

THE ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# HERALD

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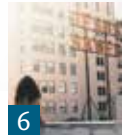
*Celebrating the*  
**TENNENTS**



THE ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# HERALD

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# Pure Joy

## *Celebrating President Timothy C. Tennent*

Debra McKenna Blews, J.D., L.L.M.  
Board of Trustees



*F*or the past fifteen years, Asbury Theological Seminary has been a deeply important part of my volunteer service to institutions that further the critical mission of educating students in scriptural holiness, biblical truth, and the integration of faith and learning. And what a tremendous honor it has been to serve congruently, as a trustee, with President Timothy C. Tennent who exemplifies in leadership and personal holiness this missional foundation of Asbury Theological Seminary! As a board member during these years, I have witnessed Dr. Tennent's superb leadership; he has led with courage, care, intelligence, laser-focus on the mission, boundless energy, sacrificial humility, and unwavering faith. With eyes and heart set firmly on the Lord, Dr. Tennent reflects, through his presidential leadership, God's provision flowing through him to the institution in miraculous ways.

During board meetings, our president and leader would report on the state of the seminary; his administrators, then, would report on the activities of each functional area. These comprehensive reports included difficult decisions made, joyous gifts given, challenges faced, and accomplishments to be praised. Although this may sound like business as usual, that was never the case. Even considering challenges faced, the Lord's institutional blessings rose above all else. We rejoiced often in the Lord's gift offerings poured out through Dr. Tennent's work and commitment; we encouraged and supported him in the difficult and complex role of the presidency; we knew that we had entered the Lord's work for a unique time. In fact, during Dr. Tennent's presidency, the Holy Spirit was so evident in the meetings that prayers, praises, and song would break out spontaneously. Bishop Sundo Kim, a highly respected board member, was often moved to prayer in his native Korean language. Under the guidance and direction of Dr. Tennent's faith-based leadership, the Lord drew uniquely near for a holy season of enrichment and purpose.

On the board, lives were changed and deep friendships built. Many former board members who are not alumni have testimonies of how Asbury Seminary came into their lives and changed them and their families in holiness. Dr. Tennent's steadfast adherence to the mission resulted in transformative relationships with donors who blessed the institution with gifts beyond measure. Under Dr. Tennent's leadership, an army of graduates is located around the world, planting churches and spreading the gospel. Seedbed was formed, financial stability achieved, enrollment soared, residences built, global partnerships strengthened, Asbury Global birthed, accreditation renewed, and strategic plans accomplished. Students in new housing built around community pray together, join Bible study groups, sit at meals together, meet at the playgrounds with their children, and support one another in love.

As for me, I consider it pure joy to have served Asbury Seminary during Dr. Tennent's tenure as president. When he and his wife, Julie, answered the Lord's call to Asbury Theological Seminary, they were anointed to serve, transform, and expand the Asbury community through leadership, hospitality, grace, and commitment. As we thank God for the past and trust Him for the future, Dr. Tennent and Julie are God's evidence of that holy thankfulness and abiding trust.



**S**EMINARY PRESIDENTS USUALLY COME TO OFFICE with identification as a scholar, a pastor, an evangelist or a missionary. Add then the lofty expectations for the president to see the vision, state the mission and set the tone for the seminary he or she leads. At the same, the seminary president must live with the base-line realities of managing people, overseeing programs, balancing budgets, and raising funds. But, when the bottom line is drawn, none of these qualities of leadership count without the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit who keeps His servant gracious and humble.

With the confidence of a person who has been a college, university and seminary president, I can say that Timothy Tennent has shown us how to live out these challenging expectations during the past fifteen years of his tenure at Asbury Theological Seminary. Not that he would claim perfection in performance. No seminary president serves without some suffering or retires without some regret. But again, as an attentive observer of President Tennent's responses to the tough times, I see only the evidence of grace revealed and humility shown. Every seminarian, past, present and future, finds in him our example.

From the baseline of spiritual depth, we quickly rise to see how Timothy Tennent has achieved goals of mission and ministry far beyond human expectations. Starting on the campus, his communion with Christ and his articulation of our Wesleyan Holiness heritage have set both text and tone for the whole community. Go then with him to churches and homes making up the Asbury constituency in North America. While first loving to preach the Word, his spirit also attracted prospective students and friends of the Seminary who followed with their funds.

How else can we explain record enrollments and history-making endowments?

Of course, Timothy Tennent does not stand alone on the peak of his achievements. Again, I claim the proof of personal experience when I pay tribute to Julie, Timothy's wife, mother of his children, and companion in ministry. It is not easy to be a seminary president's wife. Critics in a seminary can be harsh, and at those times, the job can be lonely. In such moments, the spouse may well be the lone confidant in whom the president can trust. The spouse may also be the rudder that keeps the presidential ship on course. Without a doubt, Julie has fulfilled that role for Timothy. She, along with their children, Jonathan and Bethany, exemplify what it means to love and be loved.

If, then, we get to the center of Timothy Tennent's heart, we will feel a stretch that wraps up the whole world in its grasp. If he were asked how he wants to be remembered, I am quite sure that he would answer, "A servant with the mind of Christ and a heart for the world." This is the man we know, love and honor, as he retires from the presidency and returns to the classroom. His legacy will reverberate through every aspect of Asbury Theological Seminary for generations to come.



**Dr. David L. McKenna**  
*Former Asbury Seminary President*  
1982-1994

**I am so grateful for the years** Dr. Tennent has served Asbury Seminary. He has been a great model for what it means to lead an academic institution in a pastoral way, and that's unique. A seminary is a servant of the church, and as a servant of the church it needs to demonstrate in its own community what church is all about.

I think of Dr. Tennent as a world Christian. He's an accomplished academician but also one who has witnessed to, and shown a real compassion, for the world, taking the Great Commission seriously.

As you look at the leadership of Asbury Seminary, it has always had a stellar emphasis on academics. But the pastoral dimension has never been missing in the leaders that have come to direct the future of the school. It thrills me when I think that Dr. Tennent was once a pastor in the mountain churches of North Georgia and then a leading classroom professor, climaxing that with the leadership of one of the great theological schools of the nation.

As we think of Dr. Tennent finishing his tenure as president, we must not put a period there. I believe he will continue his leadership in shaping at least a portion of the Church in a way that will incarnate the Great Commission. I'm grateful to have been in the same line of leadership with him.



**Dr. Maxie D. Dunnam**  
*Former Asbury Seminary President*  
1994-2004

**W**HEN I READ THE PRESS RELEASE that Dr. Timothy C. Tennent was stepping down as president of Asbury Theological Seminary at the end of the academic year, my first instinct was to pray.

I prayed for Dr. Tennent, his wife, Julie, and all who love them. They have devoted themselves to the Kingdom’s work at Asbury for the last 15 years. Their personal and professional lives have often been subsumed by the role and function of the presidency. I pray for them as they enter a time of change. May God bless Dr. Tennent and Julie, as they step into their next season of faithfulness and fruitfulness.

As I prayed, I gave thanks for Dr. Tennent’s stellar leadership to my alma mater for the last 15 years. Others in this edition of the Herald will no doubt cite and celebrate the achievements of his tenure. As a former president, I write from a fairly different perspective about the remarkable ways in which God has used his leadership. He has ably built upon the foundation of all who have preceded him in this role. Our seminary is in an enviable position as it enters its second century.

I thanked God for Dr. Tennent’s ability to articulate Asbury’s theological distinctives to the Seminary and its various constituencies in a compelling and attractive way. As a pastor and scholar, he brought depth and clarity to the theological conversations swirling in our Wesleyan tradition. His ability to communicate in the written and spoken word has been invaluable in sharing what makes Asbury great in winsome and articulate ways.

I thanked God for his ability to raise significant resources for the mission of the Seminary which will secure its stability well into the future. Dr. Tennent’s legacy will be remembered for the highly successful Hundredfold Campaign. I know it takes a team, and the Office of Seminary Advancement is to be commended, but as the voice and face of the institution, Dr. Tennent helped to communicate how important and strategic Asbury is to the future of theological education in the Wesleyan world. The results were miraculous.

I thanked God for his ability to cast vision and move

Asbury forward. When I was president, I recited Asbury’s historic mission to myself each morning when driving to the office: “To prepare and send forth a well-trained, sanctified, Spirit-filled ministry (of men and women) to spread scriptural holiness across the land.” Under Dr. Tennent’s leadership, the mission statement was updated and re-stated for the present age: “To prepare theologically educated, sanctified, Spirit-filled men and women to evangelize and to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world.” It’s the same mission—reset for a second century.

I thanked God for his leadership in strengthening the academic programs and other ministries that develop the mind, heart, and soul of our students. While what Asbury does in the classroom is what we are known for, it’s the contributions Asbury graduates make to the work of the Kingdom that make her significant. I’m grateful for the depth and caliber of the graduates I’ve encountered who graduated under Dr. Tennent’s leadership.

I prayed for Asbury’s future. Each president—Henry Clay Morrison, J.C. McPheeters, Frank Bateman Stanger, David L. McKenna, Maxie Dunnam, Jeffrey E. Greenway, J. Ellsworth Kalas and now, Timothy C. Tennent has borne the responsibility of guarding her mission. And like a potter leaves his mark while fashioning clay, each president has left his thumbprint on the institution we all love. It will now be someone else’s opportunity to add their thumbprint to the Kingdom work accomplished through Asbury.

A time of a change in leadership is a time of uncertainty. We all realize that Asbury Theological Seminary is more important than any one person. I thank God for the leadership of Dr. Tennent at Asbury and am already praying for the one who will sit in the president’s chair and bear the weighty responsibility of guarding Asbury’s mission into our second century.

**Dr. Jeffrey E. Greenway**  
Former Asbury Seminary President  
2004-2006



**WATCH A TRIBUTE TO  
DR. AND MRS. TENNENT  
AT [ASBURY.TO/TENNENTS](http://ASBURY.TO/TENNENTS)**





# The Uniqueness of Christianity

by Dr. Timothy C. Tennent

In today's pluralistic world, it is not uncommon to hear that Christianity is just one religion among many in the world and therefore we represent just one of many different paths to God. This position is known as "pluralism." However, the church throughout history has rejected this position. Why? There are many reasons, but I will highlight three of them.

**First, we believe in revelation.** This means that we believe that God has self-disclosed his purposes and his redemptive plans. This has happened in three main ways. First, creation itself (both the outer created order and our own inner conscience) has revealed that God exists and that He is the creator of all that exists (see Psalm 19:1-6; Rom. 2:15; Heb. 11:3). This may not separate us from



*If Jesus had not died on the cross, we would not have the forgiveness of sins (2 Cor. 5:21). This alone separates us from all the other religions.*

Judaism or Islam, but it clearly sets us apart from non-theistic religions or movements like Buddhism or atheistic secular humanism. There is much that we cannot know through creation, but we can know that God exists and we also know, through our consciences, that there is a moral order to the universe. Second, we believe that the Bible represents an infallible, written record of God's redemptive purposes (2 Tim. 3:16). The Bible contains 66 books, but, from the big perspective, it is really a remarkable, grand story of redemption which is beautiful and coherent. It is in the Bible that we learn the unique role of Jesus Christ, as the incarnation of the second person of the Trinity who lived, died and rose for our redemption (Rom. 5:8; I Cor. 15:17). Third, we believe that Jesus Christ is the greatest expression of God's self-disclosure since the incarnation is the story of God "in the flesh" teaching and showing us the way to God. If Jesus had not died on the cross, we would not have the forgiveness of sins (2 Cor. 5:21). This alone separates us from all the other religions since no other religion has fully grasped the true dignity and distinctiveness of the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, the ultimate example of God's self-revelation.

**Second, we believe in history.** Christianity is rooted in real acts of God in history. This is important since Christianity is not merely a collection of morals, commandments, or fascinating stories. We do not worship a Christ of faith which has been dislocated from the Jesus of history. The Christian faith is rooted in historical events - acts of God in real history. This is about a first-century Jew named Jesus who truly suffered, was crucified and buried and bodily rose again. When we recite the Apostles' Creed we may wonder why it included the phrase, "he suffered under Pontius Pilate." But, this is a crucial phrase which reminds us that the great redemptive events associated with Jesus Christ happened at a particular juncture in human history. To separate the life of the church in any way from the historic Jesus Christ as proclaimed

by the Apostles - incarnate, crucified and bodily risen - is to miss the importance of events which took place in real time and in real places. The important point to realize is that once we recognize that Christianity is rooted in history, not merely disconnected religious ideas, then it is inherently unique because history involves a range of specific unrepeatable acts of God who has revealed himself, and accomplished great redemptive acts in real history for the whole world.

**Third, we believe in the universality of the gospel.** We believe that the gospel is for all people in all time. In the early phases of Jesus' revelation of himself, his followers assumed that he was merely coming to fulfill Jewish hopes and Jewish messianic expectations. But, gradually they realized that Jesus had come for the entire world. This is why Martin Luther called John 3:16 the "gospel in miniature": "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." His death and resurrection were not simply to secure Jewish hopes, but to offer salvation to the entire world (Titus 2:11; Acts 17:30).

In short, we have a universal gospel, rooted in real history, and revealed by God Himself. This is why we must proclaim this good news to every person on earth (Mark 16:15, 16). It is in the light of the resurrection that the early disciples proclaimed on the Day of Pentecost: "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). This is a powerful statement of the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. God reveals it. History attests to it. Scripture proclaims it. So, let us rejoice that we have been summoned into this great mystery, and let us never forget the uniqueness of Jesus Christ and the privilege which is ours to bring this good news to the ends of the earth. This alone is why Asbury's founders had the audacity to enshrine as our founding motto, "the Whole Bible for the Whole World."



# Julie Tennent

## Serving through Music

### **“I LOVE THE INTERSECTION OF MUSIC AND THEOLOGY,”**

says Julie Tennent. The intersection she refers to is the hymn. According to Julie, a hymn is a text that is crafted, in a poetic way, with rhythm and meter and rhyme. The meter must then match a tune. “I’ve always enjoyed trying to put theological truth and biblical truth into metered form so that it can be sung,” she says.

Julie has put her passion to work by contributing to two new hymnals and a metrical Psalter.

### **The Asbury Hymnal**

Estes Chapel renovations began in 2017, and an idea was born. Instead of placing the old United Methodist hymnals back into freshly restored pews, why not place new hymnals representing the multi-denomina-

tional nature of Asbury Seminary? And so a hymnal representing a core collection of essential hymns was created.

Looking over a 2,000-year history, Julie and the team selected 275 hymns, both classical and contemporary. “We were trying to choose theologically rich, grounded hymns that we felt like the student body should be exposed to before they graduate,” says Julie.

*The Asbury Hymnal*, published by Seedbed in 2018, was completed in time for the rededication of the renovated Estes Chapel on May 8, 2018.

### **Our Great Redeemer’s Praise**

*The Asbury Hymnal* served as the core of another great hymnal project – *Our Great Redeemer’s Praise*. This

pan-Wesleyan hymnal, a lifelong dream of Seedbed publisher Andy Miller, contains 675 hymns – those from *The Asbury Hymnal* as well as hundreds of distinctive hymns provided by each denomination that sprang from the Wesleyan revivals, including many recovered hymns of Charles Wesley.

As for how to organize these several hundred hymns, Julie and the team had a unique idea: the Apostles’ Creed. “The Apostles’ Creed is the common confession that all of these traditions share,” says Julie. “And so we decided to use it as our means of placing all the hymns where they would fall throughout the creed.”

Committee meetings for this hymnal began right before covid hit, moving the 12 articles of the Apostles’ Creed and hundreds of hymns to Julie and Tim’s dining room table



at Rose Hill. As managing editor of the hymnal, Julie put the hymns into their proper categories and, before publication, provided proofreading for both texts and musical notations.

*Our Great Redeemer's Praise*, published by Seedbed in 2022, also includes liturgies, benedictions, prayers, responsive readings, and a selection of metrical Psalms. The timing was providential; as the Global Methodist Church launched, many churches had their new pan-Wesleyan hymnals in hand.

## A Metrical Psalter

"The Psalms have always been the core of Christian worship from the very beginning," says Julie. For years, she and Tim began each day singing a metrical Psalm, which led to discussion and prayer based on what they had sung.

A metrical Psalm is the words of a Psalm put into meter and rhyme, in order to be sung to the tune of a hymn. The words are arranged to fit a rhythmic and rhyming pattern while remaining as close as possible to the original text.

Before the Reformation, Psalms were chanted in Latin. Then the reformers put them in their own languages to meter and rhyme to be sung as hymns. "So each of the branches of the Reformation produced a metrical Psalter," says Julie. Yet the old English can make for an awkward singing experience. "We were constantly smoothing them out, making them flow better, using more updated language," says Julie. "So we thought, 'Why don't we just create our own?'"

While putting all 150 Psalms into meter and rhyme, Tim and Julie worked to stay true to the text. Tim would sometimes consult the Hebrew,

and Julie would often sit with several different Bible translations.

Published by Seedbed in 2017, *A Metrical Psalter* contains the words of each metrical Psalm with several recommended tunes that will fit its meter. *A Meditative Journey Through the Psalms*, its companion book, reflects the conversations and theological reflections born out of Tim and Julie's singing and devotional time.



## The Seminary Singers

Julie has been most visible at Asbury Seminary as the piano accompanist for the Seminary Singers. During a long gap between choir directors, Julie stepped in and tried to help. "I just didn't want it to die because I love what the choir offers to the community," she says.

On a Tennent Tour to Trinity on the Hill UMC in Augusta, GA, Julie met choir director Danny Key, and his wife Kris, a pastoral staff member. "I was just so blessed by their work there at Trinity as I got to know them a little bit that weekend," she says.

Danny and Kris received a card

from Julie the day before they planned to look at houses in Athens, GA, in order to retire. Julie's card invited Danny to consider coming to Asbury to direct the Seminary Singers.

"It just rocked our world. We thought we had all our plans in place. And all of a sudden everything was just turned upside down," Danny said to Julie.

Instead of driving to Athens to look at houses, Danny and Kris came to Asbury Seminary to talk with Dr. Tennent and ultimately accepted the choir director role. Danny plans and directs music for chapel services and the annual Advent Vespers service, Tenebrae service, and baccalaureate, and he even formed a weekly kids choir for the kids in Kalas Village.

"Danny has brought the expertise of being a fantastic director, and Kris is like a pastor to the choir," says Julie. "Kris and Danny together have nurtured this amazing sense of community where the choir members just feel like they belong to each other."

Julie has loved the role of accompanying the choir and has been blessed by the privilege of offering her love of music, theology and worship to the community at Asbury Seminary throughout these years.



Get your own copy of *A Metrical Psalter* from the Seedbed store at [seedbed.com](https://seedbed.com)



# GLOBAL IMPACT

## *Dr. Tennent Visits Australia with Alumnus Rob Lim*

*“Asbury Seminary’s vision statement, ‘The Whole Bible for the Whole World,’ is a very large, very audacious goal,” says Rob Lim, Asbury Seminary alumnus and Professor of Business at Asbury University. According to Rob, “the whole world” includes his home country of Australia, a place people often associate with “the ends of the earth,” being as it is on the other side of the world from North America. Rob, therefore, considered it an enormous privilege to bring Dr. Tennent to Australia last summer, 2023.*

“When we went down there, the whole purpose of that trip was to expose him to Australia and to the vital need of the gospel in that region,” says Rob. Dr. Tennent and Rob together visited a number of educational institutions, seminaries and churches within the Wesleyan tradition in Australia. “It was just evidence once more of how Asbury Seminary’s vision statement really is for something beyond North America,” says Rob, who believes that the need in Australia for the Wesleyan tradition of sanctification is paramount.

Asbury Seminary is helping fill this need. On July 17, Rob was blessed to be present when, on

behalf of the Seminary, Dr. Tennent signed an MOU with the Logos Academy of Ministry and Mission (LAMM) in Malvern East, Victoria, Australia. Asbury Seminary and LAMM will collaborate to provide theological training to both clergy and lay members of local churches through the Certificate in Theology and Spiritual Formation.

Dr. Tennent and Rob also traveled through Southeast Asia visiting Singapore and Thailand



*Dr. Tennent signing the MOU with the Logos Academy of Ministry and Mission*

“

*When we went down there, the whole purpose of that trip was to expose him [Dr. Tennent] to Australia and to the vital need of the gospel in that region.*



*Dr. Tennent at dinner with Rob Lim (right) in Sydney, Australia*

and speaking at conferences. Recalling that two of the five first graduates of Asbury Seminary were international students from Asia, Rob says, “Dr. Tennent being able to travel to Asia on the 100th anniversary of the Seminary, and see the fruits of Asbury Seminary’s mission come to life in that region, was just an absolute privilege.”

According to Rob, Singapore is currently one of the economic and cultural hubs of the world and a melting pot of different ethnicities. Though many people in Singapore speak Mandarin and Tamil, the main language there is English. Something else Rob finds extraordinary about Singapore is that the largest evangelical denomination there are the Methodists.

“As Asbury Seminary students and alumni, I think we have an obligation to continue to remind ourselves that scriptural holiness does exist in other regions,” says Rob. As Dr. Tennent and Rob traveled through Asia and spoke and listened to institutions and churches, they learned about the needs in these regions for theological resources in different languages, for church planting networks, and for theological ed-



To learn more about the partnership with Logos Academy of Ministry and Mission, visit [asbury.to/LAMM](http://asbury.to/LAMM)

ucation. Rob also found it neat to witness a new generation rising. “Testimonies about the Asbury Outpouring stirred the hearts of this new generation even in Thailand,” he says.

Speaking of the Outpouring, Rob says, “I really believe what God was releasing at that time was a reminder of not only His holiness, but His call for us to be holy as He is holy. Not in a moralistic way to follow rules, but in a way that brings us joy, that brings us flourishing, that brings us fulfillment and contentment, because we are like the Lord.”

It is this holiness that Asbury Seminary wants to see flourish around the globe.

The Asbury Outpouring, as well as Asbury Seminary’s mission of “The Whole Bible for the Whole World,” reminds

Rob of Revelation 7:9, the vision of every nation, tribe, people and language standing before the throne and before the Lamb, declaring that salvation belongs to our God. Rob’s travels with Dr. Tennent in Australia, Thailand and Singapore no doubt helped bring Asbury Seminary’s mission “to the ends of the earth.”



## SHIVRAJ MAHENDRA

*Professor, Translator and Writer*

*Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies, Asbury Seminary, 2020*

ASBURY SEMINARY

VOICES

### THE RESURRECTION AND LIFE

When the Lord Jesus appeared to Shivraj in a vision, he was a senior in high school. At that time, he was practicing witchcraft and leading the famous Ganesh festival, which was marked by idol worship and the celebration of the elephant-headed deity Ganesha.

In the midst of his Hindu practices, though, Shivraj was frustrated due to lack of peace. “I had tried everything. I was actually looking for the source of life, the promise for life. I was scared of death, and I wanted to meet someone who has actually defeated death and has come back to life.”

Shivraj had heard about Jesus in his childhood, and, because of his fear of death and finding no comfort in his religion, he wanted Jesus to appear to him. “I said, ‘Lord, if You’re real, and if You have come back to life, appear to me and talk to me. I’m going to fast and pray until you appear to me.’”

His third day of fasting happened to be Easter Sunday and, early that morning, Jesus did appear to Shivraj in what he describes as a very dramatic moment. In a vision, Shivraj found himself on the mountaintop of the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was arrested. Jesus appeared

to Shivraj in a light so bright that he couldn’t really look at it. A clear voice came out from the human-shaped light and said, “I am the resurrection and life. If you believe in me, you’ll never die. And even if you die, you will live again.”

Shivraj heard Jesus speak these words from John 11:25-26 in his own language, even though he did not have a Bible and had never heard them before. He would not discover these verses until about a year later, while taking a New Testament course.

This experience transformed Shivraj completely. His fear of death was gone, and he was filled with the joy of eternal life. He decided to follow Jesus.

### CHRISTIANITY AT THE RELIGIOUS ROUNDTABLE

A year after Shivraj’s vision of Jesus, the Lord showed him where to study - New Theological College in Dehra Dun. Anita came to work as a secretary to the principal at the same school. Anita and Shivraj got married and became a family. “We really praise God that we are together serving the Lord in this country,” Anita says.

Shivraj worked toward his Bachelor of Theology with



the sense that his primary calling was to teach God's people. "And along with that, I got the burden to translate Christian theological books into Hindi to meet a great need in the north Indian mission," he says. The first person to offer Shivraj translation work was the President of Asbury Seminary – Dr. Timothy C. Tennent, who has been associated with NTC since its beginning.

When Shivraj graduated, he began teaching, translating, and writing. His first translation from English to Hindi was Dr. Tennent's book, *Christianity at the Religious Round-*

*table: Evangelicalism in Conversation with Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam.* It was 2002, and as Shivraj translated, taught and wrote, he and Anita were engaged in preaching and encouraging the pastors in the town and nearby villages. They also produced a Hindi gospel program for radio that was broadcast for two years on a famous platform called FEBA Radio.

Read the full story of Shivraj and Anita's service to the Lord in India, their seven years in Kentucky, and their future plans at [asbury.to/voices](https://asbury.to/voices).

# ATTEMPT SOMETHING BIG

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**VOICES**

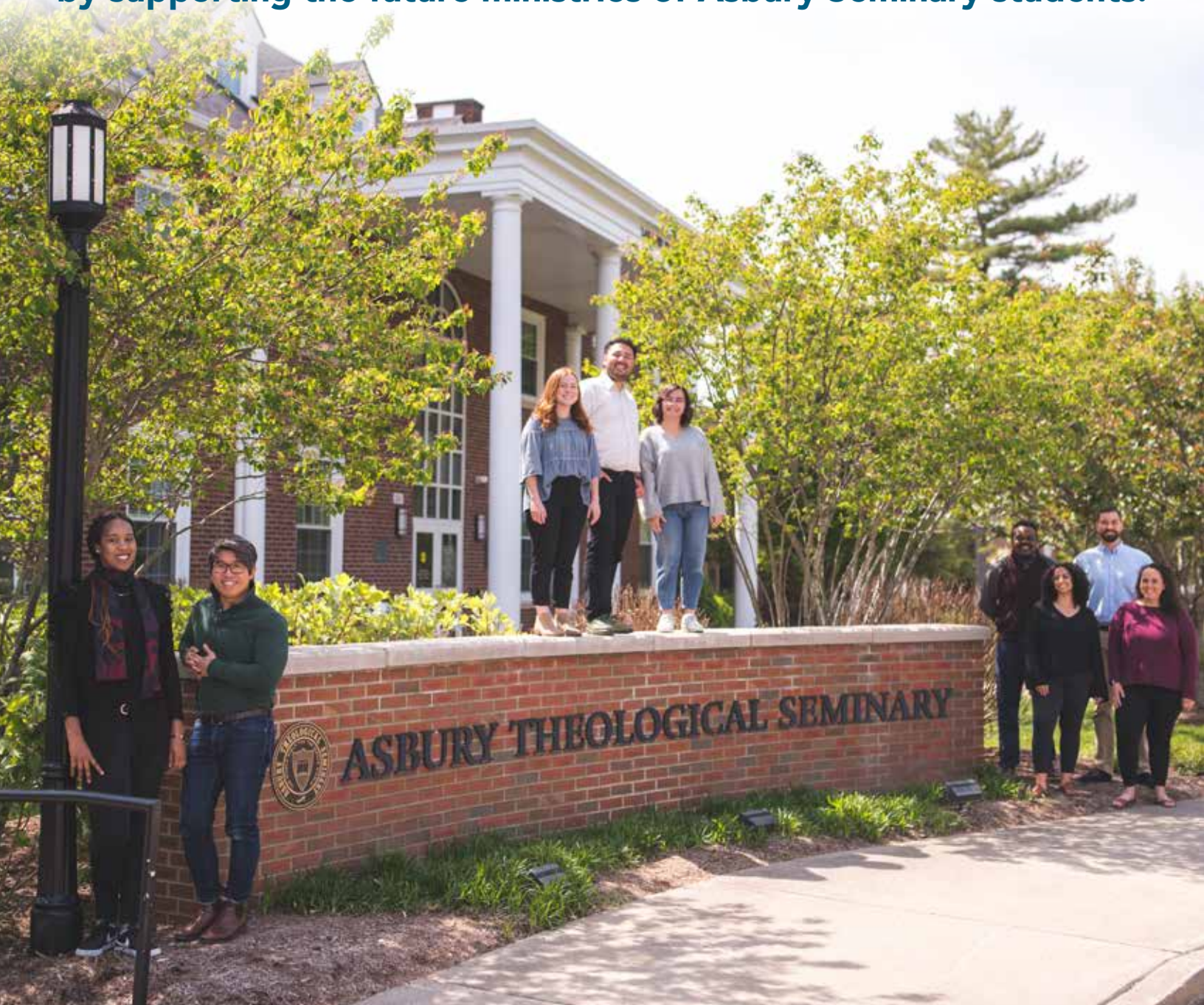
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Visit [asbury.to/TTGive](https://asbury.to/TTGive) to honor Dr. Tennent's leadership by supporting the future ministries of Asbury Seminary students.



**TOGETHER**, we are carrying God's love to the world.

# WESLEY FUND

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# A Prayer for the Tennents



by Karen E. Thomas,  
Board of Trustees Chair

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

*His love endures forever.*

Give thanks to the God of gods.

*His love endures forever.*

Gives thanks to the Lord of lords.

*His love endures forever.*

To Him who called the Tennents to Asbury,

*His love endures forever.*

To Him who empowered their stand for orthodoxy,

*His love endures forever.*

To Him who blessed Dr. Tennent with a gift to “build,”

*His love endures forever.*

For Tim’s unwavering passion for the nations,

*His love endures forever.*

For Julie’s ability to integrate music and theology,

*His love endures forever.*

For Tim’s prolific preaching and writing,

*His love endures forever.*

Who sustained them

through a million travel miles,

*His love endures forever.*

through countless challenges,

*His love endures forever.*

through strategic solutions,

*His love endures forever.*

By a residential renaissance,

*His love endures forever.*

By global partnerships,

*His love endures forever.*

By a comprehensive campaign,

*His love endures forever.*

To Him who did immeasurably more  
than we could ask or imagine,

*His love endures forever.*

To Him who orders our steps,

*His love endures forever.*

To Him who is faithful and true,

*His love endures forever.*

Give thanks to the God of heaven.

*His love endures forever.*



# For Such a Time as This



**2009**

- Dr. Timothy C. Tennent becomes the eighth president of Asbury Seminary
- Construction begins on the Kalas Family Housing Units (150 townhomes)
- The Seminary rolls out the Church Planting Initiative to raise up one thousand church planters by 2023



**2010**

- Asbury Seminary rolls out the 2023 Strategic Plan to prepare the Seminary for the next 100 years
- Florida Dunnam Campus mortgage note burned



**2012**

- Sundo Kim and Bettie Morrison Halls (Galloway Village) are opened for single students
- Larabee Morris Hall Renovation Completed
- Seedbed is launched



**2017**

- Extension sites begin with the Memphis site



**2018**

- May 8, 2018: Estes Chapel is renovated and officially rededicated after months of construction.



**2019-20**

- The Colorado Springs and Tulsa extension sites open
- Asbury Seminary achieved triple crown goal of highest number of new fall students (513), largest number of hours sold in our history (10,793), and highest student headcount in our history (1,806)



# Celebrating a 15 Year Legacy



**2013**

- Asbury Seminary 90th Birthday Celebration
- Garden of the Nations (Community Garden) opens



**2014**

- Jessica LaGrone is named the first female dean of the chapel of the Wilmore campus
- First annual New Room Conference event is held in conjunction with Seedbed and Asbury Seminary
- Community House at Kalas Village Opens



**2015**

- Hundredfold Campaign is launched
- Asbury Seminary Global Partnerships begin, now include OMS, Langham Partnership USA, and several others



**2021**

- Dedication of Van Tatenhove Center for Counseling
- Asbury Seminary meets its goal of training 1000 church planters



**2022**

- Asbury Seminary Global launched, new extension sites in Tampa and Orlando
- Dedication of the Global Alumni Center
- Sept. 8: The Board of Trustees certified the successful completion of the Hundredfold campaign, surpassing the 100 million dollar goal with a total of \$155,026,070 and that all 23 goals of the Strategic Plan had been met



**2023**

- Asbury Seminary celebrated its centennial with the theme: Thanking God for the Past, Trusting God for the Future



## FROM THE ARCHIVES:

### Dr. Tennent's First Herald Letter

Spring 2010

Dear Friends,

I'm being watched! That was the powerful refrain that rang repeatedly in my ears as Dr. Barry Corey, President of Biola University, delivered the formal charge at my inauguration as the eighth President of Asbury Theological Seminary. Dr. Corey challenged me to remember four areas in which the church and those in theological education are watching my leadership. First, Dr. Corey said many people would be watching to make sure I protected the core values of Asbury against the temptation toward what he called "rudderless opportunism." Second, I am being watched to make sure that I lead this community in imagining new vistas for Asbury's future. Third, Dr. Corey said I was being watched as I help to engage Asbury globally over and against the tide that naturally pulls an institution toward narrow provincialism. Finally, he said I will be watched as I seek to model "a life of Christ-like authenticity and spiritual holiness against the stereotype of presidential self-importance."

As Christians it is so important to remember that we are all being watched. Jesus said "by this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). The world is watching. They are looking to see if we truly believe and live out the gospel. Jesus said it is by its fruit that we are able to identify the true nature of a tree (Matthew 7:15-20). This generation is longing for authenticity. Sports heroes have disappointed us. Political leaders have filled our lives with empty promises. We have all seen a steady parade of religious leaders whose lives have denied the very gospel we claim to uphold. The world is watching. The world is waiting. May Asbury be a community of men and women who live faithfully and who are truly marked by the transforming power of the cross of Jesus Christ. Yes, Dr. Corey, I'm being watched. We are all being watched. Most importantly, God is watching Asbury Theological Seminary. May we hear his voice and follow his leading. For if we are found to be faithful, then the world will truly capture a glimpse of the glory of the resurrected Christ. Let us be found faithful!

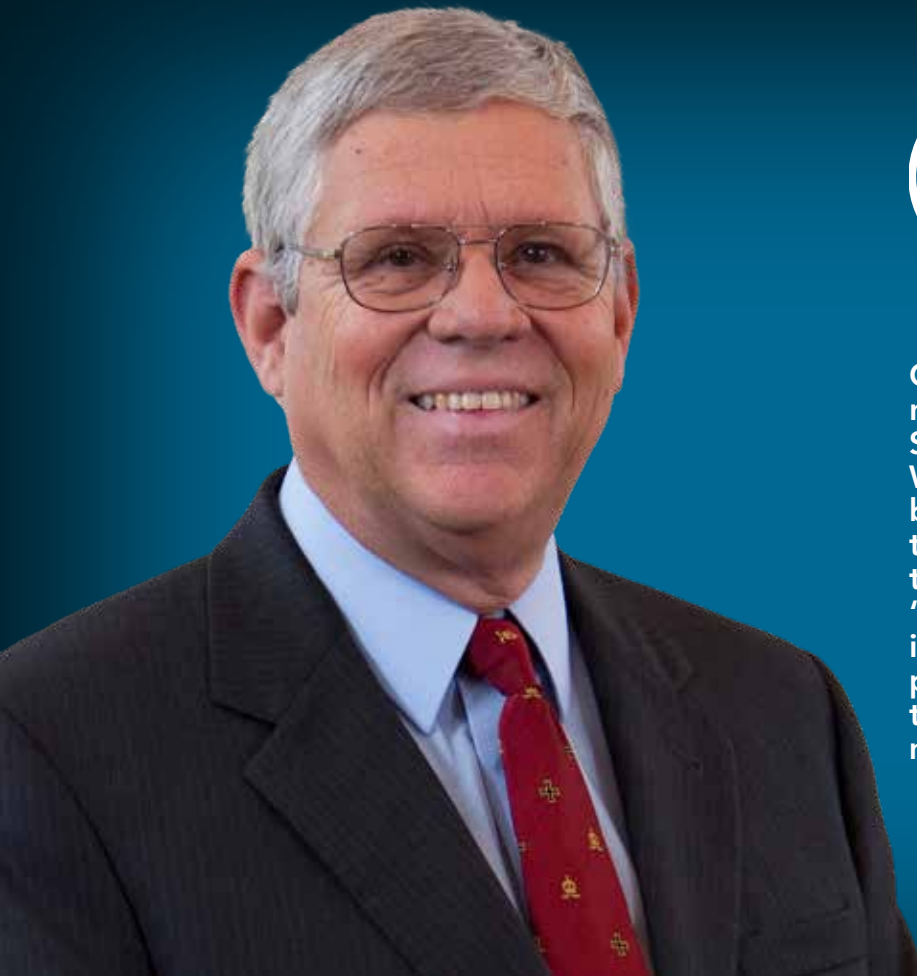
Dr. Timothy C. Tennent  
*President, Asbury Theological Seminary*  
*Professor of World Christianity*

# JOIN US FOR WORSHIP, WHEREVER YOU ARE IN THE WORLD.

Watch Asbury Seminary Chapel LIVE online every week during the semester at [asbury.to/live](https://asbury.to/live)



Visit [asbury.to/chapel](https://asbury.to/chapel) for our chapel message archive and chapel schedule. You can also listen to past messages on the Asbury Seminary Chapel Podcast wherever you get your podcasts.



One of our favorite guests from the newest season of Thrive with Asbury Seminary is Dr. Ben Witherington III. Dr. Witherington joined us to talk about his book *Sola Scriptura*. In this episode we talk about what inspired him to write this book, the history of the phrase 'Sola Scriptura', why biblical literacy is important, and why he remains a passionate student of scripture. We also talk about Dr. Witherington's love for music, baseball and Tar Heel basketball.

**"You actually need to know the Bible in its original context, and what is the meaning of the Bible, and be clear that the meaning hasn't changed. The application may be different, but the meaning is the same that God inspired originally when those people wrote those things down."**

Dr. Ben Witherington III

## New Podcast Episodes Release Every Other Week

Thrive with Asbury Seminary brings you interview-style conversations to help you thrive where your passions meet the world's needs. Join us every other week to hear stories from people just like you and be inspired by world-renowned scholars, thought leaders, artists and authors. Thrive with Asbury Seminary seeks to help you learn about the variety of ways you can serve God, actively grow your relationship with God and take the next step in your faith and calling.

Listen and subscribe wherever you get your podcasts or visit [asbury.to/thrive](http://asbury.to/thrive)



"I'm really grateful for what I've been able to do, not just here, but in various other schools as well, and how the Lord has encouraged me to extend the ministry"

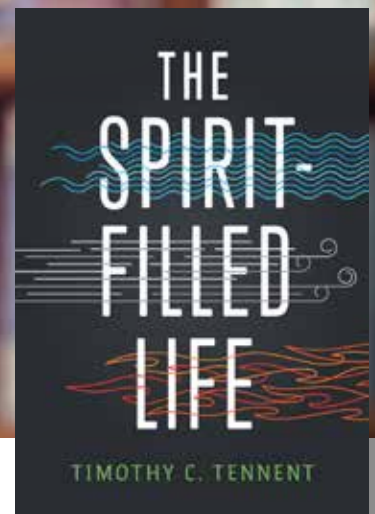
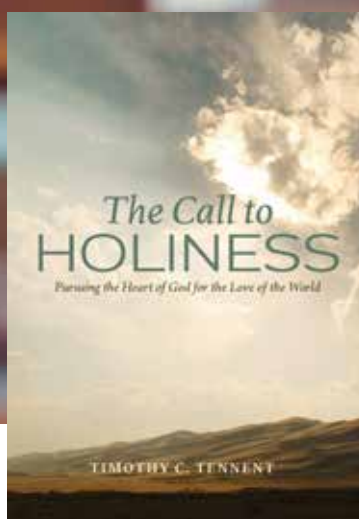
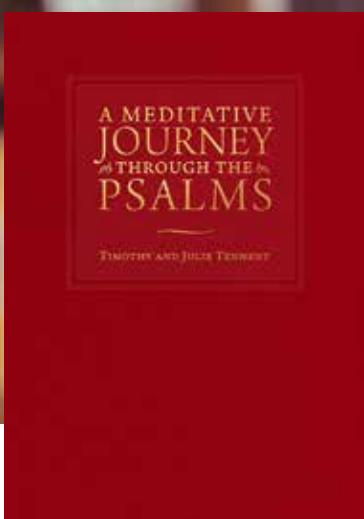
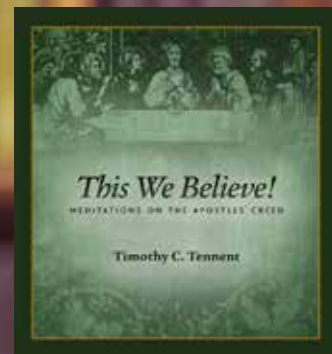
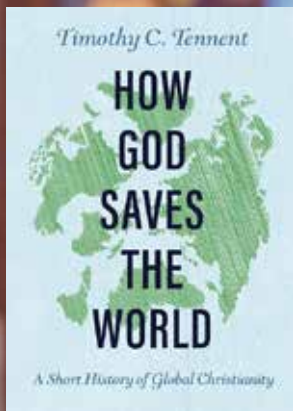
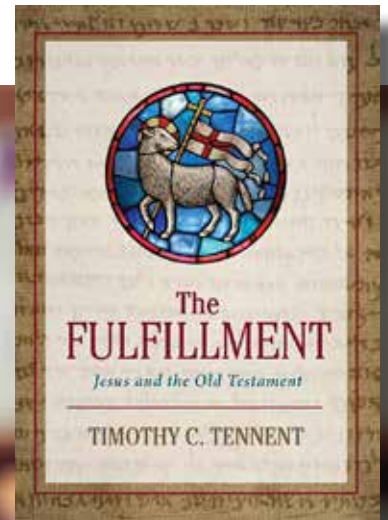
**Dr. Ben Witherington III**  
Sola Scriptura



"What gets me out of the bed is that I like what I do and I like seeing the results of what God does through me."

**Bishop Anne Henning Byfield**  
A Life in Ministry

## Published Resources from the Tennents



Find these and more books by the Tennents at [seedbed.com](https://seedbed.com)

# News & Events

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## Asbury Seminary's President Transitions to Professor of World Christianity



After 15 years of service, Dr. Timothy C. Tennent will transition from the role of president at Asbury Theological Seminary to professor of World Christianity in the E. Stanley Jones School of Mission and Ministry. Dr. Tennent will remain a tenured faculty member at Asbury Seminary, a transition approved by the Board of

Trustees. His final day as president will be on June 30, 2024.

Dr. Tennent, who has served as the 8th president of Asbury Seminary, began his tenure in 2009. He led the Seminary through its Centennial year, which included leading the completion of the 2023 Strategic Plan, heading the largest comprehensive campaign in the history of Asbury, and many other accomplishments that have resulted in the highest enrollments in the history of the Seminary. Dr. Tennent led the Seminary to expand its global partnerships as well as multiple Asbury Theological Seminary sites around the United States and the world.

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## Asbury Seminary Appoints Interim Provost and Interim Dean



Asbury Seminary announces the appointment of Dr. John Ragsdale as Interim Provost and Dr. Jonathan Powers as Interim Dean of the E. Stanley Jones

School of Mission and Ministry. These appointments come as the institution enters a period of transition, aiming to maintain continuity and excellence in its academic leadership. Asbury Seminary's current provost, Dr. Gregg Okesson, announced his plan to return to teaching. Dr. Steven Ybarrola, the current dean of the E. Stanley Jones School of Mission and Ministry, plans to retire in June 2024.

## Dr. Gregg Okesson Transitions to Teaching



Dr. Gregg A. Okesson, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, will transition to a teaching role as Professor of Leadership Development in the E. Stanley Jones School of Mission and Ministry on June 30. Additionally, he will serve as the Ira Gallaway and D.M. Beeson Chair of Leadership Development,

Mission and Evangelism. He will continue to serve as the Director of Global Partnerships and will help launch the study of public theology. As Provost, Dr. Okesson has provided key leadership in several areas, including the merging of the ESJ School of World Missions and the School of Practical Theology into the E. Stanley Jones School of Mission and Ministry, the creation of a new School of Counseling, the rebuilding of the Provost office, the transformation of the Academic Council, and multiple new faculty hires.

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## Dr. Wilmer Estrada Carrasquillo named E. Stanley Jones Associate Professor of Evangelism



Asbury Theological Seminary is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Wilmer Estrada Carrasquillo to an endowed chair position as the E. Stanley Jones Associate Professor of Evangelism.

Dr. Estrada Carrasquillo has most recently served as the Associate Professor of Missions and Evangelism at Asbury Seminary. He brings passion for the practice and centrality of evangelism in the spirit of John and Charles Wesley. He will also continue to research and develop go-to texts and resources for the local church and academy throughout his appointment. Dr. Estrada Carrasquillo has written two books and published journal articles, encyclopedia entries, and book chapters on Pentecostal spirituality, mission and evangelism, and more.

## Asbury Seminary Mourns the Passing of Dr. Meesaeng Lee Choi



Dr. Meesaeng Lee Choi, who served as Professor at Asbury Theological Seminary, passed away on January 11, 2024, after battling illness. Dr. Choi served as Professor at Asbury Seminary from 2002 until her retirement in September 2023. She taught courses in church history and historical theology.

A native of South Korea, Dr. Choi earned an M.Div. from Seoul Theological University in 1986 before arriving as a student at Asbury Seminary. Dr. Choi earned a Th.M. from Asbury Seminary in 1991 before going on to earn an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. from Drew University.

Dr. Choi held several professional memberships and was a speaker, lecturer and writer. Her presentations and professional publications included her research on revival movements, the Korean church, Wesleyan theology, world missions, and the history of Christianity.

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## Asbury Seminary Announces Presidential Search



The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that the Presidential Search Committee has been selected with representation from trustees, tenured faculty, staff, and alumni. The representatives from the Board of Trustees are Rev. Dr. Ricardo Gómez, Rev. Dr. Dale Locke, Dr. Steven Moore, Rev. Kyle Ray, Rev. Charles Savage II,

and Mrs. Helen Rhea Stumbo. Dr. Bill Arnold and Dr. Sue Russell will serve as faculty representatives, and Rev. Dr. Tammy Cessna will represent the staff of Asbury Seminary. Finally, Rev. Dr. Stephen Hance has been selected to represent the institution's alumni.

The Presidential Search Committee will begin by conducting thorough research across all constituencies of Asbury Seminary to create the ideal presidential profile for identifying the next leader.

## Asbury Seminary Names Dr. David J. Gyertson Interim President



Asbury Theological Seminary has named Dr. David J. Gyertson interim president. Gyertson brings unparalleled commitment to and expertise in Christian higher education. A respected leader in Christian leadership, applied theology, and higher education studies, Gyertson's appointment comes during a pivotal transitional period for Asbury Seminary.

An ordained elder in the Free Methodist Church, Gyertson has a diverse leadership background spanning higher education, publishing, consulting, and ministry. His extensive experience includes senior positions in pastoral, charitable, and educational environments, both domestically and internationally.

Gyertson first joined the Seminary in 1983 as Vice President for Advancement. He returned in 2015 as Associate Provost and Dean of Asbury Seminary's Beeson Center while concurrently holding the position of Professor of Leadership Formation and Renewal. Currently, Gyertson is an Affiliate Professor at the Seminary and serves as a leadership succession consultant, executive coach, and governance facilitator to faith-based organizations. He holds a Ph.D. from Michigan State University with concentrations in higher education administration, organizational and cross-cultural communications, and innovation/change theory.



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