



ULS FACULTY NEWS as of May 2021

Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero

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. KSG 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 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." This summer he will co-host the annual conference of the Global Network for Digital Theology and will present a paper entitled "The Environs of Digital Church: How Art and Space Form Community in Online Liturgical Events" at Societas Liturgica. Dr. KSG will lead ULS's [Lilly-sponsored grant project](#) on curriculum and formation assessment. He continues to serve as co-editor of the journal [Teaching Theology & Religion](#) and as theological/pedagogical consultant to the Sierra Pacific Synod's [ACTS for Vitality](#) congregational revitalization project. The Board of Trustees renewed Dr. Schiefelbein-Guerrero's tenure-track faculty contract, and he will return to campus for the fall semester.

Dr. Crystal Hall

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 the Center and Library for the Bible and

Social Justice's Lenten Detox Series. She led adult education forums at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ardmoores, PA and spoke for 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. Gilson Waldkoenig

*Paulssen-Hale-Maurer Professor of Church in Society
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.

Rev. Dr. J. Jayakiran Sebastian

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

Dr. Sebastian delivered the [27th M. A. Thomas Memorial Lecture](#), Ecumenical Christian Centre, Whitefield, India, via Zoom on October 30th, 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 *Oxford Handbook of Mission Studies* (forthcoming, 2021), 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*, ed. Vinod Victor (ISPCK, 2021). 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. 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 also presented two papers at the virtual annual meetings of two scholarly societies: the first to the Society of Biblical literature, "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 meetings at the Louisville Institute as an invited fellow. In the fall, 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 offered the “attended three virtual Preaching Perspectives” workshop at the 2021 ULS Spring Convocation. Throughout this season, Dr. Carlson has continued serving as Priest Associate at the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul in Boston (Episcopal). Dr. Carlson and his family plan to move to the Philadelphia area in the fall of 2021. In May, the ULS Board of Trustees voted to extend Dr. Carlson’s contract as Assistant Professor on the tenure track by three years.

Dr. Vincent Enever

Assistant Professor of Reformation and Luther Studies

Dr. Enever’s book, *Enemies of the Cross: Suffering, Truth, and Mysticism in the Early Reformation* was published by Oxford University Press in Jan. 2021. In the Fall of 2020, Dr. Enever 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. Enever 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 Shiefelbein-Guerrero, *Church after Corona: Consequences for Worship and Theology*, and Dr. Enever’s own presentation at the upcoming Fall 2021 Luther Colloquy on “Lutheran Spirituality.” He reviewed several books in Academic Year 2020-21, including Lyndal Roper’s *Living I was your Plague: Martin Luther’s World and Legacy for Christian Century* (May 19, 2021 issue).

Rev. Dr. Mark G. Vitalis Hoffman

Gladfelter 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 organization. In January 2022, he will co-lead a trip with Drs. Hall and Carlson to Turkey and Greece focusing on biblical sites. The trip is open to anyone, and he can provide more information.

Dr. Jon Pahl

Peter Paul and Elizabeth Hagan Professor of the History of Christianity

Dr. Pahl continues to speak with diverse groups about his biography of [Fethullah Gulen: A Life of Hizmet](#), which has now been translated into Greek, Arabic, and Romanian--with plans for Portuguese, German, Spanish and others underway. Over the past six months, he has spoken (by Zoom and webinar) with audiences in Spain, Norway, Denmark, Greece, Great Britain, Belgium, Indonesia, and multiple venues in the U.S. Dr. Pahl resigned from his position as Associate Pastor at Union Congregational United Church of Christ in Green Bay, wrapping up his

three+ years of full-time service there 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-- notably [The Brain Center of Green Bay](#), Union's excellent Jazz Ministry, and a year-long congregational-wide study in Adult Education of anti-racism, including guest-speakers such as former ULS faculty colleague Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney, author of [Womanist Midrash](#), and Dr. Pahl's former student and TA, Rev. Lenny Duncan, author of [Dear Church](#). Dr. Pahl is eager to return to full-time research and teaching--including work on his book *A Coming Religious Peace*--tracing the historical emergence and contemporary prospects of interreligious peace-growing in the U.S. and around the globe, and a planned interdisciplinary book on *Brotherhood and Sisterhood* that will explore siblings and siblinghood in Biblical literature, history, secular literature, theology, and experience. He continues to enjoy living in Wisconsin on a lake with woods, and with his wife, Lisa, near his parents and siblings, son Nathan (Kate) and grandsons Jaxon and Kyle, cousins, nieces and nephews, and a menagerie of 25 African Cichlids, dog Theo, and cats Izzy and Layla.