



**Center for
Womanist
Leadership**

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Sharon & Brook

CONNECTING THE UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY COMMUNITY

ISSUE 4 / WINTER 2019

The Church In The Public Square

Q&A with President Brian Blount, Union Presbyterian Seminary

Dr. Brian Blount recently recorded a podcast on "The Church in the Public Square." Below are excerpted questions and answers from the podcast.

What is "the Public Square," and why should it matter to the church?

The Public Square is the space where people of different walks of life encounter each other as they move through their daily lives. It's not limited to the political space. It could be a shopping mall. And the Public Square matters to the church for two reasons.

First, Jesus's ministry was in the Public Square—engaging people in communities where they lived and worked. The Kingdom of God is not separate from where we find ourselves. The movement of God is always breaking into the community. And we are to respond in community. Jesus is touching lepers. They are in the wrong place in community. He draws them in. He is making the vision of God's future kingdom known in public spaces. So we take our lead from Jesus. We always want to begin with Jesus.

Second, the church in contemporary circumstances can have a unique and powerful impact on the way we order ourselves in community. We have secular laws and traditions, to be sure, but there is a higher expectation for those of us who follow the mandates of God's movement in the world. The church has a word to say about how we gather and live together in community.

How would you characterize the health of the Public Square today?

I think it has ebbs and flows. We've had Vietnam War, Watergate, tremendous struggles over Civil Rights. Times of great anxiety and conflict.

Today, the political hostility of the two primary parties toward each other

is reaching into the church, the shopping mall, the classroom. So how do we navigate this low moment in the Public Square? If we are a Christian community, we begin to navigate—not starting with ourselves, but from Biblical images of Jesus and his ministry.

What is the role of a seminary in the Public Square?

It's primarily to nurture and equip leaders to go out into their church communities and take these church communities into the public space so that faith becomes alive. These leaders understand that the church is about the world and not just about itself. Second, our resources are not just to build up the church itself, but to use those resources for mission beyond itself. We are to witness faith in a sometimes-hostile world.

How do the Seminary's Centers play a role in the Public Square?

The Centers are part of how we hope to show our faithfulness in the Public Square. Katie Geneva Cannon, after whom the new Womanist Center has been named, was a leading ethicist—not only in the Presbyterian church, but in the universal church. She was concerned with how to faithfully engage the social structures that limit women of color—particularly African American women—in the U.S. and around the world.

The Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation in Charlotte looks at issues as broad as Israel and Palestine, hunger, homelessness, poverty, and

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“...our resources are not just to build up the church itself, but to use those resources for mission beyond itself. We are to witness faith in a sometimes-hostile world.”

Brian Blount, President, Union Presbyterian Seminary

the political community and how we can increase positive engagement and dialogue. It is working to bring into the Seminary issues of social justice that need a theological lens, and it is taking students and others from the Seminary out into the broader community.

Through the Syngman Rhee Global Mission Center for Christian Education, we are hoping to bring students from developing countries here and learn from them. Their communities are vastly different. We need to understand their struggles and, having learned, how we can be more demonstrably present and helpful. It's not just us teaching others, but us learning from others.

Those three centers can be ways that the Seminary can use its resources to be transformational in the Public Square.

LEARN MORE

Listen to the full podcast:



www.upsem.edu/brianblount

When you think about the church in the Public Square, what worries you and what gives you hope?

What worries me most is that we—the church—will become so focused on survival that we will forget what our mission is. The larger church is struggling. The mainline denominations—even evangelical churches—are seeing struggles in terms of membership. A concern is that we are becoming secularized, like Europe, so that faithfulness becomes a marginal reality, not central to who we are as people. But when survival becomes the key mission, we've lost our connection with the Biblical mandate, and that was never about survival.

You have a man with 12 disciples following, doing the kinds of things that are heading to the cross. Clearly, survival was not what was on His mind. On His mind was representing the rule of God in the present, regardless of the cost. That's the message. We should focus not on numbers and buildings and survival. My hope and my joy is how well we can envision what God's future looks like and how much we are willing to do to make that future realizable in this present moment.

SUPPORTING BLACK WOMEN TO SERVE AS CHANGE-MAKERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY

Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership

In American history, there is perhaps no voice more misrecognized in the Public Square than that of the Black woman. The Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership was established in April 2018 in part to amplify that voice in the Public Square with a mission to “inspire, equip, connect, and support Black women divinely motivated to serve as change-makers in their community.”

The Center’s efforts to nurture the soul of Black women as they cultivate pathways to whole communities reflects the visionary thinking of the late Katie Geneva Cannon, the first African American woman ordained in the PCUSA and former Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Social Ethics at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

Instructor of Ethics, Theology, and Culture Melanie C. Jones was named director of the Center in July 2019 and sees the Center as vital to the mission of the Seminary. “The Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership takes seriously the doing of theology from the underside, from the point of view of Black women and marginalized communities,” she explains.

Jones speaks of the emergence, through Katie Geneva Cannon, of “a womanist consciousness and ethics...to bring Black women to the center of theoethical reflection and praxis,” and says the Center has intentionally developed six primary initiatives to operationalize that consciousness.

The six initiatives are Womanist Wellness (hospitality and self-care), Womanist Wisdom (research, writing, and furthering academic scholarship produced by Black women scholars), Womanist Witness (consciousness-raising in the community), Womanist Worship (affirming and connecting lay and ordained religious leaders), Womanist Wares (social entrepreneurship and self-sustainability) and Womanist Works (engaging the arts—music, dance, film, visual arts, etc.).

“We live in a complicated community—the capital of the Confederacy,” says Jones. “And Union Presbyterian Seminary has had a part in both the formation of that history and in its transformation. As it’s said in the Seminary’s Strategic Plan, there is ‘reconciling work’ to be done. This is where we will see the Center’s prophetic voice to call the Union Presbyterian Seminary community toward greater justice and mercy in word and deed.”



Rev. Melanie C. Jones, Director, Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership

BRINGING A THEOLOGICAL LENS TO SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation

Union's Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation, founded on the Seminary's Charlotte campus, grew out of a desire "to bring work being done in the community on issues of social justice into the Seminary...and to bring to the Charlotte community a theological lens for those issues," says Director and Associate Professor of Bible Rodney Sadler. It is hoped that along the way, Union Presbyterian Seminary and its work will become more visible in the wider community.

"We are concerned with a range of issues—like healthcare, voting rights, crime, poverty, climate—and looking at them from the point of view of the Kingdom of God," Sadler explains. "We need to be explicit about the work we do in these areas, and the Center gives these issues a home."

"When we consider the question, 'What is required of us?' it is not concern with ritual, but with concerns of righteousness and justice—identifying with the sick, the hungry, widows, orphans...those who are marginalized," says Sadler. "My hope for the Center is that we will look at the role of the church in the larger world in intentional ways—to see the people who are impacted by public policies. As we train students and influence thought leaders, these issues cannot be peripheral."

In the coming months, the Center is hosting a series of speakers who will focus on social justice issues, planning a travel seminar to visit historic Civil Rights sites across the South, and arranging meetings with lobbyists with the Presbyterian Church in Washington, among other activities.

"We want to get our students involved in current movements—teaching them how to do organizing work and bringing activists to campus to talk about their work in major areas of justice," says Sadler. "The Center is a reminder to students that there are prophetic dimensions to pastoral ministry. There is work to do that extends beyond sanctuaries and into the street."



Dr. Rodney Sadler, Director, Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation

BROADENING OUR WORLD AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S FAMILY

Syngman Rhee Global Mission Center for Christian Education

"I represent two worlds," says James Taneti. "One is the global church. I grew up in it. I experienced it. I've studied it. I've loved it. Second, I am in the church in the United States, where I have a different lens to look at my church. There is so much the church here and the seminaries can share, and I can be a bridge-builder."

When Dr. Taneti, director of the Syngman Rhee Global Mission Center for Christian Education and Assistant Professor of World Christianity, talks about the Center, those two worlds immediately come to his mind. He became director in July 2018.

Dr. Taneti sees on a daily basis how the work of the Center aligns with the Seminary's strategic plan; for example, the Center has increased access to Union's resources for international students from low-income backgrounds. The Seminary also championed a shift in the two-year M.A.C.E. (Master of Arts in Christian Education) degree program to allow students to spend their second year studying from home, easing Seminary logistics and allowing students to be of value in their home communities. This aligns with the Seminary's goal to increase access to theological education.

He is also excited about the diversity that results from students and scholars coming to the Center from all parts of the world—places like South Korea, Ghana, Egypt, Kenya, and Myanmar. "With them, our world becomes broader, and our understanding of God's family and of the church becomes richer."

"Syngman Rhee had a brave dream—a deep commitment to the global church and to producing leaders in Christian education," says Taneti. "Our task

today at the Center is to draw on the resources of Union—the students, faculty, and alumni—and contribute to faith formation of the Christian community abroad, especially in theological education, to give his dream shape."



Dr. James Taneti, Director, Syngman Rhee Global Mission Center

Sharon&Brook

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Send us your updated information: Please send us the news of your life and ministry that we may share with others. The Seminary also welcomes updated email and mailing addresses, with current phone numbers. The Alumni Office would love to hear from you! Send news and contact updates to alumni@upsem.edu or call (804) 278-4228.



BE MADE WELL: SEEKING WHOLESOME OF LIFE

Healthcare: A Sacramental Mandate

Ethnomusicologist for the Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation and current UPSem student Leslie Oliver called out, "I've got a feeling everything's gonna be alright!" The audience, transformed for a moment into a congregation, called back, "I've got a feeling everything's gonna be alright!" Soon, singing was accompanied by rhythmic clapping as the crowd that was gathered followed Oliver's lead.

Seizing the moment, retired PC(USA) pastor, national leader in fights for social justice, and the evening's lecturer, Rev. Dr. Eileen Lindner, took to the pulpit for the first Charlotte seminar on social justice and healthcare, held at Sharon Presbyterian Church on October 20. She sounded-out her argument for the church's concern for individual health and the need for access to quality healthcare using another kind of familiar rhythm—the rhythm of the Christian life shaped by the sacraments of baptism and communion.

In baptism, the congregation promises the baptized that they will help "guide and nurture by word and deed"—a promise that presumes a fulsome notion of care for the whole person and a care that is not trivial, but paired with active efforts to ensure the baptized member's opportunity to enjoy "life—life in abundance." If the church is not willing to fight for access to quality, affordable healthcare, then it should stop baptizing people, because we would be perpetuating a lie, Dr. Lindner asserted.

Similarly, the regular practice of communion is an act of the community in which a chalice is offered with the accompanying words, "the cup of salvation." Salvation means healing. Again, there is an implied promise to the gathered community, Lindner argues, that must be taken seriously or recalled.

Affirming for those gathered that healthcare is not a liberal or conservative issue but a biblical one, Dr. Lindner cited Jesus' first words



of his ministry—reminding that he came to bring good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, and to set the oppressed free. Pausing and then returning to the words "recovery of sight for the blind," Lindner said, "That sounds like healthcare to me."

She underscored her point by noting that in the gospels, Jesus heals nearly twice as often as he preaches or teaches—suggesting that a concern for the community's good health is paramount to the gospel, to the Christian message, and to the church's mission.

The church, Lindner maintained, has always understood the indelible link between personal health and spiritual wellbeing—and worked persistently to provide healthcare until the recent past. That connection was only broken when healthcare began to be seen more as an economic enterprise and less as a work of compassion and care.

To address this modern innovation, the church needs to find its prophet voice, Lindner insisted. Evoking the biblical verse that inspired this academic year's lecture series, "Be Made Well: Seeking Wholeness of Life," she recalled the words of Jesus to the man lying by the Beth-zatha pool waiting to be healed. There, Jesus says to the man, "Do you want to be made well?"

Jesus's words suggest a kind of agency or power held by the man. He has a part in wanting to be made well. The kind of healing that is needed in our country and churches, Dr. Lindner maintained, demands willingness on the part of our institutions to be changed—willingness to alter their systems, their purposes, their missions. It requires a willingness to move from seeing healthcare as an economic venture to seeing it as a sacramental expression of the kingdom of God on Earth as it is in heaven.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

"I want to give now, while I'm still living!"

A few days ago, I received call from Rev. Dave Whitesides, Class of '60, and I could hear the excitement in his voice. He said, "Richard, you know that I have included Union in my will, but at 89 years old, Dottie and I want to give now instead of waiting until after our death. We want to put our gift to good use while we're still living!" Dave went on to inform me that they had consulted with their financial advisor and decided to contribute their IRA to the Seminary.

I told him that their gift is wonderful and timely since we are in the midst of a campaign to renovate Westminster Hall into the new home of the Leadership Institute, the Seminary's continuing education program for pastors, educators, and lay leaders. The Institute facilitates learning through workshops and seminars, conferences and special lectures, online education, and networking opportunities.

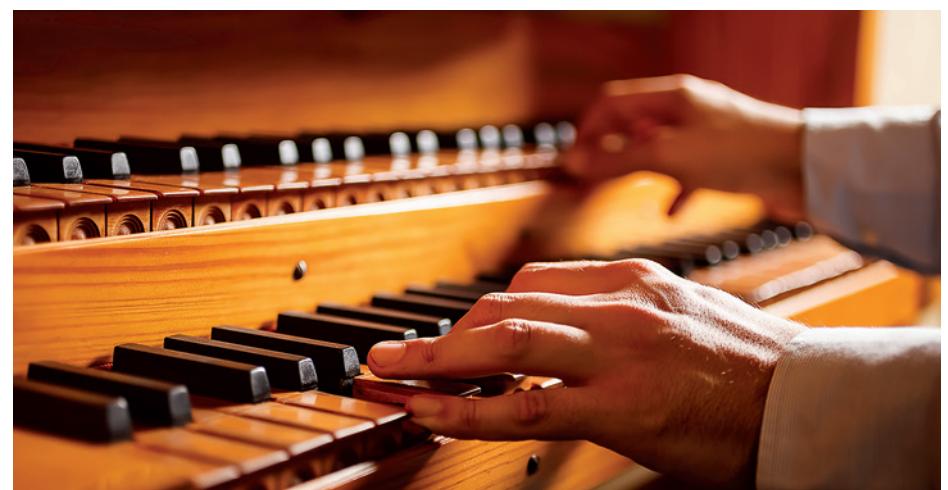
Westminster Hall is one of three original buildings on the Richmond campus, built in 1897. The renovation will preserve the last of Richmond's cast iron balcony banisters. As the new home to the Leadership Institute, Westminster Hall will feature conference facilities, break rooms, offices, and 18 guest suites for visitors to stay on campus. Its central location on

the Quadrangle will bring practitioners and students closer together as they worship, break bread, and use the Seminary's library.

The Seminary has decided to name the large seminar room in Westminster Hall in honor of Dave and Dottie Whitesides so that their legacy will remain with their beloved Seminary home.



Dave (M.Div.'60) and Dottie Whitesides

**Union Staff Members Support the Organ Fund...We Thank Our Donors**

Elaine Hooley (M.A.'93) has worked in the Union Presbyterian Seminary library on the Richmond campus for more than 40 years, and her husband, Bob, has been the Seminary's postmaster for more than 14. Because they share a love of music—especially organ music—they were excited to learn that Union is committed to raising funds for a new pipe organ.

The Hooleys have given two gifts for the organ. The first was made in memory of Elaine's sister, and the second was given to honor Bob's 50th anniversary as an organist. In fact, one of Bob's first jobs after moving to Richmond was playing the Watts Chapel organ for a Seminary event.

Even though the organ has keys that no longer work and has had many pipes removed, Bob was recently given an opportunity to play it one last time.

We sincerely thank the more than 180 donors like Elaine and Bob who have helped us reach our \$400,000 goal so that we can replace the Henry Erben organ that was built in 1879 and donated to Union in 1961. Thank you!

For more information, contact Evelyn Terry in the Advancement Office at (804) 278-4321 or at eterry@upsem.edu.

LEARN MORE

See the plans for renovation:



youtu.be/dMOJBc8YeE4

SEE MORE

Watch Bob play the organ:



youtu.be/K581FMt0iNE



Sharon & Brook

2019 WINTER ISSUE / CHRISTMAS



THE GARGOYLE SPEAKS

Professor Carson Brisson

Joy, But With Aching

For many years on a Friday evening each December, a Union dorm would open its doors to the parents and children of the campus. The dorm residents would turn their building and rooms into a glittering wonderland of Advent sights, sounds, smells, and tastes. The warmth and light and joy inside their dorm would offer a perfect respite from the deep, dark cold of the surrounding winter night.

For several years, my wife and I took our two young children to this beautiful December event. In a student's room one year, they were fascinated by an abstract pencil drawing hanging on an otherwise completely bare wall. The picture was elegantly simple, featuring the outline of a heart with a severe line piercing its center. Cupid's arrow, the line was not.

One of our children asked the student, "What is the picture?"

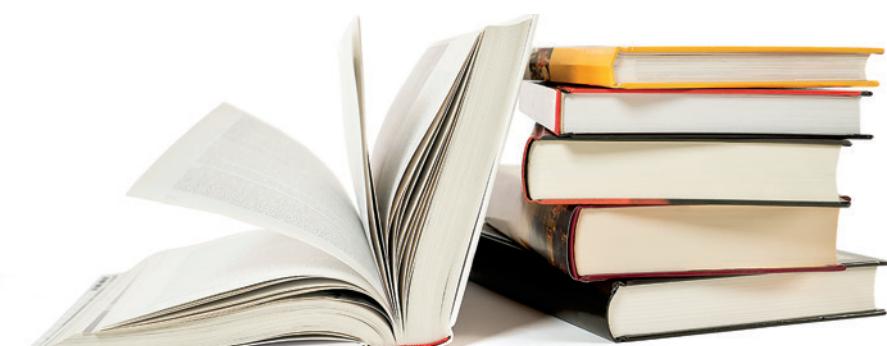
"It's the feeling I have inside," she responded.

"My family and many friends live in a country far away. I must finish here before I return to them. Sometimes, it is hard. So for now, I have joy, but with aching."

On the way home that night, our children asked if they could invite the student for Christmas dinner. We quickly consented. They composed an invitation, which we helped them write out: "Please come to our home for Christmas. It is okay to bring your feeling. Jesus's mom had it, too."

The student accepted.

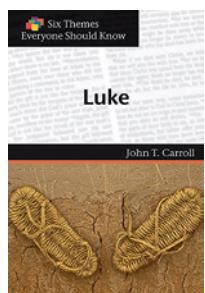
Dear belov'ed Gargoyle reader: Joy to you, even if with aching. Advent joy.



Samuel L. Adams, Mary Jane and John F. McNair Chair of Biblical Studies and Professor of Old Testament. Current book project: *Ben Sira: a New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, with Eric Reymond (Yale University Press, expected completion date for Volume 1: winter 2019).

Samuel E. Balentine, Professor of Old Testament. Current projects: General Editor, *Smyth and Helwys Bible Commentary Series* (Smyth and Helwys, 1993–); Series Editor, *Interpretation: Resources for the Use of Scripture in Church* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2014–); and Editor-in-Chief, *The Oxford Handbook of Ritual and Worship* (Oxford University Press, 2013–).

E. Carson Brisson, Associate Professor of Bible and Biblical Languages. Recent projects: three Old Testament exegetical essays published in the *Connections, Year C* series (Westminster John Knox Press, 2019) and one New Testament exegetical essay on Luke 20: 20–24 published in *Interpretation* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2019).

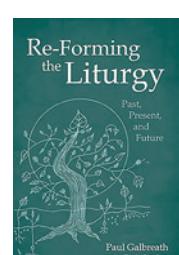


John T. Carroll, Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial Professor of New Testament. Recent projects: "Disability and Disease: Body, Restoration, and Ethics of Reading in Luke's Gospel," in *Anatomies of the Gospels and Beyond* (Brill, 2018); *Six Themes in Luke Everyone Should Know* (Geneva, 2018); and "Bodies Restored, Communities Fractured? Luke and Salvation Revisited," essay for the October 2018 issue of *Currents in Theology and Mission*, 45.4 (2018).

FACULTY IN ACTION Articles and Publications

Rebecca L. Davis, Associate Professor of Christian Education. Recent projects: "Children and Blessing," article for the December 2018 volume of *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching and the Arts*; "A Mentor, A Scholar, A Change Agent: Honoring Katie Geneva Cannon," article for the January/February 2019 volume of *Horizons*; "Baptism: Sign and Seal," article for the January 20, 2019, edition of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators' *Advocate*.

Paul Galbreath, Professor of Theology. Recent projects: *Re-Forming the Liturgy: Past, Present, and Future* (Cascades Books, 2019) and "Starting with the Earth: The Sacraments and Creation Care" Call to Worship (forthcoming).



Frances Taylor Gench, Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation. Current projects: continued work on a commentary-writing project (Gospel of John) for *Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Preaching and Teaching* (Westminster John Knox Press) and completed "Understanding Clergy Sexual Ethics," an online course offered by the Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary.

Richard Voelz, Professor of Practical Theology. Recent publication: *Preaching to Teach: Inspire People to Think and Act*, part of *The Artistry of Preaching Series* (Abingdon Press, August 2019).

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GREETINGS



W. Clay Macaulay

Grace and peace to you in this Advent season!

Advent is a season of watching and waiting. With some sense of anticipation and yearning, we look for the day when Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, will return to the world (as we know it) at a time that is known only to God. That is a part of our faith. That, in part, is what many Christians believe.

Yet ask any number of people what this 24-day season (December 1–24) is about, and you will probably receive different answers. The “watching and waiting” may be part of most of them, but for different purposes. For some in our communities, December is a countdown of sorts to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day...when gatherings occur and gifts are exchanged.

Others of faith will observe these days of December in a different fashion. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Nativity Fast began on November 15 and continues through December 24. In Judaism, the celebration of Hanukkah (December 22–30) recalls the grace and mercy of the God of Israel.

Both the sacred and the secular observances have something in common: This is a season that *calls us back*. For some of us...

It calls us home for the holidays.

It calls us to remember our friends and loved ones.

It calls us back to our awareness of God.

In Matthew 3, a Nazarite named John signals the beginning of Jesus’s ministry. Living in the Judean wilderness along the Jordan River outside of Jerusalem, John proclaimed to all who would listen a baptism of repentance and forgiveness of sins.

And part of what the prophet means by this is “Come back.” In Hebrew thought, of course, “repentance” often meant “turning” or “return”...a redirection in one’s life. That, too, is a message of Advent: “Come back.” You are invited to return.

Come back to the Seminary if you have been away for a while.

Come back to a community where your return is welcomed.

Come back to a place of hope that is near at hand.

By God’s grace, you and I do not have that far to go. For the God who calls us back—and welcomes our return—also comes near to us through the One who is to come.

A blessed season of return to you all!

W. Clay Macaulay (D.Min.’85), Director of Alumni Development
cmacaulay@upsem.edu / (804) 278-4382

2020 SPRUNT LECTURES

Faith formation with children, youth, and young adults in a multi-religious world

THREE FEATURED SPEAKERS:

Evelyn L. Parker, Ph.D.

Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology,
Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

Allan Hugh Cole Jr., Ph.D.

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Steve Hicks School of Social Work;
Professor of Psychiatry, Dell Medical School, The University of Texas at Austin

Eugene C. Roehlkepartain, Ph.D.

Vice President, Research and Development, Search Institute

Preacher for Sprunt Lectures

Jessica Tate (Union-PSCE, M.Div. & M.A.C.E. '07)

Director for NEXT Church



2020 SPRUNT LECTURES

MAY 4–6, 2020

RICHMOND CAMPUS Registration site will open at the end of January

 UNION
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For the Church in the World



Alumni Notes

TRANSITIONS

Megan Argabrite (M.Div.'13) began serving as pastor of Amity Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC, in July.

Charlotte Elia (M.Div.'09) has been called as pastor to Holmes Presbyterian Church in Cape Charles, VA, effective July 1.

Miriam Foltz (M.Div.'14) completed her call with UKirk-St. Louis this summer and began a new call as pastor of New Castle Presbyterian Church, New Castle, DE.

Owen Gray (M.Div.'17) began ministry as Associate Pastor at Saint Barnabas PC in Richardson, TX.

Robert Griffin (D.Min.'03) was hired as Regional Brand Manager for Legrand AV, managing sales for Vaddio, Luxul, and Cables to Go throughout the Mid-Atlantic territory.

Elnoria Lofton Harrison (M.Div.'16) is pastor of Squires Memorial Presbyterian Church in the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia and serves on the presbytery's nominating committee.

Lana Heath de Martinez (M.Div.'16) has launched Santos En Virginia, a new immigrant defense and bail fund, with community activists, organizers, and clergy. Find out more at thesantos.org

Rev. T. Feild Russell (M.Div.'87) has retired as pastor for Banner Elk (NC) Presbyterian Church.

Patrick Ryan (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'04) has been called as pastor of Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church in Fishersville, VA.

Archana Samuel (Th.M.'16, M.A.C.E.'18) is the new Director of Children's Ministries for Three Chopt Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA.

CELEBRATIONS

Ashlee (M.Div., M.A.C.E. 4th year, UPSem-Charlotte) and **Michael Anderson** celebrated the birth of their son Hayes on June 14, 2019.

Rebecca "Becca" Cummings (M.Div.'17) married Richard Meister on December 27, 2018.

Stan Farthing (M.Div.'96) recently celebrated 15 years of serving Zetta Presbyterian Church in Churchville, VA.

Linda Kurtz (M.Div., M.A.C.E.'19) has been ordained as Minister of the Word and Sacrament (September 22, 2019) by National Capital Presbytery. She is the Associate Pastor of Christian Formation with First Presbyterian, Lexington, KY.

Melissa Miller (M.Div.'17) married Chris Hayley on October 19, 2019.

Thomas Wesley "T. Wes" Moore IV (M.Div.'18) was ordained as Minister of the Word and Sacrament (March 30, 2019) by Coastal Carolina Presbytery at the Pollocksville (NC) Presbyterian Church, where he currently serves as pastor.

Andy Spaulding (M.Div.'19) has accepted a call to serve as Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa, AL.

Lauren E. Voyles (M.Div.'17) and **Thomas Wesley Moore (M.Div.'18)** were married on March 16, 2019, in Watts Chapel on the Richmond campus.

Candice "Candy" Wagner White (M.Div.'19) has been ordained as Minister of the Word and Sacrament by New Hope Presbytery (September 15, 2019). She serves as pastor of Warrenton (NC) Presbyterian Church.

Matthew White (M.Div.'18) completed his CPE residency at VCU and earned a Master of Science degree in Patient Counseling. He also has been officially licensed as a lay preacher in the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia.

Kristin Wickersham (M.Div.'18) was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests by the Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff, Bishop Suffragan of Virginia, on September 7, 2019, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Goochland, Virginia. She now serves as rector for St. Peter's Parish Church in New Kent, Virginia.

IN MEMORIAM

JoAnn Anderton (spouse of the late Rev. Malcolm Anderton, B.D.'58) August 3, 2019

Richard H. "Dick" Barnhardt (former PSCE trustee) September 15, 2019

Bruce C. Gottwald Jr. (former UPSem trustee) October 20, 2019

Weston Brown Guthrie (M.Div.'76)
July 28, 2019

Dean Horace P. Holden Sr. (B.D.'60)
March 17, 2019

Rayburn Holman (former UTS trustee)
August 17, 2019

James R. Lloyd (M.Div.'57) February 26, 2018

Patricia Gatlin Maxwell (M.A.'56)
August 22, 2019

Patricia A. McClurg (M.A.C.E.'63)
August 25, 2019

David W. McCormick (Professor Emeritus of Music, PSCE and Union-PSCE)
September 23, 2019

Richard "Dick" Mizell (M.Div.'60)
August 5, 2019

Nancy Irving Smith (M.A.'57)
June 13, 2019

Dennis James Starr (M.A.'75)
May 4, 2019

Edwin W. Stock Jr. (M. Div.'62)
November 2, 2019

ON THE SHELF

Jim Chatham (B.D.'64) is author of a book for teaching and preaching the Psalms, *Psalm Conversations, Listening In as They Talk with One Another*, published by Liturgical Press; as well as a book on personal story writing in a small group, *Moments of Magic*, published by Amazon.

Thomas L. Johnson (B.D.'64) co-edited a book with Phillip C. Dunn titled *A True Likeness: The Black South of Richard Samuel Roberts, 1920–1936*, which showcases the extraordinary photography of Richard Samuel Roberts (1880–1935) and reveals the social, economic, and cultural realities of the black South. The collection, published by Writers & Readers, includes nearly 200 “true likenesses” of teachers, preachers, undertakers, carpenters, and more with dignity and respect. Johnson, now retired, was a career field archivist with the University of South Carolina’s South Caroliniana Library. An award-winning author and editor, he serves as a life member on the board of governors of the South Carolina Academy of Authors.

Katherine Paterson (M.A.'57) has released a dramatic new picture book, *The Night of His Birth* (Flyaway Books, September 2019), that recounts the night of Jesus' birth from the perspective of Mary, offering a mother's reflection on the joyous arrival of a child. The book features striking artwork from illustrator Lisa Aisato.

Thom M. Shuman (D.Min.'86) is the author of *Grace Will Walk Us Home*, a year of daily readings and short prayers based on Scripture intended to speak to the reader's heart and soul, published by Wild Goose Publications/Iona Community. His book of Advent devotions, *A is for Adventure; Z is for Zoo*, is due to be released soon.

Bruce Taylor (Ph.D.'88) is the author of *The Word in the Wind: Sermons for the Lectionary, Year A, Advent through Eastertide*, published by Wipf and Stock—which has also accepted the companion volume, *No Business as Usual: Sermons for the Lectionary, Year A, Pentecost through Christ the King*, projected to be available December 2019.

Notes received by the Alumni Office as of November 3, 2019



MORE ONLINE For a complete and updated listing of transitions, retirements, in memoriam, and publications of our UPSem alumni, visit:



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UPCOMING EVENTS



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Standing with God: Civil Rights Then and Now

January 13, 2020 / 7:00 p.m.
CN Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church
1421 Statesville Avenue
Charlotte, North Carolina

Join us for an intimate conversation with two generations of prophetic pastoral activists as they reflect on the history of the struggle for human rights and what we need to do to ensure a more equitable and just future.

Featured Speakers:

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Jr., pastor emeritus of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, and internationally renowned civil rights leader

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, a church on the forefront of socially transformative ministry

A reception will follow.

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is recommended but not required.



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To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.

LUKE 2:11



Wishing you Peace and Joy this Christmas Season.



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