

UNION NETWORK

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UNION NETWORK

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On the Cover

Dr. Helen Kim, who completed her doctoral studies at Teachers College in 1931 and was the first Korean president of Seoul's Ewha Women's University, planted the Rose of Sharon at Union. Alumna Yoon-Jae Change '98, currently Professor of Systematic Theology at Ewha, helped place this planting in historical context by sharing the following account. Prior to the Second World War, after Union's president had planted Japanese magnolia in the middle of the Quad, Helen asked in anger how Christians, proclaiming God's justice, could ever support the colonizer. In protest she planted the Rose of Sharon, the national flower of Korea, around Union's perimeter so that it would encircle the Japanese magnolia.

Cover Photo by Kevin McGee



Members of the Class of 2016 entering James Chapel on a rainy Commencement day.



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Dr. James Cone delivers "The Cry of Black Blood: The Rise of Black Liberation Theology" to an overflowing Social Hall on February 25, 2016. You can watch it at: utsnyc.edu/james-cone-live.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Union Community,

WELCOME to a new academic year at Union Theological Seminary! Every year since 1836, Union has welcomed a fresh cohort of scholars, and this fall 90 new students from 23 states and 9 countries joined our Union community.

While the campus is now abuzz with the activities of academic life, Union did not lay dormant during the summer months. We hosted a three-week conference, in partnership with the Interfaith Center of New York, for nearly three-dozen K–12 educators, about the religious diversity of the United States and how to teach about contemporary, lived religion. We held our third annual Millennial Leaders Project Summer Conference, which brought together twenty-five diverse millennial-generation leaders from across the nation who actively address inequality in their respective local communities. And Union's Center for Earth Ethics hosted an innovative training program in partnership with the Climate Reality Project for Christian ministers looking to increase their competency in climate justice, advocacy, and ministry.

This summer also saw the arrival of our new faculty members. In early June, we welcomed our new Assistant Professor of Homiletics, the Rev. Dr. Lisa Thompson. We are eager to receive all that Lisa has to

offer in the important discipline of proclamation and the power of bearing witness. In July, the Rev. Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes '07 stepped into the position of Associate Professor of Worship and promises to bring intellect, heart, and the power of the arts to our Union campus in expansive and most certainly surprising ways! In August, Dr. Beth Bidlack began working as Union's new Associate Academic Dean. Since February of 2013, Beth served as the Director of the Burke Library at Union, and we are incredibly fortunate for her depth of background and keenness of insight. And we are exceedingly happy to welcome the Rev. Dr. Craig D. Townsend, Director of the Hays Rockwell Center for Clergy Development at St. James' Episcopal Church, New York, as a lecturer in Church History; Buddhist scholar Greg Snyder as a lecturer in Interreligious Engagement; and Dr. Jeremy F. Hultin as Visiting Associate Professor of Biblical Languages.

As for me, I visited Melbourne in July to deliver lectures at the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools' 2016 Conference. From there, I traveled northwest to India for a two-week visit to seminaries across the country with Professors John Thatamanil and Andrea White along with Rev. Richard Landers, Union's Director of Special Initiatives, and alumna Rev. Winnie S. Varghese '99, priest and director of community outreach at our New York partner congregation Trinity Church Wall Street. This trip was part of Union's International Connections Initiative, which is our organized process of reconnecting with many of our longstanding international friends—and discovering new ones. For the same purpose, I visited Shanghai and Nanjing, China and Havana, Cuba earlier this year along with Professor Daisy Machado '81. During all of my travels, I have marveled at Union's international reach, meeting countless people who have either studied on our campus or who have been formed by people who did.

Finally, I am thrilled to announce that illustrious civil rights lawyer, activist, and bestselling author of *The New Jim*

Crow, Michelle Alexander, will join Union as a Visiting Professor beginning this 2016–17 academic year. During her time here, Michelle's focus will be on learning, writing, teaching, and engaging in public dialogue—all with the goal of working with others to inspire a bold multi-racial, multi-ethnic, interfaith movement seeking to birth a new, more just America. We are deeply appreciative of the amazing support of the Ford Foundation, the Jonathan D. Lewis Foundation, Trinity Church Wall Street, and others who together have made possible her time with us.

You'll also read in this issue about "Union Making News," including our response to the Orlando "Pulse" massacre and our panel at the Democratic National Convention with the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, Visiting Professor of Public Theology and Activism at Union, among others. As promised, we also continue the conversation from the Spring 2016 issue about Union's aging facilities and planning for the future. We're very grateful to the three colleagues in ministry who responded to our "Call for Papers" and have shared their wisdom and insights by writing for this issue.

The alumni/ae and friends of Union Theological Seminary are the lifeblood of this school, and your generous support, along with your diverse ministries around the globe, preserves Union's legacy and enables its vibrant future. I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Union Network*, and I trust that it will give you a sense of the spirited community life that continues to fill our classrooms and hallways today—and from there spreads throughout the world.

Peace,

The Rev. Dr. Serene Jones
*President and Johnston Family Professor
for Religion & Democracy*

Faculty Comings and Goings

The ebb and flow of academic communities includes an ongoing rhythm of the arrival of new members of the teaching collegium along with faculty retirements. At the beginning of the 2016-17 academic year, the community welcomes three new additions: the Rev. Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes '07 as Associate Professor of Worship, the Rev. Dr. Lisa L. Thompson as Assistant Professor of Homiletics, and Dr. Beth Bidlack as Associate Academic Dean. And at the close of the 2015-16 academic year, the Union community marked the departure of three beloved faculty members, Dr. Janet R. Walton '79, Dr. Cornel West, and Rev. Dr. Hal Taussig.

Cláudio Carvalhaes, who received his M.Div. in 1992 from the Independent Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Sao Paulo, Brazil, completed his Union Ph.D. in 2007 in the interdisciplinary fields of Worship and Systematic Theology while studying with his mentors Dr. Janet Walton and Dr. Delores S. Williams '91. Most recently he has taught at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and before that appointment, he served on the faculties of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. A native of Brazil, he is widely sought after as a worship leader and preacher. Cláudio is the editor of *Liturgy in Postcolonial Perspectives: Only One Is Holy* and author of *Sacraments and Globalization: Redrawing the Borders of Eucharistic Hospitality*. About his appointment, Janet Walton has commented, "Cláudio Carvalhaes will bring energy, passion, intelligence, insights, commitments, compassion, and experience to Union. I am grateful and excited about his appointment to the faculty."

Lisa Thompson, Cláudio's incoming colleague in the area of worship and preaching, completed her doctoral studies at Vanderbilt University and since 2013 has taught preaching at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Her interests include theology, ethics, and proclamation; gender, ethnicity, and religious practice; and religion and public life. She has been serving as vice-president of the African-American Caucus of the Academy of Homiletics. Her publications include "Now That's Preaching!": Disruptive and Generative Preaching Practices" in the *Practice Matters Journal*. Dr. Daisy L. Machado '81, Union's Professor of American Church History, chaired the search committee for the worship and preaching positions and has said of Lisa Thompson, "She is ready to take on the multi-religious, multi-racial, and multi-gender-identified context of Union and will do so with great enthusiasm and energy."



CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: Cláudio Carvalhaes, Lisa Thompson, Janet Walton, and Beth Bidlack.

Beth Bidlack has a Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies from Boston University, with a concentration in the History and Literature of Ancient Israel, as well as an M.S. degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has taught Hebrew Scriptures and also served as librarian at Bangor Theological Seminary, Dartmouth College, and the University of Chicago. Most recently she has been the Director of the Burke Library at Union and Columbia University. In 2013-14 she served as President of the American Theological Library Association. As of August 1, she became Associate Academic Dean at Union and will be providing oversight of Union's reaccreditation process with the Association of Theological Schools. Dr. Mary C. Boys '75, '78, the Dean of Academic Affairs and Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology, in her welcome of Beth into the Academic Office said, "Having worked closely with Beth since I became Dean, I am thrilled that she has accepted the position of Associate Dean. As Director of the Burke Library, she has proven a great friend of the Academic Office, and we are blessed she has chosen to join us in our daily work."

Among Union's departing faculty, **Janet Walton**, Professor Emerita of Worship, taught worship, music, and the arts at Union since 1979. A Roman Catholic sister, her research and

teaching have centered on worship and how religious communities shape and reshape their traditions and practices, with particular focus on feminist perspectives and the aesthetic dimensions of worship. A seasoned musician herself, she has worked with performers such as the Blue Man Group and Sweet Honey in the Rock. Her publications include *Sacred Sound and Social Change*, co-authored with Lawrence Hoffman. In 2003 she received the prestigious American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in Teaching. With colleagues Troy Messenger, Director and Visiting Assistant Professor of Worship, and Susan Blain '86, she has recently produced a documentary of Union's worship program entitled "James Chapel Worship: Practice for Life," which may be found on Union's website at www.utsnyc.edu.

Cornel West, named by the Trustees as Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Christian Practices, returned to Union in 2012 after previously teaching on the Union faculty from 1977 to 1984 and again from 1987 to 1988. Frequently lauded as one of America's most influential civil rights activists, authors, commentators, and scholars, he is the author of numerous books, including *Race Matters*, *Democracy Matters*, and *Prophesy Deliverance!* Although no longer a full-time member of Union's teaching roster, he will be a frequent visiting scholar who will offer leadership for, and speak at, upcoming Union-sponsored public events.

Hal Taussig has retired after 17 years as Visiting Professor of New Testament at Union. He continues to serve as Professor of Early Christianity at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, and until his recent retirement, also served as co-pastor of the Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church in Philadelphia. Hal is co-chair of the



Cornel West



Hal Taussig

Society of Biblical Literature's Consultation on Greco-Roman Meals. Among his 14 published books is the 2013 volume, *A New New Testament: A Bible for the 21st Century Combining Traditional and Newly Discovered Texts*. He co-chairs the Westar Institute's Christianity Seminar, which includes some 40 scholars from seminaries, universities, and colleges throughout North America and has as its goal to rewrite the history and portrait of early Christianity.

In speaking about the departures of these three members of the Faculty, President Serene Jones remarked, "Union Seminary has been blessed and strengthened by these extraordinary teachers, scholars, and practitioners, whom we now send forth in gratitude as they continue to change the world and church for the far, far better." [U](#)



Michelle Alexander

Michelle Alexander, distinguished civil rights lawyer, advocate, and legal scholar, has joined the Union faculty this fall as Visiting Professor and will be at the Seminary for the next five years, thanks to a generous grant from the Ford Foundation among others. Best known for her highly acclaimed *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, she has taught at Stanford Law School and more recently at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University. Prior to entering academia, she served as the director of the Racial Justice Project for the ACLU of Northern California, where she coordinated the Project's media advocacy, grassroots organizing, coalition building, and litigation.

At her March 4, 2015 Judith Davidson Moyers' Women of Spirit lecture, delivered in James Chapel to a packed house, Alexander said, "We can and we must build a movement not only to end mass incarceration and mass deportation, but a broad-based radical human rights movement that ends once and for all our history's cycle of creating caste-like systems in America." And then in a comment prescient about her joining the Union community, she closed by saying, "I believe it will be said, when the history of this movement is written, that this place, Union Theological Seminary, was at the forefront, offering for all people of all colors, ethnicities, and faiths a theology of liberation and an ethics of justice, a vision of what love looks like in public."

Watch the video: utsnyc.edu/michellealexanderlive

Union Making News

Established in 1836 by founders “deeply impressed by the claims of the world upon the church,” Union prepares people for committed lives of service to the church, academy, and society. Combining rigorous scholarship with a commitment to social justice, Union is providing new leadership to positively transform the world.



SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

Union Organizes Religious Leaders Against Hate Rhetoric

On September 1 Union convened a press conference of national religious leaders to speak out against hateful rhetoric and the historic revisionism presented in this presidential campaign.

The conference was led by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, President and Senior Lecturer of Repairers of the Breach, Pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church (Goldsboro, NC), Auburn Seminary Fellow, and Visiting Professor at Union. Barber is also the architect of the “Moral Mondays” demonstrations in North Carolina to counter GOP legislation regarding Medicaid and gun control. Dr. Barber and colleagues felt compelled to speak out against the hateful rhetoric that, if left unchecked, will continue to tear our country apart.

Attendees were welcomed by Union President Serene Jones, and the speakers included (*left to right in photo above*) Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, Union for Reform Judaism; Rev. Jim Wallis, President and Founder, Sojourners; Sister Janet Kinney, CSJ, Nuns on the Bus; Imam Talib Abdur-Rashim, Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood; Rev. Dr. Ray Rivera, Executive Director, Latino Pastoral Action Center; Rev. Dr. Frederick Haynes, Pastor, Friendship West Baptist Church; Dr. Barber; Rev. Dr. Amy Butler, Senior Minister, The Riverside Church; Rev. Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook '83, former US Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom; Dr. Jerusha T. Lamptey, Assistant Professor of Islam and Ministry at Union; Julio Medina, Executive Director, founder and CEO, Exodus Transitional Community, Inc.; Father James Martin, SJ, Editor-at-Large, America Media; Rev. Dr. Katharine Henderson '82, President, Auburn Seminary; and Rev. Dr. James Forbes '62, President, Drum Major Institute, and Founder and Director, The Healing of the Nations.

Watch a video of the event: utsnyc.edu/rev-dr-william-barber-press-conference

JUNE 6–10, 2016

The Gospel in the Ecological Crisis: A Training for Christian Clergy

Union's Center for Earth Ethics and the Climate Reality Project trained 35 priests, ministers, preachers, pastors, nuns, and evangelists to recognize and address the impact of climate change in their congregations and communities.

The seminar was convened with the assistance of partner organizations, including the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology, Green for All, GreenFaith, the Sophia Institute, the Kairos Center for Rights and Religion, the Franciscan Action Network, the NAACP, and Creation Justice Ministries.

JUNE 12, 2016

Union Co-sponsors Interfaith Vigil in Response to the Orlando Massacre

NYC Mayor Bill DeBlasio's Clergy Advisory Council held an interfaith vigil at Judson Memorial Church to remember the victims of the Orlando Massacre at the LGBTQ “Pulse” nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

Faith leaders present included Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper, Senior Minister of Judson; Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum of Congregation Beit Simchat Torah; Rev. Dr. Amy Butler, Senior Minister of The Riverside Church; Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, President of Union; and Rev. Fred Davie, Executive Vice President of Union.

Vice President Davie expressed sentiments shared by faith leaders throughout the nation: “During the holy and sacred time of Ramadan, these events are especially jarring. Tonight we gather to mourn and to demonstrate once again that love always conquers hate. What was meant to divide our communities will only bind us closer together. May we all take steps to end gun violence so that we never have to have a vigil like this one again.”

JUNE 21, 2016

Union Explores Ways to Stop Violence After the “Pulse” Massacre

Union brought together LGBTQ faith leaders from New York and Orlando, along with survivors of the “Pulse” nightclub massacre, for a public forum at the Seminary to explore ways to build lasting bridges of mutual respect and non-violence among faith groups and marginalized communities.

The panel discussion was moderated by Vice President Fred Davie, who served by appointment of President Obama on the White House Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships and currently serves on the New York City Mayor’s Clergy Advisory Council. In his opening remarks, Davie said, “We need to begin a sustained national public conversation about concrete ways to reduce violence, increase respect and tolerance, and tackle the festering and explosive underlying issues of race, bigotry, and class in America. We at Union want to support this critically needed public discussion which is the basis for hope and a more peaceful future.”

Watch the video of this discussion:
[youtube/watch?v=0U0sd2qoO30](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0U0sd2qoO30)



LEFT: Wesley Morris '17 contributes to the discussion at the Millennial Leaders Summer Conference.
RIGHT: A conference exercise led by Bridget Kelso Anthony '15 (far right)



JULY 18–22, 2016

Union Hosts Third Summer Conference for Millennial Leaders

A cohort of three-dozen young leaders from across the U.S., ages 21 to 35, spent a week on campus reflecting on the intersections of spirituality, activism, leadership, and social justice. As Millennial leaders, they have organized and helped lead grassroots social movements to address social inequality in diverse forms. While formal affiliation with a specific religious tradition is not required of the participants, they must demonstrate a proven record of community service and a strong interest in exploring how spirituality informs and energizes justice advocacy. This summer’s conference offered a structured time for reflection and discussion, community and network building, collaborative learning with other Millennials from around the country, and the development of new tools for social justice work.

JULY 22, 2016

Union Hosts DNC Panel on Faith, Social Movements, and Lasting Change

During the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Union organized a panel discussion with faith leaders and human rights activists on how faith sparks justice movements and energizes communities for lasting

social change. The panel was part of Raben Respite, two days of events with America’s change makers at the 2016 DNC.

Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins ’87, Senior Vice President for Innovation in Public Programs at Union, was one of the speakers. Others included Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, in Goldsboro, N.C., and Visiting Professor of Public Theology and Activism at Union; Ruby Bridges, activist and civil rights hero; Carmen Dixon, community organizer with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, New York, and a leader of New York’s Black Lives Matter chapter; Rev. Broderick Greer, curate, Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal Church and School in Memphis, TN; and Greisa Martinez, advocacy director for United We Dream Network in Washington, D.C.

The panel was moderated by Melissa Harris-Perry, BET special correspondent, *ELLE Magazine* editor-at-large, author, and political commentator.

About the event Derrick Harkins said, “There are voices taking shape now around the issues of police and gun violence, including Black Lives Matter, that are going to have impact going forth. Maybe we are at a point where we are, again, indeed crossing the Rubicon. I’m going to be hopeful because there are voices and people committed to creating bridges that were not there even a few months ago.”

Real Estate and Ministry: *Expanding the Conversation*

The Spring 2016 issue of the *Union Network* ran an article entitled “Securing Union’s Future and Renovating the Campus,” reporting on the Trustees’ plans for renovating the Seminary’s entire campus, including costly, deteriorating buildings over a century old, that will ensure Union’s long-term future. The transformative results of Union’s facilities plan include: make Union fully accessible and green; modernize student dorms; build modern classrooms; increase scholarships; create new faculty housing; include a component that addresses affordable housing needs in our neighborhood; preserve Union’s three designated landmark buildings: James Tower, James Memorial Chapel and Brown Memorial Tower; and create private residences on the upper floors, which will have their own entrance and therefore allow Union to maintain the internal integrity of our courtyard-centered-campus.

A “Call for Papers” invited alumni/ae and others to submit their stories of similar institutional challenges regarding the preservation of physical spaces and how to marry the need to manage critical preservation and maintenance needs with exciting visions for growth. We are pleased to publish the three articles that have been received. Each identifies principles and best practices that inform Union’s own facilities renovation plan, and we’re grateful to these authors for sharing their knowledge and experience in order to expand and contextualize this important conversation that is impacting a host of educational, spiritual, and cultural institutions nationwide.

Sacred Site as Real Estate, Real Estate as Sacred Site

Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper,

Senior Minister, Judson Memorial Church, New York

EDITOR’S NOTE: Dr. Donna Schaper taught a May 2016 course at Union on real estate and ministry and shares insights from the course and from her own congregation’s efforts to address deep and challenging questions about facilities and institutional mission, including the fact that Judson Memorial, similar to Union, has air rights and is considering whether and how to make best use of them. Her latest book is *Approaching the End of Life: A Practical and Spiritual Guide* (Rowan, 2015).



In the certainly popular *Downton Abbey* drama, the lead character is “the house.” The house evolves. It needs money to maintain, it is a site for a hospital and charity benefit, and it has its ups and downs. The house also stays the same, hosting a great drama between the “upstairs” people and the “downstairs” people. Often for seminaries and congregations, the lead character is also the house. We may have a simple theology that is caught in a children’s finger game, “Here’s the church, and here’s the steeple; look inside, and see all the people,” but we also evolve and refuse to evolve as steeped people. We don’t always know whether to shelter or tent. When it comes to religious buildings, tentativity reigns.

I taught a course to seven Union students in May 2016 on this moral and physical tentativity. The students’ papers are brilliant. President Jones joined us for an afternoon as did Reverend Will Critzman ’14.

The first assignment was to talk about Santiago Calatrava’s “Oculus,” the World Trade Center’s Transportation Hub at Ground Zero, and to consider this structure in theological and spiritual terms. The students explored how accessible the space is, how beautiful it is, how much it cost, and whether it “works” to memorialize the largest event of this early 21st century. As you might imagine, the space grabbed them by their spiritual throats and wouldn’t let them go.

The second assignment was to write five pages about what Union might have done to avoid contributing to gentrification in Harlem. Air rights banks (like land rights banks or land preserves) came up. These policy changes are being explored by many not-for-profit institutions, including the Furman Institute at New York University and the New York Law School.

“Trusted advocate” methodologies were explored as well as building low-income housing on the site. Likewise suggested was more engagement of the “downstairs” people, the students themselves. Or off-siting in the Bronx, going underground with the Underground Seminary, or living in exile like Sem-Ex, the Missouri Synod Lutheran exile of long ago.

In a longer assignment, students wrestled with the tragedy of deferred maintenance at churches and elsewhere. They faced the tragedy of the potential “death” or end of the life cycle of these institutions. They tried not to blink.

We used Union as a case study along with Jewish Theological Seminary, Park Avenue Christian, General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, Pacific School of Religion, Andover Newton, Bangor Theological Seminary, St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Manhattan, and many more. How can urban institutions remain the same and change? How can we possibly raise the money to keep magnificent public, open spaces alive in the coming years? Do our business models have a chance of working? What is a treasure in an earthen vessel? How does embodied theology apply to the strange language, “It’s just a building”? Aren’t bodies good? Then why the neglectful disdain for their maintenance?

Sacred sites are places where people deposit their hopes to find God. Today some of them are vibrant, filled, and bubbling with spiritual, communal, and cultural energy. Others are dowdy, empty, cracking under the weight of time with leaky roofs or gaping gables, the grass not mowed, and the parking lot concrete cracked. The latter didn’t make it intact into the 21st century. Higher energy prices, lost constituencies, and delayed maintenance took their toll not on the sacred, but on its space.

In our studies together, the top ten “best practices” for congregations emerged as follows:

1. Break out of denial about buildings. They are not a problem so much as a possibility. They need and deserve care. It is not anti-missional to care for property. It is an old and mischievous binary to say, “We want to fund the mission but not maintenance.” Confess our sins of a binary nature.

2. Befriend the virtual without overdoing it. It is very hard to do sacred work without sacred space. Worship is a good thing and best done with real bodies assembled. It surely can be done virtually. And there is nothing wrong with the virtual. There is also nothing wrong with the assembled. Again, watch the binary bite us you-know-where.

3. Teach people how to grow congregations plus how to host multiple functions and multiple groups in the same space and how to get along. Learn how to house different kinds of mustards in the same refrigerator. Fill up the sacred space with arts and politics and book clubs and day care centers and dance rehearsals and Anonymous everyone, with Jews and Muslims and Christians and Sufis. Check out Tri.Faith in Omaha for a great example of dense religious space.

4. Think green. Every additional group that worships in a building brings the electric bill down. Empty spaces use too much electricity per person.

5. Remove the pews so that multiple uses are normal. Destabilize the stable uses.

6. Work with local government to develop conservatories of congregations and seminaries as mission-consistent, public, open, and beautiful spaces. Plant gardens. Go beyond the parochial use of the space so that governments can help you actually be a public space as well as a parochial one.

7. Develop air rights banks like land rights banks, or air rights conservatories like land conservation policies. Let the public help you hang on to your last asset rather than selling it to the highest bidder and contributing to gentrification.

8. Make your allies the downstairs people, not the upstairs people. Stay mission consistent in your partnerships. Give away space once you have rented enough to stay solvent. Go for mission and money, both rather than either/or.

9. Don’t worry about being too beautiful. Be useful and beautiful at the same time. Don’t think of the building as owned by the current generation of users. It is not theirs. It is a trust from the past for the future. Think long. Think seven generations at a time. And declutter, declutter, declutter. Constantly declutter. Regularly declutter. The old couch in the entryway reminds people of “grandma,” not granddaughter. The fact that “you can’t throw that away” is your mantra means that you are not opening space for the new or the next.

10. Experiment. Nobody knows what to do next. Experiment a lot.



Sacred Space, Sacred Cows

Lee Sartain

EDITOR’S NOTE: Lee Sartain, a North Carolina native who in 2013-15 served as Director of Renewal for the Milner Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, is scheduled to receive an M.A. in Ethics and Sustainability in 2017.

Churches and theological institutions are often seen as sacred space. Architecturally, buildings may inspire and even encourage a sense of connection with the divine. For many of us, our lived experience in certain spaces provides an emotional connection to God and to other people that we deeply treasure. Over time these experiences may become so tied to a particular space that a tension arises between preserving the familiar and welcoming the new. Sacred spaces can become sacred cows, above criticism and paralyzed by the established conventions of the organization.

My summer 2016 studies at Union and Columbia allowed me to explore these themes in depth. Union offered the course “Religious Buildings as Sacred Sites: Treasures in Earthen Vessels,” which explored the tensions between sacred space, history, and the need for churches to live into their future. My final project centered on helping the Milner Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, North Carolina in its congregational discernment process. Poised for revitalization, this congregation has taken on the daunting and exciting task of reimagining space in order to embody their missional vision to become a truly robust and welcoming congregation for the next generation of the faithful.



“While all churches need to make good business decisions, those decisions must be coupled with a good pastoral response.”

Fortunately, the church has a beautiful mid-century, quite modern facility with no major structural issues. Accessibility concerns can be reasonably addressed in an incremental fashion. The space is also balanced so that as the congregation grows, the fellowship hall and education rooms can accommodate growth in the sanctuary. However, to achieve that right balance, improvements are needed and spaces reconfigured. Such changes can be a challenge. How do you help a church see a familiar space differently? An underutilized parlor may have a funeral-home feel and require introducing flexible seating to meet the needs of contemporary adult education. But it is challenging to persuade congregants that the room where their children were reared in Sunday school in the 1970s now needs a major overhaul to fulfill that same function in 2016.

Much depends on our framework and response. While all churches need to make good business decisions, those decisions must be coupled with a good pastoral response. However, unlike the corporate world, the church does not typically do a great job of depreciating assets. Often church furniture, fixtures, and equipment are acquired as the result of generous gifts, but we may not do an adequate job of setting expectations that gifts have a finite lifecycle. A name on the door may be “forever,” but that doesn’t mean the furniture in the room should be. Someone’s brilliant idea for fundraising in 1985 to “sell” named plaques on the folding chairs becomes someone else’s headache twenty years later when the chairs are worn out and need to be tossed.

Coupling financial acumen, pastoral response, and accurate planning are critical for church leadership in the 21st Century.

Union’s own partnership with Columbia University helps make those connections possible. Columbia’s Earth Institute curriculum, including a course on Solar Power Development, introduced me to the basics of project design and, perhaps more importantly, to project financing. Our final group project for the course was to propose a rooftop solar system for a Georgia mega-church that would fully offset its electric usage. We explored how alternate funding streams could make such a project viable. Unlike for-profit corporations, churches cannot directly make use of tax incentives and depreciation vehicles, but there are other options that congregations can use.

Unless your church is flush with cash, the most familiar vehicle for churches is mortgage loans. However, these loans tend to carry a higher rate of interest, which drags down the viability of a project. In some states, churches can enter into power purchasing agreements (PPA) where the church contracts with a solar provider to buy power on a rate schedule in exchange for long-term leases on roof or ground space. Solar City is an example of such a company. The most viable option for many churches may be

to issue tax-exempt bonds. “Church Bonds” used to be a popular way to finance building construction before mortgage loans became more widely available. In many states, churches can issue bonds to members and investors. With interest rates at historic lows, churches can arrange long-term financing for green solutions while ditching their electric and gas bills. While the financial cost may be slightly higher, the ethical and moral benefit is enlarged in answering our call as caretakers of creation.

I have to admit that some of the proposals about space redesign that I made to the Raleigh congregation fell flat. We never managed to reconfigure sacred cows like the parlor into flexible space. Other proposals managed to take off and have changed the internal dynamics of the church for the better. Services often start late because of the numbers of worshipers enjoying coffee time in our “Glass Room” overlooking the surrounding landscape. With sacred spaces, you may decide to keep the sanctuary looking as it did when it first opened in 1961, but there are now compelling reasons to dramatically alter the roofline and boiler room of that same building.

Christian transformation leaves us recognizable, yet wholly different. The Union community is currently grappling with how it may become wholly different in the context of its capital program. We should look to the story of the Ascension of Jesus for guidance here. The disciples were satisfied with resurrection, the familiar; God required transformation. From this we learn that transformational change of sacred space requires managing a tenuous balance between honoring the past and living more fully into the future we are called to become.

When Your Building Asset Becomes a Liability

Meg Maguire

First Congregational United Church, Washington, D.C.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Meg Maguire, who along with her husband Dale Ostrander '65 is a member of the First Congregational United Church of Washington, DC, chaired that congregation's Site Development Task Force and reflects about that church's recent renovation project, both the process and the product. About Union's facilities renovation plan, Meg writes, "Union Seminary, a national treasure that fosters strong community and pride-of-place, must reinvest in its deteriorating physical plant if it is to remain viable. I hope that our experience in Washington, DC can be helpful as you consider how to generate money to restore and make safe your stunning buildings in service of your sacred mission."



The predicament that Washington's First Congregational United Church of Christ (FCUCC) faced in 2004 is all too familiar to many churches. A building that had been completed in 1961 was badly worn out, inaccessible, dark, filled with asbestos, and not in keeping with our twenty-first century vision of service to the city.

We had neither the money nor the desire to invest in this non-historic structure. Located on a half-acre site at Metro Center in Washington, the land was worth a great deal of money, but an outright sale and relocation elsewhere was unthinkable because we had been firmly rooted at the corner of 10th and G Streets since 1865.

From the outset we were determined to be well informed so that we could both be a good development partner and retain control over the project's direction. Our Church Council appointed the Site Development Task Force to steer the project and approved \$25,000 from our church budget, plus a \$50,000 loan from the denomination, to hire four specialists: a development consultant to run numbers on the market, a lawyer to inform us about the possible structure of a deal, an architectural adviser to develop the architectural program in consultation with church members, and a cost estimator.

Our long-standing congregational practice of collaboration and democratic decision-making suited this task especially well. The Church Council empowered the Task Force to act on its behalf while requesting consultation and congregational votes on key decisions. The Task Force Chair was authorized to be the point of contact with the developers. For nearly nine years, from 2004-2012, the Task Force worked with developers, architects, and contractors to analyze options and present them to the congregation for a vote.

The Site Development Task Force established two standing committees, legal and design, and three time-limited working groups, affordable housing, worship furnishings (to reflect deeply on the meaning for our congregation of the physical

symbols of faith—the communion table, baptismal font, cross, lectern—and write their conclusions to guide the architects who would design these pieces); and fundraising (to cover custom-made worship furnishings). The church treasurer kept track of project finances to ensure that we stayed on budget.

One of our first tasks was to develop a 16-page architectural program stating the church's needs and goals. That program ensured that all architectural firms that competed to design the project had the same information, and it served as a baseline to measure the final results.

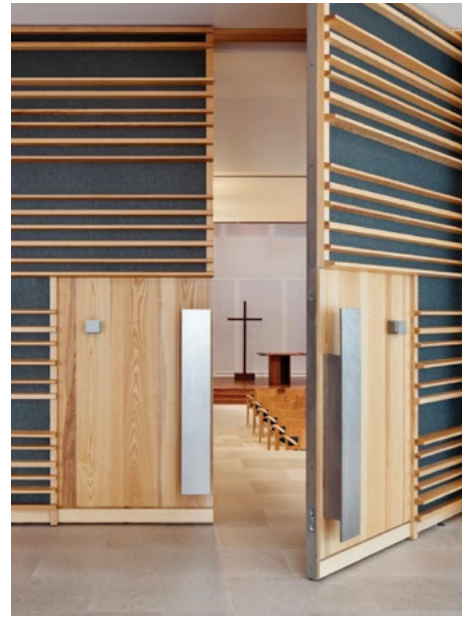
In January 2006 the church voted to proceed with mixed-use redevelopment. We agreed to sell the air rights to accommodate eight floors of residential apartments; in exchange, the church would receive 25,000sf for our use, 10,000sf for our homeless services program, underground parking, and funds for our endowment. The legal structure was, in effect, a condominium that divides the building, parking lot, and common spaces into tax lots owned either by the church or the developer.

In early 2007 we moved out of our building and into another church where we worshipped on Sunday afternoons, which was a strain on attendance. Demolition followed. Then, as economic circumstances changed, so did the scope of the project. When the stock market tanked in 2008, the developer lost financing and could no longer proceed. We had to switch from a residential to an office project and, therefore, needed to redesign the building. After nearly a year in limbo and with an enormous excavation hole, we found a self-financing developer, Skanska USA Commercial Development. Skanska liked our location, advanced design, and the prospect of moving quickly into construction with its parent corporation, Skanska Construction.

To our dismay, Skanska had a non-negotiable requirement: there could be no homeless meals program in the building. This was wrenching for the church and the program. However, the timing roughly coincided with the termination of ThriveDC's lease in our interim space, its need for larger space, and its relocation to another neighborhood where this fine program continues to serve people in great need.

After operating out of temporary quarters for five years, in January 2012 we moved into our new space, still unfinished,

"We stayed together as a congregation through thick and thin, with patience and faith that we would emerge even stronger from our wilderness."



The worship space at First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Washington, DC

messy, and noisy with the building still in progress. This was a stressful, dusty period for everyone as construction workers installed and reinstalled stone floors and walls; hung and rehung the huge wooden doors to the sanctuary; installed, cleaned and re-cleaned the 3500 pipe organ at great additional expense; and tore out the kitchen ceiling to make way for a gigantic fan over the stove. Then, with the arrival of our gorgeous new furnishings, the cloud lifted, and we could finally begin to live into our future. We had stayed together as a congregation through thick and thin, with patience and faith that we would emerge even stronger from our wilderness.

This congregation has made the journey from liability to asset. Today we are blessed with a spectacular, award-winning church that fulfills the core needs expressed in the architectural program. We are becoming more multi-racial. Young singles and families are joining. Musical groups marvel at the acoustics. Event organizers are renting space, and we are financially stable. With new missions and dynamic partnerships, we are serving our city in ways that are exceeding our original dreams.

Many Union Seminary alumni/ae have been or are currently members of FCUCC including several ministers: Rev. Dr. Sidney D. Fowler '00, current Minister; Rev. John Mack '71 (deceased), Minister from 1984–2005, a major force in the decision to redevelop; Rev. Barbara A. Gerlach '71; Rev. D. Bruce Hansen '61; and Rev. David J. Robb '65. Other members include Rev. Karen S. Byrne '07, a member of the Alumni/ae Council; Rev. Dale H. Ostrander '65; Rev. Ashley K. Goff '98; and current Union student Kaeley McEvoy.

The Final Result

Size:

A Gold LEED certified building with 188,000sf, including an unusually attractive parking garage, and 26,000sf for church use with sanctuary seating for 300+, offices, classrooms, community hall, and 2,500sf for future growth.

Cost:

\$ 21.4 million

Features:

- The office building and church share space for loading in the alley. We lease back to the garage operator half of our spaces during the day, and we have use of additional parking in the evenings and on weekends.
- 90-95% of everything on site (including plantings now flourishing in the members' garden) was reused or recycled to other locations.
- Tremendous energy savings.

Selected Community Benefits:

- The beautiful, flexible building within a block of all Metro lines has helped to attract many younger families as visitors and members.
- Exceptional sanctuary acoustics have attracted repeat performances of 45+ groups.
- The church continues its commitment to homeless services with a field office for Pathways to Housing. [U](#)

178TH COMMENCEMENT

C.T. Vivian and Katie Cannon Receive Union Medals



At Union's 178th Commencement May 13, 2016, the Union Medal, the Seminary's highest recognition, was awarded to civil rights advocate the Rev. Dr. Cordy Tindell (C.T.) Vivian and the Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon '83, groundbreaking Womanist theologian and ethicist.

Dr. Vivian, who resides in Atlanta and most recently founded the C. T. Vivian Leadership Institute, is a distinguished minister and preacher, author, and civil rights leader who was a colleague and friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the U.S. civil rights movement. In 2013 President Barack Obama named Vivian as a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and acknowledged his many contributions, including participating in Freedom Rides and sit-ins across the country, helping found numerous civil rights organizations, including Vision, the National Anti-Klan Network, and the Center for Democratic Renewal, and serving in 2012 as the interim President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Dr. Vivian's Union Medal citation reads: "Cordy Tindell Vivian, you have been a Baptist minister, civil rights activist, veteran organizer of demonstrations, marches, Freedom Rides, sit-ins, wade-ins and kneel-ins; disciple and apostle of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Director of Affiliates of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; founder and co-founder of myriad social-justice enterprises—but most importantly, you have been a prophet in our time and a civil rights beacon shining forth unto future generations.

"In 1947 you helped organize lunch-counter sit-ins in Peoria, Illinois, which successfully integrated Barton's Cafeteria—and launched you, at age 23, on a life-long quest for racial equality. Beginning in 1956, you stood with Dr. King in every major campaign until his death in 1968. All the while you were beaten, tear-gassed, charged by mounted police and attack dogs, jailed and imprisoned, nearly drowned, and bloodied on numerous

occasions—yet each time you resolutely rose to respond with dignity and eloquence.

"In subsequent decades you trained ministers and developed urban curricula for seminaries at the Urban Training Center in Chicago; originated Seminary Without Walls at Shaw University; founded and presided over the National Anti-Klan Network (later renamed the Center for Democratic Renewal); founded and incorporated the C.T. Vivian Leadership Institute, Inc.; and were awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama—to name but a few of your many, many achievements. Now, even in your tenth decade, you continue the good fight. You rouse and inspire the civil rights activist in all of us.

"Your life and your ministry of non-violent activism embody the highest ideals and aspirations of Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. For your exemplary courage, willpower, moral rectitude, and inspiring oratory over more than seven decades of social-justice activism; for imparting a sense of mission and destiny to countless tens of thousands; for your dignity and grace and spiritual leadership—we award you Union's highest honor, the Union Medal."

Christian theologian and Womanist ethicist Katie Cannon grew up in Kannapolis, North Carolina. In the documentary film "Journey to Liberation: The Legacy of Womanist Theology and Ethics at Union Theological Seminary," produced by Anika Gibbons '13, Cannon recalls how at age three, under the constraints of the Jim and Jane Crow South, she first posed a profoundly disruptive theological question about the suffering of African Americans. "What had we done wrong," she asked, "that we were being punished and not allowed to go to any public institutions except our own Black churches and schools?" After graduating from Barber-Scotia College, she earned a Master of Divinity degree at Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary in Atlanta,

and then earned the Ph.D. degree in Christian Ethics at Union. Currently she is the Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. Previously she served on the faculties of Temple University, Episcopal Divinity School, and Harvard Divinity School. Dr. Cannon was the first African-American woman to be ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church, and the first African-American woman to receive a doctoral degree from Union. The American Academy of Religion honored her in 2011 with its Excellence in Teaching Award, and the Society of Christian Ethics honored her for her scholarship in 2015.

Dr. Cannon's Union Medal citation reads: "Katie Geneva Cannon, you have been a Womanist scholar, liberation theologian and Christian ethicist; the first African-American woman to be awarded the Ph.D. at Union Theological Seminary; the first African-American woman to be ordained in the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia; an eloquent writer and incisive editor—but most importantly, you have been an oracle of unshouted courage and a lodestar for Black women journeying to self-actualization.

"On the anvil of your inner being you have forged Womanist Ethics, fashioning the perspectives and literary traditions of

Black women into ploughshares of discourse for the church, academy, and society at large. You have deployed methods of Christian Social Ethics to new advantage, creating space for the unheard to be heard, the inconsolable to be comforted, the beaten-down to rise up, and the disenfranchised to discover and celebrate their own innate moral wisdom.

"Lecturing nationally and internationally on theological and ethical topics, writing and editing books and numerous articles, you have surmounted white supremacist ideology and patriarchal oppression; made Womanist social-justice work invitational and communal; introduced new forms of moral praxis; and likened the call to teach religion to a fire in your bones so eloquently that it becomes a fire in ours. You rouse and inspire the agent of change in all of us.

"Your life, your theology, and your 'pedagogy of possibility' embody the highest ideals and aspirations of Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. For your transformative teaching-learning environment, and your inspired and inspiring mediated knowledge; for your steadfast rootedness in the church and ministry; and for imparting a sense of vocation and self-actualization to countless students, mentees, co-learners, readers and listeners—we award you Union's highest honor, the Union Medal." ¶



LEFT TO RIGHT: President Jones, Union Medalists C.T. Vivian and Katie Cannon '83, Wolcott Dunham, Chair, Board of Trustees.





UNION CLASS OF 2016

UNION CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2016

On May 13 the Seminary community gathered in James Chapel to celebrate the graduating Class of 2016, including 40 who received the Master of Divinity degree, 21 the M.A., 7 the S.T.M., 2 the M.Phil., and 7 the Ph.D. In addition, the Union Medal was awarded to civil rights leader Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian and Womanist ethicist Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon '83.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Hannah Lyon Lovaglio, DeForest Raphael, Lea Matthews, and Bruce Lamb —new M.Divs.



Rodney McKenzie and his diploma!



Jason Wyman receives his doctoral hood.



Professor Janet Walton '79 celebrated by graduates.



Jessica Christy with her new M.Div. cap!



John Abidhanathar, S.T.M., and his wife, Angeline.

ALUMNI/AE PROFILES



Cedric H. Jaggard, M.Div. '41

What do you do?

Technically I'm retired, but am nearing the close of several years' research for my book entitled *Claiming Different Forms of the Good News: Road to a Larger Gospel; Overlooked Bible Foundations for Growing in the Faith*. (I would be pleased to hear of any faculty member or other person associated with Union who is interested in this subject. I would also welcome suggestions for an appropriate publisher.)

I just realized that this year marks the 75th anniversary of my graduation from Union. I would be interested to know if there are other members of the Class of '41 still living. [EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Jaggard is one of five surviving members of the Class of 1941.]

On November 25, 2015, I reached my 100th birthday. I was glad to have my beloved wife of 72 ½ years, Jean Dale McGiffert Jaggard, celebrate with me. Only a month later, at the age of 95 ½, she took her farewell for now. (Arthur Cushman McGiffert, president of Union a little before my days there, was part of her extended family.)

What's the best thing about your job?

I've been retired for twenty-five years, but, prior to retirement, I pursued active ministries of half a dozen different types until age 75, including pastoral, preaching, social ministry, academic, college Bible teaching, Army Reserve Chaplaincy, and two short-term, month-long team ministries to Novosibirsk, Siberia.

How did Union prepare you for this?

Prior to my time at Union, I did work under Karl Barth in Basel, Switzerland (just before World War II).

My time at Union Theological Seminary followed where I heard "Reinie" Niebuhr with his sparkling insights into the ethical decisions we make as Christians. More difficult to grasp as a whole, for most of us, was the teaching of Paul Tillich. Two of his favorite themes will always remain with me: theological answers to philosophical questions and his distinction between essential man and existential man.

Although he was a theological liberal, far to the left of my own views, I was impressed with Professor Jules Bewer's (B.D. 1898) passionate concern for social justice and the Old Testament prophets.

For his requirement of readings, in the church fathers themselves and his balanced view and outlook, I greatly appreciated the church history courses I took with Cyril Richardson.

In my first year at Union, some twenty theological students made national news. Not wishing to support the war in any form, they refused to register for military service even though they were assured "4D" exemption as theological students. Eight of the twenty persevered, and each spent one year in prison. This unusual story at times brought reporters to the campus.

One of our best-known classmates, Roger Shinn '41, '51, supported the war against Hitler and ignored the 4D exemption to join the army as a buck private. Later on he became Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics at Union.

At Union I also met Dr. Josef Hromadka, then recently arrived from war-torn Czechoslovakia, who did an informal series of lectures. I ultimately followed him to Princeton Seminary for the doctoral work I completed there.

“In my first year at Union, some twenty theological students made national news. Not wishing to support the war in any form, they refused to register.”

How have you stayed connected to Union?

I remember well Roger Barney, whom I followed a year later from Dartmouth. I remember also the young lady from his Union class of '40, Jane Lockwood, whom he married shortly after their graduation. In the prime of his life, he contracted polio and later died from it. Jean Dale and I visited his wife, Jane, some time later on a trip back East.

What would you say to someone considering going to Union?

I wish I was abreast of the Union of today, but seventy-five years is a long way back. It was an excellent school and contributed much to my preparation for ministry and my life as a whole, at a time of great world turmoil. **U**

David Cowell, M.Div. '94

What do you do?

Arguably, bi-vocational ministry is on the leading edge of what ministry looks like now. I am deep in it. I serve as the Manager of Spiritual Care Services at Pathways Home Health and Hospice, the second largest home health and hospice agency in the San Francisco Bay Area. I am also the called pastor of First Congregational Church of San Francisco, United Church of Christ. Both of these calls are complex and demanding, and serving both well has necessitated a set of skills beyond the requirements of the vocations themselves.

At Pathways, I supervise a staff of chaplains who serve patients who reflect the stark income inequality that one finds in an area that reaches from the Silicon Valley to Oakland, from San Jose to San Francisco. One aspect of my work is to support resilience and carry the mission of care within our agency in the face of a stressful and dysfunctional healthcare environment. I've also kept a small caseload, primarily our pediatric hospice service. Doing "the work" of hospice grounds my practice and is essential in sustaining my faith journey.

When I started at First Congregational Church of San Francisco four years ago, it wasn't clear to any of us what God was calling this congregation to do. Before I arrived, the congregation had sold its historic building to relocate, but they had not decided where they would go. Eventually, they found a place on the edge of the Tenderloin district where they would build. I had visited them during this "wilderness" experience, and I was aware that this congregation had to grapple with uncertainty and the fear of dying—even after they moved into their beautiful new sanctuary. But this small congregation has a vision of becoming a community center even as it honors its past with the knowledge that the future will look very different than the "glory days." We've partnered with MCC San Francisco, who are now our "roommates." We are taking care of one another and are becoming far more active in service in the world.



“After you graduate, whenever you find yourself in a group of people, you may realize that Union helped you form the smartest and most challenging questions in the room.”

What's the best thing about your job?

I'm grateful to serve in two different contexts that invite me to embody different qualities of my pastoral identity. Both contexts take a degree of risk taking—but prophetic witness looks very different in a Clinical Operations meeting than it does at the bedside of a hospice patient, and different still from preaching or talking to the homeless guys who sleep in front of the church. All of it feels important to me. In moments of clarity or when someone really tells the truth of a situation, it feels sacred.

How did Union prepare you for this?

Union fit me as a person. It honed my pastoral voice and grounded me in a vision guided by justice and compassion. Union gave me the opportunity to clarify my place in the world, exposed the intellectually unfinished places, and located me in the greater arc of history. Union did not coddle me, but it did nurture the imperative to follow my path of truth in the service of God as I understand God. Union also encouraged me to think outside the box and to recognize that there are times when you need to ditch your assumptions and rules and look at things afresh. Union helped me to see the face, hands, and feet of God at work in the world.

How have you stayed connected to Union?

I follow Union on Facebook, and I have some classmates with whom I stay connected. Recently, I committed to help develop a San Francisco chapter of The Union Alumni/ae Network.

What would you say to someone considering going to Union?

Pay attention to where you're being pulled, but know that the awareness you cultivate through all your life experiences is a lifelong practice. After you graduate, whenever you find yourself in a group of people, you may realize that Union helped you form the smartest and most challenging questions in the room. Part of your payback is to embrace the trust that your teachers and peers place in you, and keep working with those folks to answer those questions. **!**

EDITOR'S NOTE: On June 15, 2016 David Cowell hosted a dinner at his San Francisco church for Bay-area Union alumni/ae. Read more in this issue about visiting with West Coast alums in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, and Portland.

We invite you to contribute your own voice to this important collection by filling out the very easy form at utsnyc.edu/alumnae-profiles. Or, to be interviewed, contact Marvin Ellison '81, Director of Alumni/ae Relations, at mellison@uts.columbia.edu.



Tinka Harvard, M.Div. '01

What do you do?

I teach at retreats and workshops combining theology, philosophy, and the arts in an effort to inspire. I'm also a writer, and this spring for the first time I had a short story published by a literary journal. I've just completed my first novel and am searching for an agent and publisher.

What do you like best about what you do?

I enjoy sharing the knowledge I gained at Union, and through workshops and writing I can adapt complicated subject matter for a wider nonacademic audience.

How did Union prepare you for this?

Union gave me the analytical tools necessary for teaching and writing. At Union I learned to question and reason, and I share these tools, along with lessons in theology, with others to help them arrive at what's true for themselves.

How have you stayed connected to Union?

For a long time I was not connected. Anyone who knew me when I was a student at Union may know that I was painfully shy. I had a special talent in the art of invisibility. Less shy now and learning the value of staying connected to our gifts in life, I am immensely proud to be a connected member of the Union community once again.

What would you say to someone considering going to Union?

At Union almost everything that comprises who you are will be challenged—in the best ways. Union students undergo a transformation as substantial as the change a lump of coal undergoes on the journey to becoming a diamond, and Union graduates are just as brilliant. I would say to anyone considering attending Union to do herself and our society a favor and do it! **U**

“At Union almost everything that comprises who you are will be challenged.”

Tommy Ross, M.A. '02

What do you do?

I am the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Security Cooperation. I lead an office responsible for overseeing the Department's policy and strategy relating to U.S. defense engagements with partner nation militaries and defense ministries around the world.

What do you like best about what you do?

I'm fortunate that my office was established within the Department as a change agent. I have an opportunity every day to trouble-shoot, problem-solve, and ultimately help our government work better. Moreover, to the degree our work is successful, we're contributing to addressing global security challenges that threaten the lives of millions of global citizens. So having a chance to contribute to the solutions to problems with such tremendous impact on our world is what I find most fulfilling about this position.

How did Union prepare you for this?

In this position, as well as in previous



jobs on Capitol Hill, I've been consistently confronted with dilemmas that could serve as case studies in each of my Ethics courses at Union. Union exposed me to intellectual frameworks that help illuminate difficult ethical questions, guide ethical responses, remind that there are no easy answers, and enable thoughtful action that embraces—rather than being paralyzed by—tensions between foundational principles or policies. This ethical perspective has been

immeasurably valuable to me throughout my career and forms the core of my approach to decision-making.

How do you stay connected to Union?

Not closely enough, unfortunately. Working within government for the last 15 years, I have been surprised by how limited the faith community's engagement with policymakers on national security issues has been. I've thus been thrilled to see Union's public policy voice grow louder in recent years, especially with its Union on the Hill seminars, and I'm eager to be a part of a more robust dialogue.

What would you say to someone applying to Union?

Union was an intellectual crucible for me: it forced me to confront stubborn personal and intellectual assumptions, invested me with deep passion for justice and ethical decision-making, and forged in me the core principles and instincts that I believe, and hope, represent my best self. My time at Union changed my life, and I remain grateful for each day I spent there. **U**



LEFT TO RIGHT: Nancy Haught '92, Robyn Hartwig (Janet Parker's wife), Janet Parker '01, Jackie Van Anda '90, Lorence Long '59, Marvin Ellison '81, and Charlie Hinkle '68 at Charlie's home outside Portland, OR.



Mark Juergensmeyer '65, Unitas Distinguished Alumnus '07

Visiting Alums on the West Coast

BY MARVIN M. ELLISON '81,
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI/AE RELATIONS



During the two weeks of June 10-24, Martin Duus, Vice President for Development, and I visited Union alums and friends on the West Coast. In addition to 25 one-on-one visits, we attended six alum gatherings. Altogether we connected with about 125 alums.

Our trip began in Los Angeles where we had visits in Claremont, Isla Vista, Marina Del Rey, Altadena, and Santa Barbara. Former Union President Joe Hough and his wife Heidi hosted a gathering for alums and friends at Pilgrim Place in Claremont on Saturday morning, June 11. That evening David Sanchez '06, a member of Union's Alumni/ae Council, hosted a dinner at his home in Pasadena.

We then traveled to San Francisco and met with alums and friends in Napa, San Francisco, and Foster City. On Wednesday, June 15 David Cowell '94 hosted a dinner for 15 alums at the First Congregational Church of San Francisco where he is the pastor. (See David's *alumnus profile* on page 18.)

During the second week, I travelled by myself to Seattle and Portland, Oregon. In Seattle Kendall Baker '64 and his wife Sonia hosted a lunch for 20 alums on Saturday, June 18. On Wednesday, June 22, about 40 alums and friends attended a Union-Auburn Seminary lunch during the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly. That evening Charlie Hinkle '68 hosted a gathering at his home in Milwaukie, outside Portland.

This trip was designed as a listening tour and as a way to strengthen relationships. At the same time, we encouraged alums and friends to continue (and even increase) their financial support. We also let people know about Union's plans for offering a Planned Giving program in the near future. (See page 27 about *planned giving*.)

In our one-on-one and group visits, alums told us how their Union education had transformed them as no other educational

CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: Gretchen Janssen '86 (Oswego, OR); Rev. Sharon Moe '86 (Seattle, WA), Alumni/ae Council member; Rev. Carol Jensen '89 and her husband Ronald Young (Everett, WA).

experience had done and that they are motivated to donate to Union for two reasons: first, out of gratitude, and second, out of a desire to make Union's educational programming available to the next generations of students.

Again and again, we found that people are feeling positive about Union, remain deeply invested in Union's mission, and are encouraged because of the Seminary's creative leadership, vibrant faculty, and innovative programming. Many value receiving regular email communications from the President's Office and the *Union Network* magazine twice a year.

In our interactions, we soon discovered that alums and friends are very aware of, and have strong opinions about, the facilities renovation plan and the proposed residential tower in the Quad. They spoke appreciatively about how Union's Trustees and President are working diligently to address two major structural challenges that confront not only Union but almost all theological schools: aging physical plants and the burgeoning student debt crisis. Many shared how their own congregations and non-profit organizations are facing similar challenges, and they were eager to learn about Union's efforts to maintain financial equilibrium.

After the San Francisco gathering, pastoral psychotherapist Margaret Kornfeld '60 wrote, "Thank you for yesterday! And thank you, UTS! I'm so proud of Union. It lives its ethics. And as you said, UTS is us. I trust that David [Cowell] will again facilitate another gathering. I'd love to see the DVD ["Journey to Liberation: The Legacy of Womanist Theology and Ethics at Union Theological Seminary."] Also, could you please send me Eric's [Nefstead '95] contact information? Perhaps you saw that we were having a wonderful reunion. He was in my pastoral counseling class, and I was very fond of him. I hadn't seen him in 20 years, and we were so happy to see each other again." As Margaret expresses here, the Union Alumni/ae Network is all about connecting alums to each other as well as to Union. [U](#)



LEFT TO RIGHT: Jack Acorn '71, John Strausz Clement '60, Jeanette Kahlenberg '55, David Graham '69, LaDonna Bowers '63, Sandra Kreis '68, Lora Lee Brown '65, Kendall Baker '64, and Sonia Edwards Baker at a Seattle lunch the Bakers hosted.

Alums Gather in Louisville



FRONT ROW: John Odom '90, Emily Enders Odom '90, Bob Williams-Neal '74
BACK ROW: Chris Iosso '91, Tom Bennett '95, Gene March '66, Carol Somplatsky-Jarman '81

Emily Enders Odom '90 and husband John Odom '90, along with Chris Iosso '91, recently co-hosted a breakfast for Union alums in the Odoms' home in Louisville. Emily, a member of Union's Alumni/ae Council, is a communications strategist for the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and John is the newly installed Presbyter for Community Life for the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky. Chris is coordinator of the Presbyterian Church's Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy.

In their invitation to the event, they wrote, "We are doing this breakfast informally, prompted by Chris's interest in what the Union alums in our area think of the Tower Project, among other things. In fact, Chris supports the idea, but has been following the debate pro and con. We may also want to discuss some of the great new faculty hires or other projects, like Karenna Gore '13 who directs the Center for Earth Ethics (recalling Larry Rasmussen's book title). [Editor's note: Dr. Rasmussen '70 is Union's Reinhold Niebuhr Professor Emeritus of Social Ethics and a 2009 Unitas Distinguished Alumnus.] This is not a fundraiser. You certainly will continue to get those letters, but we will not have that pitch. In fact, we will have coffee/tea and a variety of pastries from a local bakery."

The gathering was scheduled on a Saturday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., but the opportunity to connect with other alums and enjoy engaging conversation kept most folks past noon. We hope other alums will plan similar events in their communities. Let the Office of Alumni/ae Relations know, and we'll provide contact information for alums in your area. [U](#)

UNION AT A GLANCE 2015-2016

TOTAL STUDENTS (REGISTERED) 261

TOTAL CANDIDATES FOR ALL DEGREES 224

Master of Divinity (including M.Div. and M.S.S.W.)	124
Master of Arts	54
Master of Sacred Theology	10
Doctor of Philosophy	36

OTHERS (REGISTERED) 37

Non-degree	5
Enrolled from Other Institution	15
Auditors and Visiting Scholars	17

POPULATION

Asian	15	Multiracial	8
Black/African-American	53	White	126
Hawaiian/Pacific Island	1	Undeclared	35
Hispanic	23		

GENDER (DEGREE STUDENTS)

Female	121	Male	103
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AGE

20-24	38	40-49	20
25-29	63	50-64	40
30-34	39	65+	13
35-39	31		

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

43 Different Denominations/Religious Affiliations

African Methodist Episcopal Zion	4
Baptist	22
Buddhist	1
Christian Churches and Churches of Christ	5
Disciples of Christ	1
Episcopal Church	24
Friends (Quakers)/Brethren/Mennonite	1
Hindu	1
Interdenominational/Multidenominational	5
Jewish	2
Lutheran	8
Methodist	17
Nondenominational	17
Orthodox	2
Pagan	1
Pentecostal/Apostolic/Assemblies of God/ Church of God/Four-Square	6
Presbyterian	19
Reformed Church in America	2
Roman Catholic	12
Seventh Day Adventist	2
Unitarian Universalist	18
United Church of Christ	12
Undeclared, Unaffiliated, or Other	33

Did you know? Union's International Alums

- Union has a total of 321 alumni/ae living in 50 different countries and on every continent.
- The largest cohort is in Canada (73); the next largest is in the United Kingdom (63).
- We have 25 alums in India, 19 in Japan, and 19 in South Korea.
- 11 alums are in Germany, eight in France, seven in The Netherlands, and six in Jamaica.
- Down under, five are in Australia and five in New Zealand.
- Ghana, Egypt, and Myanmar each has five Union alums.

COUNTRIES:

Argentina	India (25)	Panama
Australia (5)	Indonesia	Peru
Austria	Ireland	Philippines (3)
Barbados	Israel	Portugal
Bolivia	Italy (2)	Republic of Korea (19)
Brazil (4)	Jamaica (6)	Sierra Leone
Canada (73)	Japan (19)	South Africa (5)
Chile	Kenya (3)	Switzerland (4)
Ecuador	Malawi	Taiwan (2)
Egypt (5)	Mexico (2)	Tanzania
Finland (2)	Myanmar (5)	Trinidad and Tobago (2)
France (8)	The Netherlands (7)	Uganda (3)
Germany (11)	New Zealand (5)	United Kingdom (63)
Ghana, West Africa (5)	Nicaragua	Vietnam (1)
Greece	Nigeria (4)	Zimbabwe
Haiti	Norway (2)	
Iceland	Pakistan (2)	

INTERNATIONAL ALUMS OF NOTE INCLUDE:

Nguyen Xuan Bao '63 received the Master of Arts in Religion degree in the joint Union-Columbia program. Now known to the world as **Thich Nhat Hanh**, he is a Vietnamese Buddhist monk and peace activist. He has published more than 100 books and coined the term "engaged Buddhism." He currently resides in Plum Village in the south of France.

Andrew R.C. McLellan, S.T.M. '69, Unitas Distinguished Alumnus '08, was invited by the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in Scotland to chair an independent commission to review child protection procedures inside the church. In August 2015 the findings were published as *The McLellan Commission: A Review of the Current Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Practice within the Catholic Church in Scotland*. (See Class Notes for more details.)

George Zachariah Kindangalil, S.T.M. '98, is professor in the department of Ethics and Theology at United Theological College of Bangalore, India. With colleague Vincent Rajkumar he recently co-edited and contributed to the volume, *Disruptive Faith, Inclusive Communities: Church and Homophobia* (Bangalore/Delhi: CISRS/ISPCK, 2015).

CLASS NOTES

1940s

James R. Clime, part. '44, was recently profiled in the Warren, Ohio, *Tribune Chronicle*. At age 96 he continues to play solos and duets on the piano and organ, and sings in the choir at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Warren. He has played everywhere from the World War II battlefields of Normandy, France to The Riverside Church in Manhattan. Now retired, he worked mainly as a choir director.

1950s

Marion Hausner Pauck, M.A. '51, is an independent research scholar and lecturer. She is co-author with her late husband, Wilhelm Pauck, of *Paul Tillich: His Life and Thought*, widely considered the standard biography of Tillich. Originally released in 1976, it was republished in a new edition in 2014. Since the death of Wilhelm in 1981, Marion has served as the executor of the Wilhelm Pauck Literary Estate. The Wilhelm and Marion H. Pauck Manuscript Collection resides in the Luce Library at Princeton Theological Seminary.

David H. McAlpin, Jr., M.Div. '53, was honored by the Witherspoon Presbyterian Church in Princeton, NJ at the congregation's 175th anniversary dinner. Installed as the first associate pastor at the historic Black congregation in 1957, he has maintained strong ties to the church for almost six decades. While pastor he fought locally to expose discriminatory practices in real estate as blacks sought to purchase homes in all-white neighborhoods, and he worked to establish an integrated housing project in Princeton Township. He was also involved in launching two exemplary integrated housing projects, Glenacres in West Windsor and Maplecrest in Princeton. McAlpin went on to serve as pastor of Presbyterian churches in New Jersey and Michigan and has been retired since 1993. McAlpin also served as a member of Union's Board of Trustees from 1994–2002 and 2004–2008.

1960s

James B. Hofrenning, S.T.M. '62, recently published *Cobbers in WWII: Memoirs from the Greatest Generation*. Hofrenning is a Ruel Wija Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, where he taught for 29 years. (Alumni, faculty, students of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota are known as the Cobbers.) Hofrenning is also the author of *Easter People in a Good Friday World*.

Roger W. Zimmerman, M.Div. '63, and his wife Mary recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They met at Union in the fall of 1962.

Sheila S. Collins, part. '64, was named Living New Dealer of the Month by The Living New Deal website. Professor of Political Science Emerita at William Paterson University, she is the author and editor of many books, most recently, *When Government Helped: Learning from the Successes and Failures of the New Deal*. Her chronicling of the cultural and architectural legacies of the New Deal has been an important contribution, and she is currently helping to produce their forthcoming map of New Deal sites in New York City.

Ian G. Scott, S.T.M. '65, was appointed President of the Rotary Club of Tranent, Scotland. He was Pastor of Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh until his retirement in 2006.

Robert A. Evans, Ph.D. '69, and his wife Alice F. Evans, founders of Plowshares Institute, bid farewell as Plowshares closed its doors and celebrated more than 30 years of working in countries around the world, at a festive dinner held at Hartford Seminary on Oct. 16, 2015. The Simsbury, CT-based Institute was an agent of change across the globe, conducting classes in mediation, leading travel seminars, and training national, community, and religious leaders in creative ways to intervene in conflict. A series of speakers testified

at the dinner to the powerful impact Plowshares has had on peacemaking and mediation.

Andrew R.C. McLellan, S.T.M. '69, Unitas Distinguished Alumnus '08, was invited by the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in Scotland to chair an independent commission to review child protection procedures inside the church. In August 2015 the findings were published as *The McLellan Commission: A Review of the Current Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Practice within the Catholic Church in Scotland*. Hailed by *The Tablet*, the international Catholic news weekly, as "a masterpiece of its kind that deserves to be studied wherever there are similar issues," the report charged the Scottish Catholic Church with having "paid lip service" for years "to the need for child protection while the manner in which it treated survivors amounted to further abuse." The Bishops' Conference has said it accepts all the commission's recommendations. McLellan is a former Moderator of the [Protestant] Church of Scotland. He also was Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland; in 2009 he was awarded the Commander of the Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his many years of public service with the prisons inspectorate.

1970s

Sharon H. Ringe, M.Div. '70, Ph.D. '81, along with co-editors Carol A. Newsom and Jacqueline E. Lapsley, has published the revised and updated third edition of *Women's Bible Commentary*. Ringe is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, and Professor Emerita of New Testament at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. She has also taught at Methodist Theological School in Delaware, OH; at the Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana in San José, Costa Rica; at the Seminario Evangélico Teológico in Matanzas, Cuba; and at the Russia United Methodist Seminary in Moscow.

David H. Binkley, S.M.M. '73, was honored on December 31, 2015, at the Presbyterian Church of Camp Hill, PA, on the occasion of his retirement as the church's organist/choirmaster for 42 years. While at Camp Hill, Binkley taught music in the Sunday church school; directed three singing choirs; and coordinated the church's Music, Art & Drama Series. He also oversaw installation of a new 42-rank Schantz organ in 2008 after a major renovation of the building. As an active member of the American Guild of Organists and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, Binkley has played organ recitals and presented church music workshops throughout the central PA area.

Roland D. Zimany, M.Div. '74, has published *Sermons with Insight*, including an appendix, "Who Wrote the Bible?," available in print and on Kindle. Zimany is a retired ELCA pastor and former professor of philosophy and religion at Blackburn College, Carlinville, IL.

Christa Fuller Burns, M.Div. '75 continues to serve as pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church, which is in a predominantly Black neighborhood in the northern part of Baltimore. The church offered two summer camps this year, one for neighborhood elementary-aged children to keep their academic skills honed, and the other to provide job-skills training for high-school students. After the killing of Freddie Gray, the Presbytery of Baltimore focused its meetings on race, class, and poverty, and **Kelly Brown Douglas, M.Div. '82, Ph.D. '88**, Professor of Religion at Goucher College, preached at one gathering. Recently members of Faith Presbyterian Church marched in Baltimore's Gay Pride Parade along with people from 40 other congregations representing multiple religious traditions.

Fleming Rutledge, M.Div. '75, has published *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ*, Wm. B. Eerdmans

Publishing Company, 2015. Though the apostle Paul boldly proclaimed "Christ crucified" as the heart of the gospel, Fleming Rutledge notes that preaching about the cross of Christ is remarkably neglected in most churches today. In this book Rutledge addresses the issues and controversies that have caused pastors to speak of the cross only in the most general, bland terms, precluding a full understanding and embrace of the gospel by their congregations. The book was named the Best Reference Book of the Year (2015) by the Academy of Parish Clergy (APC).

Graham R. Cartlidge, S.T.M. '76, recently retired after a career in ministry with the Church of Scotland and also teaching around Glasgow.

1980s

Dwight N. Hopkins, M.Div. '84, Ph.D. '88, along with co-editors Kwok Pui-Lan and Cecilia González-Andrieu, has published *Teaching Global Theologies: Power and Praxis*. The book directly addresses both method and content by identifying local resources, successful pedagogies of inclusion, and best practices for teaching theology in a global context. Hopkins is Professor of Theology at the Divinity School, University of Chicago.

Karen L. Bloomquist, Ph.D. '85, was awarded an honorary doctorate by Wartburg Theological Seminary on May 15, 2016. Her book, *Seeing-Remembering-Connecting: Subversive Practices of Being Church*, was recently published as a Cascade Book, by Wipf and Stock.

James Brewer-Calvert, M.Div. '85, and **David T. Lewicki, M.Div. '04**, were inducted as Honorees for Preaching by the Martin Luther King, Jr. College of Ministers and Laity at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA, on March 31, 2016. Brewer-Calvert serves as the Senior Pastor of First Christian Church of Decatur, GA, and Lewicki is Co-Pastor of North Decatur Presbyterian Church and a member of Union's Alumni/ae Council.

Altagracia M. Perez-Bullard, M.Div. '85, S.T.M. '86, was installed as Canon for Congregational Vitality by the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Previously she married Cynthia Bullard on May 24, 2014 at Holy Faith Episcopal Church, Inglewood, CA, where Perez was rector.

Hinne Wagenaar, S.T.M. '88, recently published a book on contextual theology, *Op Ús Eigen Wize*, which he wrote in his own language (Frisian—the language of a minority people in the north Netherlands). In dialogue with mainly African theology, Wagenaar analyzes stories from the Book of Acts and argues that Christians in areas where they are the minority have the right and freedom to express their own faith and theology.

Michael W. Hoeye, M.A. '89, a visual artist, exhibited his images of passersby encountered on the streets of Portland, OR, with accompanying text by poet Joanne Mulcahy. The exhibition, entitled "Angels Passing," was held at the South Main Gallery at Rose Villa, a senior living community in southeast Portland. Hoeye is also the author of the Hermux Tantamoq series of books, first published by Penguin in 2001.

1990s

John L. Odom, M.Div. '90, was installed Saturday, November 21, 2015 by the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky as its new Presbyter for Community Life. The service of installation took place during the presbytery meeting held at Second Presbyterian Church, Louisville. "As the title of my position envisions, Presbyter for Community Life, I am here to foster deep and abiding relationships, facilitate partnerships, share in the mission of the church of Jesus Christ and nurture the beloved community of justice and love for all people," Odom wrote in a message to the Presbytery. "I want to be a colleague, a pastor, a motivator, and a fellow pilgrim on the journey."

David P. Gushee, Ph.D. '93, Unitas Distinguished Alumnus '12, was recently elected Vice President of the American Academy of Religion and President-Elect of the Society of Christian Ethics. He is Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and Director of the Center for Theology and Public Life at Mercer University. Widely regarded as one of the leading moral voices in American Christianity, he is the author or editor of 21 books and hundreds of articles in his field.

Raphael G. Warnock, M.Div. '94, Ph.D. '06, and Ouleye Ndoe Warnock announced the birth of their daughter, Chloé Ndiémè Warnock, on August 1, 2016.

Paul Brandeis Raushenbush, M.Div. '96, was appointed the Senior Vice President for Public Engagement at Auburn Seminary. From 2009-2015 he was the Executive Editor of Global Spirituality and Religion at *The Huffington Post*. Previously he was the Associate Dean of Religious Life and the Chapel at Princeton University. An ordained American Baptist minister, Raushenbush speaks and preaches at colleges, churches, and institutes around the country, including The Chautauqua Institute, the Center for American Progress, the New America Foundation, and the Aspen Institute. He is regularly invited to offer commentary on issues of religion and society on national television and radio.

Jack Gilpin, M.Div. '97, was installed as Rector at St. John's Episcopal Church in New Milford, CT on January 19, 2016.

P. Kimberleigh Jordan, M.Div. '97, has been appointed Director of the Chapel and Associate Professor of Religion and the Arts at Drew Theological School, Drew University.

2000s

Therese B. DeLisio, M.Div. '00, Ph.D. '07, was appointed Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Theology and Liturgy at Bexley Hall Seabury Western Theological Federation Inc. Previously she was Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Union.

Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Ph.D. '01, accepted a joint appointment as Professor of Christian Ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Church Divinity School of the Pacific. A widely-recognized expert on the ethical dimensions of globalization, Moe-Lobeda previously taught at Seattle University and is co-author of the forthcoming book *The Bible and Ethics in the Christian Life: A New Conversation*. Her other books include *Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation*, which won a Silver Nautilus Book Award, and *Public Church: For the Life of the World*. She is a member of Union's Alumni/ae Council.

Jacqueline M. Hidalgo, M.A. '03, was promoted to Associate Professor of Latino/a Studies and Religion at Williams College. Her research focuses on U.S. Latina/o scriptural and religious traditions as loci for shaping relations of race and gender in the American West. Her book *Revelation in Aztlán: Scriptures, Utopias, and the Chicano Movement*, was recently published by Palgrave Macmillan. Another book, *Latina/o Religious Pluralism and Religious Hybridity* is under contract with Fortress Press.

Richard S. Hong, M.Div. '04, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Englewood, NJ, and his congregation lost their 146-year-old sanctuary to fire just days before Easter. No one was hurt in the blaze, which investigators ruled an accident. *The New York Times* reported in an article, "At Easter, Congregation Vows to Rebuild Church After a Devastating Fire," on March 28, 2016, that the congregation held Easter services at the Bergen Performing Arts Center, where Hong told them that the building, "while special, was not the heart of the church." Rather, he said in his sermon, "the heart was in its people, an ethnically diverse community, who would thrive regardless." Repairs are underway. Hong is a member of Union's Alumni/ae Council.

Kelly Murphy Mason, M.Div./M.S.S.W. '04 was named the Managing Director of the Psychotherapy and Spirituality Institute (PSI). She has been in clinical practice for more than a decade now and

has taught at Union, the Blanton-Peale Institute, the Association for Spirituality and Psychotherapy, and the Unitarian Universalist Association. She frequently lectures, speaks, and provides mental health consulting to various faith communities. In addition, she has taught at Columbia University Teachers College in its Spirituality Mind Body Institute since 2013.

Amy C. Gopp Vigne, M.Div. '05, was appointed Vice President for External Relations for IMA World Health. Previously, Amy served as the Director of Member Relations and Pastoral Care at Church World Service and as Executive Director of Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee, and development fund of the Disciples of Christ. Amy currently serves as a member of Union's Board of Trustees.

Joshua M. Thomas, M.Div. '05, is Executive Director of Kids4Peace, the largest interfaith youth organization working with Israeli and Palestinian youth in Jerusalem, which is currently expanding into a national network of interfaith youth programs in the USA. Kids4Peace works to educate and empower the next generation of interfaith peace activists. Thomas was ordained an Episcopal priest in 2008 by Bishop Gene Robinson.

Eboni Marshall Turman, M.Div. '05, Ph.D. '10, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Theology and African American Religion at Yale Divinity School. Previously she was Assistant Research Professor of Theological Ethics and Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School where she also served as Director of the school's Office of Black Church Studies. An ordained minister in the National Baptist Convention, USA, she is the author of *Toward a Womanist Ethic of Incarnation: Black Bodies, the Black Church, and the Council of Chalcedon*, and roughly a dozen scholarly articles and chapters. Her book *A Womanist Companion* is due out from Wipf & Stock in December 2016, and she is currently working on her next monograph, tentatively titled, *Black Women's Burden: Sexism, Sacred Witness, and Transforming the Moral Life of the Black Church*.

Jeremy Posadas, M.Div. '06, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Austin College in Sherman, TX. He received his Ph.D. from Emory University.

Katherine P. Brooks, M.Div. '07, has been appointed Pastor at Union African Methodist Episcopal Church in Warwick, NY. Brooks is also a candidate for a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology at Fordham University. Prior to her appointment at Union A.M.E. Church, she served for six years as Pastor of Emanuel A.M.E. Church in New Rochelle, NY.

Cláudio Carvalhaes, Ph.D. '07, has been appointed Associate Professor of Worship at Union. Previously he was Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago; he has also taught at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Carvalhaes, a native Brazilian, is recognized throughout the United States and in the larger global context as a leader and innovator in preaching and worship.

Celene A. Lillie, M.Div. '07, Ph.D. '16, together with recently retired Visiting Professor of New Testament Hal Taussig and alumni/ae **Natalie R. Perkins, M.Div. '15, Toni A. Reynolds, M.Div. '14, S.T.M. '16, and John J. Rogers, M.Div. '16**, has founded a new educational institution, The Tanho Center, dedicated to exploring newly-discovered texts from the earliest Christian movements through practice, the arts, research, and education. The center will both promote cutting-edge research and make extracanonical texts available to a wider audience on historical, practical, and spiritual levels. The center's offices are housed at First United Methodist Church in Boulder, CO, where Lillie serves as part of the adult education and ministerial staff.

Katherine M. Clark, M.Div. '09, and her husband Aaron Cohen welcomed a daughter, Mira Starr Clark Cohen, born on January 2, 2016. Katherine also

recently graduated from Columbia's nurse practitioner program and is now an adult primary care nurse practitioner. She recently started a new position as Nurse Practitioner and Instructor of Nursing at Columbia Doctors Primary Care, Nurse Practitioner Group.

Nicholas S. Richards, M.Div. '09, has founded an online start-up, ROHO, to archive and disseminate videos of the sermons of black ministers. The site will also, in this era of analytics, compile data on how, when, and why users view the sermons. On February 6, 2016, ROHO was featured in a *New York Times* article, "The Word Delivered From Black Pulpits, Now Available Online," by Samuel G. Freedman. Previously Richards was an assistant pastor at Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York.

Kelsey Blankenship White, M.Div. '09, has been appointed Oncology Staff Chaplain at Norton Women's and Kosair Children's Hospital-St. Matthews in Louisville, KY. She and Nolan White were married on September 26, 2014, and on March 30, 2016 they became the proud parents of Hayden Christopher White.

2010s

Elizabeth Renée Monroe, M.Div. '10, mounted an installation, "Face to Face with Women on the Forefront of History," in the Burke Library. The work honors and recognizes 19 women whose life work and determination to "speak truth to power" have advanced the rights of women. Monroe developed a new technique to silkscreen photographic images onto shimmering hand mirrors—so that when you encounter your own reflection in the mirror, the image of your face mingles with the image of one of the 19 women. The opening reception for the installation was held on April 29, 2016.

Preston A. Davis, M.Div. '11, was honored with the Francis Asbury Award during the annual Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church at Lake Junaluska, NC. The national award is presented annually by

the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church to a person who fosters the church's ministries in higher education at the local, district, or annual conference level. Davis is Minister to the University at High Point University, High Point, NC.

Gillian Murphy-Stephans, M.Div. '11, was ordained at the Plymouth United Church of Christ in Oakland, CA, on October 10, 2015, where she is now a Minister in Covenant and serves as Co-Chair of the Worship Ministry. Since August 2015 she has been the Chaplain at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, also in Oakland.

M. Roger Holland II, M.Div. '11, has been appointed as Teaching Assistant Professor, Ethnomusicology, and Director of The Spirituals Project at the University of Denver, Lamont School of Music, beginning in September 2016. For the last 13 years he has been an Artist-in-Residence at Union and Director of the Gospel Choir. In 2015 he was honored with Union's Trailblazer Award.

Leslie Lynnwood Christopher Jackson, M.Div. '12, was ordained to the Christian Ministry at St. Peter United Church of Christ in Houston, TX on January 23, 2016.

John C. Allen, M.Div. '13, was called to the First Congregational Church in Milton, MA.

Victoria E. Carr, M.Div. '13, is the Ecumenical and Multifaith Campus Minister at Seattle University, where she coordinates the ministry to and programmatic support for students from all religious and spiritual identities such as, but not limited to Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Spiritual but Not Religious. She also serves as the Associate Pastor for Adult Discipleship and the Pastoral Care Assistant at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship in Kent, WA.

Nathaniel A. Mahlberg, M.Div. '13, was called as Pastor to First Congregational Church of Walla Walla, WA, and was installed on March 5, 2016.

Todd A. Clayton, M.A. '14, has been admitted to Harvard Law School as a candidate for the J.D., and will begin his studies there in the fall of 2016. Previously he was Senior Development Associate for Grants and Major Donor Relations at Union, and before that, Executive Assistant to President Serene Jones.

William H. Critzman III, M.Div. '14, was ordained as a minister of The United Church of Christ at Judson Memorial Church in February 2016 and continues as Minister of Discipleship at The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York. Critzman also serves on Union's Alumni/ae Council.

Requithelia E. Allen, M.Div. '16, has been appointed to the ministerial staff of The Concord Baptist Church in Brooklyn, NY, where she will serve as a pastoral resident for the next two and a half years. She will be moving to Brooklyn as she embarks on the next part of her ministerial journey.

Geoffrey M. Lokke, M.A. '16, directed three plays at the Barrow Group Theatre Company and School in midtown Manhattan. The plays were sponsored in part by the Harriman Institute at Columbia University.

Rodney McKenzie, Jr., M.Div. '16, was appointed Director of the Academy for Leadership and Action of the National LGBTQ Task Force. McKenzie, an out LGBTQ person of faith and a community organizer, brings over thirteen years of experience working for organizations fighting for grassroots political power in marginalized communities.

Atticus S. Zavaletta, M.Div. '16, accepted a position as Associate Teacher at the Cathedral School of St. John the Divine. [U](#)

To submit a class note or death notice, please contact **Leah Rousmaniere**, Associate Director of Development for Stewardship and Research, at lrousmaniere@uts.columbia.edu or 212-280-1442.

PLANNED GIVING

Interested in making a difference?

Make a legacy gift to Union so that others will have access to the kind of transformative education that prepared you to engage a radically changing church and world.

Union is launching its Planned Gift program. The Union website will soon have more information. You'll receive newsletters this fall and spring, and Union's Development team is ready to field your inquiries.

Join us as a partner in mission to guarantee that "faith and scholarship meet to reimagine the work of justice."



A stack of Union diplomas awaiting distribution at Commencement 2016.

GIVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND

Please continue to be as generous as you can.
For further information, please contact:

- **Gabriele Gossner**, *Director of Individual Giving and Annual Fund*
ggossner@uts.columbia.edu
212-280-1412
- **Martin Duus**, *Vice President for Development*
mduus@uts.columbia.edu
212-280-1426

IN MEMORIAM

AS OF AUGUST 1, 2016

ALUMNI/AE

Ruth Scotford Hartshorne '39
George M. Houser '41
Philip M. Riley, Sr. '41
Everitt E. Sheldon '41
William J. Simmons '41
Esther Knock Borden '42
Charles G. Workman '42
Farrar Jeanne Babcock Cottingham '44
Dean A. Mordhorst '44
Jean Knorr Tucker '44
Beverly Russell Crump '46
Dorothy E. Scholl Ellis '47
Theodore S. Meth '47
Jean Turner Kelley '48
Lois Brooke Simen '48
Charles Johnson '49
C. Eugene Stollings '49
Marcus David Bryant '50
Gerhard M. Cartford '50
David L. Parker '50
Gloria Iacone Greene '53
David T. Mair '53
A. Richard Teller '53
Robert D. Aldrich '54
Leland E. Gartrell '54
Peter D. Hanson '54
Judith Hall Reed '54
Marianka S. Fousek '55

James C.G. Greig '55
Kathleen Brown Hoogs '55
James C. Watson '55
Maryanne Grant Dedekind-Hader '56
Donald F. DeRolf '56
Sigurd Kristiansen '56
Rebecca Beam Chamberlain '57
Leland Li-Chung Chou '57
Stanley P. Holt '57
John G. McLellan '57
David W. Clark '58
Samuel M. Clark, Jr. '58
James Porterfield, Jr. '58
Dennis W. Haas '59
Frank L. Shaffer, Jr. '59
Lois Ingham Peeler '60
Edward E. Daub '50, '61
Fred A. Ryle, Jr. '61
Charles A. Amstein, '62
Arnold A. Coody '62
David Pendleton McPhail '62
Floyd P. Swart '62
Nicholas B. Van Dyck '62
George T.H. Fuller '63
Bruce L. Robertson '63
Helen Fisher Andrew '64
William P. Honeywell '64
Kathryn Paine Lee '64

Gary Andrew Schwab '64
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James S. Watson '64
Seth K. Agbley '65
J. Lynn Springer '65
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Charles L. Murn '66
Alan L. Egly '67
Glenis G. Mollegen '69
Wesley Howard Poorman '69
Glen W. Bays '70
Barbara Hartley Schlachter '70, '72
John George Fletcher '73
James L. McCarthy '74
William Ernest Barrick '75
Kathy Young Lancaster '76
Diana C. Austin '77
Maria Marta del Rosario Arís-Paúl '81
Ruth Mary Pollack '82
Alice Hamilton Davies '88
Janet Hill Johnson '97
John Mark Bahr '98
Henry Martin Bergtraum '08
Maddi R. Gutfreind '09
Mark Leach '10
Anika Leila Gibbons '13

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ReUNION 2016 OCTOBER 6-7

CELEBRATING UNION'S ALUMS

This October 6-7 Union alums will gather on campus to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Class of 1956, the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1966, the 25th anniversary of the Class of 1991, and the 10th anniversary of the Class of 2006.

ReUnion gives returning alums ample time to get reacquainted with classmates, hear from current faculty members, view a new documentary film about Union's innovative Chapel program, "James Chapel Worship: Practice for Life," and have time to connect with students at the evening Pub in the Social Hall. The ReUnion program also includes an evening concert by a choir from Burgdorf, Germany performing the *Bonhoeffer Oratorio*. Alums will also receive updates about Union's educational programs and public initiatives from President Serene Jones.

Late Friday afternoon alums and current members of the Union community will gather in James Chapel for the Unitas ceremony, at which time four distinguished alums will be recognized: **Dr. Victoria Barnett '81**, Director of Programs on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum; **Dr. Clifford J. Green '64**, a Bonhoeffer scholar and editor of Bonhoeffer's *Collected Works*; **Dr. Ann Belford Ulanov '62, '67**, Christiane Brooks Johnson Memorial Professor Emerita of Psychiatry and Religion; and **Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock '94, '06**, Senior Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta and a Union Trustee. That ceremony will be followed by the Unitas banquet, always a highlight of reunions.

For more information, contact **Marvin Ellison**, Director of Alumni/ae Relations, at 212-280-1419 or **Kevin McGee**, Director of Events at 212-280-1590.



Union Seminary Quarterly Review, the academic journal of Union Theological Seminary run by graduate students, happily celebrates Dr. Ann Belford Ulanov on the occasion of her retirement. A special double issue, co-edited by Dr. Stewart J. Everett, includes articles from Dr. Ulanov's colleagues along with recent and former students, touching on her diverse work at Union.

USQR is an open access journal, available at usqr.utsnyc.edu. It is also available in hard copy by subscription through USQR's website or by contacting USQR's Business Manager, Ruth Batausa, at rb2781@utsnyc.edu.

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AT UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Union is pleased to offer guest rooms for prospective students and short-term visitors to Union and its neighboring institutions in the Morningside Heights/Harlem neighborhood.

Located on Broadway, just a short walk from the subway, Landmark is the ideal location for your next visit to our neighborhood. A variety of rooms are available for an affordable stay in Manhattan.

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TOWN HALL CALL-IN

*with President Serene Jones
for Union Alums and Friends*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

3:30 – 4:30 p.m., EST

Please dial in 5-10 minutes prior to the start
time by calling 877-681-3375, and then
using the conference ID: 2871303.



THE SCOTTISH SHIELD

The shield that hangs over the fireplace in the Refectory was a gift in 1928 from Union's Scottish Alumni Association. The crest represents the universities of (clockwise from upper right): Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and St. Andrews.

Amelia J.F. Sutcliffe is Union's new Scottish Fellow. She holds an M. Div. from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. At university she spent a year in India, where she studied theology in the cross-cultural context of Bangalore Theological Seminary. At Union, working toward an S.T.M. degree, she hopes to discern ordination and continue her engagement with social justice.