Catholic Spirit at United
Letter from the President

Dear alumni/ae and friends,

Do you love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength? Do you love your neighbor, even the enemies of God, as much as your friends and yourself? Prove it . . . by doing them “all the good you can; endeavoring to supply all their wants; assisting them both in body and soul, to the utmost of your power—If you are thus minded, may every Christian say yes, if you are but sincerely desirous of it . . ., then your heart is right as my heart is with your heart.”

— adapted from John Wesley, “Catholic Spirit”

If you find this “catholic spirit” at United, it is no accident. Firmly affiliated with The United Methodist Church, United hosts Houses of Study for Baptist, Presbyterian and United Church of Christ judicatories. We welcome students from many denominations. Our courses draw upon a wide array of scholars and church leaders. Our teaching resources include partner institutions, parachurch organizations and congregations of many denominational and spiritual stripes, including mainline, evangelical, progressive, Catholic, Quaker, holiness, Pentecostal and non-denominational.

Given such theological diversity, how do our students learn theology and ministry in ways that are true to their own spiritual and biblical roots?

They learn through in-depth study and dynamic, respectful conversations among those with similar and different viewpoints. This approach affirms that Jesus Christ is one vine, and there are many branches bearing fruit.

It promotes much-needed unity within the Church, understanding of our neighbors, best practices in ministry regardless of who “owns” them and, ironically, the strengthening of each one’s spiritual identity and convictions as part of his or her own particular community of faith.

The “catholic spirit” is alive and well at United, and we are grateful. Thanks for your continuing labors for the One who unites us in Christ’s ministry to the entire world!

With joy in Christ,

Wendy J. Deichmann, President

United is a seminary of The United Methodist Church that welcomes students from many faith traditions.

Zeiders and Martin Honored By Alumni/ae Association

At its annual Alumni/ae Banquet on May 10, 2011, United’s Alumni/ae Association honored Rev. Dr. G. Edwin Zeiders ’73, (above right, with Rev. Harold Stockman ’67) as Distinguished Alumnus and Rev. Dr. David F. Martin ’72, (second from right with Rev. Gary Olin ’57) as Effective Minister. Both honored alumni were joined by family and friends as they were recognized for their incredible work over the past 40 years.

Rev. Dr. Zeiders has served congregations in Ohio and Central Pennsylvania, and was District Superintendent and Council Director. He was United’s president from 2000-2008 and is now pastor of St. Paul’s UMC in State College, PA.

Rev. Dr. Martin retired in June after 41 years of service, 16 of which have been at Rocky River [OH] UMC. Martin has touched countless lives while leading Rocky River to pursue and expand its ministry of being a “Beacon on the North Coast.”

Four members of the class of ’71 were inducted into the Eckels Society. They include Rev. David Howell, Rev. Thomas Jacobs, Rev. David Wilson, and Rev. Galen Black (above left). The Eckels Society identifies and honors United graduates of 40 or more years who have given dedicated service to Christ. The Society is named for Rev. Dr. Harry L. Eckels who earned a diploma and five degrees at United from 1941 to 1989.

A special Honorary Alumna Award was presented to Mrs. Joan Zeiders (bottom left) for her outstanding volunteer work at United between 2000 and 2008, while accompanying Rev. Dr. Zeiders during his tenure as United’s president.

Heck Lectures 2012: October 17, 2012

“Christians and Disability: Renewing the Church and Healing the World”

Lecturer: Dr. Amos Yong, the J. Rodman Williams Professor of Theology at Regent University School of Divinity in Virginia Beach, VA. His graduate education includes degrees in theology, history, and religious studies from Western Evangelical Seminary, Portland State University, and Boston University, and an undergraduate degree from Bethany University. He has authored or edited more than fifteen volumes through 2011. For more information, please visit: http://www.regent.edu/acad/schdiv/faculty_staff/faculty/yong.cfm.

Please note Heck Lectures will now be held in the Fall!
Class of 1961

Charles Lightner, Machias, ME, had the pleasure of preaching at Boston University’s summer program for the National Preacher’s Invitation in 2010. He and his wife, Harriet, recently returned from Prague and Paris where they celebrated his 75th birthday and 53 years of marriage.

Class of 1969

Ted Melford, Mt. Gretna, PA, has served in three interim positions since his retirement in 2003. He has found these positions fulfilling and beneficial.

A. Arthur Tucker, Williamsport, WV, had eye lens replacement surgery in October.

Class of 1970

Ronald Hines, Yakima, WA, is currently serving as pastor at Wesley United Methodist Church in Yakima, WA.

Paul David Robinson, S. Rockwood, MI, was pleased to finally get to teach “The Synoptics Compared to John” in a Sunday School class at First UMC of Flacktown, where he currently attends.

Class of 1971

Paul J. Masquelier, San Jose, CA, served on the planning committee for the annual National Workshop on Christian Unity, which was held May 9-12, 2011, in Pittsburgh.

Class of 1972

Robert Coleman, Franklin, IN, retired July 1, 2011, from the local church and continues to work part time as Associate DS for the Central District of the Indiana Conference.

Class of 1973

Norman R. Glassburn, North Webster, IN, recently began his duties as Associate District Superintendent in the North District of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.

G. Edwin Zeiders, Boalsburg, PA, is serving as chairperson for the Commission on Child Advocacy for the Susquehanna Conference, Consultant for the Centre County Community Foundation, and Senior Pastor at St. Paul UMC, State College, PA.

Class of 1974

Harrison Lee Hinson, Monroe, NC, retired from the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church in July of 2010 after 36 years.

Class of 1975

Jaime Alvarez, Somerest, PA, and her soon-to-be-retired husband are enjoying the first of what they hope will be many car trips. They will be driving from Pennsylvania to the Grand Canyon and Celaya, GT (Mexico), visiting family and friends along the way. They will be spending the harsh winter months in Mexico.

Class of 1977

Cheryl Endres, Columbus, OH, is now teaching English as a Second Language in the Columbus School System.

Class of 1978

Kevin A. Johnson, Palm Springs, CA, is currently working with Palm Springs City Council, staff and planning commission to update zoning ordinances affecting churches (soon to be “religious institutions”) with inclusive language and taking into account the situations of newstarts as well as established institutions.

Class of 1980

Pamela K. Brubaker, Simi Valley, CA, recently retired from California Lutheran University, where she received the President’s Award for Teaching Excellence. She has researched extensively and published on the topics of economic ethics and feminist studies in religion.

Tim Tennant-Amelee, Minneapolis, MN, is currently co-spokesperson for Affirm: United Methodists for Teaching Excellence. She has researched extensively and published on the topics of economic ethics and feminist studies in religion.

Class of 1981

Jacqueline Holdsworth, Albion, MI, retired in May and keeps busy managing her “eden” and keeping track of children and grandchildren.

Class of 1984

Michael Mansfield, Frankfort, KY, reports that after 2½ years in a nursing home, his wife, Gay, returned home Oct. 5. This was a great day for them both!

Karen Drotar, Kent, OH, recently finished successfully defending her dissertation at Kent State University. Her Ph.D. is in Cultural Foundations of Education and the subject of her dissertation is “Filling the God-Shaped Hole: A Qualitative Study of Spirituality and Public School Teachers.”

Class of 1986

David Plummer, Newport News, VA, contributed an article on “Developing a Personal Theology to Do Pastoral Care” for the upcoming 500-page Professional Pastoral and Spiritual Care: A Practical Clergy and Chaplain’s Handbook.

Leanne Hadley, Colorado Springs, CO, recently won Aspermont’s 2011 Hero of Mental Health award for her groundbreaking work in helping children overcome grief stemming from loss and trauma. Hadley is founder and president of First Steps Spiritual Center in downtown Colorado Springs.

Class of 1987

Marilyn Evans, Brookville, OH, who serves as co-director of United’s Pohly Center along with her husband, Roger, is working in Cambodia and Australia during the fall of 2011.

Class of 1990

Roger, is working in Cambodia and Australia during the fall of 2011.

Class of 1993

Jack Sullivan, Jr., Shaker Heights, OH, has been elected to serve as the regional minister and president of the regional board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Pennsylvania.

Class of 1994

Sally Carpenter, Moorpark, CA, works full-time at Acorn Newspapers, and reviews college and community theater for the paper. She is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church where she serves as a lay reader and lay Eucharistic minister. She recently published her first book (see Alumniae Publications, page 13).

D. Jonathan Watts, Albertville, AL, received the designation of Oxford Foundation Fellow from the Graduate Theological Foundation. He is an instructor at Sneed State Community College, Boaz, AL, and teaches religion and ethics.

Class of 1996

Lisa M. Wolfe, Oklahoma City, OK, received the 2010 Award of Excellence for Long Format Theological Reflection at the Associated Church Press awards for her article, “On Being an Irritant.”

Class of 1998

Pastor Anita Hahn, Traverse City, MI, was appointed District Superintendent of the Grand Traverse District of the West Michigan Conference, effective July 1, 2011.

Charles Arthur Mehaffey has retired as a missionary in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Class of 2000

Karen A. Powell, Converse, IN, received Ecclesiastical approval in the United Methodist Church as a Transitional Interim Ministry Specialist.

Class of 2003

Nancy Richmond, Mulberry, IN, was recently appointed to Mulberry United Methodist Church.

Class of 2006

Greg Brekke, Rocky River, OH, editor of Still Speaking Magazine, received the 2010 Award of Excellence for Long Format Theological Reflection at the Associated Church Press Awards.

continued on page 18
Spotlight on United Alums

In this issue, we are spotlighting the United alumni/ae (and one alumni/ae spouse) who serve on United’s Board of Trustees. We are so grateful to each one of these faithful friends.

George Bashore ’58, ’76, Pittsburgh, PA; Elected February 2010
Chair, Board of Trustees; Bishop-in-Residence, Mt. Lebanon UMC, Pittsburgh, PA
“I am thankful to God for the depth of biblical and theological texts, exemplary commitment to Christ, personal care, and foundational preparation for parish ministry and mission by the faculty during my years as a student. Secondly, the Evangelical United Brethren Pietist tools, evangelistic passion, personal and social holiness, mission commitment, and parish member care are traditions to be enhanced. Thirdly, I believe in the current vision, cutting edge technology, exciting growth, and Christ-centered focus cultivated by our faculty and administration. Thanks be to God!”

Chris Roberts ’04, Indianapolis, IN; Elected November 2010
Associate Pastor, Meridian Street UMC, Indianapolis, IN
“I am honored to serve on the Board of Trustees at United. God is doing an amazing work at United. Church leadership starts by understanding our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. United’s focus on church renewal by following the leading of the Holy Spirit is exactly what is needed in churches of all denominations today, especially in the United Methodist Church. To pursue a theological education than with the Christ-centered and caring faculty and staff at United. I am thankful to be part of what God is doing here.”

Byoung Sam Kim ’98, SungNam Si, Korea; Elected December 2010
Senior Pastor of Manna Methodist Church in Bundang, Korea; President of World Human Bridge, an international relief agency; Board of Trustees of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; Board of Directors, CITS TV, Korea; Adjunct professor at Methodist Theological University, Korea
“I graduated from United with a D.Miss. degree about 13 years ago. The study and life at United and my time in Dayton provided me with a clear view, inspiration, and ideas on mission-oriented ministry. Those experiences helped make Manna Church one of the most healthy, growing churches in Korea. United’s alma mater and spiritual home, and my heart is always overflowing with gratitude to United.”

Byoung Sam Kim, SungNam Si, Korea

Stephen Swisher ’94, ’00, Newark, TX; Elected May 2011
Senior Executive at Kenneth Copeland Ministries; Ordained Elder with 15 years of pastoral experience
“I have had a close connection with United for 20 years. I was recruited to the school in 1991 by then-President Leonhard Steed, a long-time family friend. I became very involved in every level of student life at United and graduated with an M.Div. Degree in 1994 and a D.Min. in 2000. United is a special place that teaches we can be better than the faith and the tradition. I believe the seminary presents the finest faculty and administration the Church has to offer. It is an honor to serve alongside of them as a member of the Board.”

Byoung Sam Kim, SungNam Si, Korea

Jean Moorman Brindel ’76, Carmel, IN; Elected May 2011
Ordained Elder in North Indiana Conference, retired 2011; Worked in development with the United Methodist Foundation of Indiana; Currently head of consulting firm, Brindel Fundraising Consultants
“As a board member and supporter of United, I plan to be actively involved in the work of development with the seminary. Non-profits can be most effective in achieving their mission and ministry goals when their financial base is cleared of the burden of debt, allowing the financial freedom to create important and sustainable future. I believe United is poised to open the minds of church leaders that the hearts of the world might be opened to Christ.”

Ruth A. Daughtrey, Spouse of Robert M. Daughtrey ’55 (deceased), Lancaster, PA; Elected May 2011
Secretary of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church; Secretary of the United Methodist Publishing House Board; Secretary of the National Advisory Committee of Church and Community Workers; Serves on the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Ordained Members; Member of Eastern Pennsylvania Rapid Response Team dealing with immigration; Member of the District Board of Church Location and Building
“United Theological Seminary is very close to my heart. My late husband, Robert M. Daughtrey ’55, graduated in the first class of United’s Theological Seminary. My brother, Lee Sheaffer ’57, and my son-in-law, Michael Carr ’84, also graduated from United. A scholarship has been established in the name of Robert M. Daughtrey.”

Charles Brown ’62, Dayton, OH; Elected August 2009
Retired Pastor, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Dayton; Former Professor of Church and Society, United Theological Seminary; Former Associate Professor of Practical Theology, Yale Divinity School; Emeritus member of The Dayton Foundation; Chair of Ecumenical Neighborhood Development Corporation; Former President of Ohio Baptist General Convention; Adjunct Assoc. Professor of Community Health, Wright State University School of Medicine; Adjunct Professor of Christian Ethics at Payne Theological Seminary

Gary L. Olin ’67, Lakeside, OH; Elected May 2011
Elder in the East Ohio Conference UMC; District Superintendent, retired 2011; Coordinator of religious programming (with wife, Sally) for Lakeside’s 2011 Chautauqua season; President of the Flat Rock Homes Board; Bishop John Hopkins’s representative to the Lakeside Association Board of Directors; President of the Board of Directors of the Society for Biblical Studies; Director of East Ohio Conference Credit Union.

“My wife, the Rev. Saranne Nelson-Olin ’78, and I are both graduates of United, as were each of our late spouses, the Rev. Dr. Judith Stone Olin ’67, and the Rev. Dr. James D. Nelson ’59. Since my graduation, I have kept close contact with the seminary, attending lectures and other events. I have served several times on the Alumni/ae Association Executive Committee, four years as its president, representing the Alumni/ae Association during those years on United’s Board of Trustees. Sally and I have committed a major portion of our Nelson-Olin Family Trust to the seminary.”

Charles Booth ’90, Reynoldsburg, OH; Elected May 2011
Pastor, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Columbus, OH, since 1978; Founder of Mt. Olivet Christian Academy; Professor of Preaching, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH; Former Professor of Preaching, United Theological Seminary, 1987-1994; Lecturer, The Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH; Lecturer, Eastern Union Bible College, Columbus, OH
“Having had the honor to serve in the capacity of preacher, teacher and doctoral mentor, I find United Theological Seminary to be progressive and proficient in preparing men and women for ministry in the 21st Century. This seminary continues to be a respected theological institution where biblical truth and contemporary issues collide eventuating in the production of Christian servants who go forth to meet the needs of church and society with the timeless claim of Christ.”
Catholic Spirit

United: Putting “Unity” in Community

BY DR. DAVID F. WATSON, ACADEMIC DEAN AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The terms “conservative” and “liberal” have a long and storied tradition in North American Christianity and Western European Christlikeness. To this day, they are deeply embedded within our churches and seminaries. Among Protestants, the so-called “mainliners” have tended to identify with “liberal” or, more recently, “progressive” Christlikeness, while evangelicals have most often understood themselves as “conservative.” An interesting aspect of life at United Theological Seminary is that we are sometimes labeled “liberal,” and at other times “conservative.” The bottom line, however, is that neither designation really fits our community. These terms are antiquated, and they fail to capture the complexity of the religious scene of contemporary Christianity.

At United, we have a long heritage of belief in the Wesleyan and Pietistic traditions that gave birth to the Evangelical United Brethren Church, and later the United Methodist Church. We believe that there is real value in affirming these traditions for the life of faith, that the personal and social holiness of these traditions can make a real difference in the world. These traditions are a part of our institutional marrow. They help to define who we are, and they remain at the center of our theological conversation.

At the same time, we are an ecumenical institution. We welcome into our community people from a wide range of Christian traditions. This brings up the sticky wicket of theological diversity. A host of questions arise: What does it mean to be a part of a community of diverse theological claims? How are we to be in dialogue with people who hold beliefs quite different from our own on important theological and ethical issues? Do we have any identity at all other than a community of diverse opinions? What are the boundaries of our discussion? Does anything go? If not, why not, and how do we tell when people are outside of these boundaries?

The United faculty has engaged in no small amount of spirited conversation about who we are and what we stand for. Through these conversations, we have come to this basic consensus: as a faculty, we are committed to the Nicene-Chalcedonian faith, the faith embodied in the Nicene Creed and the Chalcedonian Definition. What this means is that we affirm such basic Christian doctrines as the Trinity, the Incarnation, and the Resurrection. We affirm that Christ is fully divine and fully human. We believe that these faith claims, affirmed by Christians through the centuries, lead us into the fullness of life to which God calls all people.

At United, we’ve come to think of our theological perspective as a big tent. Our conversations about ministry, church renewal, social justice, and other crucial issues of the life of faith take place within this big tent of the church’s creedal tradition. Lots of things can happen in this tent, and it can hold a great many people. People with progressive social agendas, people who self-identify as “evangelicals,” people who speak in tongues, and people who don’t, faith healers, pacifists, high church worshipers, contemporary worship folks, and emergent types, those who want to serve the homeless, future missionaries, and people with differing opinions about the social issues that are dividing our denominations—all these and more participate in an ongoing, vibrant conversation at United. We are enriched by this theological diversity. This kind of community is best represented by a phrase that Brian McLaren used to title his 2004 book, A Generous Orthodoxy (Zondervan). The subtitle of this book is Why I Am a Missional, Evangelical, Pastoral/Protestant, Liberal/Conservative, Mystical/Poetic, Biblical, Charismatic/Contemplative, Fundamentalist/Caravaggio, Anabaptist/Anglican, Methodist/Catholic, Green, Incarnational, Depressed-yet-Hopeful, Emergent, Unfinished CHRISTIAN. McLaren understands the big tent. Sure, the tent has boundaries, but you can fit a great many people inside of it.

Perhaps we should think of our denominations in the way in which Paul talks about believers who have particular gifts of the Spirit in 1 Cor 12:4-7: “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” The different denominations that make up our community all contribute to the body of Christ in meaningful and important ways. They all bring their unique gifts. Of course we will disagree with one another, but whether or not we agree on a particular doctrine of scripture, particular social issues, or manner of worship, some of which are more important than others, is of little matter of importance for the faith. Christ has not been divided (1 Cor. 11:3). We are united in our affirmation of the historic faith of the church.

We believe that God is doing something new at United. Of course, it’s not just at United, but we believe that the Holy Spirit is alive and well here leading us to move past divisiveness and into Christian unity. As we read in Ephesians 4:4-7, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism,” one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. “But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” I hear grumblings again and again of further division within our denominations, but who is holding up the flag of Christian unity? Who is championing this holy cause, one that is at least as important as the issues that divide us? Where are these leaders? Many are here at United, teaching and learning, preparing to lead men and women to faithfulness in Christ in the service of God’s kingdom.

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Elliott Kennel '95, Morgantown, WV

“As a member of the Disciples of Christ denomination, I was very grateful for the opportunity to study at United for the simple reason that I worked in Dayton and was not free to relocate. But it was a thrill and a blessing to attend classes taught by people like Dean Daryl Ward and Charles Booth from the African American Baptist tradition. I also had the opportunity to do work with the Salvation Army, thanks to United. I will treasure those experiences all my life.”

Jere Martin '60, Lancaster, PA

“I have always been grateful for United’s ecumenical spirit. I recall attending the Heck Lectureship when Harriet Miller retired. In her remarks, she mentioned three unique aspects of the EUB Church and one of them was the Church’s spirit and work in ecumenism. I paid for my seminary training with the funds I earned as Youth Director at the Dayton Central Corps of the Salvation Army at 5th and Wilkinson Street in downtown Dayton. My United years (1957-60) were good ones for me.”

Patricia Stone ’05, Cincinnati, OH

“I knew going into United that I would be surrounded by United Methodists, however that was part of the enriching experience. I found that my Baptist ideas were respected and made for some very interesting discussions. Some of my best discussions were with the professors and I will always cherish the time that I spent at United. It is true that our diversity makes us richer and encourages us to expand our points of view. In the end, it became apparent that what was really important was the fact that we were all God’s children trying to prepare ourselves for ministry.”
In August, ten United students fulfilled their intercultural experience with a trip to Vietnam led by two representatives from the West Ohio Conference of the UMC, Rev. Linda Hedden of the Miami Valley District and Rev. Joyce Fry ’71, Assistant to the Bishop (West Ohio) for Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Laos and Thailand).

The group had the opportunity to view the complexities of a rapidly developing country by visiting both cities and rural areas. The main focus was learning how the UMC is progressing toward official recognition by the Vietnamese government. In Hanoi, the group welcomed Revs. Karen and Ut Vo To, United Methodist missionaries to Vietnam for the Board of Global Ministries. Since their appointment in 2001, more than 200 churches have been started and a pastor training center, The United Methodist Center for the Vietnamese Methodist Church, has been developed. They actively work with United and other groups to grow a credentialed clergy to lead the new churches. At the training center, the students met 30 pastors, one who is a current on-line student at United, Ma Linh Koyon.

An added attraction was a trip to Seoul, South Korea, arranged by Rev. Fry with the General Board of Global Ministries, hosted by the Korean Methodist Church. A visit to Manna Church was hosted by United Doctor of Ministry graduate, Rev. Dr. Byuong Sam Kim ’98. Another United Doctor of Missiology graduate, Professor Sung-Boe Chang ’97, gave an overview of the global mission of the Korean Methodist Church at Methodist Theological University. United master of divinity student Iosmar Alvarez preached at the English-speaking service at Chungdong First Korean Methodist Church, often referred to as the “Mother Church” of the Korean Methodist Church. United students on the trip were Iosmar Alvarez Alfonso, Chuck Fenwick, Ryan Gade, Ray Haley, Casey Irwin, Blake Irwin, Ed Karges, Caleb LaFond, Sharon Kunselman, and Scott Taylor.

United Students Learn from Vietnamese, Korean Neighbors

BY LINDA HEDDEN AND SHARON KUNSELMAN

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Reflections from the Student Travelers

“We brought many things back from Vietnam with no material content. We realized a spiritual experience from half way around the globe and we have brought it back home to share in our ministries. What an incredible experience!”

“I enjoyed being with the pastors. They are special people. Even though we couldn’t communicate through language, there was a spiritual connection present. We may have not realized how important our presence was to them. They were very excited about our arrival, even if they could only step into the van for a few minutes just to say hello.”

“The pastors’ enthusiasm for their churches and in spreading the gospel was clear. They told us they would pray for us, when all along I felt they needed our prayers. I now realize we do need their prayers, for we need some of the enthusiasm they have.”

“I found the music in their worship services to be sincere and strong even though they don’t have praise and worship teams that rehearse. Their worship isn’t about a big show, but simply about worshiping God. They had music DVDs, guitars and, at one service, there was a piano, but it was obvious they didn’t need any of those things. They worshiped simply through their singing with praise!”

“We were singing well-known UMC hymns together in English and Vietnamese at the same time, it was truly inspiring. The family atmosphere and Christian body were definitely present in worship. They were all one body when they came together in worship.”

“I met a man at a gas station who told me he had studied in Europe, but when the Americans came, he had to return home. I told him I decided to wait until now to come to his country, he shook my hand and said, ‘Thank you for waiting.’ I could not have received more from the entire trip than what that man gave me in that exchange. He gave me PEACE of mind.”
Music Ministry Program to Begin in November

United’s music ministry certificate program, the Floyd and Elaine Flake Certificate in Music Ministry, will begin its second season in November. This six-course certificate program is geared to enhance one’s ability to provide outstanding leadership of music ministry in the twenty-first century Christian church. The first segment of the program is a twenty-three week online education program emphasizing biblical, theological, organizational, and formational leadership of music ministry. A one-week residency intensive in the summer focuses worship through song.

The online courses include Teaching Biblical Faith and Ministry, Theology in Music: An Introduction, and Spiritual and Music Ministry Formation. The courses offered during the weeklong residency session are Congregational Songs, Technology in Music Ministry, and Ensemble Leadership. Tuition is $1,800 ($300 per course). For more information about this program, please visit the website at www.united.edu or contact the program’s director, Jeremy Winston, at 937.529.2261 or jwinston@united.edu.

For more information on all events contact United: 937.529.2201 | www.united.edu
Dr. Lisa Hess
Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Contextual Ministries


“Christian theology, like musicology, uses words to describe realities and experiences that resist explanation. Lisa Hess explores how theologians could better attend to the performative, embodied nature of spirituality in its various forms. This book is a helpful reminder of how theology is, and how it works readers to a variety of voices and questions that are often neglected in theological reflection.”

– John D. Witvliet, Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary

New Faculty Publications

Dr. Thomas Dozeman
Professor of Hebrew Bible

The Pentateuch: International Perspectives on Current Research edited by Thomas Dozeman, Konrad Schmid and Baruch J. Schwartz [eds]; Forschung zum Alten Testament 78. Mohr Siebeck, 2011. This volume contains a collection of articles from an international conference in Zürich that brought together leading voices from North America, Europe, and Israel to evaluate the present state of research on the composition of the Pentateuch. The aim of the conference was to clarify differences in methodology and to identify points of convergence in the present state of pentateuchal research as a basis for further discussion.

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Dr. Watson was installed as Academic Dean in September as United Theological Seminary's 14th Opening Convocation, held Wednesday, Sept. 7, at Precious Blood Catholic Church in Dayton. Dr. Watson was also the featured speaker, on the topic, “Reading for Renewal” (see excerpts below).

Excerpts from “Reading for Renewal”

“Mainline” Protestantism could more accurately be called “Thin Line” Protestantism, because our continued effectiveness for making disciples of Jesus Christ, our ability to see lives transformed, our cultural relevance, and indeed our very existence, are in a tenuous position right now. Nevertheless, I for one will not assent to nor adopt the rhetoric of decline. Nevertheless, I for one will not assent to nor adopt the rhetoric of decline.

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... There is no renewal, there can be no renewal, without the power and work of the Holy Spirit. You and I cannot renew the church. No program, no hermeneutic, no pastor, no seminary, can renew the church. Only the Holy Spirit can renew the church. And so we must make our way through the scriptures prayerfully ...

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Dr. David Watson Installed as Academic Dean

For the Livestream version of Dr. Watson’s address or to read the text version, please visit www.united.edu, click on News and choose “Dr. David Watson Appointed Academic Dean.”

United in Cyberspace!

In September, more than 100 students spent a week at the Dayton campus to participate in Gathering Week for United’s online program. Gathering Week provides the necessary occasions for students to interact face-to-face with each other, professors and the staff of the seminary in the context of the Dayton campus.

United received approval in 2009 from the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) to develop its comprehensive online program. The accrediting agency allows two-thirds of the Master of Divinity degree to be completed online, and requires the remaining one-third to take place on campus. United’s newest degree offering, the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, is also being provided in this way. This means both degrees are now more accessible than ever in regions previously underserved by accredited theological education.

In addition to students at a distance, some residential students also choose to enroll in online classes, which provide more flexibility. While online classes require a comparable investment of time for both student and professor, they are more cost effective for students who would otherwise have to commute long distances or relocate.

All instructors who teach online at United must first complete a rigorous certificate program in online pedagogy, and online students are expected to complete an online orientation process.

When asked how the students in these programs are responding, Ms. Phyllis Ennist, Assistant Dean for Distance Education, replied, they “are voicing their approval … with their enrollment, attendance and gratitude. They view this as a means of inclusion that has not been readily available to them in the past.” For some, family, economic and church commitments have prevented them from relocating for seminary, and together we are discovering the advantages of theological education in the contexts where students will continue to serve beyond graduation.

Live interviews with some of these students may be found at http://www.united.edu/Distance-Learning-Program/Distance-Learning-at-United/menu-id-15.html. To read a reflection by Dr. Lisa Hess, Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Contextual Ministries, visit http://www.united.edu/Testimonies-and-Reflections/Testimonies-and-Refections-on-the-Online-Program/menu-id-553.html.
Class of 2007

Anthony J. King, currently of Redford, MI, is contemplating a relocation to Huntsville, AL, and would appreciate being in touch with any United Alum

Class of 2009

Anthony Harrington, Cleveland, OH, is serving at Victory Hope and Praise Ministry. He requests prayers for his ministry of winning the lost to Jesus Christ, and taking a stand against the crime, sin, and discouragement in the community.

Class of 2010

Elise Esslinger, Dayton, OH, received the Roger Deschner Lifetime Achievement Award at the biennial convocation of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts in July, 2011.

Barbara Cooper, Tipp City, OH, reports that her piano studio is bustling at the seams, and provides an excellent opportunity for out-of-the-box ministry in the marketplace with a group of other Christian artisans.

Tracy Blakely-Thompson, Southfield, MI, recently was awarded School of Education Alumus of the Year from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Blakely-Thompson, a 1992 graduate of the school, received her award on October 28.

Passages

Our prayers are with:

Perry Troutman ’52, whose wife, Vivian Troutman, died on October 6, 2010. His address is 233 East Main Street, Ansville, PA, 17003.

Harold Scott ’58, whose wife, Donna Scott, died on December 2, 2010. His address is 2298 S. 1000, W., Lapel, IN 46051.

Jean Otto, whose husband, W. Jackson Otto ’59, died on February 2, 2011. Condolences may be sent to PO Box 125, Cornwail, PA 17016-0125.

The family of Blakely ‘64, whose wife, John S. Brown, died on April 10, 2011. She was the spouse of John S. Brown ’64, who died in 2011.

The family of Taylor Bach ’76, whose wife, died on May 20, 2011.

The family of R. A. Pettibone ’57, whose husband, died on May 24, 2011.

Ruth M. Switzer, whose husband, Donald E. Switzer ’59, died on May 28, 2011. Her address is 4639 Basswood Ave., Brunswick, OH, 44212-2540.

Art Allen, whose wife, Nancy L. Allen ’67, died on May 29, 2011. His address is 408 S. Adair St., Stuart, IA 50250.

Christine Cross, whose husband, David Cross ’83, died on May 12, 2011. His address is 1140 Sunset Drive, Wabash, IN 46992-1538.

Randy Catlett, whose wife, Janet Lewis-Catlett ’91, passed away on June 12, 2011. Condolences may be sent to 25 W. Main St., Leipsic, OH 45856.

Alberica Cheesman, whose husband, John Alva Cheesman ’58, died on June 14, 2011. Her address is 845 Fiesta Drive, Greenwood, IN 46143.

James Palmer Marable, whose wife, June Morehead Marable ’89, died on June 14, 2011. Condolences may be sent to 101 Bowie Dr., Dayton, OH 45408.

Donald W. Rossman ’63, whose wife, Fay I. Rossman, died on June 18, 2011. His address is 485 Fiesta Drive, Greenwood, IN 46143.

James Palmer Marable, whose wife, June Morehead Marable ’89, died on June 14, 2011. Condolences may be sent to 101 Bowie Dr., Dayton, OH 45408.

Donald W. Rossman ’63, whose wife, Fay I. Rossman, died on June 18, 2011. His address is 485 Fiesta Drive, Greenwood, IN 46143.

The family of Fred L. Henschken ’95, whose wife, died on June 26, 2011. Condolences may be sent to 61 Russell Stage Rd, Blandford, MA 01008-9647.

The family of Renita H. Thomas ’11, of McDonough, GA, who died on October 20, 2011.

The family of Millard J. Miller ’33, who died on August 6, 2011. He was formerly the oldest living graduate of United Theological Seminary.

The family of Betty J. Clem ’69, who died on August 16, 2011.

Marcy Patrick, whose husband, David Patrick ’92, died on August 21, 2011. Her address is 1000 Fardice Rd., Lebanon, IN 46042-1904.

Kim Armentrout ’97 and Barb Armentrout ’92, whose grandmother and mother, Dolores Trick, died August 23, 2011. Condolences may be sent to Kim at Englewood UMC, 107 N. Walnut St, Englewood, OH 45322, and to Barb at 10397 Fent Rd., NW, Jeffersonville, OH 43128-9748.

Dorothy Leffler Sawyer, step-mother of Wilma Bone ’92, died September 13, 2011. Wilma’s address is PO Box 178, Henrville, IN 47126.

Judy Bergland, whose husband, James W. Bergland ’46, died on October 7. He was the brother of John Bergland, 55, and the father of J. Kim Bergland and G. Kurt Bergland. Condolences may be sent to 61 Russell Stage Rd, Blandford, MA 01008-9647.

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