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Fall 2021

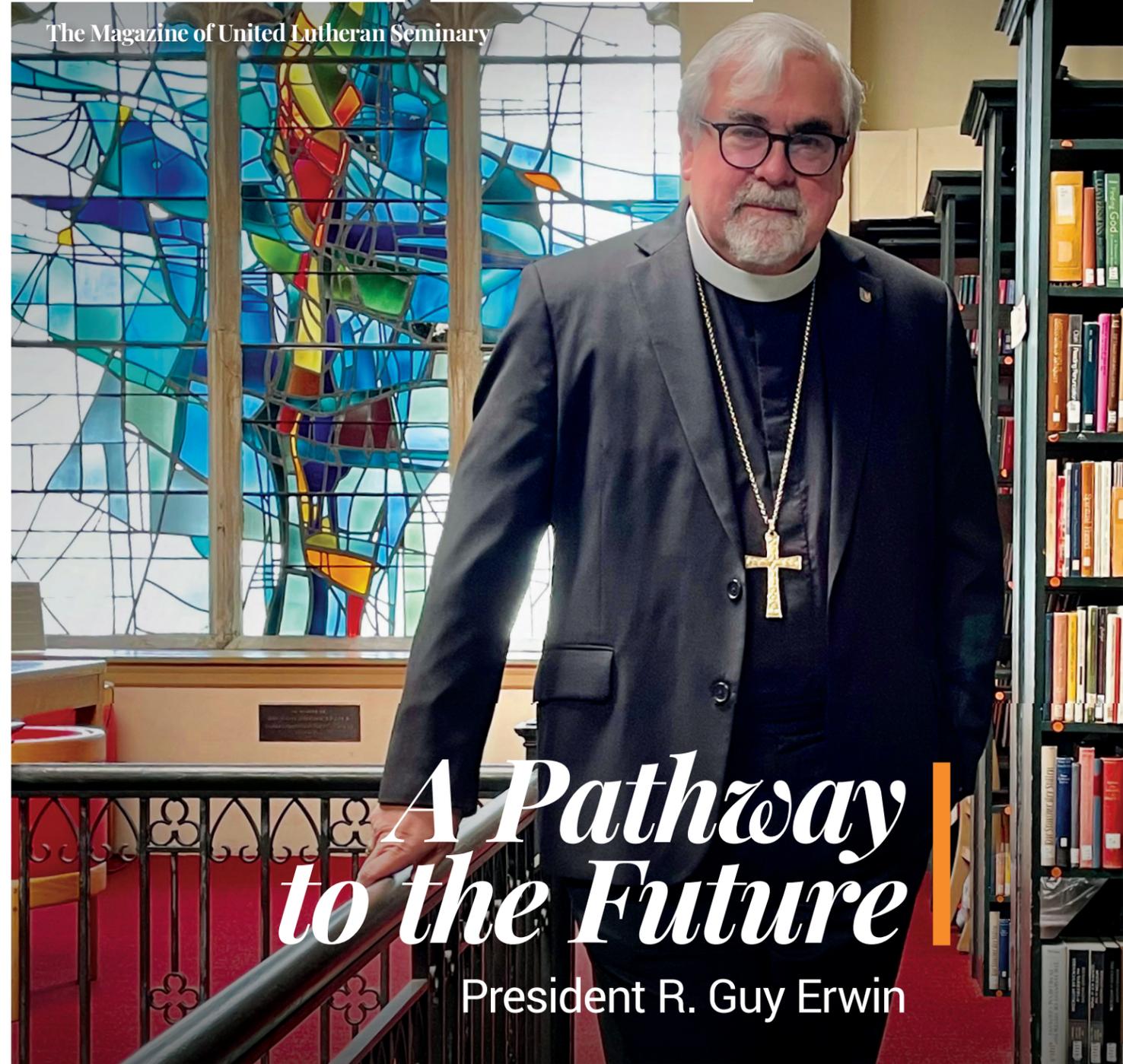
UNITED

The Magazine of United Lutheran Seminary



Gettysburg
61 Seminary Ridge
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Philadelphia
7301 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19119



A Pathway to the Future

President R. Guy Erwin

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UNITED Fall Issue 2021
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7301 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19119

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Photo of President Erwin inside the Krauth Memorial
Library on the ULS Philadelphia campus. Photo of
Rev. John Vannorsdall courtesy of Gettysburg College
Musselman Library.

COMING TO ULS: PERSONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE THE REV. DR. R. GUY ERWIN



I've had many opportunities over the last year to describe the sense of anticipation and joyful hope that accompanies the taking up of this new call to serve as president at United Lutheran Seminary. I know there will be yet more chances to do that, as we begin at last to gather face-to-face, but today let me underscore again my strong sense that the Holy Spirit is calling ULS, and me with it, into a new chapter of its existence. Everything that has gone before including the challenges that ULS has faced in each of the years of its existence has shaped and prepared us for the moment ahead. Now we are offered the chance to step forward into the future together.

Taking those next steps involves risk – for me and for all of us. I left a call as bishop to which I felt strongly drawn and to which my people had elected me a second time, because of my belief that I could contribute even more to my church as president of ULS than as a bishop. As a historian, I knew the power of institutions (though always filtered through human sinfulness) to make a difference, and I think the history of our predecessor seminaries are full of examples of that risk-taking for the sake of greater justice and a more gospel-centered community. I am excited to be a part of a courageous and adventuresome community that also holds on to what is good.

Many things are holy to me: the dignity of each person; the call that God gives us to serve our neighbor; the value of learning and the importance of reflective thought; the beauty of worship; and the sacredness of the land and our responsibility to it. My Native forebears lived close to this land, and my European settler ancestors were drawn to its promise. I hold on to that sense of the holiness of creation and also acknowledge our collective responsibility to use the gifts God gives us to the benefit of all. I come with a deep love of the religious thought and culture of Lutheranism in its European origins but also with a passion to show what a wide, inclusive, global church the Lutheran tradition represents and to show how we can and must work together with Christians of many kinds in the church as the living Body of Christ.

I come to this work at ULS with a strong sense of what the seminary (and its predecessor schools) have meant and still mean to our churches, our alums and to the whole history of Lutheranism in America. Even in our very intentional ecumenical outreach, we live into the call that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America sets forth for us. In our openness to diversity and our desire to be more equitable and inclusive, we embrace a vision of church that puts variety at the center of our existence. We live in a time in which we need to embrace difference in order to create more authentic and more just communities. We see and hear this in the call of Jesus to unity and in our reexamination of systems and institutions. As someone who has seen societal attitudes toward the queer community shift so much in a single lifetime, I believe further change is possible.

ULS has a rich heritage of openness to change; the consolidation of the two historic seminaries is simply the last – and most visible – manifestation of that willingness to accept change for the sake of creating something better. We're far from finished with that, and recent conflict and division (and many months of pandemic lockdown) have kept us from the forward movement we desire. But this fall will represent a change: we will reexamine our understanding of our mission and our use of our material resources, and we will dream new dreams and make new plans. It won't be suddenly easy or simple to begin to grow back together after the long separation of the pandemic, but perhaps it will permit us to look at what and who we are with new eyes, fresh approaches and renewed hope.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Guy Erwin'.

THE REV. DR. R. GUY ERWIN

*President and Ministerium of Pennsylvania Chair and Professor of Reformation Studies
United Lutheran Seminary*

Welcome Back!

ULS is excited to welcome students, staff, faculty, friends and community members back to campus. While we have planned in-person events for later this fall, at the same time we realize the situation could change as COVID variants continue to be a threat.

The best way to stay updated on ULS events is to view our calendar at uls.edu. Select events are also posted on Facebook, so be sure to follow us @unitedlutheranseminary and @unitedlutheran on Instagram.

Should we need to update our policies regarding masks, social distancing and in-person gatherings, that information will be shared via our website and social media. In the meantime, we strongly encourage all members of the ULS community and anyone who plans to come to either campus to get vaccinated.

Thank you.

Get Vaccinated!



Serving Through Chaplaincy

Three members of the ULS community who serve as chaplains share their experience providing ministry during the pandemic and describe the importance of the seminary in their formation.



Deacon Ellen D. Doughty '03 MAMS (LTSG)

Chaplain, Spiritual Care Services

UPMC Memorial, York, PA

Current member of The United Lutheran Seminary Alumni Association Board

I was a single mom, working various jobs and attending seminary. As I was doing this people would ask how was I able to do it, I would respond with "by the grace of God." Years later I commented to my husband that I wondered how I managed to do all that, and he responded with "by the grace of God"!

I am the only staff chaplain at UPMC and am responsible for visiting patients, making rounds, charting and setting up the 24/7 on-call calendar. I also recruit and train volunteer chaplain assistants who help me while on call and with visits. I provide various trainings and officiate at remembrances, memorials, tree dedications and funerals. I have been with UPMC for over 11 years. This is my third campus and the closest one to home. While there have been many ups and downs over the years, I have experienced a lot of growth — especially at this latest campus. As staff have become accustomed to having a chaplain on campus regularly, they are reaching out more and letting me know they are glad I am there, and I am thankful to God to be there.

COVID meant things were much busier. At some point, our department started making condolence calls and sending the book *I Wasn't Ready to Say Goodbye* to families of patients who had died from COVID and who were open to receiving it. We now also give it to patients, families and staff who have experienced a sudden loss.



2nd Lt. W. Roger Randolph III '23 MDiv

Chaplain Candidate, Pennsylvania Army National Guard

Headquarters Company of 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry Regiment, Plymouth Meeting, PA

Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Home congregation: First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, PA

Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund*

My time at ULS has been deeply enriching as a follower of Jesus and as a leader within the church. My involvement with the Student Body Association, Worship Life, the Admissions office and within the Philadelphia campus community has broadened my horizons and deepened my faith. The support from ULS has been foundational to the ministry I am pursuing.

My Fund for Leaders peers have given me so much support. I have been blessed to be in classes and shared ministry with these colleagues since receiving my first award in 2019. This scholarship has connected me with mentors who have provided insight into what it means to provide a Lutheran witness as an Army chaplain. The pandemic has proven to be the busiest time in my Army career. Pennsylvania Army National Guard was activated for aid in response to civil unrest. While the past 18 months have been taxing for all Americans, it has been a particular burden on those who devote their life to our country in the nation's armed forces. It's been an honor and privilege to provide religious support to soldiers of all faiths and walks of life.



2nd Lt. Luke M. Beaver '24 MDiv

Chaplain Candidate, US Army Reserve

Headquarters Company of 365th Engineer Battalion, 302nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Schuylkill Haven, PA

Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

Home congregation: Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kratzerville, Selingsgrove, PA

Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund*

Although I only started attending ULS in the fall of 2020, I can already tell that I go to school with many admirable, diverse and interesting people, which has opened my eyes to how to serve in different contexts. As a Christian chaplain candidate in the Army Reserve studying Lutheran theology, I have been able to learn, experience and take part in ministry. I have been a chaplain candidate for a little over a year and am so thankful for the many opportunities I have been afforded to share in spiritual well-being and readiness with soldiers through this time of COVID.

I have enjoyed being able to connect with many of my peers who are like-minded in our pursuit of the worship of God. I am extremely grateful for the Fund for Leaders.

**The ELCA Fund for Leaders offers a variety of scholarships, not exclusively Federal Chaplaincy scholarships.*

ULS Welcomes New Faculty

Please join us in welcoming two new faculty to the ULS community.



Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Smallwood, Esq., is the James Franklin Kelly and Hope Eyster Kelly Associate Professor of Public Theology

“I am joyful and excited about Dr. Teresa Smallwood joining our faculty at ULS,” said President Erwin. “She brings so

many gifts we need and so much potential to be a transformative member of a dynamic and changing institution. I look forward to working with her closely, as together we dream of a new kind of seminary education — one that takes our theological reflection beyond the dimension of tradition and more deeply into the realities of our public life as religious leaders, toward greater justice and equity.”

Dr. Smallwood served as Postdoctoral Fellow and Associate Director of the Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative at Vanderbilt Divinity School. She has taught at Lancaster Theological Seminary, Religious Freedom Center, Chicago Theological Seminary and Philander Smith College.

She began her legal career with Legal Services of Southern Piedmont in Charlotte, N.C., where she also worked as a staff attorney for the Children’s Law Center. She also served as an Assistant District Attorney until she commenced her private practice that spanned more than two decades. Dr. Smallwood earned her B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; M.Div. from Howard University; J.D. from North Carolina Central University; and Ph.D. from Chicago Theological Seminary.

Dr. Smallwood was licensed and ordained to public ministry while serving Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Lewiston, NC. She is a member of New Covenant Christian Church in Nashville, TN.

She has published chapters in *African Americans and Religious Freedom: New Perspectives for Congregations and Communities* and *The Routledge Handbook of Religion and Cities*. Dr. Smallwood is currently working on the book, *The Bully Pulpit: Queer and Black in Church*. She has presented papers and lectures and served as a panelist at Morgan State University, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Vanderbilt University, Children’s Defense Fund Proctor Conference, Chicago Theological Seminary and Oxford University, among others.

The Kelly Chair was established through an anonymous bequest in memory of James, a 1920 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Rev. Kelly died in 1983 and his wife in 1973.



Dr. June Hee Yoon is Visiting Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics and Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow

“We at ULS are delighted that our partnership with the Louisville Institute will be deepened through Dr. June Hee Yoon, who was a participant at

the Asia Theological Summer Institute during the time of her doctoral studies,” said Rev. Dr. J. Jayakiran Sebastian, Dean of the Seminary and Vice President of Student Services.

Dr. Yoon aspires to provide a Christian ethical lens for future church leaders and believes the moral health and wellbeing of the existing Christian communities are largely dependent upon the Church’s sensitivity to the outcries of the people who have been neglected and silenced. Dr. Yoon believes that theological education equips church leaders to implement their understanding of God and for human society to be built upon the firm ground of a liberative theo-ethical perspective.

Dr. Yoon criticizes, reconstructs and theorizes existing Christian ethical norms and church practices to actively work toward the liberation of the marginalized. Her dissertation, *“Envisioning Home with Queer Holiness at the Core: A Case of Korean American Christian Communities,”* constructs a path to imagine a community where such liberating Christian norms and practices can take place.

Dr. Yoon serves as a pastor part-time at Waterloo Village United Methodist Church in Stanhope, NJ. She holds a B.A. from Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea; M.Div. from Drew University; S.T.M. from Yale University; and Ph.D. from Drew University.

The Louisville Fellowship supports a two-year visiting professorship at a North American theological school, college, or university. Fellows are accompanied by an academic and pastoral mentor and participate in a peer cohort that meets six times over two years.



Cheers to Growth and New Ministries

Rev. Angie Hammer ’20 MDiv is leading St. Paul Lutheran Church in Penryn, PA, as the members of the congregation begin to successfully explore ways to re-think and re-form their expressions of faith. Pastor Angie’s leadership at St. Paul has helped the community to confront the reality of its ministry and calling. She writes: “Many of our congregations have fallen on tough times trying to find the money to afford a pastor and pay for building expenses every month. With dwindling attendance at Sunday worship services, fewer and fewer people are tithing. Many young people also lack meaningful relationships and experiences with a church community. They are skeptical of entering a church building, let alone joining a congregation.”

It is in this context that the Holy Spirit is hard at work in Penryn. On December 8, 2019, St. Paul became the first Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation in Lancaster County. The RIC designation makes explicit the congregation’s welcome to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. Pastor Angie shares:

“I believe the Holy Spirit has been hard at work in the life of this congregation. For 20 years this congregation has been without a called pastor, yet they remained steadfast and faithful to the work of discipleship. The Spirit has worked, as the Spirit does, in ways that are beautiful and mysterious. The congregation discerned their gifts and their needed presence in the world and affirmed by a 96% vote to be an RIC congregation in 2019. Being open to the Holy Spirit working in, through and around us has led us to this new and exciting redevelopment ministry outreach that helps to further the gospel message of loving all people without exception.”

And the Holy Spirit is still working. The congregation is engaging the community and working to address a local need manifested clearly in the pandemic: hunger. The people of St. Paul got creative in their dreaming and visioning — and that dreaming has produced much fruit. In spring of 2021 they opened The Backyard at Penryn, a locally supported and sourced food bank and beer garden.

“Our congregation looks to address local community hunger and serve as a place for the people of St. Paul, Penryn, to be welcoming to their neighbors, and the wider community — all while living into our call as children of God — to feed the hungry as God has fed us. By renovating an existing church building (The Hall) and turning it into a beer garden, we created a place for the local community to reconnect with the work the Church is already about, while continuing to serve as a house of worship for the community.”

The success of this new ministry in Penryn is inspiring — the congregation has successfully built and deepened many new relationships through the project — and watching new ministries come alive is an encouragement for all of us. More information at: stpaulpenryn.org

“I believe the Holy Spirit has been hard at work in the life of this congregation.”

Photo: Rev. Angie Hammer in the sanctuary of St. Paul Lutheran Church

The United Lutheran Seminary Alumni Association (TULSAA)

TULSAA was formed in January 2020 with the merger of the alumni boards of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (LTSG). The association encourages a closer relationship of former students with each other and the seminary, fosters continuing education among alumni, promotes the welfare of the seminary including financial support, and serves as a liaison between the administration and alumni.

2021-22 TULSAA Board

Rev. Dr. David Anglada
Rev. Brian Armen
Rev. Brian Campbell
Rev. Judith Ann Cobb
Deacon Ellen D. Doughty
Mrs. Andrea Garnett (Secretary)
Rev. Alina S. Gayeuski
Deacon Susan Gerrard
Rev. Dr. Donald Green (President)
Rev. Regina Hayes

Rev. Tamika Jancewicz
Rev. Kelley Ketcham
Rev. Joshua McCaffery
Rev. John Nelson
Rev. Frederick Neu (Vice President)
Rev. Joel Petruschke
Rev. Susan Ruggles (Executive Committee)
Rev. Scott E. Schul
Rev. Jacob Simpson
Rev. Joseph Veres

President: Rev. Dr. Donald Green '74 MDiv, '83 DMin (LTSG)

Rev. Green, a York, PA, native, is an alumnus of Susquehanna University and LTSG. He has served parishes in Hershey/Hummelstown and Lancaster, PA, for several decades. In 1992, he was called to be the assistant to the bishop in the Southwest Pennsylvania Synod (SWPA) and was then executive director of Christian Associates of SWPA. Rev. Green has been married to his wife, Kathryn, for 51 years, and they are proud parents of three children and one grandson.

Vice President: Rev. Frederick K. Neu, BCC '83 MDiv (LTSP)

Rev. Neu has served parishes in Vermont and Maine. He established a social ministry organization as part of Ascentria, a New England based Lutheran social service agency, where he also co-founded the Good News Garage. Rev. Neu is a board-certified chaplain at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington and pastor in charge at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Montpelier. He is married with two adult sons.

Secretary: Andrea Garnett '11 MAR (LTSG)

Mrs. Garnett works in a district office for the Church of the Brethren and takes classes part-time. She is an alumna of Wartburg College ('97). While at LTSG, she met and married Micah Garnett, and they welcomed their first child, Rosalind, in 2018. Andrea is "truly honored to serve on the TULSAA Board and grateful for this opportunity."

Executive Committee: Rev. Susan Ruggles '02 MDiv (LTSP)

Rev. Ruggles served St. John's Lutheran Church in Nazareth, PA, from 2002-2006 and at St. John's Lutheran Church in Easton, PA, from 2006 to the present.

Join Us for the 2021 Fall Convocation

SEPTEMBER 21 | 11:45AM (ULS YouTube Channel)

Annual Urban Theological Institute Lecture with Rev. Dr. Jerry Carter Jr., Sr. Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Morristown, NJ – "The Church in a Post Pandemic Era." [YouTube.com/unitedlutheranseminary](https://www.youtube.com/unitedlutheranseminary)

SEPTEMBER 22 | 9:00AM-3:00PM (Via Zoom)

President Erwin will present "A Theology of Belonging: Native and Lutheran Approaches and Perspectives," two 50-minute presentations, during which he uses historical, autobiographical, and theological approaches to explore the question of what it means "to belong" – to a place, to a culture, to a faith and to a church. The Zoom link will be sent to those who register. Visit "Upcoming Events" at uls.edu.

SEPTEMBER 22 | 3:30-4:30PM (Virtual)

The ULS All Alumni Association Fall meeting will be held virtually. For more information or Zoom link, contact Lisa Dubay at ldubay@uls.edu or call 717-338-3009.

Getting to Know Each Other Through Social Media

Prior to the pandemic we connected in many ways: gathering during worship, having a meal or a cup of coffee together or simply talking face-to-face with a friend. The advent of the coronavirus in March 2020 dramatically changed how we were able to communicate; Zoom and social media became vital tools to maintain personal and professional relationships. Zoom also gave us the opportunity to get a glimpse of each other's homes, hobbies and family members, and at times, our pets. "Pets of ULS," a series of posts on social media, gave community members another way to connect. Faculty, students and staff gladly shared the names and photos of their beloved cats, dogs, birds and lizards, along with a bit of history about their personalities and how they became part of our colleagues' families. Most heartwarming were the stories of how a pet helped with loneliness and isolation during the pandemic.

The ULS Community Life Working Group and the Office of Strategic Marketing and Communications launched the "Get to Know Us" campaign; the same set of questions were posed to students, faculty and staff, and the answers were shared in social media posts. We learned about common interests in authors and music and discovered where our colleagues were born. As part of the Lenten calendar project, we posted daily quotes from the ULS community about spiritual practice and the meaning of the season. Throughout the pandemic, President Erwin provided direction and comfort in his weekly "Reflections," distributed to more than 7,000 subscribers, posted on social media and on his public Facebook page.

If you are not signed up to receive "Reflections," kindly send an email to communications@uls.edu. Please be sure to follow us! [@unitedlutheranseminary](https://www.instagram.com/unitedlutheranseminary). Follow President Erwin [@bishopguyerwin](https://www.instagram.com/bishopguyerwin)

A Test of Faith

Our 2021 graduates reflect on how their faith was strengthened or challenged during the pandemic. We thank those who shared their thoughts.



Steve Anderson '21 MDiv

My faith in God was strengthened by the pandemic. God made a way for ministry to continue where the limits of human understanding could not.

Scott Brubaker '21 MDiv

Internship during the pandemic and the unexpected death of my supervisor has taught me in concrete ways to trust that God's grace is sufficient.

Zach Dean '21 MDiv

Worshipping together — while — apart has been challenging for my faith. Yet the persistence of various worshipping communities continuing to connect has strengthened it!

Eric Faret '21 MDiv

My faith was strengthened by Jesus' example of obedience, humility and compassion for the oppressed. The Lord's Prayer gave me assurance God's will will be done.

Allan Ferguson '21 STM

The pandemic forced me to accept new means (digital means) to proclaim the gospel — and I discovered Jesus was leading the way.

Marty Jo Irvin-Stellabotte '21 MDiv

I relied on prayer and learning to feel God's presence to strengthen my faith, reaching out to God through prayer, music, nature and scripture.

Ellen Lichtfuss '21 MDiv

Technology is not always the answer to maintaining connectedness with a faith community when the members are elderly, homebound, low-income, or all the above.

Emily Orner '21 MAML

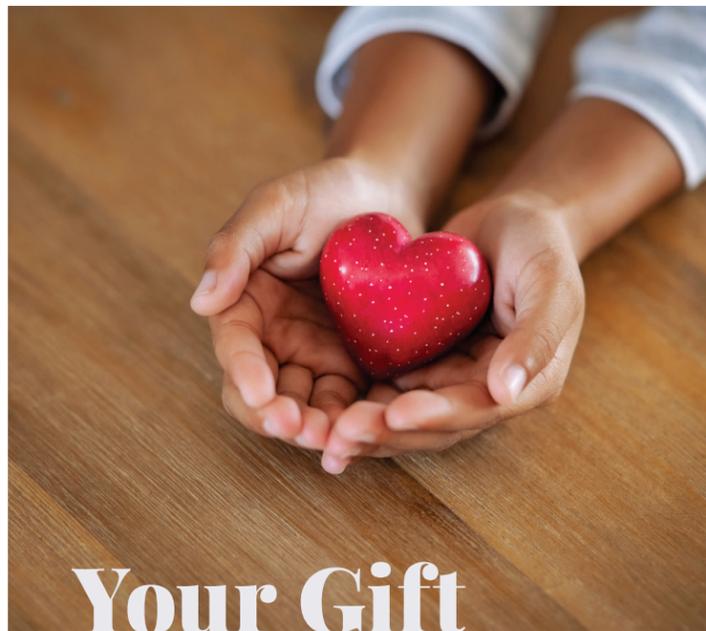
My faith has been strengthened "through" the challenge of the pandemic in that I have seen how God continues to show up in our suffering.

Kayla Sadowy '21 MDiv

Seeing opportunities — as church, community, or in person — seeing abundance in the face of scarcity has cultivated much growth for me.

Courtney Smith '21 MDiv

This pandemic has been a crash course in letting Jesus take the wheel, and pray it's the steering wheel and not the front tire.



Your Gift Matters

United Lutheran Seminary is supported through the generosity of faithful partners like you. Your gift empowers seminary education for our future faith leaders. These leaders will take what they have learned at ULS and use it in the communities to which God calls them, continuing what God has started during their time at the seminary. Online giving is available at uls.edu/give or contact us at **(717) 338-3015**.

We also invite you to contact us if you are interested in making a planned gift or exploring ways to make a gift that costs you nothing today, yet empowers seminary education for our future faith leaders. Donating appreciated stocks or other securities provides benefits for you and for United Lutheran Seminary.

2021 ULS Honorary Degree Recipients

ULS conferred two honorary degrees at the May 2021 virtual commencement to **Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.** and **Pastor Gladys G. Moore**. Both Dr. Ray and Pastor Moore received the degree of Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa.

“United Lutheran Seminary is proud of its association with both of these distinguished leaders of the church, and we are grateful for their service to the gospel and their neighbors,” said President Erwin. “An honorary doctorate is the highest honor the seminary can confer, and I am proud that Dr. Ray and Pastor Moore were the first recipients of this honor in my time as president.”

Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr. retired as President of Chicago Theological Seminary in August. He is also President of the Society for the Study of Black Religion. He has written and lectured broadly in the areas of systematic theology, African American religion, human rights and the intersection of religion and politics.

Pastor Gladys G. Moore '84 MDiv (LTSP) served at St. John's Lutheran Church in Summit, NJ, until she retired this past January. She previously served as Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life/Director of Diversity and Inclusion for five years at Mount Holyoke College. She was also Assistant to the Bishop of the New Jersey Synod, ELCA.

Dr. Ray, who also delivered the commencement address, was acknowledged for his achievements in scholarship in theology, academic leadership and his work with the Urban Theological Institute at United Lutheran Seminary, of which he served as director from 2005-08 and as the Jeremiah A. Wright Sr. Associate Professor of Theology in African American Studies. He will be the featured lecturer for the 2022 Preaching with Power Series.

Pastor Moore is being acknowledged for her achievements as a highly respected pastor in the ELCA, a long-time leader in synod administration, well-known preacher, strong advocate for social justice and mentor to a generation of clergy.

40th Annual

Preaching with
POWER

MARCH 13-17
2022

Rev. Dr. Quintin L. Robertson
Director

We're back in person for Preaching with Power 2022. Please watch our website and social media for additional information and updates for the sermon/lecture series on the ULS Philadelphia campus and at local churches. The tentative list of invited presenters includes:

Rev. Dr. Barry C. Black US Senate Chaplain

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr. Former President of Chicago Theological Seminary (lecture)

Bishop Yvette A. Flunder Pastor of City of Refuge UCC, Oakland, CA

Rev. Dr. Janet J. Sturdivant Presiding Elder of the South District, Philadelphia Conference of the AME Church

Be sure to join us on **Tuesday, September 21 at 11:45AM** on the ULS YouTube channel for the annual Urban Theological Institute Lecture with Rev. Jerry M. Carter Jr., Ph.D., Senior Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Morristown, NJ. The theme is “The Church in a Post Pandemic Era.”

ULS Faculty News

Rev. Dr. Reed Carlson

Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies

Dr. Carlson was awarded the 2021 Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise for his 2019 Harvard Divinity School dissertation, “Possession and Other Spirit Phenomena in Biblical Literature.” He published an article in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, “Provocateurs, Examiners, and Fools: Divine Opponents to the Aqedah in Early Judaism.” He presented two papers at the virtual annual meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), “Attending Bodies: ‘Learning to be Affected’ by Spirits in Biblical Literature” and the second to the Society for Pentecostal Studies, “Exorcising the Spirit of Jealousy: Numbers 5:11–31 as an Apotropaic Ritual Against Domestic Abuse.” Dr. Carlson also joined the steering committee for the Religious Experience in Antiquity section of the SBL. Additionally, Dr. Carlson attended meetings at the Louisville Institute as an invited fellow. In fall of 2020, he offered a five-week workshop to clergy in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, “When the Stars Begin to Fall: Preaching the Old Testament in an Uncertain Time.” He also presented three virtual “Preaching Perspectives” workshops at the 2021 ULS Spring Convocation. Throughout this season, Dr. Carlson continues serving as Priest Associate at the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul in Boston (Episcopal). The ULS Board of Trustees renewed Dr. Carlson’s tenure-track faculty contract for an additional three years.

Rev. Dr. Wayne E. Croft Sr.

The Jeremiah A. Wright Sr. Associate Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics in African American Studies

Dr. Croft was one of twelve ministers selected by Hampton University to participate in the Preaching to Change the World initiative, made possible by a grant from The M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust. Dr. Croft’s sermon, entitled “Freedom to Dissent,” will be available on the initiative’s website in perpetuity. His book, *A History of the Black Baptist Church*, was published in fall 2020 by Judson Press.

Dr. Vincent Evener

Associate Professor of Reformation and Luther Studies

Dr. Evener’s book, *Enemies of the Cross: Suffering, Truth, and Mysticism in the Early Reformation*, was published by Oxford University Press in January 2021. In the fall of 2020, Dr. Evener coordinated the seminary’s virtual Luther Colloquy on “Lutheranism and Race,” which recorded over 400 views on YouTube; he also coordinated the publication of the Colloquy presentations for the Summer 2021 edition of the journal *Dialog*. In the spring of 2021, Dr. Evener taught a newly designed, upper-level elective, “Readings in Luther.”

He is currently researching how sixteenth-century reformers used preaching and devotional literature on the passion of Christ to teach practices of discernment and self-discipline. This research will inform an essay he is writing for a volume edited by Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero, *Church after Corona: Consequences for Worship and Theology*, and Dr. Evener’s own presentation at the upcoming fall 2021 Luther Colloquy on “Lutheran Spirituality.” He reviewed several books in the past academic year, including Lyndal Roper’s *Living I was your Plague: Martin Luther’s World and Legacy for The Christian Century*.

Dr. Crystal L. Hall

The Kraft Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies

Dr. Hall published an article titled “Poverty and Scripture: Reading the Bible with The Poor” in the journal *Call to Worship*, and “Unholy Economics and Environmental Impacts: Reading Revelation’s Great Whore in the Climate Crisis” in the *Journal of Religion and Society*. Dr. Hall was an invited speaker at the Council for World Mission Discernment and Radical Engagement (DARE) Global Forum on “Art and Pandemic” and at the Lenten Detox Series organized by the Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice. She led adult education forums at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Ardmore, PA, and spoke to the Lower Susquehanna Synod on “Women in Ministry in the Early Church.” Dr. Hall currently serves as a member of the policy council of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa) and as the membership secretary of the Association of Teaching Theologians.

Rev. Dr. Mark G. Vitalis Hoffman

The Glatfelter Chair and Professor of Biblical Studies

Dr. Hoffman and his wife, Kathy, moved to Hanover, PA, last summer where she serves as Senior Pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran. Dr. Hoffman led a Lenten Bible study series, “Marked for Life,” on the Gospel of Mark for the congregation. He presented on Paul and early Christianity at the West Virginia-Western Maryland Pastors’ Continuing Education event and has been active in the Network of Biblical Storytellers International. In January 2022, Dr. Hoffman, Dr. Hall and Dr. Carlson will lead a trip to Turkey and Greece focusing on biblical sites. The trip is open to all; please contact Dr. Hoffman for more information.

Dr. Jon Pahl

The Peter Paul and Elizabeth Hagan Chair and Professor of the History of Christianity

Dr. Pahl continues to speak with diverse groups about his book *Fethullah Gulen: A Life of Hizmet*, which has now been

translated into Greek, Arabic and Romanian with plans for Portuguese, German, Spanish and other languages. Over the past six months, he has spoken (by Zoom and webinar) with audiences in Spain, Norway, Denmark, Greece, Great Britain, Belgium and Indonesia as well as multiple venues in the United States. Dr. Pahl resigned as Associate Pastor at Union Congregational United Church of Christ in Green Bay, WI, wrapping up his three years of full-time service on June 1. He’s grateful for the work, will miss the people dearly, and has left behind several legacies that will be ongoing in the congregation. Dr. Pahl is eager to return to full-time research and teaching, including work on two books: *A Coming Religious Peace* will trace the historical emergence and contemporary prospects of interreligious peace-growing in the U.S. and around the globe, and a planned interdisciplinary book, *Brotherhood and Sisterhood*, will explore siblings and sibling-hood in biblical literature, history, secular literature, theology and experience.

Dr. Kyle K. Schiefelbein-Guerrero

The Steck-Miller Assistant Professor of Worship and Liturgy

Dr. Schiefelbein-Guerrero has remained in the San Francisco Bay Area since the beginning of the pandemic, which allowed him to assist St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in their transition to digital worship, serve weekly as lector, preach on occasion and lead various adult education sessions. He has also led adult education sessions and preached for Christ Ascension Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. He presented on the topic of digital/online/hybrid worship in various formats, from leading a workshop for the Sierra Pacific Synod to producing the “Living the Liturgical Year in Pandemic Times” videos on the ULS YouTube channel. Dr. Schiefelbein-Guerrero published “Whether One May Flee from Digital Worship: Reflections on Sacramental Ministry in a Public Health Crisis” in *Dialog: A Journal of Theology*, “Healing Rites for a Post-Pandemic World” in *Cross Accent*, and “Discerning Digital Theology” in *Cursor_ Zeitschrift für Explorative Theologie*. He is also editing a book entitled *Church after the Corona Pandemic: Consequences for Worship and Theology*, which includes contributions from ULS faculty members and global scholars. He also contributed liturgical texts to Sundays and Seasons and commentaries to Working Preacher. Last summer he facilitated ULS’s Theological Education with Adults on the topic “Beyond the Worship Wars: Engaging Lutheran Liturgy in the 21st Century.” Dr. Schiefelbein-Guerrero is leading ULS’s Lilly-sponsored grant project on curriculum and formation assessment. He continues to serve as co-editor of the journal *Teaching Theology & Religion*, as advisory board member of the Global Network for Digital Theology, and as theological/

pedagogical consultant to the Sierra Pacific Synod’s ACTS for Vitality congregational revitalization project. The ULS Board of Trustees renewed Dr. Schiefelbein-Guerrero’s tenure-track faculty contract for an additional three years, and he will return to campus for the fall semester.

Rev. Dr. J. Jayakiran Sebastian

The H. George Anderson Chair and Professor of Mission and Cultures, Dean of the Seminary, and Vice President of Student Services

Dr. Sebastian delivered the 27th M. A. Thomas Memorial Lecture, Ecumenical Christian Centre, Whitefield, India, via Zoom on October 30, 2020, on the theme: “Ecumenism and the Pandemic: Seven Challenges and Seven Opportunities Today.” He contributed the chapter “Christian Mission and Postcolonialism: Re-reading the Bible, the Theology, and the Call” to the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Mission Studies*, and an article “The Promise of a Single Contralto” to a Festschrift honoring his former colleague at the United Theological College, Bengaluru, Dr. Lalrinawmi Ralte, entitled *Quilling our Visions, Weaving our Dreams*, edited by Vinod Victor. He continues his service as a board member and evaluator for the Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise (formerly The John Templeton Award for Theological Promise). He also serves on the International Advisory Board of the Tantar Ecumenical Institute, University of Notre Dame, and as an executive committee member, North American Region, Mission Study 2021–22, of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism.

Rev. Dr. Gilson A. C. Waldkoenig

The Paulssen-Hale-Maurer Chair and Professor of Church in Society and Director of Town and Country Church Institute

Dr. Waldkoenig was appointed director of the Certificate in Ecology and Theology in the Washington Theological Consortium. He wrote a grant to fund an upcoming travel seminar, “Environment and Religion in Northern Appalachia,” which immerses students in the ministry context of western Pennsylvania. Dr. Waldkoenig presented two sessions for the Allegheny Synod on rural and small church ministry; spoke on eco-theology for the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Texas A&M University; and consulted with the Wytheville Virginia Conference of ELCA churches regarding multiple-church ministries.

Alumni News

Rev. Dr. H. Paul Santmire '60 (LTSP) is the author of a new book, *Celebrating Nature by Faith: Studies in Reformation Theology in an Era of Global Emergency (Cascade)*. Dr. Santmire, who helped to write the ELCA 1993 Social Statement, "Caring for Creation," has been a leader in the field of ecological theology and ethics since he published his first book in 1970, *Brother Earth: Nature, God, and Ecology in a Time of Crisis* (Thomas Nelson). In a back-cover endorsement of Dr. Santmire's new book, Rev. Dr. John Hoffmeyer from ULS writes, "No theologian alive in the United States today has contributed more to a Christian theology of nature than Paul Santmire. This book brims with insights gathered and honed over more than a half century of prodding and equipping others to rise to the challenge of a cosmically capacious and materially grounded theology capable of meeting the ecological crisis facing our world today." Dr. Santmire was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 2004.

Dr. Fred Lehr '71 (LTSG) has authored a new book, *Power Currency: How to Grow, Enhance and Stop Squandering Your Personal Power* (Rand-Smith). This is the compilation of 40 years of study and experience. It covers many familiar areas but now applies them to the topic of personal power. Initial reviews are very good. It is available in paperback, Kindle, audiobook and on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble. It is a perfect resource for dealing with all the power struggles in parish ministry — or any ministry.

Rt. Rev. Franklin Brookhart '74 (LTSP) retired as Episcopal Bishop of Montana in 2018. He recently published his fourth book *Washed and Well-Fed: How the Sacraments Change Everything*.

Marjorie Weiss '80 (LTSP) is pleased to announce that her memoir, *Praying on Empty: A Female Pastor's Story* has been awarded a Gold Medal for the Illumination Awards in the category of Inspirational Memoir. These awards "shine a light on the books that enrich and inspire today's Christians in all aspects of their faith." Her book has also been a finalist in the Foreword Indie Awards and the International Book Awards. A book discussion guide is available.

George Minick '85 (LTSG) retired from ordained ministry December 2020.

Rev. Linda Hanus '86 (LTSG) writes, "Cliff (also a pastor and a 1986 Gettysburg Seminary graduate) and I have moved to Payson, AZ, and accepted the call to serve as co-pastors of Mount Cross Lutheran Church."

Father Matthew Hummel '87 (LTSP) has been ordained a Priest of the Roman Catholic Church on June 29, 2020 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Rev. Tim Poston '97 (LTSP) received a new call as the Senior Pastor of St. Philip Lutheran Church in Raleigh, NC, the first church he attended as a child.

Rev. Dr. Wendy Abrahamson '99 (LTSG) graduated from Drew University Theological School with a Doctor of Ministry degree. The title of her project and thesis was *Be Still and Know that I am God: Parish as Spiritual Life Center*.

Rev. Jeffrey Colarossi '08 (LTSG) is currently serving at Westwood First Presbyterian Church. He graduated from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary with Doctor of Ministry degree in May 2020.

Rev. Dr. Linwood Smith '09 (LTSP) published his thesis, *The Role of Clergy in Promoting Health and Wellness*. Information about his recent work and its value in the current world view can be found at thechristianrecorder.com/health-disparities/

Pastor Andrew Chavanak '11 (LTSG) was called to serve as the pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Livonia, MI, beginning June 14, 2021.

Deacon Laura Gorton '12 (LTSP) was ordained as a Minister of Word and Service at Grace Lutheran (St. Paul, MN) on August 30, 2020. Deacon Gorton began her first call as Associate Minister at Christ Lutheran (Belvidere, IL) in the Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA, on September 6, 2020 and will be installed on Reformation Sunday.

Rev. Sarah Hess '20 is currently serving as Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bristol, VA.

Rev. Tyler Graham '20 was called to the office of pastor with the Salisbury Lutheran Parish in the Allegheny Synod, ELCA. The parish consists of: St John's Lutheran (Salisbury, PA), Greenville Evangelical Lutheran (Meyersdale, PA), and Christ Lutheran (Grantsville, MD).

Rev. Joshua Copeland '21 married Emily Copeland on February 12, 2021 and started his first call at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Christiansburg, VA.

In Memory

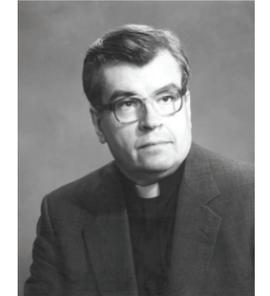
With hope in the power of resurrection, we share news of the death of the following alumni/ae. Rest eternal grant them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

We also mourn the passing of two former presidents: **Rev. John W. Vannorsdall '48 (LTSP)**, who served as President of LTSP from 1986–1990 and **Rev. Dr. Darold H. Beekmann**, who served as President of LTSG from 1990–2000. We are grateful for their service and ministry.

Dr. John B. Ackley '75 (LTSG)
The Rev. Donald K. Adickes '57 (LTSP)
The Rev. David L. Alderfer '71 (LTSP)
The Rev. Guy R. Baer '68 (LTSG)
The Rev. Paul B. Baker '63 (LTSG)
The Rev. Billy J. Banks '94 (LTSP)
The Rev. Robert D. Blackard '72 (LTSG)
The Rev. Sharron R. Blezard '06 (LTSG)
The Rev. Stephen L. Bomgren '72 (LTSP)
The Rev. Richard R. Boyer '55 (LTSP)
The Rev. John A. Buerk '59 (LTSG)
The Rev. Walter D. Carlson '74 (LTSG)
The Rev. A. Bernard Coates '57 (LTSG)
The Rev. Elwood Culp '53 (LTSP)
The Rev. Robert M. Davidson '08 (LTSP)
The Rev. Andrew F. Dougherty III '81 (LTSG)
The Rev. Dr. Roger R. Fischer '91 (LTSG)
The Rev. Dr. Ronald P. Garrett '68 (LTSG)
The Rev. Donald R. Gebert '54 (LTSP)
The Rev. Dr. Richard E. Geib '58 (LTSP)
The Rev. Russell B. Greene Jr. '57 (LTSP)
The Rev. Louisa D. Groce '99 (LTSP)
The Rev. Dr. Donald C. Hagey '63 (LTSP)
The Rev. Donald D. Hake '80 (LTSP)
The Rev. Larry R. Hassler '65 (LTSP)
The Rev. George E. Hein '58 (LTSP)
The Rev. Howard W. Hinkeldey Sr. '48 (LTSG)
The Rev. William M. Horn '70 (LTSP)
The Rev. Henry A. Ireland '64 (LTSP)
The Rev. Luther E. Johnson '72 (LTSP)
The Rev. Dr. Martin Kessler '94 (LTSG)
The Rev. William C. Knotts '02 (LTSG)
The Rev. John F. Lose '56 (LTSP)
The Rev. Harry G. McComas IV '98 (LTSG)
The Rev. Kenneth T. Michnay '66 (LTSP)
The Rev. Vernon J. Miller '53 (LTSG)
The Rev. Walter Williard Miller, Jr. '57 (LTSP)
The Rev. Charles F. Miller Jr. '64 (LTSP)
The Rev. Dr. Sadie S. Mitchell '90 (LTSP)
The Rev. Scott D. Nessel '98 (LTSP)



Rev. John W. Vannorsdall



Rev. Dr. Darold H. Beekmann

The Rev. Robert Newpher '73 (LTSP)
The Rev. J. William Novak '67 (LTSG)
The Rev. Dr. Philip H. Pfatteicher '60 (LTSP)
The Rev. Timothy A. Roser '84 (LTSG)
The Rev. William A. Rush III '80 (LTSG)
The Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Ruths '47 (LTSG)
The Rev. Karen B. Safstrom '05 (LTSP)
The Rev. Stephen J. Schulz '60 (LTSG)
The Rev. Michele M. R. Smith '98 (LTSP)
The Rev. William R. Snyder '54 (LTSG)
The Rev. George F. Spieker '57 (LTSP)
The Rev. Paull E. Spring '64 (LTSG)
The Rev. Richard B. Starr '62 (LTSP)
The Rev. Andrew J. Stauffer '65 (LTSP)
The Rev. Arthur R. Stees Jr. '58 (LTSG)
The Rev. Charles L. Stetler '70 (LTSG)
The Rev. Albert W. Stott Jr. '63 (LTSP)
The Rev. Daniel M. Strobel '78 (LTSG)
The Rev. Vaughn E. Taylor '65 (LTSP)
The Rev. Donald R. Thomas '72 (LTSP)
The Rev. William A. Vanderslice '83 (LTSP)
The Rev. Theodore W. Warren '54 (LTSP)
The Rev. Klaus W. Wehrmeister '58 (LTSP)
The Rev. Howard A. Weidemoyer '53 (LTSP)
The Rev. William H. Weiser '86 (LTSG)
Mr. Keith E. Wilbur '80 (LTSP)
The Rev. Phyllis J. Wolford '95 (LTSP)
The Rev. Richard S. Zuber '87 (LTSG)

(List as of August 8, 2021)