

ATS welcomes Christopher The as new director, commission information services



Christopher The has been named the new director, commission information services at The Association of Theological Schools (ATS), filling the position vacated by Lori Neff LaRue.

The officially begins his duties on February 1, 2017. He will be responsible for (1) managing the official records of the ATS Commission on Accrediting; (2) handling requests for Commission-related information, including Associate Membership inquiries and reports for such agencies as the US Department of Education; (3) processing reports, petitions, and other Commission-required documents; and (4) supporting the work of the ATS Board of Commissioners and the organization's accrediting functions.

Coming to ATS from Fuller Theological Seminary, he earned his MDiv in 2009 and is a candidate for the PhD in practical theology. While at Fuller, in addition to assistantships in teaching and research, The also served on staff as student records coordinator, as communications center officer, and more recently as recorder in the Office of the Registrar. Prior to Fuller, The studied at Azusa Pacific University, where he received a BA in Music (2004) and an MAR in Theology and Ethics (2006), with a thesis on Barthian ecclesiology.

As a rising second-year doctoral student in 2014, The was invited by the Forum for Theological Exploration to participate in the Summit for Future Theological Educators of Color and the Summit on Christian Leadership (both in Evanston, Illinois). Subsequently, he was invited to serve on the editorial board for the *Indonesian Journal of Theology*, in which he has authored an article on practical theological resourcing of immigrant churches for civic engagement. In 2016, he was named a fellow of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, which promotes First Amendment ideals through education and advocacy.

Ordained in 2010 in the Assemblies of God, The has served as associate pastor to two southern California congregations: Orange County Chinese Christian Assembly (Garden Grove) and Family Harvest Christian Fellowship (Hacienda Heights). He has also been a featured speaker and has provided pulpit supply to a number of congregations in the San Gabriel Valley.

"We are delighted to bring Christopher The to Pittsburgh to support the ATS accrediting function," said Lester Ruiz, senior director of accreditation and institutional evaluation at ATS.

"His experience in the registrar's office, combined with his academic training at two of our member schools and his pastoral experience, offers both the information management skills and a keen appreciation for the importance of theological education to effective ministry that will serve our member schools well."