohrer@uwf.edu)

## 1971

**Roger Moore** and his wife, Ellen, are very actively involved in Ashland's Team Ministry at Christ and First UMCs. [rbmoore007@aol.com](mailto:rbmoore007@aol.com)

## 1973

**Brian and Anita Wood** are retired and living in Washington State. [debnagen@outlook.com](mailto:debnagen@outlook.com)

## 1975

**Daniel Drew** retired after 42 years of appointive ministry in the East Ohio Conference. He is director of travel ministries in the East Ohio Area for Educational Opportunities Tours. "I have been blessed to be called by God, educated at MTSO and serving in God's kingdom." [d.drew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.drew@sbcglobal.net)

**Timothy Farabaugh** retired in June. His fifth book, *A Guide to Christian Administration*, was published last June. [tdfarabaugh@comcast.net](mailto:tdfarabaugh@comcast.net)

**David Orendorff** retired in July 2014. [dorffhome@msn.com](mailto:dorffhome@msn.com)

## 1976

**David Broyles** retired from the ministry in 2015. He retired from the United States Air Force Chaplain Corps in 2007 with the rank of Chaplain, Colonel. [david.broyles71@att.net](mailto:david.broyles71@att.net)

## 1977

**George E. Porter Jr.** retired after six years as a district superintendent in the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. He now serves as a full-time interim pastor at the First UMC of Pittsburgh. [george.porter.jr@gmail.com](mailto:george.porter.jr@gmail.com)

## 1978

**Joseph G. Burris** retired after 40 years of pastoral ministry. His last Sunday in the pulpit at Centenary UMC in Laurel, Delaware, was June 12. He will continue to be active as a director of travel ministry with Educational Opportunities Tours, helping local pastors and others to host Holy Land, heritage and other faith-based land tours, as well as ocean and European river cruises. He and his wife,

Patty, celebrate their 37th wedding anniversary Sept. 23. [josephburris53@gmail.com](mailto:josephburris53@gmail.com)

## 1980

**Brad Martin** has adopted a loving and thriving 2-year-old daughter, Leah Martin. [bmartin4477@gmail.com](mailto:bmartin4477@gmail.com)

## 1981

IN MEMORIAM

**Dennis Paulson** passed away suddenly in July 2015. He retired in 2013 after 43 years in ministry, mostly with the United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife, Gerrie Pedersen Paulson, three daughters and ten grandchildren.

## 1984

**James Adams** is a national speaker on school shootings and is currently doing research with Case Western Reserve University into how communities heal after trauma, and which trauma intervention models produce the best long-term outcomes for survivors. [jadams@geauga.org](mailto:jadams@geauga.org)

**Elizabeth Wineland** retired July 1, 2015, after serving 30 years in local church ministry in the West Ohio Conference of the UMC. She and her husband, Lynn, are first-time homeowners, living in Bowling Green. Their daughter, Katie Kuntz-Wineland, is a student at MTSO working on her M.Div. Katie is married to Beth Kuntz-Wineland, who is on staff at Dunn Dining Hall. [bwineland56@gmail.com](mailto:bwineland56@gmail.com)

## 1985

**Barbara Grace "Babs" Allison Ripple** is retired and living in Kaneohe, Hawaii. "I am thankful for the education I received at MTSO, preparing me to serve God as a United Methodist pastor for all these years! Great memories!" [babsripple@gmail.com](mailto:babsripple@gmail.com)

## 1987

**Dr. Theodore D. Whitely Sr.** retired July 1, 2015. He served more than 41 years in active ministry. He was an elder in full connection with the Detroit Annual Conference. He and his wife, Rev. Betty J. Whitely, an MTSO alumna, avail themselves for preaching and teaching when called upon to do so. [bettytedwhitely@aol.com](mailto:bettytedwhitely@aol.com)



**1988**

**Lt. Col. Steven Jerles** is deputy garrison chaplain at Fort Hood, Texas, serving more than 400,000 soldiers, families, civilians and military retirees.

**1989**

**Sharon Sauer** has retired as a Presbyterian pastor and school teacher. She continues as a part-time spiritual director. [sharonasauer@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonasauer@yahoo.com)

**1991**

**Lea Guiney** was appointed July 1, 2015, to First UMC in Union City, Pennsylvania, of the Erie-Meadville District in the Western Pennsylvania Annual Confer-

ence after serving the Polk and East UMCs in the Franklin District for nine years. [revette1991@gmail.com](mailto:revette1991@gmail.com)

**1993**

**Kathy Brown** has been appointed director of the Office of Ministry in the West Ohio Annual Conference.

**Elizabeth Young's Sanctuary in the Midst of Alzheimer's: A Ministry for Spousal Caregivers and Their Churches** was published by AuthorHouse in 2015. Her article "The Power of Positive Thinking and Dementia Caregiving" appeared in the Fall 2015 issue of the UMC Board of Discipleship's S.A.G.E. publication. [elizabeth@omega-living.com](mailto:elizabeth@omega-living.com)

**1998**

**Candy Thomas** has begun ministry in the ambassador program at Miami Beach Community Church, UCC, in Miami Beach. She greets visitors, community members and street people Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, providing pastoral care and prayer at the church's busy South Beach location. [candacedt@live.com](mailto:candacedt@live.com)

**1999**

**Renee (Gonyea-MacDougall) Ford** graduated in May 2015 with a Ph.D. in Workforce Education and Development from Penn State University. Her dissertation, "Factors

Continues

## Students and alums ordained and commissioned

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

**Baltimore-Washington**

**R. Lorraine Brown**, commissioned as elder, serving St. Luke UMC in Sykesville and Simpson UMC in Mt. Airy, Maryland.

**Detroit**

**Sarah Alexander**, commissioned as deacon. She serves as director of Motown Mission in Detroit.

**East Ohio**

The following were commissioned as elders:

- **Beth Ortiz**, serving as pastor of Kilbourne UMC.
- **Paul Turner**, serving as pastor of Cardington First UMC.

**Great Plains**

**Michael Brown**, commissioned as elder, serving as pastor of Quinter and Grinnell UMCs.

**Emily Spearman Cannon**, ordained as elder, serving as pastor of Auburn First UMC in Auburn, Nebraska.

**Greater New Jersey**

**Christina Yost Lelache**, ordained as elder, serving as associate pastor at Haddonfield UMC.

**Indiana**

**Melissa (Zimmerman) Englehart**, ordained as elder, serving as of July 1 at Hanover UMC.

**Jennifer Huff**, ordained as deacon.

**Iowa**

**Wil Ranney**, ordained as deacon.

**New York**

**Susan Ranous**, commissioned as deacon, serving Ira UMC in Syracuse, New York.

**South Carolina**

**Meghan Cook**, ordained as elder, serving at Epworth Children's Home, Epworth Memorial UMC, Columbia.

**Tennessee**

The following were commissioned as elders:

- **Bo Myers**, serving as pastor of St. Luke UMC in Columbia, Tennessee.
- **Mary Kate Myers**, serving as pastor of Bethesda-Wesley Chapel UMC in Thompson Station and College Grove, Tennessee.

**West Ohio**

The following were commissioned as deacons:

- **Margaret McErlean-Hoy**.
- **Kate Smith**, serving Peace UMC, Pickerington.

The following were commissioned as elders:

- **Jennifer Casey**, serving as associate pastor at Church of the Master United Methodist, Westerville.
- **Pete Elliott**, serving as associate pastor at Broad Street UMC, Columbus.
- **Wendy Hansen-Smith**, serving as associate pastor at North Broadway UMC, Columbus.
- **Alexandra Petrey**, serving at First UMC in Brookville.
- **Kim Wisecup**, serving as pastor at Madison Mills UMC, Washington Courthouse.

The following were ordained as elders:

- **Nicole Henderson-Johns**.
- **Claudine Leary**, serving as director of annual giving at MTSO.

**West Virginia**

- **Jeffrey Taylor**, ordained as deacon, serving as president of the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia Inc. in Charleston.

## from previous page

Influencing Clergy Leadership Effectiveness in the UMC,” explored correlations between church vitality indicators and situational and systemic factors leaders face in ministry. [reneejford@gmail.com](mailto:reneejford@gmail.com)

**Marcy Taylor** has been accepted into the chaplain residency program at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. [matsmile@comcast.net](mailto:matsmile@comcast.net)

## 2000

**Carol Layton** retired to her childhood home in western Colorado after 19 years serving in California. In addition to occasional pulpit supply, she is teaching driver safety for senior citizens. [pastorcarol.layton@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcarol.layton@gmail.com)

**Lynda McClanahan** offers a solo exhibition of new work, “Sights & Signs: a new collection of paintings by Lynda McClanahan,” through Sept. 24 at Jung Haus in Columbus. Her painted ostrich egg, “Ladies Choice,” is also on view at the Columbus Museum of Art through August in conjunction with the “Art 360: Contemporary Art Hatching Across Ohio” exhibit. Her graphic “River of Karma, River of Life” was featured in the January 2016 issue of *Hinduism Today* magazine. She was invited to Kerala, India, to organize devotional singing at a January 2016 meditation retreat led by Sri Dandapani. She continues to appear the first Saturday of every month at the Columbus Unitarian Universalist church with the In Spirit Band and serves as a music minister and guest speaker at Unity Church of Delaware and Unity Church of Pickerington. [knepp4350@aol.com](mailto:knepp4350@aol.com)

## 2002

**David MacDonald** was recently featured as a chapter author in the book *The Prophetic Voice and Making Peace*, published by the UMC General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. He presented in 2015 at the United Methodist Campus Ministry Association Summer Institute on “Merge: A Model for Group Spiritual Direction for First Year Students.” Also in 2015, he presented on “Discerning Calling at the Center and the Edge: Vocational Discernment as Spiritual Direction and Discipline” at a GBHEM colloquium. [d-macdonald@onu.edu](mailto:d-macdonald@onu.edu)

## 2003

**Karen Cook** has been appointed assistant to the district superintendent of Capitol Area North in the West Ohio Annual Conference.

## 2005

**Liatu Kane** continues to work as a district superintendent of the Eugene Wesley District of the UMC in Nigeria. [liatu.kane@yahoo.com](mailto:liatu.kane@yahoo.com)

## 2006

**Jerry Krueger** has been appointed to Boardman UMC as of July 1. He will also serve as executive pastor for the Greater Youngstown Area Ministry Team, which includes five area UM churches. He is married to Rev. Susan Brown, who serves as senior pastor of Canfield UMC. [jkru421066@aol.com](mailto:jkru421066@aol.com)

## 2007

**Jacqueline DeLaney** earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in Formational Counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary in May 2016. [mrsjackiedelaney@hotmail.com](mailto:mrsjackiedelaney@hotmail.com)

**Risë Straight Hanifan** and her husband welcomed their first child on May 12, 2015. Callan Ross Hanifan was born in Clarksburg, West Virginia. [risehanifan@gmail.com](mailto:risehanifan@gmail.com)

## 2008

**Nancy Day-Achauer** formed the United Westside Coalition, a community partnership working on community revitalization and addressing the heroin epidemic on Columbus’s west side. She partnered with the Ohio attorney general and Franklin County coroner to develop a heroin prevention and intervention initiative. A town hall meeting featuring guest speaker Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine will be held Sept. 29. [nancypda@gmail.com](mailto:nancypda@gmail.com)

## 2010

**Robin Dillon** recently completed five years of meaningful ministry at Oak Chapel UMC in Wooster and effective July 1 was appointed to LeRoy UMC in Westfield Center. Also effective July 1, she is serving on the East Ohio Board of Ordained Ministry as dean of licensing school. Robin enjoys helping in the formation of new clergy

in her role at licensing school and serving as a field education instructor at MTSO. [robinddillon@gmail.com](mailto:robinddillon@gmail.com)

## 2011

**Meghan “Meg” (Sweeney) Cook** was married to John Michael Cook on May 31, 2014. She is a provisional elder at Epworth Children’s Home in the South Carolina Annual Conference. [mscook@umcsc.org](mailto:mscook@umcsc.org)

**Willie Smith** received a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit in June 2015. [smitty48@aol.com](mailto:smitty48@aol.com)

## 2013

**Melissa (Zimmerman) Englehart** married Chris Englehart on Nov. 7, 2015. [englehart.melissa@gmail.com](mailto:englehart.melissa@gmail.com)

## 2014

**Seth Evans** is online campus pastor for Ginghamburg UMC and lives in Springfield. [sethericevans@gmail.com](mailto:sethericevans@gmail.com)

**Meredith McDougale** and her husband, Jason, welcomed their son Dylan into the world in March 2015. She is executive director of the Greater Hilltop Area Shalom Zone and deacon in residence at New Horizons United Methodist Church. [meredithmcdougale@gmail.com](mailto:meredithmcdougale@gmail.com)

## 2016

**Ashley Mills** is continuing in her work as director of discipleship from birth to young adult at Worthington UMC. [ashleymills@worthingtonumc.com](mailto:ashleymills@worthingtonumc.com)

**Dawn Peters** is doing her first unit of clinical pastoral education at the Cleveland Clinic this summer and three more units at Wexner Medical Center from August 2016 to August 2017. [dawn.e.peters@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.e.peters@gmail.com)

**Rebecca Rogers** passed the National Counselor Examination and is awaiting LPC licensure. [rkr2321@gmail.com](mailto:rkr2321@gmail.com)



NEW TO THE FACULTY

# Teaching theology with a new worldview

## Elaine Nogueira-Godsey brings experience in the Global South to a new role in theology, ecology and race

Something happened when Elaine Nogueira-Godsey was 20 that gave her a powerful new perspective on her life in Brazil: She moved to South Africa.

“Growing up in Brazil, I knew from an early age that I wanted to travel and learn more from other cultures,” she said. “It was not until I moved to Africa that I saw the value of my perspective as a female theologian of mixed race. Working with Angolan and Mozambican refugees in South Africa reinforced my desire to explore this perspective further. It opened my eyes to the injustices that had become normalized in my native habitat, of which religion was inextricably central.”

As she observed “the centrality of the natural world in our everyday lives,” she developed an abiding interest in the intersection of ecology and issues of racial and gender oppression. “The poor conditions exacerbated by pollution and disregard for the environment disproportionately affected women, the poor and the racially marginalized.”

Nogueira-Godsey gained these insights while earning a master’s degree and doctorate in religious studies from the University of Cape Town, where she served as a lecturer and postdoctoral research fellow. She has taught classes including Religion Past and Present; Religion, Ecology and Spirituality; and Religion, Gender and Sexuality. She received her bachelor’s degree in theology from Faculdade Teológica D’Oeste do Brasil.

Now she brings her expertise and an international perspective to MTSO, where she will begin teaching in the Spring Semester as assistant professor of theology, ecology and race.

“Dr. Nogueira-Godsey brings an expansive understanding of theology to our seminary,” said MTSO President Jay Rundell. “Her students will learn how environmental threats to our planet compound the burdens faced by many people who already are marginalized because of their race, gender or socioeconomic status. I expect she will help us see the faithful care of creation through a new lens.”

Added MTSO Dean Lisa Withrow: “Her gift to us is going to be the conversation about the Global South, ecology, feminism and culture. She’s going to centralize that for us.”

Nogueira-Godsey currently is a post-doctoral research fellow intersecting postcolonial theory, religion, ecology and gender in the University of Johannesburg’s Department of Religious Studies. She has spoken and written extensively on topics ranging from religion and cultural diversity in post-apartheid South Africa to the work of Brazilian ecofeminist theologian Ivone Gebara, whom Nogueira-Godsey studied for her doctoral dissertation.

“Gebara’s journey resonates with me on many levels,” she said. “I too questioned my right to make my own choices and decisions from a young age. I was born in Brazil into a devoted Christian family, half Baptist and



Coming to MTSO from the University of Johannesburg ✱ Nogueira-Godsey

half Catholic. I was told from early age that all that I needed to do to please God and have a happy life was to go to school, find a husband, have children and be a good mother.”

“What to do with my life as a girl became an existential problem. Why did God create me with intellectual needs if I was not supposed to think for myself? Why did God create me with leadership skills if I was supposed to become a good submissive wife and focus on motherhood as fulfillment for life? Gebara’s work helped me think through these questions.”

Nogueira-Godsey’s work in ecofeminism connects different but related forms of subjugation. “Most ecotheologies have addressed the idea that the domination of humanity over nature and its exploitation are the consequences of a dominant Western philosophy that foregrounds human uniqueness above all living beings,” she said. “However, many ecotheological works fail to adequately make the connections between various forms and loci of power as they are asserted over the environment.”

“The domination of humanity over nature is only one of the facets of a bigger picture. We need to re-examine the claim that the Abrahamic religions convey

Continues on page 17

**NEW TO THE FACULTY**

# ‘What would Jesus do? Jesus would show up.’

**For Francesca Nuzzolese, pastoral care and counseling means being present to those who are vulnerable**

From the time she was a child in southern Italy, Francesca Nuzzolese had a sense of her life’s calling. She felt compelled to seek out those who were vulnerable and to be present with them. It would be years before she learned that this instinct aligned with a specific vocation: pastoral care and counseling.

Beginning with the Spring Semester of this school year, Nuzzolese will share her passion with students at MTSO, where she has been appointed associate professor of pastoral care and counseling.

In overwhelmingly Catholic Italy, Nuzzolese grew up in a Baptist household – “I was the only Protestant in my whole school” – attending a church with a fierce commitment to social justice.

“In this small group, I learned that faith in God is expressed through activism,” she said. “There was a strong sense of ‘What would Jesus do?’ Jesus would show up. Earthquakes, mafia killings of judges, closing of industries, civil rights violations: The Italian Baptists were there, to march, to shout, to sit in, to mourn, to advocate. We showed up everywhere.”

“When I was about 8, there was an appeal from South Africa, where Baptists suffering under apartheid had reached out to the European churches. As a youth group, we raised funds and brought them to a big march held in Rome. I remember vividly the sense of solidarity we felt as we showed up to advocate for the rights of our brothers and sisters in a faraway land. That has become a strong foundation for me in understanding pastoral

care as primarily a ministry of intentional and faithful presence.”

Nuzzolese pursued a Bachelor of Divinity degree at Baptist International Seminary in Switzerland, trusting that she had a calling to become a missionary. “I didn’t know that pastoral care and counseling was a field of study, an actual discipline you could learn and teach,” she said.

Mentors she encountered in Switzerland introduced her to counseling and its psychological component. The marriage of the spiritual and psychological disciplines enthralled her, and she discovered a gift for articulating them to varied audiences.

“Each discipline has its own language and its own construct,” she said. “What matters the most is to be able to articulate and use each language in their own right and to not collapse their meaning, so that the integrity of both can be maintained.”

“I believe spiritual formation is an essential dimension of preparation for the ministry of pastoral counseling,” Nuzzolese said. “To do their work well, students need to stand on sound spiritual and emotional foundations. On these foundations, they can then lay the bricks of clinical knowledge and thus become agents of transformation and healing.”

“While there’s a conviction in some Christian circles that the Bible is sufficient to counsel people,” she said, “my understanding is that multiple sources of knowledge, wisdom and truth are necessary for this ministry to be effective. For example, there is a wealth of knowledge available to explain how we



**A childhood in Italy infused with activism \* Nuzzolese**

respond physiologically and neurologically to the violation of the body that is very helpful in treating trauma. The Bible was not designed to address this particular dimension of suffering, but it offers invaluable wisdom in appreciating how deeply vulnerable human beings are to the dynamics of sin and evil.”

“Dr. Nuzzolese’s appreciation for employing both pastoral and clinical disciplines makes her an excellent fit with our approach to counseling ministries,” said MTSO President Jay Rundell. “That she has learned and practiced these disciplines throughout the world brings an added dimension to her teaching.”

Nuzzolese earned a Master of Theology degree from the Melbourne College of Divinity in Australia and a Doctor of Theology degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. During her doctoral work, she said, “I gravitated naturally to women of the lower classes, undocumented migrants, and all those who shared a degree of vulnerability to the variables of socioeconomic and political disadvantage.” Over time, she was particularly drawn to those who had been subjected to human trafficking, which she considers “the most tangible form of vulnerability of our time.”

During a recent sabbatical in the Netherlands, Nuzzolese spent time with



women who work in Amsterdam's Red Light District. Many with whom she spent time were natives of ex-communist Balkan countries. "Nine out of 10 say, 'I choose this. This is certainly better than what I could do in my own country,'" she said. But she is skeptical. She believes the notion of choice is something to be evaluated within the contextual realities from which these women come.

"The majority have a history of some sort of boundary violation," she said. "What they define as free and intentional choices are often the expression of a compromised notion of choice, tainted by the actual possibilities life has offered them."

"Would I prefer they were waitresses rather than sex workers? I don't know. The debate about prostitution as a legitimate form of work is very complex and needs to be approached with right information and wisdom. What I do know is that women and men, boys and girls, have a right to be safe in the world, and that prostitution – chosen or imposed – is fraught with violence, abuse and exploitation. It is definitely not dignifying work, for anyone involved."

## NOGUEIRA-GODSEY

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dualistic teachings that cause the separation of humans and nature, but which in turn generate earthly hierarchies with men constituting the highest pinnacle. The kind of ecofeminism that interests me approaches the reality of poverty and ecological devastation so common in colonized contexts as originating from the same mindset that foregrounds human uniqueness above all living beings."

A life lived in Brazil and South Africa has sharpened Nogueira-Godsey's sense that the study of ecotheology may begin with humanity's care of the planet but goes somewhere broader and more complex: "I think that by being exposed to the multiple realities of the Global South's postcolonial contexts, students will be better equipped to analyze and take into consideration the

Nuzzolese comes to MTSO from Philadelphia, where she is associate professor of pastoral care and spiritual formation at Palmer Theological Seminary and Eastern University. She also serves as pastoral care minister and theologian in residence at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia and is a counselor in private practice.

She has founded Be the Lifeline, a nonprofit foundation for anti-trafficking advocacy, education and outreach. In particular she has been "reaching out to the 'carers,'" offering support in the form of workshops, retreats, and training for those who work directly with people who have been trafficked.

For Nuzzolese, the opportunity to teach pastoral counseling within MTSO's Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries program is an exciting prospect: "For the past 10 years I have had the privilege to prepare mostly students called to church ministry. I look forward to shifting my focus to the more intentional art of pastoral psychotherapy and counseling."

"The possibility to teach what I personally love to study and practice is obviously very appealing. Even more so given the context in

ways in which poverty, gender inequality and racial oppression are themselves deeply ecological issues. Such a perspective points to the fact that to care for the environment represents a different rationale for those who fight for their own family's basic subsistence on a daily basis."

She'll encourage her students not to seek a quick and tidy fix for these problems but rather to accept and encourage an evolving world.

"The beauty of Gebara's ecofeminist theology is the focus on alternative epistemologies as a vehicle for finding solutions to environmental, gender or racial problems," Nogueira-Godsey said. "By forging a space for different ways of learning and transmitting knowledge to evolve and adapt to changing human identities, the approaches to issues of ecological, gender or racial injustices will likewise adapt and evolve."

which I will be teaching and the overall ethos of the school. I looked at the commitment to ecology, for instance. I am delighted that a school like this exists, that there's intentionality about ecology, theology and justice."

MTSO Dean Lisa Withrow said Nuzzolese is an adventurer: "She's got a stance of inquiry and adventure, not only traveling the world but trying to understand human nature in new ways. I think she has an experimental mind: always learning."

Nuzzolese expects her travels and international perspective to inform her teaching at MTSO.

"There's a tendency in the United States to focus on domestic issues, to stay a bit provincial, self-focused or navel-gazing," she said. "I live in multiple worlds, and these worlds live within me. Everything that happens in the international news has the potential to be touching a person or a community I know and love. So nothing to me is like, 'Oh, it's just happening over there.' We are much more interrelated than we think."

"I remain committed to international work." ✱

"It has become central to my scholarship and to transmit to my students that adaptations, adjustments and changes are a common occurrence and generally expected when reinventing our own relationship with the earth and the sacred."

Nogueira-Godsey, who interviewed and lectured at MTSO in May, said she has fond memories of the students, faculty, staff and delicious Dunn Dining Hall cuisine. She's excited by the opportunity to teach graduate theology courses and to be part of a campus community committed to the pursuit of a just and sustainable world.

"The desire to live out a theology that promotes sustainable living for all became clear during my visit to MTSO," she said. "For me this is very exciting. It feels like a dream come true to imagine that I will be working with scholars and students who are serious about answering the call to respond to the world's most urgent needs." ✱

# Beyond the classroom

## Faculty activities 2015-16



**Valerie  
Bridgeman**

**Associate Professor  
of Homiletics and  
Hebrew Bible**

### Publications

“What Will We Say to Our Children?” *Sojourners*, Feb. 16, 2016.

Contributor to *No Innocent Bystanders: Becoming an Ally in the Struggle for Justice*, ed. Chris Doucot and Shannon Craigo-Snell. Westminster John Knox Press, forthcoming.

“I Will Make Boys Their Leaders’: Rhetorical Use of Children in Lovelace,” in *Womanist Biblical Interpretation: Expanding the Discourse* (a *Semeia* volume), forthcoming September 2016.

“Now You Have Struck a Rock’: Rizpah, Black Mama Trauma, and the Power of Shaming in the Face of the Powers,” in *Unraveling and Reweaving Sacred Canon in Africana Womanhood*: 107-117. Ed Rosetta E. Ross and Rose Mary Amenga-Etego. New York: Lexington Books, 2015.

### Academic lectures and presentations

“Have You Read This Text?” “Who is at Stake? Reading the Bible with the Least Among Us” and “Justice as a Hermeneutical Lens,” Pembroke Institute, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Aug. 3-7, 2015.

“On Standing in Solidarity, Choosing, and Mentoring: The Vocational Work of Theological Education,” Louisville Institute’s Vocation of Theological Education Fall Gathering, Oct. 11-14, 2015.

“My Great-Grandmother was Enslaved: Racial/Ethnic Consciousness in the USA,” Black Lives Matters Symposium, Xavier University, Nov. 7, 2015.

“Randall Bailey was Right All Along: In Celebration of Randall Bailey’s 25 Years in the Academy,” Society of Biblical Literature African American Biblical Hermeneutics Section in honor of Randall Bailey, 2015.

“Dancing My Way Home: Reflections on Bible and Embodied Ritual Remembrance(s),” pre-

sented as a keynote speech at the McCormick Theological Seminary Women’s History Month, March 3, 2016.

Plenary presentation on “‘Tears for Food’: The Psalms as a Resource for Emotional and Spiritual Health” and workshop on “Soul Journaling,” Sankofa Women’s Conference, Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, March 19, 2016.

Virzola Law installation as senior pastor at Lindenwood Christian Church, Memphis, April 1, 2016.

Plenary presentation on “Preaching to Matter” and workshop on “Preaching for Kin-dom Movement,” The Voice of the Prophets Conference, April 7-9, 2016.

“Preaching to Matter: Taking the Real Bodies Seriously in Preaching,” presented at the Consultation on African American Preaching in the Academy and the Church, at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, April 11-13, 2016.

Workshop on preaching, presented for the Tuscarawas District, East Ohio Conference, United Methodist Church, April 23, 2016.

### Meetings

Black Theology and Leadership Institute, Princeton Theological Seminary, July 11-18, 2015.

Movement for Black Lives conference, Cleveland, July 24-26, 2015.

Co-convenor and panelist, National Gathering of Black Scholars, Ferguson, Missouri, Aug. 7-9, 2015.

Plenary presenter and workshop leader, sponsored by WomanPreach! Inc., Women’s Work Preaching Workshop, Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Aug. 13-15, 2015.

Consultation on Ph.D. in African American Preaching, Christian Theological Seminary, Oct. 4-5, 2015.

“Theological Educator as Vocation,” plenary address, Louisville Institute Vocation of the Theological Educator Gathering, Oct. 11-13, 2015.

Workshop presenter on prophetic preaching, inaugural Ella P. Mitchell Preaching Conference, Atlanta, Oct. 15-17, 2015.

Workshop presenter on preaching, Women of Color in Ministry Conference, Atlanta, Oct. 15-17, 2015.

American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature; presented in SBL; presided over an AAR session; Atlanta, Nov. 19-22, 2015.

Academy of Homiletics, preceded by Black Caucus, Dec. 2-5, 2015.

Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Social Justice and the Black Church and Academy, Houston, Feb. 15-18, 2016.

Prophetic Activism as Ministry, April 4, 2016.

Consultation Between AA Homileticians and Working AA Pastors, Christian Theological Seminary, April 11-13, 2016.

Association of Theological Schools Mid-Career Faculty Gathering, Phoenix, April 14-17, 2016.

### Church and popular lectures

Preached at First Baptist Church, Hillside, N.J., July 19, 2015.

“How Race, Sexuality, and the Holy Spirit Collide in a Congregational Setting,” East Euclid UCC, Cleveland, Aug. 1, 2015.

Preached at First Baptist Church in University Hills, Illinois, Aug. 2, 2015.

Preached at Christ the King United Church of Christ, Florissant, Missouri, Aug. 16, 2015.

Preached at First Bethel Baptist Church, Cleveland, Aug. 23, 2015.

Preached at MTSO chapel, Sept. 1, 2015.

Preached at St. Paul’s Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Sept. 6, 2015.

Vision Revival Preaching, East Euclid United Church of Christ, Sept. 10, 2015.

Preached at 150th anniversary of First Congregational UCC, Washington, D.C., Sept. 13, 2015.

Preached at Wesley Theological Seminary chapel, Sept. 15, 2015.

Preached on occasion of pastor’s anniversary at Antioch Baptist Church, Susan, Virginia, Sept. 20, 2015.

Filming panel presenter, Palestinian/Israeli Relationships, the Bible, and the American Church, sponsored by the Samuel DeWitt Proc-



tor Conference, filmed at First Congregational UCC, Washington, D.C., Oct. 8, 2015.

Women's Day Celebration, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Cleveland, Oct. 25, 2015.

New Mount Zion Baptist Church, Women's Day Celebration, Cleveland, Oct. 25, 2015.

Mt. Aery Baptist Church, Ma'afa Sunday, Bridgeport, Connecticut, Nov. 1, 2015.

Preached for church anniversary, Abyssinian Baptist Church, Memphis, Nov. 8, 2015.

"Litany Witness to Joy" for the installation of Pastor Troy Sanders, Atlanta, Nov. 15, 2015.

"You Are Not a Dummy: Finding Your Own Voice in Preaching," workshop at the Festival of Young Preachers (Academy of Preachers), Lexington, Ky., Jan. 2-5, 2015.

Preached at three services, Elmwood United Presbyterian Church, East Orange, New Jersey, Jan. 10, 2016.

Leadership consultation at Elmwood United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), East Orange, N.J., Jan. 11, 2016.

Preached at MLK Jr. Service, Fresh Waters Ministries, Austin, Texas, Jan. 17, 2016.

Open Worship, MTSO, Feb. 2, 2016.

Conversation partner with Mike Graves, Schooler Institute on Preaching, MTSO, Feb. 8-9, 2016.

"Healing the Breaches: Preaching Through Social Upheaval" and "Finding Voice," plenary leader, Chloe's Circle by WomanPreach! Inc., Chicago Theological Seminary, March 4-5, 2016.

Preached at 99th anniversary of Clair UMC, Columbus, March 20, 2016.

Preached at mid-day Good Friday service, St. Paul's Baptist Church, Philadelphia, March 25, 2016.

Preached at evening Good Friday service, St. Sabina Catholic Church, Chicago, March 25, 2016.

Preached at Christ Missionary Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., April 3, 2016.

Preached for three services and offered daylong consultation with staff at Elmwood United Presbyterian Church, Trenton, N.J., May 1-2, 2016.

Preached on Mother's Day at First Baptist Church, Hillside, N.J., May 8, 2016.

Preached on Church Anniversary for the Historic Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, N.Y., May 15, 2016.



## John Kampen

Professor in the Dunn  
Chair in Biblical  
Interpretation

### Publications

"Response," to Gerbern S. Oegema, "Was the Maccabean Revolt an Apocalyptic Movement?" in *The Seleucid and Hasmonean Periods and the Apocalyptic Worldview*: 95-102. Ed. Lester L. Grabbe and Gabriele Boccaccini with Jason M. Zurawski. London: Bloomsbury T & T Clark, 2016.

"Wisdom, Poverty, and Non-Violence in Instruction," in *The War Scroll, Violence, War and Peace in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature: Essays in Honour of Martin G. Abegg on the Occasion of His 65th Birthday*. Eds. Kipp Davis, Dorothy M. Peters, Kyung S. Baek, and Peter W. Flint. Leiden: Brill, 2016.

### Meetings

Official representative of Mennonite Church USA to the National Council of Churches Jewish-Christian Dialogue meeting, Philadelphia, Nov. 18, 2015.

American Schools of Oriental Research, Atlanta, Nov. 18-20, 2015.

Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, Nov. 21-24, 2015.

### Church and popular lectures

"Dangerous Inspiration," Columbus Mennonite Church, Oct. 25, 2015.

Consultation: Rebranding of the Pines School of Graduate Studies, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Nov. 11, 2015.

"Mennonites and Jews," adult education sessions for Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship, Dec. 6 and 13, 2015.



## Paul Kim

Professor of Hebrew  
Bible in the Williams  
Chair of Biblical  
Studies

### Academic lectures and presentations

"Japanese Occupation and Biblical Exile," Pyeongtaek University, Korea, Dec. 7, 2015.

"A Comparative Study of the Historical Aspects of Korea During the Japanese Occupation Era for a New Understanding of the Historical Contexts of the Exile" at Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society meeting, Perrysville, Ohio, March 10-11, 2016.

"Isaiah, Iconography, Images," Richard E. Wilkin Faculty Chair lecture series, Mazza Museum, University of Findlay, March 15, 2016.

### Church and popular lectures

Preached at Daechi Good Neighbors Church, Seoul, Korea, Oct. 25, 2015.

"Calling," Methodist Theological University, International Graduate Studies of Theology Chapel, Seoul, Korea, Nov. 12, 2015.

"God's Values," Soongsil University, Seoul, Korea, Nov. 19, 2015.

"Positive Psychology," workshop at Osaka Senior Citizens University, Osaka, Japan, Nov. 29, 2015.

Preached at Osaka Korean Church, Osaka, Japan, Nov. 29, 2015.

Preached at Hilliard Presbyterian Church, Hilliard, Feb. 7, 2016.

"The Bible and Spiritual Well-Being," five-week seminar co-led with Fulgence Nyengele, First Community Church, Columbus, May 1-29, 2016.

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**Sarah Heaner  
Lancaster**

**Professor in the  
Werner Chair of  
Theology**

**Publications**

*Romans* in the series *Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2015.

Introductions and reflections for 1 and 2 Corinthians, *CEB Women's Bible*, forthcoming in October 2016.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

"The Church: Towards a Common Vision," in Ecumenism course at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Sept. 28, 2015.

**Meetings**

2015 United Methodist Studies Review Committee for the Board of Ordained Ministry to review UM Studies courses at about a dozen schools. This review committee gives recommendations to the University Senate.

**Church and popular lectures**

Preached at Church of the Savior, Westerville, July 5, 2015.



**Denise Lewis**

**Assistant Professor  
of Pastoral Care and  
Counseling**

**Publications**

Co-author, "Personality Disorders," *Disability Handbook*, Aspen Professional Services, forthcoming in 2016.

**Church and popular lectures**

Established a counseling program in partnership with Destiny Church International and Pastor Teddy Ceasar, in recognition of the lack of resources for African-American congregants and their needs. Services are offered once per week for eight weeks and are pro-bono for persons referred by Pastor Ceasar.



**Linda A.  
Mercadante**

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

**Publications**

Live Commentary on the "Religious Landscape Study" Pew Forum Report, on *All Sides with Ann Fisher*, 89.7 NPR News, May 12, 2015.

Interviewed for "Lessons for the Church from the Spiritual but not Religious," by Joe Iovino, UMC.org, May 15, 2015.

Interviewed for "FUMC Guests Bring Unique Views to Town," by Megan Quinn, *Boulder Daily Camera*, June 6, 2015.

Interviewed for "How to Get Millennials to Church? Houses of Worship Get Creative," *Columbus Monthly*, July 2015.

"A Right Orientation," *Collegeville Institute, Bearings Online*, Nov. 19, 2015.

"White Protestant Efforts to Convert Italian Americans," *Strangers in This World: Multireligious Reflections on Immigration*, ed. Hussam S. Timani, Allen G. Jorgenson, Alexander Y. Hwang. Fortress Press, 2015.

Video recorded on the theme "Fear Not! Be Not Afraid!" by the Workgroup on Constructive Theology, Nashville, for upcoming video production, April 23, 2016.

"Case Study: The Spiritual but not Religious Movement," *The Macmillan Handbook on Religion, Vol. 2: Social Religion: Historical Consciousness and the Social Sciences*, May 2016.

"Spiritual Compass: SBNR? Let's Talk," *Direction: A Mennonite Brethren Forum*, Vol. 44:2.

Manuscript reviewer, *Religions*. Topic: Addiction, Ethics and Theology.

Interviewed by Charles Cotheman for Ph.D. dissertation/book on women who migrated through evangelicalism and beyond, passing through L'Abri and Regent College.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

"Pastoral Care with SBNRs," keynote speaker and seminar leader, American Association of Pastoral Counselors Winter Event, Chicago, Oct. 23-24, 2015.

Keynote speaker, Faith in Culture Institute, Wycliffe Institute, University of Toronto, Nov. 5, 2015.

"Understanding the Rise in SBNR and Why It Matters," Anglican Women's Event keynote, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, Nov. 7, 2015.

"SBNRs and Mysticism," American Academy of Religion, Mysticism Section, Nov. 22, 2015.

"Spirituality and Belief for SBNRs," the Hines Center for Spirituality, Houston, March 17, 2016.

"Case Study: Beliefs in the SBNRM," Rice University conference on the SBNR new religious movement, Houston, March 18-20, 2016.

"Belief without Borders," Burchenal Lecture, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida, April 11, 2016.

**Meetings**

Traverse City Film Festival, Friend of the Festival, July 28-Aug. 2, 2015.

American Academy of Religion, Nov. 20-24, 2015.

**Church and popular lectures**

Keynote speaker, seminar, Metro Area Clergy Association, Columbus, May 4, 2015.

Presentation, PCUSA Clergy Women, May 6, 2015.

Presentation, "Sacred Bites," First UMC, Boulder, Colorado, May 19, 2015.

Worship leader and preacher, First UMC, Boulder, Colorado, May 24, 2015.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Virginia Synod, "Getting Clear on Ministry to SBNRs," seminars and work sessions for pastoral two-day Event, Virginia Beach, Oct. 13-14, 2015.

"Cuba Today and Tomorrow," keynote speaker, Worthington International Friends Association, Worthington, Oct. 28, 2015.

"Sin and Addiction: Conceptual Enemies or Fellow Travelers?" video presentation, Recovery from Addiction Conference, University of Chester, United Kingdom, Nov. 2-3, 2015.





### Paul Numrich

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

#### Academic lectures and presentations

“Mapping the Civic Engagement of Selected Immigrant Religious Groups in America,” (on a panel based on 2007 co-authored book), XXI World Congress of International Association for the History of Religions, Erfurt, Germany, August 2015.

“Sacred Assemblies under the Same Roof: How Groups Share Common Space for Religious Purposes,” Religion and the Social Sciences Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 2015.

#### Meetings

American Academy of Religion, November 2015.

Led two sessions on Islam with an adult study group at Old Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus.

#### Church and popular lectures

Presentation, Third Annual Day of Ahimsa (Non-Violence) Celebration, Jain Center of Central Ohio, Oct. 3, 2015.



### M. Fulgence Nyengele

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

#### Academic lectures and presentations

“Reclaiming a Marginalized Voice: *Ubuntu* as a Resource for Postcolonializing Practical Theology,” Practical Theology Group, American Academy of Religion, Nov. 21, 2015.

#### Meetings

American Academy of Religion, Nov. 21-24, 2015.



### Joon-Sik Park

Professor in the  
E. Stanley Jones Chair  
of World Evangelism

#### Academic lectures and presentations

“Missional Church: A Missio-Ecclesial Reflection,” Washington Conference on Ministry, Washington, D.C., Aug. 10, 2015.

#### Meetings

Course of Study Directors Meeting, Nashville, Sept. 22-24, 2015.



### Ryan Schellenberg

Assistant Professor of  
New Testament

#### Academic lectures and presentations

“Mutualism or Charity? Locating Paul’s Economic Program,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Nov. 21, 2015.

#### Church and popular lectures

“Paul the Prisoner,” presentation to Delaware Ministerial Association, Delaware, Nov. 4, 2015.

Sermon response, “The New Jerusalem,” Columbus Mennonite Church, Columbus, Oct. 25, 2015.



### Timothy L. Van Meter

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

#### Academic lectures and presentations

“Cultivating Prophetic Hope,” The Good Earth: Creation and Ministry in an Ecological Age, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, June 7-10, 2015.

“Cultivating Ecological Hope and Commitment” plenary panel presentation, Religious Education Association Conference, Nov. 7, 2015.

#### Meetings

“Through Hispanic Eyes,” Hispanic Summer Program, Emory University, Atlanta, June 21-24, 2015.

Executive Board Meeting, Hispanic Summer Program, San Antonio, Oct. 14-16, 2015.

Design meeting for Midwest Initiative, Faith and Ecology (Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary), Jan. 3-5, 2016.

Led Wabash visit: Duke Divinity School and Wake Forest Divinity School, Feb. 1, 2016.

Led Wabash visit: Princeton Theological Seminary and Drew Divinity School, Feb. 22, 2016.

#### Awards and appointments

Awarded National Endowment for the Humanities grant



### Robin Knowles Wallace

Professor in the  
Taylor Endowed Chair  
of Worship and Music

#### Publications

Editor, Summer 2015, Autumn 2015 and Winter 2016 issues of *The Hymn: A Journal of Congregational Song*.

“Hymns in Periodical Literature,” *The Hymn* 66:2, 19-20.

Articles on Arthur G. Clyde, Wesley Lee Forbis, Ruth Ellis Messenger, co-written with Carlton R. Young, *Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology*. Carlton R. Young, USA ed., J. R. Watson and Emma Hornby, eds.

“Singing the Psalms in Lent,” *Worship, Music and Ministry: A Journal of the United Church of Christ Musicians Association* 14:2 (Winter 2016), 20-22.

#### Academic lectures and presentations

“Congregational Singing and Everyday Life: Results of a Survey,” Cambridge 2015 International Hymn Conference, July 30, 2015.

“A Methodology for Seminary Students: Congregational Musicking as Local Theology,” Contemporary Christian Music, Ripon College, United Kingdom, Aug. 6, 2015.

Baptism and Communion, all-day workshop

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for residents-in-ministry, East Ohio Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, North Canton, Oct. 15, 2015.

Worship and Music in the Interim, all-day workshop for interim ministry working group, Christian Churches in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) and Ohio Conference United Church of Christ, Delaware, Oct. 19, 2015.

**Meetings**

Executive Committee of the Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada, July 11, 2015.

Editorial Advisory Board of the Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada, chair, July 12, 2015.

Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada annual conference, introducer at three sessions, July 12-16, 2015.

Cambridge 2015 International Hymn Conference, July 26-Aug. 1, 2015.

Contemporary Christian Music (conference), Ripon College, United Kingdom, Aug. 4-7, 2015.

Executive Committee of the Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada, Richmond, Virginia, Nov. 2-6, 2015.



**Lisa Withrow**  
**Dean and Professor in the Dewire Chair of Christian Leadership**

**Publications**

Website Review, McKinsey & Co. (www.mckinsey.com), *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Vol. 14:2, Fall 2015.

Review of *Looking and Learning: Visual Literacy across the Disciplines* (New Directions for Teaching and Learning book series), ed. Deandra Little, Peter Felten and Chad Perry Number 141, Spring 2015. Reviewed for *Reflective Teaching*, a Wabash online journal, Aug. 9, 2016.

**Academic lectures and presentations**

Presentation on Innovation and Imagination to ATS working groups, Pittsburgh, Feb. 19, 2016.

**Meetings**

Consultant for Carey Theological College, Vancouver, Canada, September 2015.

American Academy of Religion, Nov. 21-24, 2015.

Association of Theological Schools, School for New Deans, Dec. 14-16, 2015.

Wabash visitations with Tim Van Meter and Ryan Schellenberg (Duke, Wake Forest, Princeton, Drew), Feb. 1 and 22, 2016.

Deans' Colloquy sponsored by Wabash Center, March 2-6, 2016.

**Church and popular lectures**

"Conflict in the Church," keynote at United Church of Christ day retreat, April 20, 2015.

Preaching and consultation, Wooster UMC, Sept. 20, 2015.

Local church conflict consultation, East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, Oct. 25, 2015.

Seminary conflict consultation, Vancouver, Canada, Oct. 27, 2015.

Taught conflict management training workshop, Mid-Ohio District Leadership Institute, East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, Nov. 7, 2015.

Led workshop for leadership of St. Paul AME Church, Columbus, Jan. 23, 2016.



**Yvonne Zimmerman**  
**Associate Professor of Christian Ethics**

**Academic lectures and presentations**

"Making Room for Other Dreams of Freedom," Human Trafficking Center Fall Speaker Series, University of Denver, Oct. 28, 2015.

"Who's a Sinner; Who's a Slave? Sex Trafficking and the Rescue Industry," panelist with Amey Victoria Adkins and Letitia Campbell, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting: Women and Religion Section, Atlanta, Nov. 24, 2015.

"Queer Theory and Human Trafficking," panelist for the LGBT and Queer Studies Interest Group, Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, Jan. 9, 2016.

"Missing in Action: The Disappearance of Progressive Christianity in the Movement to End Human Trafficking," faculty lecture, MTSO, Feb. 16, 2016.

**Meetings**

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2015.

Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, 2016.



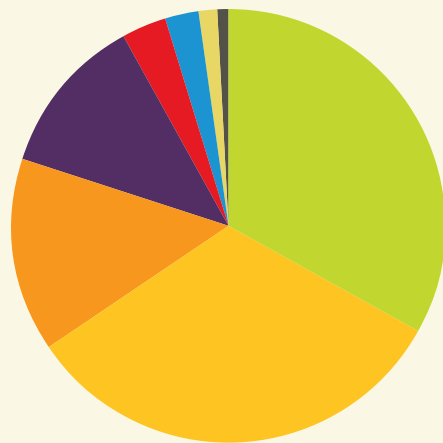
# Financial information

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, Methodist Theological School in Ohio had revenues of \$6,456,588 and expenditures of \$6,456,454. If you have questions about this information, please contact our business office at 740-363-1146.

## Operating budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16 (unaudited)

### Revenues

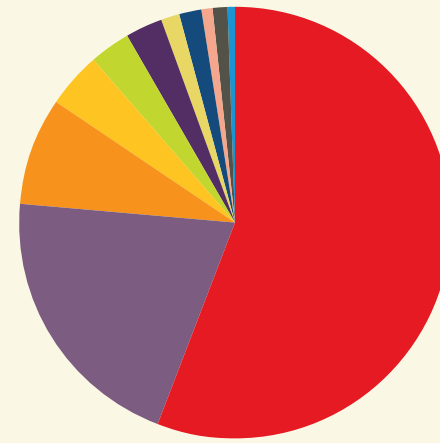
MTSO relied primarily on three sources of income: endowment earnings (33.3 percent of total revenue), tuition and fees (32.4 percent) and the Ministerial Education Fund of the United Methodist Church (14.5). Combined gift revenue accounted for 7.2 percent of total revenues.



	Revenues	Percent of total
Endowment	\$2,149,875	33.3%
Tuition and fees	\$2,093,432	32.4%
Ministerial Education Fund	\$937,510	14.5%
Other programs and services	\$765,966	11.9%
Methesco Fund gifts	\$214,803	3.3%
Release of restricted gifts	\$158,487	2.5%
Student aid gifts	\$88,791	1.4%
Federal work study	\$47,724	0.7%
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$6,456,588</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Expenditures

Compensation of faculty and staff accounted for 56 percent of the MTSO operating budget, followed by student financial aid (20.4 percent) and other programs and services, which include such items as the Course of Study School of Ohio (8.3 percent).



	Expenditures	Percent of total
Compensation	\$3,612,462	56.0%
Financial aid	\$1,319,387	20.4%
Other programs and services	\$537,421	8.3%
Plant maintenance	\$256,537	4.0%
Academic support	\$195,472	3.0%
General administration	\$186,098	2.9%
Information systems	\$99,962	1.5%
Business administration	\$90,371	1.4%
Institutional advancement	\$68,401	1.1%
Enrollment	\$58,373	0.9%
Instruction	\$31,970	0.5%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$6,456,454</b>	<b>100%</b>

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We look forward to discussing your philanthropic goals in more depth. To begin that conversation today, contact Vice President of Institutional Advancement April Casperson at 740-362-3372 or [acasperson@mtso.edu](mailto:acasperson@mtso.edu).

# Three ways to invest in our students

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

## Donate automatically every month

MTSO's Direct Donation program provides the convenient, budget-friendly option of dividing your gift into manageable monthly portions that are automatically withdrawn from your account. Direct Donations may be stopped or modified at any time. Visit [www.mtso.edu/directdonation](http://www.mtso.edu/directdonation) to get started.

## Plan for an estate gift

Today's MTSO students are benefiting enormously from estate gift commitments made years ago. Through planned giving to the seminary, you'll join the Sterling Society, which honors those committed to a legacy of lasting significance. We offer a helpful collection of estate-planning tools at [www.mtso.edu/plannedgiving](http://www.mtso.edu/plannedgiving).

## Give now

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