

ATS welcomes David Han as director of accreditation

The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) is pleased to announce the appointment of David Han as a director of accreditation, effective March 2026. Han joins ATS as part of a planned expansion of the Commission on Accrediting team to ensure the capacity required to continue delivering exceptional service to member schools and to accompany them in their ongoing growth and mission. This follows the earlier appointment of Charles Galbreath in September 2025, both hires resulting from the same search process.

Han brings to ATS a distinguished record of leadership in theological education, academic administration, and ecumenical engagement. His vocation as a theological educator spans more than three decades, beginning in 1989 at Han-Young University in Seoul, Korea. Since returning to the United States in 1991 for further study, he has served in various teaching roles at Lee University and Candler School of Theology of Emory University. In 2002, Han began his full-time teaching career at Pentecostal Theological Seminary, where, since 2011, he has been the vice president for academics and dean of the faculty. There, he provided strategic oversight for academic programs and faculty development. In recognition of his contributions, Han was named the inaugural holder of the Ray H. Hughes Sr. Endowed Chair of Evangelism in 2021.

Han has extensive expertise in accreditation processes, having served as a valued peer reviewer on more than 30 visits. He has also been a member of the ATS Board of Commissioners since 2023. In this role, he has reviewed multiple comprehensive evaluations, petitions, and interim reports—all providing a valuable foundation for supporting schools in their pursuit of quality and continuous improvement.

Beyond his administrative roles, Han has demonstrated a deep commitment to theological education and ecumeni-



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cal dialogue. He has led major grant-funded initiatives, including projects on multifaith engagement and congregational flourishing, securing significant funding from organizations such as Lilly Endowment Inc. and the Louisville Institute. His scholarly work includes numerous publications in journals and edited volumes, and he currently serves as coeditor for the Studies in Holiness and Pentecostal Movements series with Penn State University Press.

As director of accreditation, Han will serve a roster of schools, provide education and training on accreditation standards, and support the work of the ATS Board of Commissioners. His appointment reflects the responsibility and commitment of the Commission to contribute to the enhancement and improvement of theological education through the accreditation of schools that are members.

“We are delighted to welcome David to the ATS Commission on Accrediting team,” said Barbara Mutch, ATS senior director of accreditation. “His extensive experience as a peer reviewer and institutional and ecumenical leader will enrich our work with member schools. Moreover, his significant involvement in ecumenical dialogue enables him to move effectively within the ‘long pew’ of the ATS member schools. David embodies the qualities of collegiality, intellectual curiosity, and a passion for theological education that we value.”