



Sprunt Lectures

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Charlotte 20th

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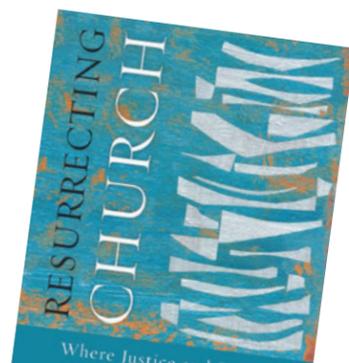


Resurrecting Church

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Sharon & Brook

CONNECTING THE UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY COMMUNITY

ISSUE 11 / WINTER 2022



Translation Matters.

Womanist Biblical Scholar The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney Is 2022 Sprunt Lecturer

Dr. Wil Gafney is perhaps best known for *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to Women of the Torah and of the Throne* and for *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church*. Each title suggests a scholar who is committed to revealing a more complete and inclusive accounting of women in scripture.

The title of her Sprunt Lectures set for May 2022 promises a closer look at how she approaches her work: "Translation Matters: Who Translates God-Words and How."

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney is a womanist biblical scholar and the Right Rev. Sam B. Hulse Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas. She defines "womanism" as Black feminism, a term that comes from writer and activist Alice Walker.

She brings to her study of Hebrew an integrity and precision that invites—even requires—students to leave preconceptions and comfortable assumptions at the classroom door and explore the text on its own terms.

"In translating, I operate from the word out, from the grammar out, from the language out," Gafney explains.

The original meaning of language in both the Old Testament and the New has been obscured, she says—buried by male translators over the centuries.

"When Black women are excluded from the room, you get 1,700 years of racist translation," she says. "There was not a single scholar of color on any translation team for any publicly used bible for church or academy, including the NRSV—none until the Common English Bible in the 2000s, and even then, only one woman of color that I'm aware of."

"This is the fruit of white supremacist culture," says Gafney. "Who is in the room matters."

She backs up that belief with a dramatic example.

"Churches have had arguments about 'God language'. If you say 'she' in reference to God, you'll hear, 'That's not in the Bible.'

"Oh, really?"

"The Hebrew language from Genesis all the way forward for 'Spirit' is feminine. We have feminine God language in the second verse of the Bible. You read, 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the

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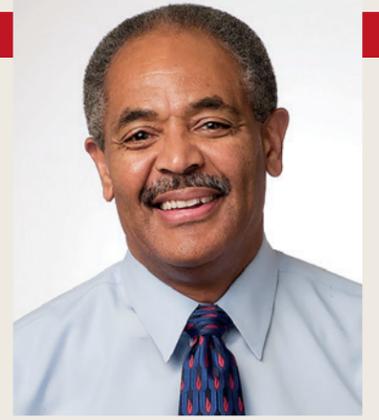


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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brian K. Blount

One Seminary

I spoke recently with a visitor to Union who said, "One of the things I find exciting about your school is this sense of one seminary, two campuses, three platforms."

She got the sense of what we're working toward...the flexibility to give our students more choice in designing their education than they would find at any other theological school.

For me, this visitor's comment was profoundly encouraging. It shows that word is getting out that we are committed to going beyond the boundaries of either of our physical campuses, even as we continue to value the presence of and work on those campuses.

Let me share my thoughts about the three aspects of Union Presbyterian Seminary that she cited. I'll start with the third.

Our Hybrid Format

The combining of in-class and virtual learning goes back several years—long before the accelerating effect of the pandemic—originally with the Master of Arts in Christian Education (M.A.C.E.). We now offer the hybrid format for two degrees: the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) and the Master of Arts in Public Theology (M.A.P.T.). And next year, there will be a hybrid option for degree programs offered from the Charlotte campus.

We've seen early successes with the hybrid format: We have a bumper crop of students for the public theology degree, and the cohorts for the D.Min. are full.

Two Campuses

We are, indeed, two campuses—each with its own culture and sense of community. Richmond is residential, and Charlotte is "weekend." In recognition of differences in culture and community, we are establishing a Dean of Students/Vice President position on the Charlotte campus just as we have this important position already established on the Richmond campus.

One Seminary

Still, we are, in reality, one unified institution with one unified faculty, and, reflecting that, we will have one academic dean who serves both campuses.

These are important changes, especially now. Since 2018, and by the time we close out the four faculty searches we have ongoing this academic year, we will have brought in 11 new faculty members out of a total faculty size of 23. Our faculty is bringing in wonderful new scholars who will continue the tradition of excellence in equipping the future leaders for the church in the world.



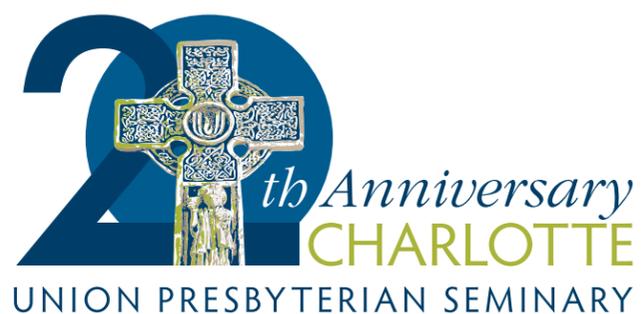
OUR PROMISE TO TOMORROW

Union Celebrates 20 Years in Charlotte

Charlotte Campus, now 20 years old, boasts almost 200 alumni and nearly 100 students pursuing multiple degrees and graduate certificates. Over these first 20 years, the Seminary has started new centers and initiatives, partnered in conventional and creative ways with local congregations, and hosted countless public lectures, workshops, trainings, and services.

Join us this year to honor Richard Boyce on his retirement, fundraise for the new John and Missy Kuykendall Fund, and attend spring celebratory events:

- April 2: Fun Run and Walk
- April 8: Catered 20th Anniversary Dinner
- April 9: Union Homecoming Following Graduation
- April 26: Campus Art Dedication and Lecture



For more information, please visit:

www.upsem.edu/news/charlotte-campus-20th-anniversary

Sprunt Lectures

May 2–4, 2022

SCHEDULE

Monday, May 2

- 4:30–5:45 pm Registration & Opening Reception (Holderness Dining Room)
- 6:00–7:00 pm Opening Lecture: The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney (Watts Chapel)
- 7:30 pm Evening Activity

Tuesday, May 3

- 8:00–8:45 am Breakfast Conversation (Holderness Dining Room)
- 9:00–10:00 am Lecture II: The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney (Watts Chapel)
- 10:15 am Light Reception (Lawn or Watts Lobby)
- 11:00 am–12:15 pm Worship: Rev. Dr. Kimberly Russaw, preaching (Watts Chapel)
- 12:30–2:00 pm Alumni Luncheon with Speaker Dr. Brian K. Blount (Holderness Dining Room)
- 2:00 pm Class Photos (Morton Library Steps)
- 2:30 pm Class Reunions (Various Locations)
- 4:00–5:45 pm Cookout on the Quad with “Anvil Brothers” performing
- 6:00–7:00 pm Lecture III: The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney (Watts Chapel)
- 7:00–7:30 pm Book Signing with the Sprunt Lecturer and Preacher (Watts Lobby)

Wednesday, May 4

- 8:00–8:45 am Continental Breakfast (Rose Reception, Early Center)
- 9:00–10:15 am A conversation with The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney (Lake Chapel, Early Center)
- 10:30–11:30 am Trailblazer/Distinguished Alumni Award Reception (Holderness Dining Room)
- 11:45 am–12:30 pm Closing Worship: Rev. Dr. Kimberly Russaw, preaching (Watts Chapel)
- 12:45 pm Community Lunch (Holderness Dining Room)
- 2:00 pm BAA Annual Meeting (EC124)

INFORMATION

A single fee of \$65 includes **all meals** (There is no à la carte).

There is no charge for current students or faculty. Lectures, worship, and receptions are open to all at no charge.

Information about local hotels can be found on the registration site.

To register for Sprunt: <https://na.eventscloud.com/sprunt22>



KEYNOTE LECTURE

Translation Matters: Who Translates God-Words and How

THE REV. DR. WIL GAFNEY

The Right Rev. Sam B. Hulse Professor of Hebrew Bible,
Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, Texas

TO REGISTER FOR SPRUNT

Please visit us online for more event information and to register:



<https://na.eventscloud.com/sprunt22>



SPRUNT WORSHIP LEADER

Dr. Kimberly Russaw

Dr. Kimberly Russaw's early career would not seem to foretell a call to ministry and a career in teaching Bible.

Dr. Russaw, who will preach during the May 2022 Sprunt Lectures, is Associate Professor of Old Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the author of *Daughters in the Hebrew Bible* and *Revisiting Rahab: Another Look at the Woman of Jericho*.

But in a prior life, she was a brand manager, promoting some of the biggest names in corporate America, including Coca-Cola, Nabisco, and Ford.

As unrelated as these two careers may seem, Russaw sees a logic to the transition from marketing to ministry: "A brand manager brings seemingly disparate pieces of information together to build a story meaningful enough to compel people to act," she says.

"Likewise, in teaching Old Testament, you derive from ancient language and culture a story that has meaning for modern audiences that compels them to act."

Dr. Russaw talks about the range of motivators that affect a purchase decision, from the concern with detail that influences the choice of a car (the second-largest purchase of the typical American family) to nostalgia for a brand like Coke, and even the "nag factor" that little Johnny applies to Mom when he wants cookies added to the shopping cart.

Similarly, seminary students bring a range of backgrounds, diverse experiences, and motivators to the classroom, with different church backgrounds—some "unchurched," some "de-churched."

"What I most want students to do is to have a new way of seeing the Bible and biblical characters," she explains. "I want them to love the text as much as I do."

With her convincing background in marketing and communicating, that feels like a sale she can make on a daily basis.

Dr. Russaw will lead the worship on Tuesday, May 3, at 11:00 a.m. and on Wednesday, May 4, at 11:45 a.m. Both services will be at Watts Chapel.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Rev. Mary Jane Winter

Rev. Mary Jane Winter is the former director of alumni and constituency relations at Union Presbyterian Seminary, where she served for 25 years. After accepting the position in March 1983, she left for Central Africa for an intensive spring with the Presbyterian Church. That watershed experience led her to write a proposal for the January term in Ghana, which became the keystone of the Seminary's intercultural program.

A few years later, Rev. Winter led the expansion of the intercultural program to include a Latin America travel seminar and served as adjunct instructor, leading numerous short-term courses and introducing decades of Union and PSCE students to the church's vibrant witness in that part of the world. Her vision and passion for cross-cultural education led her to serve on the globalization task force of The Association of Theological Schools to develop accrediting guidelines and integrate globalization into academic curriculum.

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Rev. Winter felt a call to church ministry before women could be ordained, so she focused on Christian education. She eventually became the first woman in her presbytery to become a candidate for ordination, and, after graduating with a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School and serving for four years on the faculty of Stuart Hall, she came to Union and graduated in 1976 with an M.Div. degree. She was awarded a graduate fellowship for further study.

Rev. Winter was the first woman ordained by Norfolk Presbytery, where she served as a pastor and led a struggling congregation, Franklin (Virginia) Presbyterian Church, to dramatically increase its membership, Sunday school attendance, and stewardship, with her efforts culminating in a capital campaign that exceeded its goal to build a new fellowship hall. She later returned to small church ministry, serving several congregations that thrived under her leadership.

In 1978, she was elected to serve on the General Assembly's Committee (GAC) on Assembly Operations, and in 1983 she was elected to the new General Assembly Council of the reunited Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). As the GAC organized the new structure, Rev. Winter chaired the worship entity that produced the new Book of Common Worship (1993) and the new Presbyterian Hymnal (1990). She led worship at national conferences, preached at Montreat, and wrote liturgical resources for the denomination.

At Union, Rev. Winter focused on promoting the institution, its students, and its alumni. She revived the Caravan program, which built relationships with presbyteries and congregations; directed Sprunt Lecture week, with its numerous events; and guided the Alumni Council to greater involvement. Recognizing the difficulty many recent graduates have in their initial years of ministry, she initiated a program to bring them back to campus for several days of continuing education, renewal, care, and connections. Most of all, she built lasting relationships with alumni.

Always passionate about the global church, she worked in Louisville for World Mission, serving to connect mission personnel and local churches. In Richmond, she has been a tireless leader, serving as resource to local churches, and a mission interpreter, grant writer, and trip leader to Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Haiti to foster partnership, understanding, and deeper connections. After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Rev. Winter provided key leadership in developing a partnership with World Mission for a new mission co-worker position and engaging congregations to provide needed support.

In the seminary and the presbytery, in small churches and in the global church, Rev. Winter has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to encourage young pastors and provide leadership opportunities for others.

Rev. Winter has served on the board of trustees for Montreat and Covenant Woods Retirement Community (Richmond, Virginia), and currently serves on the board of CEDEPCA USA, a nonprofit she helped create to serve Guatemala's Center for Pastoral Education in Central America. She is active at Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond, where she is serving part time as a pastoral care minister.

Rev. Winter is married to Ted Winter, a librarian who served for 25 years in a variety of capacities at the Seminary library. Their daughter, Katherine, lives in Richmond and was recently married at the Labyrinth on the Westwood Tract.

Rev. Winter will be presented with her award at the Trailblazer/Distinguished Alumni Award Reception on Wednesday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m. in the Holderness Dining room.

TO REGISTER FOR SPRUNT

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<https://na.eventscloud.com/sprunt22>



2022 BAA TRAILBLAZER

Sheryl Blowe-McDowney

A native of Sussex County, Virginia, Mrs. Sheryl Blowe-McDowney is the daughter of the late Mrs. Grace Massenberg Blowe and the late Mr. Learne C. Blowe.

Mrs. Blowe-McDowney is a graduate of Sussex Central High School, and of Virginia Commonwealth University, where she received the Bachelor of Science degree in Administration of Justice and Public Safety. She also received the Master of Arts degree in Christian Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now Union Presbyterian Seminary) in Richmond, Virginia.

Upon receiving her degree in Administration of Justice and Public Safety, Mrs. Blowe-McDowney worked for several years as a Counselor/Case Manager with a community treatment center for federal inmates. She has served as Director of Christian Education with Zion Baptist Church in Richmond (Dr. Robert L. Pettis, Pastor), as well as with Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, where Dr. William Augustus Jones Sr. was Pastor.

For more than 34 years, Mrs. Blowe-McDowney has served as the State Director of Faith Formation (formerly Christian Education) for the more than 1,079 member churches of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia.

Mrs. Blowe-McDowney serves as the editor of the *Baptist Herald* newsletter, a past member of the Coordinating Cabinet and Vice President of the Virginia Council of Churches, is a former Board Member of the Center for Congregational Ministry and member of the Optimist Club of Westmoreland, and she has been cited three times in *Who's Who in America* and *International Who's Who of Professional and Business Women*. Mrs. Blowe-McDowney is a certified grants writer through The Grantsmanship Center in Los Angeles, California. In addition, she is the writer/compiler/editor of several resource manuals on Planning and Organizing for Christian Education, stewardship, VBS, Stewardship of the Gift of Our Heritage Series, and Grace for Giving. She has published articles in *The Christian Education Informer*; serves as a writer and trainer of the children's curriculum for the Sunday School Publishing Board; and serves as conference presenter for Lott Carey Foreign Missions Convention, American Baptist Churches of the South, and Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.

Sheryl and her husband, Preston, reside in Milford, Virginia. They are the proud parents of three adult children and five granddaughters (ages two and a half to 22 years). The eldest granddaughter is a graduate of the College of William & Mary and of George Mason University, is recently married, and is pursuing a career in campus ministry.

Mrs. Blowe-McDowney will be presented with her award at the Trailblazer/Distinguished Alumni Award Reception on Wednesday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m. in the Holderness Dining room.

Translation Matters *continued from page 1*

One of the contributions of a womanist approach to biblical scholarship is the voice it gives to those in ancient society who were overlooked and forgotten.

waters,' but you don't see the feminine pronoun. Translators have hidden the feminine pronoun behind the proper noun. They've used that proper noun for camouflage. The feminine language for God is in the Bible, as is the masculine."

"In the beginning," she states, "*He* created, and *She*, the Spirit, moved over the face of the deep."

Dr. Gafney talks about the art of translation as *poesis*, a term from the Greek for "create" that also emerges in biology (the field in which she earned a degree before theological study). The former research biologist emphasizes that creation of, say, blood cells, is "not from nothing," but from elements in the body.

"So it is with creating new text from elements of previous text."

One of the contributions of a womanist approach to biblical scholarship is the voice it gives to those in ancient society who were overlooked and forgotten.

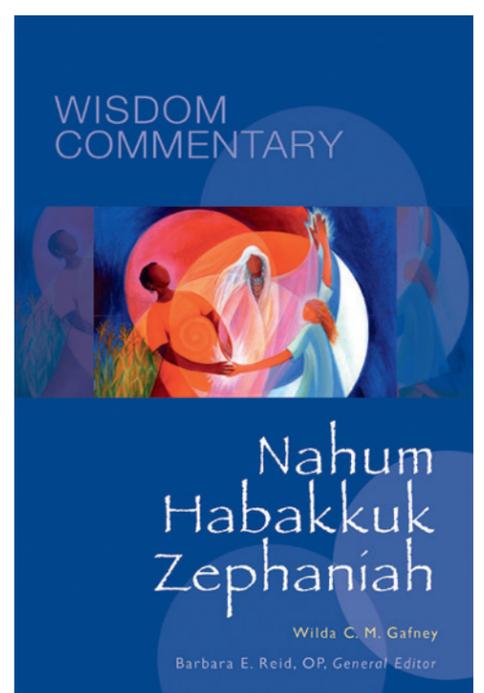
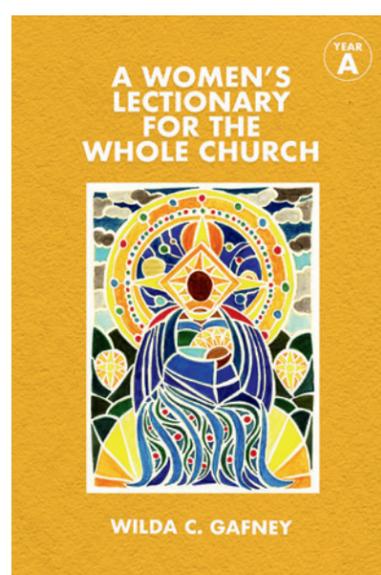
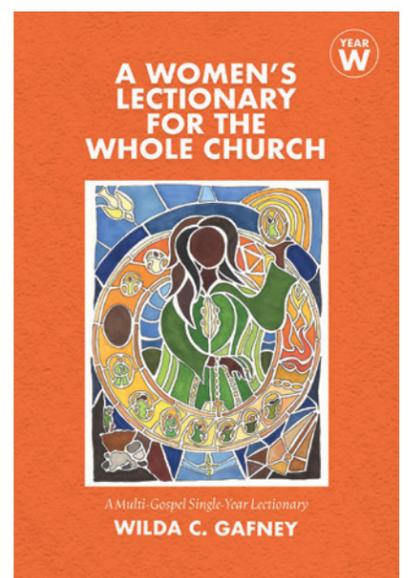
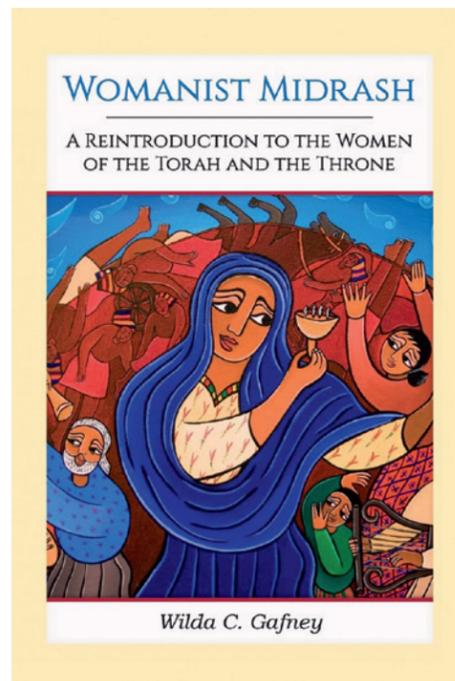
"Where women are swallowed up in various plural structures of Hebrew grammar, I pull them out," says Gafney.

She does not rely on the translation "Israelites," but, rather, "women, children, and men of Israel." "As a womanist scholar, a translating principle is 'to make room for everyone at the table.'"

Womanism offers that seat at the table, she says—more inclusively than the male-led civil rights movement of the last century and more inclusively than white middle-class feminism.

She identifies the 1970s as the beginning years of womanism, with its focus on Black women, women of color, as uninvited, overlooked, and oppressed by white patriarchal society. The critique offered by womanist scholarship frees the message of the gospel to be fully tested and believed.

"If the gospel doesn't make sense for the poor and the oppressed," she says, "then it doesn't make sense. If it doesn't make sense for Black women, it just doesn't make sense."



Books written by Dr. Wil Gafney



W. Clay Macaulay

GREETINGS

Blessings to you in this new year before us. And what a year it promises to be for Union Presbyterian Seminary—our community, our alumni, and our friends!

This issue of *Sharon & Brook* focuses on our upcoming Sprunt Lectures, scheduled for May 2 through 4, 2022, on the Richmond campus. Our Sprunt lecturer is the Reverend Dr. Wil Gafney, the Right Reverend Sam B. Hulse Professor of Hebrew Bible, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, who will speak on the theme “Translation Matters: Who Translates God-Words and How?”

The preacher for Sprunts is the Reverend Dr. Kimberly Russaw, newly named Associate Professor of Testament for Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Dr. Brian Blount, President and Professor of New Testament for the Seminary, will be our Alumni Luncheon speaker. Dr. Richard Boyce, Vice President and Academic Dean for our Charlotte campus, Associate Professor

of Preaching and Pastoral Leadership, who retires on June 30, 2022, will be recognized and honored at this luncheon for his service to the Seminary.

On May 4, two alums will be honored: Sheryl Blowe-McDowney (M.A.’85) as our 2022 Black Alumni Association Trailblazer of the Year and Reverend Mary Jane Winter (M.Div.’76) as our 2022 Distinguished Alumnus.

The lectures will be held on campus, as well as livestreamed, for those wishing to attend virtually. In either case, *everyone who plans to attend needs to register for the Sprunt Lectures online*. With the hope that the way is clear, we anticipate another fine gathering of alumni and friends and want to have spaces and food ready and available for those planning to attend in person. Register now online at <https://na.eventscloud.com/sprunt22>

Since good food and fellowship are a key part of this annual gathering, you will note that there

is a simple flat fee for attending any or all events on campus (not including lectures, worship, or receptions, for which there is no charge, of course). Your generous understanding and support of this annual homecoming of those, like you, who love and support UPsem is greatly appreciated.

We encourage you to send news of your life and ministry to the Associate for Alumni and Advancement at alumni@upsem.edu, or call (804) 278-4228 to leave a message.

We hope you will enjoy reading the alum updates here and also share your news with us! See you in May!

Yours faithfully,
W. Clay Macaulay (D.Min.’85)
Director of Alumni Development
cmacaulay@upsem.edu
(804) 436-7471 (mobile and text)
(804) 278-4382 (study)

Alumni Notes

TRANSITIONS

Denise Bennett (M.Div.’99) was ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church on December 18, 2021, at All Saints Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA. She continues to serve as chaplain at Hermitage Richmond and is also the priest associate at Emmanuel Episcopal Church at Brook Hill in Richmond.

Rev. Andy Blackwelder (M.A.C.E.’11, M.Div.’18) began a new call as Pastor of Rock Creek Presbyterian Church in Erwin, TN, on January 1, 2022.

William W. “Bill” Boldin (D.Min.’12) retires after 35 years of ordained ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and completing 22 years of serving in professional chaplaincy on March 25, 2022.

Mary Boyd Click (M.Div.’79) and **S. Jay Click (D.Min.’81)** are both honorably retired in National Capital Presbytery and continue to reside in Springfield, VA, in the metro DC area.

Jill Crainshaw (Ph.D.’98) The Division of Institutional Integrity was pleased to announce the permanent appointment of Jill Crainshaw as University of North Carolina School of the Arts, University Ombuds. UNCSA is located in Winston-Salem.

J. Aaron Houghton (M.Div./M.A.C.E.’14) now serves as Pastor of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA.

Nathan B. Lamb (M.Div., M.A.C.E.’05) was installed on September 19, 2021, and serves as Pastor with the First Presbyterian Church in Manchester, IA.

Rebecca Z. “Becky” Purcell (M.A.C.E.’11) was accepted in the fall of 2021 into the Public Policy Ph.D. program (Social Justice specialization) at the University of Arkansas. With pre-admission coursework, Becky enters as a second-year student. She is also beginning the African American Studies Graduate Certificate.

Becky is Pastor of Mount Comfort Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, AR.

Kristin P.R. Wickersham (M.Div.’18) has served as Associate Rector with St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA.

CELEBRATIONS

Chad Thomas Beck (M.Div.’17) was commissioned as Provisional Elder in the VA Conference of the UMC in June 2021. Currently, he serves as Associate Pastor of Chester UMC in Chester, VA, and is leading the church’s Latinx outreach at Greenleigh, a local, large, mostly Latinx and Spanish-speaking mobile home community.

Mary Anne Welch (M.Div.’08) was honorably retired as Pastor of Sharon Presbyterian Church in Farmington, IA, on June 1, 2021.

IN MEMORIAM

Blan C. Aldridge (B.D.’55)
September 14, 2021

Melinda E. Clements (M.A.’80, D.Min.’83)
September 15, 2021

James A. “Jim” Cogswell (B.D.’45, Th.D.’61)
November 18, 2021

Ann Downs (B.R.E.’56)
December 28, 2021

Terry K. Eum (M.Div.’12, Th.M.’13)
September 13, 2021

Steven R. Fleming (D.Min.’76)
September 23, 2021

Gordon F. Garlington III (M.Div.’72, D.Min.’76)
July 9, 2021

Ophelia E. Garmon-Brown (M.Div.’08)
November 17, 2021

Margaret Hammond Jameson (B.R.E.’50)
April 24, 2021

Leonard Douglas Hill Jr. (B.D.’65, Th.M.’66)
September 26, 2021

Robyn Bunch Jones, spouse of Michael R. Jones (M.Div.’90)
November 10, 2021

William A. Leist (B.D.’58)
September 13, 2021

Edna C. Mason (D.Min.’74)
December 9, 2021

Mary Mays (widow of Dr. James L. Mays)
December 7, 2021

Marie Melrose (PSCE ’71–’72)
October 28, 2021

Nicholas B. “Nick” Morgan (M.Div.’73)
August 27, 2021

Charley Morton Murray (B.D.’58, M.C.E.’66)
July 4, 2021

Jeffrey H. Patton (Th.M.’83)
August 19, 2021

George Pearson Jr. (M.Div.’79)
December 12, 2021

Robert P. “Bob” Piephoff (Th.M.’69)
November 14, 2021

George W. Ramsey (B.D.’62)
November 7, 2021

James “Jim” Rissmiller (B.D.’69, Th.M.’70)
December 20, 2021

Charles M. “Charlie” Swezey (B.D.’61)
January 21, 2022

Donald E. Swope (M.Div.’65, D.Min.’80)
October 16, 2021

Patricia Turner-Olds (M.A.C.E.’05)
September 1, 2021

Michael R. “Rick” Underwood (M.A.’97, M.Div.’97)
September 12, 2021

Richard “Dick” Vines (M.Div.’68, Th.M.’69)
November 23, 2021

J. Michael Walker (D.Min.’79)
January 23, 2022

Madge Mixon Young (ATS/PSCE Class of ’46)
September 29, 2021

ON THE SHELF

John Cleghorn (M.Div.’07) has published a book titled, *Resurrecting Church: Where Justice and Diversity Meet Radical Welcome and Healing Hope*. (Fortress Press, 2021.) See article on facing page.

Hunter R. Hill (M.Div.’71, D.Min.’75) has just published a book titled *Buried Treasure: Unearthing the Riches of the Gospel of Mark*. (Wipf and Stock publisher, 2021, under the Resources Imprint.) The book explores nine themes in the Gospel that are often overlooked or misperceived, and includes some personal reflections on Mark’s Gospel.

J. Eric Killinger (M.Div.’88) has a new book published by The Intermundia Press—*Between the Frying Pan and the Fire: The Intermundia of Clergy Transitioning out of Parish Ministry*—an examination of vocational orphanhood, a call to being an orphan, specifically of clergy who have made or are making a transition out of parish ministry into mainstream life.

Bruce L. Taylor (Ph.D.’88) Wipf and Stock Publishers has just released his book, *Christ’s New Address: Sermons for the Lectionary, Year C, Pentecost through Christ the King*, which completes a six-volume homiletical journey through the Common Lectionary (Revised).

AWARDS

Rev. E. Von Clemans (M.Div.’79, M.A.’80) 2022 APCE SUSTAIN Lifetime Achievement Award honoree

Gina Yeager-Buckley (M.A.’90) 2022 APCE (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators) Enrich/Educator of the Year Award

This list reflects notes received by the Alumni Office as of January 5, 2022.

MORE ONLINE For a complete and updated list of transitions, retirements, in memoriam, and publications of our UPsem alums, visit:



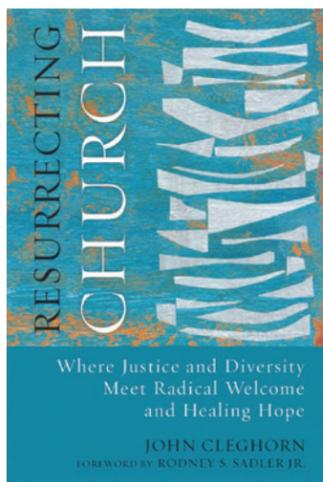
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THE DREAM OF JUSTICE

Resurrecting Church

“It is from John Cleghorn’s innovative ministry in a diverse context that this book was born. It is a roadmap to the land mines along that perilous way. It is a research project. But more than that, it is an invitation for you to reimagine what church can be—no, what it should be—when we are open to the free movement of the Spirit and the transformative power of being ‘in Christ.’ (Gal. 3:28)”

— From Forward by Dr. Rodney S. Sadler Jr., to *Resurrecting Church: Where Justice and Diversity Meet Radical Welcome and Healing Hope*.



In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, churches were built to be architectural marvels, undergirded by giants of industry and finance.

But cities change, and affluent church members flee for the suburbs.

With the steady loss of members and money, many of these churches have had what minister and author John Cleghorn describes as “near-death experiences.”

It is the new life of 10 of these reborn urban churches that he discovered across America that is the focus of his powerful and provocative book, *Resurrecting Church: Where Justice and Diversity Meet Radical Welcome and Healing Hope*.

Where Justice and Diversity Meet Radical Welcome and Healing Hope.

Cleghorn has served for 14 years as pastor of one of those churches: Caldwell Presbyterian in Charlotte, North Carolina. The aging Caldwell, he says, had just about run out of money and almost closed. Its newer membership was not wealthy, but rather, “wounded and recovering, many from church” and diverse. Caldwell is 20% LGBTQ, 20% people of color, and 50% non-Presbyterian in background. It has also seen a resurrection, a story that has repeated itself in the nine other inner-city Presbyterian churches across the United States with congregational “resurrection” experiences similar to Caldwell’s.

“Writing this book, it dawned on me that this is a letter to my ‘alternative self,’” says Cleghorn, “if I’d stayed on the trajectory I was on...if I’d stayed in the all-white church.”

A second-career graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, Cleghorn was perfectly miscast for the call to Caldwell. He was, as he

says, “a poster boy for privilege.” He had worked at the highest levels of journalism and banking. He was “white, straight, educated, and affluent”... with a vaultful of social capital. In his book, he tells the story of 10 churches out of the nation’s nearly 9,000 PCUSA churches with similar membership mixes of gender, class, race, and sexual orientation. Each church ministers not to “successful” and privileged Presbyterians, but to “the others,” those left behind...marginalized because of their differences.

These are “intersectional” churches, he says, quoting Kimberlé Crenshaw, a leading thinker and scholar in the field of critical race theory:

“Intersectionality is a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it interlocks and intersects,” she writes. “It’s not a problem to see that there’s a race problem here, a gender problem there, and a class or LGBTQ problem there. Many times, that framework erases what happens to people who are subject to all of these things.”

Cleghorn builds on this: “Intersectional churches follow the Reformed pattern of Christian living. Everything they do is in response to God’s grace in Jesus Christ—but nothing is done without an orientation to justice. There are more than 2,000 biblical references to ‘justice.’ The dream of justice is the lifeblood of Christ that animates these churches.”

“Church” looks, and is, different at these revitalized urban churches and in the diversity that they celebrate. They offer insights into how a demographically “minority majority” America itself will look and can prosper.

“We are invited to know ‘the other,’ those on the margins, and to learn from them,” Cleghorn says. “We can trust God and take more risks.”

“We can grow in our faith and learn more about God by taking on different kinds of challenges than only those that middle-class white life presents. In fact, given the demographic shifts so profoundly under way, this is what is needed and absolutely necessary for the church.”

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Sharon&Brook

Sharon & Brook is published by Union Presbyterian Seminary for alumni and friends of the Seminary.

Editors

Samuel L. Adams, *Faculty Advisor*
Rodney S. Sadler Jr., *Faculty Advisor*
Richard Wong, *Vice President of Advancement*
Michael Frontiero, *Director of Communications*
Clay Macaulay, *Director of Alumni Development*
Tim Moore, *Director of Donor Relations*

Copywriter Joe Slay

Designer Edith Ridderhof

Richmond Campus:

3401 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23227
(804) 278-4240

Charlotte Campus:

5141 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28210
(980) 636-1700

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Send news and contact updates to Nicole Smith at alumni@upsem.edu or call (804) 278-4228.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Online Course:

The Christian Life (Pathways)

Tuesdays / March 1–April 5

7:00 pm–9:00 pm

Led by Dr. Cindy Kissel-Ito, Associate Professor of Christian Education

This course is designed to provide knowledge of Protestant perspectives on the Christian life. In addition to the live class meetings, this course includes both reading and written assignments.

 bit.ly/3IHDK7N

2022 Dawe Lecture:

Cruciform Mindfulness

Tuesday / March 1

7:30 pm–9:00 pm

Presented by Dr. Roger Gench, Retired Pastor of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and current Theologian in Residence, Second Presbyterian Church

Dr. Roger Gench will explore the connection between the Buddhist notion of mindfulness and Christian theology and spirituality of the cross. It will articulate a foundation for the Christian life in which activism and spirituality are integrally related and part of the same footprint, rather than disconnected or addenda to each other. The Dawe Lecture is free and open to the public. The lecture will be presented on campus and livestreamed, as well.

 bit.ly/2022DaweLecture



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The Sprunt Lectures Issue

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Can These Bones Live?

WITH YOUR SUPPORT AND BY GOD'S WILL

"Thus says the Lord God to these bones: 'I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.'"

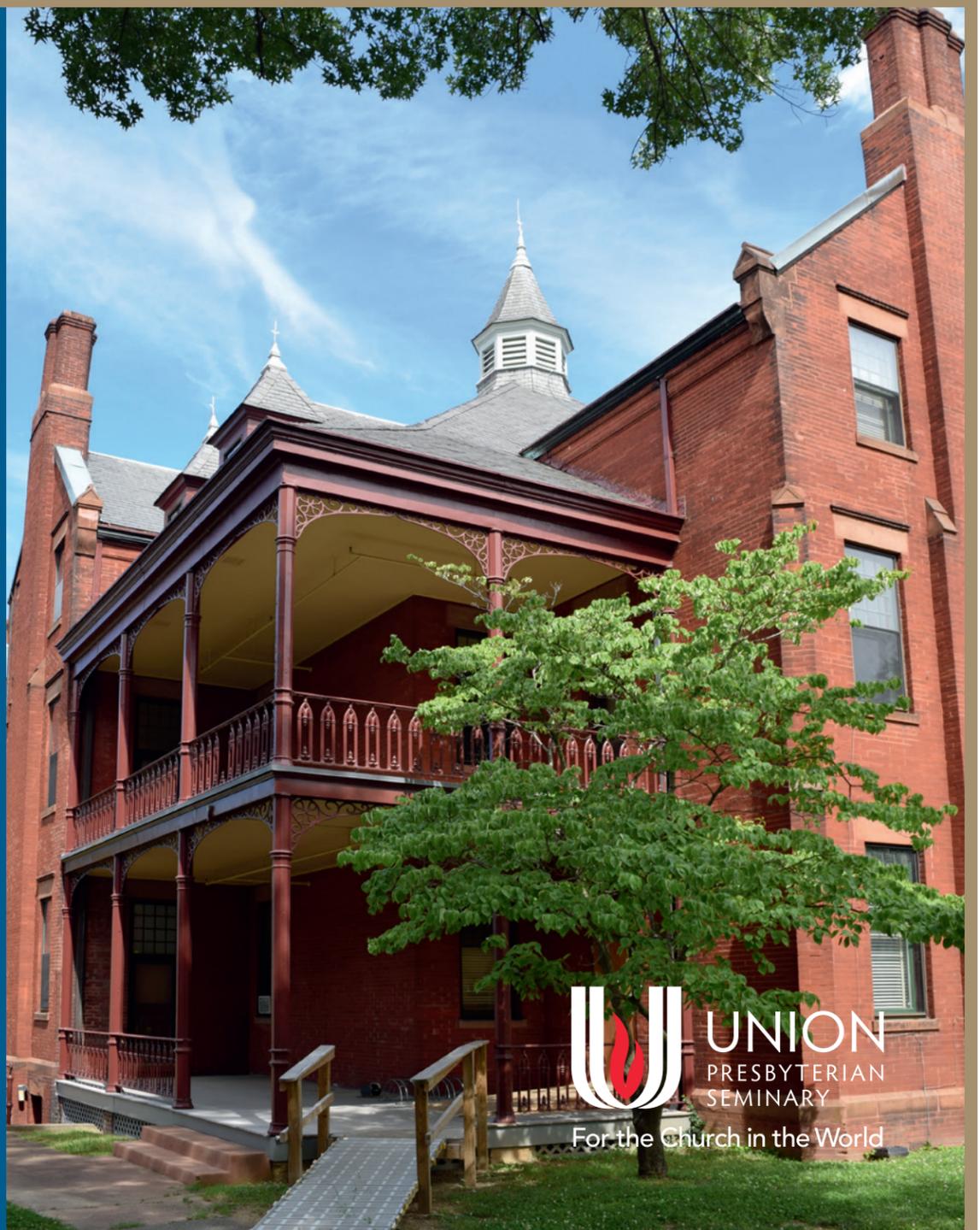
Ezekiel 37:5

We need your help so that we may breathe new life into these dry bones. The renovation of historic Westminster Hall will provide 13,000 square feet of conference and lodging facility for our Leadership Institute Continuing Education program in the heart of the Richmond Campus. The Leadership Institute serves more than 1,000 church leaders and pastors each year.

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