

# Nine schools announce new senior leadership

*Nine ATS member schools have recently announced the appointment of ten individuals as new chief executive officers or chief academic officers. Congratulations to these new senior leaders!*



**Ashland Theological Seminary (Ashland, OH)** has named **Wayne G. McCown** as interim executive dean and vice president. McCown brings 19 years of service as a seminary dean to this assignment—seven years at Western Evangelical Seminary in

Portland, Oregon, and 12 years as the founding dean at Northeastern Seminary in Rochester, New York. He also served three years as a church administrator in the Free Methodist Church and eight years as a senior administrator at Roberts Wesleyan College. McCown holds five earned degrees: a BA in religion and Greek from Seattle Pacific University; a BD (MDiv) from Asbury Theological Seminary; an MA in classics from the University of Washington; and a ThM in biblical studies and PhD in New Testament from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.



**John Leland Center for Theological Studies (Arlington, VA)** announces that **William H. Smith** has been named president. Smith was present at the beginning of Leland's formation, taught its first class, and has continued to teach as an adjunct faculty member in

Old Testament. Smith exemplifies the original vision of Leland at its formation when pastor-scholars took up the goal of serving churches by the training of pastors.

Smith has worked closely with seminary students in all three of his pastorates at San Francisco, Washington, DC, and Arlington, Virginia. He has extensive experience in multi-ethnic congregational ministry and has traveled in mission efforts to the Middle East and India and on study tours to Israel, Egypt, Greece, and Turkey. Smith is engaged in the formation of a partnership with the Mount Vernon Baptist Church and Justice Fellowship to bring a gift of property valued at six million dollars to the Leland Center, which marks the beginning of a newly-adopted plan for the expansion of the school's ministry. He is a graduate of Baylor University and the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (now Gateway Seminary) with an MDiv and PhD in theological studies.



**Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University (LTSS) (Columbia, SC)** announces that **Mary Hinkle Shore** has been named rector and dean. One of seven ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) seminaries in the United

States and the only one in the southeast, LTSS serves students from many denominations. Shore is the current pastor at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Brevard, North Carolina, a position she has served in since 2013. She also served 16 years at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where she held positions as a professor with tenure and associate dean. Shore is a frequent speaker and author of *Signs of Belonging: Luther's Marks of the Church and the Christian Life*. She has also published articles in *The Christian Century* magazine, *Word and World Journal*, *Journal for Preachers*, and the website [www.workingpreacher.org](http://www.workingpreacher.org). A graduate of Capital University, she holds an MDiv from Luther Seminary and a PhD in religion from Duke University.



**Moody Theological Seminary in Chicago (Chicago, IL)** announces that **Mark Jobe** has been named its tenth president. Jobe, an alum of Moody Bible Institute, was the founding pastor of New Life Community Church in Chicago.

He grew up on the mission field in Spain and founded the church on the southwest side of Chicago with the mission to reach people from all walks of life with the gospel. It has grown from 18 individuals to more than 5,000 members who meet at 27 locations, including eight cities internationally. In addition to pastoral ministry, Jobe founded New Life Centers in 2005, an organization that creates programs for underserved communities in Chicago focusing on youth violence, gang violence, teen pregnancy, justice system involvement, and unemployment. He is also the Moody Publishers' author of *Unstuck: Out of Your Cave into Your Call*, and he hosts the daily radio program Straight Talk on Moody Radio Chicago 90.1 FM. He holds a diploma in communications from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, a BA in biblical studies from Columbia International University, an MA in ministry from Moody Theological Seminary in Chicago, and a PhD in transformational leadership for the global city from Bakke Graduate University.



**Phillips Theological Seminary (Tulsa, OK)** announces that **Nancy Claire Pittman** has been named its fourth president, having served as interim president since July 2018. She joined the faculty in 2005, directed the Doctor of Ministry Program, and became dean by

2013. A biblical scholar, Pittman served for six and a half years on the faculty of Tainan Theological College and Seminary, a school related to the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan. Upon returning to the United States in 2001, she served as pastor of First Christian Church in Tehlequah,

Oklahoma. In addition to numerous sermons in books and journals, Pittman published *New Proclamation, Series A, Easter through Christ the King* in 2011. She has also contributed to the *Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology* in the areas of preaching and hymns, written homiletical essays for *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C, Volume II* and "Ties That Bind Too Tightly: A Reflection on Relinquishment and Self-Differentiation in Women's Leadership" in *A Passion for Christian Unity: Essays in Honor of William Tabbernee*. Pittman received a BA from Texas Christian University, an MDiv from Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University, and a PhD in New Testament studies from Southern Methodist University. She is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



**Phillips Theological Seminary** has also named **Joseph Bessler** as acting dean and vice president of academic affairs. Bessler is the Robert Travis Peake Professor of Theology at Phillips. In addition to teaching his required theology courses, Bessler specializes

in the interaction of religion and culture. He has chaired the Ethics, Society, and Cultural Analysis section of the Southwest region of the American Academy of Religion, and he is coeditor of a book on law and religious ethics. Bessler is author of "Becoming Langdon Gilkey: The Theological Significance of Shantung Compound," in *The Theology of Langdon B. Gilkey: Systematic and Critical Studies*, as well as the book *A Scandalous Jesus: How Three Historic Quests Changed Theology for the Better*. He offers a variety of courses on ethics and culture, theological themes in the contemporary American novel, and theological autobiography. Bessler received a BS from Northwestern University, an MTS from Harvard University, and a PhD from the University of Chicago.



**Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University (Richmond, VA)** has named **Gregory Howard** as interim dean. Howard is senior pastor of First Baptist Church East End in Newport News, Virginia, and president of the Baptist General

Convention of Virginia. He was honored as a 2009 Joe R. Engle Fellow at Princeton Theological Seminary, and he is currently pursuing an MA in public policy. Howard is the author of *Black Sacred Rhetoric: The Theology and Testimony of Religious Folk and Talk* and *Voices Crying out in the Wilderness: Contemporary Theologies of Preaching*, both published by BorderStone Press. An MDiv alum of Proctor, he also holds a BS in organizational management and development from Bluefield College, and a DMin in homiletics from the Aquinas Institute of Theology at St. Louis University.



**Saint John's Seminary (Boston, MA)** announces that **Stephen Salocks** has been named interim rector. He also serves as professor of sacred scripture at Saint John's. An MDiv graduate of the seminary, Salocks also holds a BS from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

and an SSL from Pontifical Biblical Institute.



**St. Mary's Seminary and University (Baltimore, MD)** announces that **Gladstone Stevens** has been named vice rector and acting dean. Stevens, who attended and then served at St. Mary's Seminary and University from 2002 to 2008 as a faculty member and as vice

rector, was appointed by The Provincial Council of the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, with approval from Father Salvatore J. Cordileone, archbishop of San Francisco and chancellor of St. Patrick's Seminary and University. Stevens earned an STL from St. Mary's Seminary and University and a PhD from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Louisville in 2000, entered the Sulpicians in 2004, and joined St. Patrick's Seminary and University as an associate professor of theology, vice rector, and academic dean in 2008.



**Urshan Graduate School of Theology (St. Louis, MO)** announces that **Brent Coltharp** has been named president. Coltharp has served on the board of the college since 2014, and has served the college in other capacities as well. He will remain the pastor of

First Apostolic Church of Aurora and will also continue to serve as the superintendent of the Illinois District of the United Pentecostal Church International. Coltharp preaches, teaches, and writes in a variety of contexts. He has also served in various ministry and administrative roles: as the Illinois District Youth secretary and Illinois District youth president, as a Presbyter on the Illinois District Board, as adjunct professor at Gateway College of Evangelism, and as executive Presbyter for the Eastern Zone of the United Pentecostal Church International. A graduate of Indiana Bible College, Coltharp earned MAs in clinical psychology and biblical studies at Wheaton College and a DMin from Regent University.