

ATS welcomes James R. Moore and Valerie Rempel as new directors of accreditation

By *MARISSA DECHANT*

The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) is pleased to announce that James R. Moore and Valerie Rempel have been named as directors of accreditation, serving the Commission on Accrediting of ATS.



Moore and Rempel were selected after a comprehensive national search and will assume their new positions on August 30, 2021.

Joining an accrediting staff of four outside accreditors and two office-based professionals, they will each be responsible for coordinating evaluation committees, conducting visits, and writing reports for approximately 20 percent of the more than 270 member schools accredited by the Commission.

“Dr. Moore and Dr. Rempel bring a wealth of wisdom and expertise through their previous teaching and administrative leadership, their dedicated service to the church and theological education, and their experience on the Board of Commissioners and accreditation visits,” said Frank Yamada, executive director of ATS. “We are delighted that they are joining the ATS staff to share those gifts and perspectives in service to our member schools.”

James R. Moore

Moore comes to ATS after 26 years at Trinity International University and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He most recently served as associate professor of educational ministries at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School of Trinity International University. Moore’s other roles have included associate dean of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, assistant dean of Trinity Graduate School, and

director of administration for doctoral programs. He has been an active accreditation visitor and provides experience in the Commission’s work with accreditation and with the schools. In 2020, he was elected vice chair of the ATS Board of Commissioners.

Of his new role at the Association, Moore said, “I look forward to serving alongside our diverse and global ATS community as we meet our contemporary challenges in theological education.”

Moore also previously served as assistant pastor and director of Christian education at Lifeway Wesleyan Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and he was a public school teacher in Indiana and Illinois. He is an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church and a member of the Wesleyan Theological Society.

His articles appear in the *Baker Dictionary of Christian Education*, *Theological Education*, *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, and *Trinity Journal*. He recently contributed “Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi: Advocate for Child-Centered Education” to *A Legacy of Christian Educators*, edited by Elmer Towns.

Moore earned his MA from Indiana Wesleyan University and his PhD from Trinity International University.

Valerie Rempel

Prior to accepting her role at ATS, Rempel most recently served as vice president and dean of Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary at Fresno Pacific University. She joined the seminary faculty in 1996, was appointed dean in 2014, and became vice president in 2019.

“My career in theological education has been enriched by participation in ATS programs and services,” said Rempel. “This opportunity offers even deeper engagement with the ATS community and I’m looking forward to that.”

Rempel also served at Fresno as associate professor and J.B. Toews Chair of History and Theology, and she was a past director of the Center for Anabaptist Studies. She is an experienced accreditation visitor and was a member of the ATS Redevelopment Task Force. Rempel was elected to the ATS Board of Commissioners in 2020.

Her scholarship includes contributions to the *California Mennonite Historical Society Bulletin*, *Direction*, *Conrad Grebel Review*, and the *Global Dictionary of Theology*.

Rempel earned an MA from Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary (now Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary), and an MA and PhD from Vanderbilt University.

“Dr. Moore and Dr. Rempel are knowledgeable theological educators, seasoned peer reviewers, and collegial leaders within the ATS community. I am so pleased that their experience and perspectives will enrich the member schools and enlarge the work of the accreditation staff,” said Barbara Mutch, ATS senior director of accrediting.

A process will begin this summer to find replacements for Moore and Rempel on the ATS Board of Commissioners.



Marissa Dechant is Executive Assistant at The Association of Theological Schools in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.