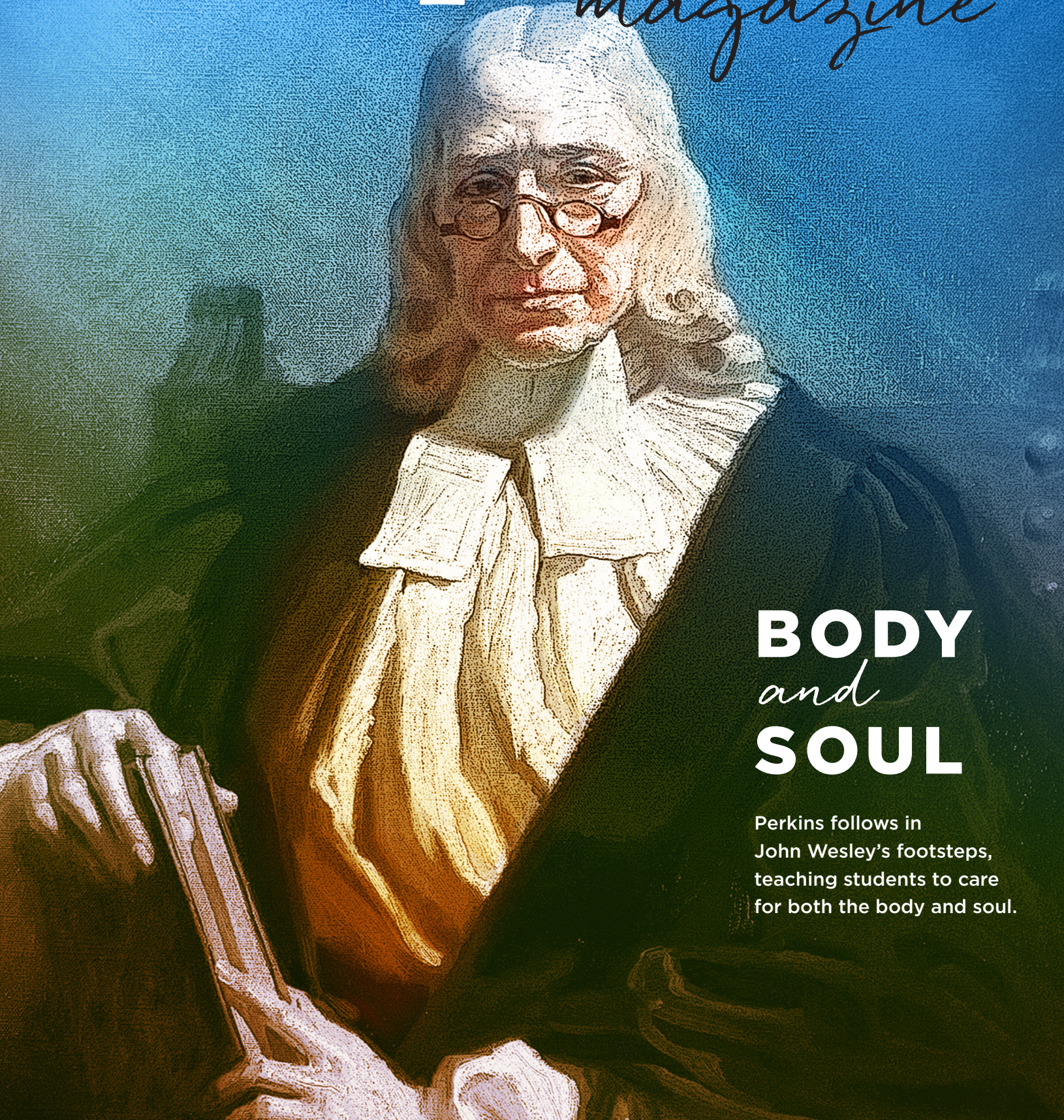


Perspective

magazine



BODY *and* **SOUL**

Perkins follows in
John Wesley's footsteps,
teaching students to care
for both the body and soul.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IN PERSPECTIVE

- 3 From the Editor: Theology and Health
- 4 Letter from the Dean
- 6 Body and Soul – Founder John Wesley
- 10 Healthcare Chaplaincy
- 13 Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner on the Importance of Self-Care
- 16 Seminary in a Hospital: Q&A with Charles Millikan
- 20 Highlighting Healing Ministries

NEWS

- 25 Perkins' New Chairs
- 26 2021 Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award
- 27 2020 Distinguished Alumni
- 28 Black/Africana Church Studies
- 30 Tree of Life: Bridwell Library
- 32 World Methodist Museum
- 34 News Roundup
- 37 New Faces at Perkins

COMMUNITY UPDATES

- 38 New Retirees
- 42 Friends We Will Miss
- 43 Faculty Books
- 44 Calendar of Events
- 45 The Gift of Giving
- 46 Who We Are



The 1963 “Extending Arms of Christ” mosaic at Houston Methodist Hospital.

From the Editor

Faith heals souls. Medicine heals bodies.

Since its earliest days, Methodism has been concerned with ministering to the spiritual, emotional and physical health of the community. Not surprisingly, the work of Perkins School of Theology often intersects with the world of medicine and healthcare, as we prepare students for holistic ministry. We offer an overview of those connections in this issue. We look at John Wesley, the founder of Methodism and a wellness advocate who advised people on how to take care of their bodies and souls. Wesley understood that if we don't care for our physical wellbeing, our spiritual lives can suffer. In his writings, he often offered detailed advice about health; much of it is documented in Wesley's letters and books in the Bridwell Library's collection at Perkins. We explore the partnership between Perkins and Houston Methodist Hospital in a conversation with the Rev. Dr. Charles Millikan, who spearheaded the connection. In non-pandemic times, students in the Houston-Galveston program attend classes at Houston Methodist Hospital, and that's just the beginning. As far as we know, we are the

only seminary in a hospital anywhere. Students benefit from this access to a world-class research hospital. We share a conversation with Dr. Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, who teaches courses in Pastoral Care that prepare students to minister at the bedside of patients in hospitals and hospices — as well as to practice the critical self-care that helps prevent burnout that so often afflicts pastors and other caregivers. Many students and alums praise her course in self-care as one of the most practically helpful in their Perkins education. We describe the new concentration in Healthcare Chaplaincy, now offered at Perkins, and meet four students enrolled in the program. Finally, we meet alumni/ae, students and others in the Perkins community who are ministering in healthcare settings and non-profits in innovative ways. We hope you'll enjoy this issue.

Connie Nelson

CONNIE L. NELSON
Executive Director of Public Affairs
and Alumni/ae Relations

On the cover: Wesley as Scholar, oil on canvas by Frank Owen Salisbury (1874-1962). This modern twist on the classic portrait of John Wesley reminds us that Wesley's beliefs — that health and spiritual wellness are interconnected — are still relevant today. (Read more on pg. 6). The painting was acquired by Bridwell Library after the World Methodist Museum closed last spring and transferred its collection to Bridwell. (Read more on page 32).

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Letter FROM THE DEAN

**In this issue, we contemplate the connections between Theology and Health.
I'd like to offer a personal reflection.**

What I most appreciate about the Wesleyan perspective is its remarkable balance. Knowledge and vital piety. Personal and social holiness. Theologically distinct and ecumenical.

It is hard not to be aware that Wesleyan Christians have built tens of thousands of churches. Less well known is the fact that they have also founded an extraordinary number of universities and hospitals — together with schools and clinics — both here and abroad. Both are equally in concert with the aims of the evangelist John Wesley, who was actively concerned for education as well as healthcare. It is noteworthy that these universities and hospitals were not founded solely for the benefit of, for example, Methodists, but for the good of all.

Perkins takes the entirety of this legacy seriously. It is a Christian institution that seeks to deepen discipleship and to build character as well as to deepen and build intellects. Our work at the intersection of pastoral formation, education, and healthcare exemplifies the Wesleyan commitments, the Wesleyan balance, perfectly.

I have never served as a hospital chaplain, but I did work in various ministries for more than a decade, during which I spent considerable time alongside hospital patients. This was not always easy, but it was always meaningful, sometimes exceptionally meaningful. I recall in particular being awakened in

the middle of the night to go to the hospital where a group of teens had been admitted after a bad car accident. I felt an enormous sense of privilege as I sat with the families. I had been ushered into one of the most significant moments of their lives, which was for me an undeserved grace.

I have also been on the receiving end of such care more than once. Most vivid is the memory of the young hospital chaplain who visited with us the night my father died. I had never met him before and have not seen him since, but I will always be grateful for his concerned, warm and very welcome presence at a most difficult hour.

It is our honor at Perkins to prepare students for such vitally important — and such thoroughly Wesleyan — service.

Grace and peace,

CRAIG C. HILL

Dean, Perkins School of Theology
Southern Methodist University

*“Our work at the intersection of pastoral formation, education and healthcare
exemplifies the Wesleyan commitments, the Wesleyan balance, perfectly.”*

DEAN CRAIG HILL

Body and Soul

Among the early public health advocates was none other than John Wesley, Methodism's founder.

John Wesley founded the Methodist movement, which would lead to the creation of Methodist seminaries, among them the Perkins School of Theology.

The 18th century Englishman remains a figure of interest at Perkins, and one who can be studied in various ways.

There's Wesley the evangelist, Wesley the preacher, Wesley the theologian, Wesley the organizer, Wesley the abolitionist.

And there's John Wesley the wellness advocate, who advised people on how to take care of their bodies as well as their souls.

"He's almost like a woke health nut, constantly talking about what you should be eating and what you should not," said Ted Campbell, Albert C. Outler Professor of Wesley Studies at Perkins, and editor of three volumes of Wesley's letters.

Wesley recommended a "vegetable diet," lots of walking and horseback riding, abundant consumption of water and very little of strong alcoholic beverages.

He was fascinated by electricity and even operated a machine that gave people jolts for headaches and other ailments.

"Some people say he's the inventor of electric shock therapy," Campbell said.

As a young man, Wesley read medical texts for his own edification and to prepare himself for his

missionary stint in colonial Georgia, ministering to Native peoples.

Back in England, working as an itinerant, revivalist Anglican clergyman, he recognized that many people had little access to healthcare or even basic information about diet, exercise and medicine.

Wesley sought to fill those gaps and his efforts had a theological dimension, suggests Elaine Robinson, who earned her M.T.S. at Perkins in 1995, and now is professor of Methodist Studies and Christian Theology at Saint Paul School of Theology.

"I view Wesley's holistic concern for health through the lens of the incarnation," Robinson said. "The Word became flesh, as if to remind us of the goodness of our physical bodies. Wesley understood that the body is the 'temple of God.' Our bodies experience and share the gospel with others. If we don't care for our physical wellbeing, our spiritual lives will likely suffer as well, making it difficult for us to go on to perfection in love."

Wesley's correspondence is a good place to witness his concern for others' health.

"He's always giving medical advice in the letters," Campbell said.

Among the original, handwritten Wesley letters at SMU's Bridwell Library is one he wrote on June 15, 1789, to a friend in London.

"The Word became flesh, as if to remind us of the goodness of our physical bodies. Wesley understood that the body is the 'temple of God.'"

ELAINE ROBINSON

John Wesley believed God cares for the health of our minds and bodies as well as our souls. Perkins School of Theology continues in that tradition, preparing students to serve the community through a holistic lens.



*“If you love the souls
or bodies of men,
recommend everywhere
the Primitive Physick.”*

JOHN WESLEY

Top: November 26, 1776 Letter from John Wesley to Joseph Benson. Wesley writes, “Taking opium is full as bad as taking drams. It equally hurts the understanding and is if possible more pernicious to the health than even rum or brandy. None should touch it if they have.”

Inset: Primitive Physick, or, An easy and natural method of curing most diseases. This 1772 edition was owned by Charles Selecman and donated to Bridwell Library Special Collections.

Portrait inset: Portrait of John Wesley by John Jackson (1778-1831), possibly an early copy or preparatory sketch.

*“I don’t think he would mind his name being associated with
a Christian-based approach to health and wholeness that meets needs
both within the church and in the community.”*

CATHE EVINS

“It gives me much satisfaction to hear that sister Dickenson’s health, both of soul and body, increases,” Wesley begins. “Certainly, exercise is the best medicine for both. Therefore, you should encourage her to use it constantly and, as far as may be, in the open air.”

In another letter at Bridwell, dated Oct. 13, 1784, Wesley describes nettle tea as “the best bracer in the world” and as a backup suggests “elixir of vitriol,” noting precisely how it should be diluted, and recommending that it be taken at either 10 a.m. or 11 a.m.

In the Bridwell collection is a Nov. 20, 1769, letter in which Wesley writes to a friend: “If you love the souls or bodies of men, recommend everywhere the *Primitive Physick*.”

That was the short book in which Wesley compiled his health advice, and it was a best-seller. *Primitive Physick* “crossed the Atlantic Ocean and made it into the saddlebags of Methodist itinerants and into the homes of the laity,” wrote historian Elizabeth Georgian.

Bridwell has six 18th-century copies of *Primitive Physick*, said R. Arvid Nelsen, curator for rare books & manuscripts and librarian for special collections. The earliest is dated 1747, the year of the book’s publication.

Primitive Physick has some curious remedies — such as, for headaches, applying to each temple “the thin yellow rind of a lemon” — but also sound tips about exercise, diet and rest.

“If we Methodists followed Wesley’s advice, we would have healthier congregations today!” Robinson said.

Campbell notes that Wesley had lots of ailments of his own and often was convinced he was near death, causing him to rewrite his will several times, with consequences for the Methodist movement.

But Wesley lived to age 87 — an extremely long life in the 18th century.

Wesley’s attention to wellness is memorialized in the Wesley Nurse program operated by Methodist

Healthcare Ministries of South Texas. The program places scores of registered nurses in United Methodist churches of the Rio Texas Conference, headquartered in San Antonio. These parish nurses work closely with pastors, including some who studied at Perkins.

The Rev. Cathe Evins is beginning her fifth year as pastor of First United Methodist Church of Sequin, Texas, and Danna Meyers has been a Wesley nurse there for more than 11 years.

“Danna attends our weekly staff meetings and is truly an asset in planning our ministries and programming,” said Evins, who earned her M.Div. at Perkins in 2000 and serves on the Perkins Alumni/ae Council.

Meyers has set up blood drives, flu shot clinics, parenting classes, grief support classes and Alzheimer’s support groups. For low-income residents, she operates a diaper bank and helps arrange for financial help with prescriptions, housing and utilities.

While based at the church, Meyers is out and about often, a health-care-providing equivalent of the circuit-riding Methodist preachers of yesteryear.

Evins could preach all day on the benefits of the Wesley Nurse program.

“To me, it is a very holistic approach to caring for people — meeting spiritual needs but also meeting physical, mental and emotional needs,” she said.

Many people who get help from a Wesley Nurse are non-Methodists who have no idea who Wesley was.

But as a Perkins student, Evins came to appreciate John Wesley’s life and ministry.

“I don’t think he would mind his name being associated with a Christian-based approach to health and wholeness that meets needs both within the church and in the community.”



Healthcare CHAPLAINCY

M.Div. Concentration prepares students to minister to those who are suffering

When she was just 17, Genie Potes’s mother was murdered by her stepfather. Potes had the support of family in the aftermath, but in retrospect, she didn’t receive the kind of spiritual guidance she needed during that agonizing time. As a result, “I turned my back on God for 20 years,” she said.

Potes did find her way back to faith — and to a calling to help others in crisis as a chaplain. She served as a Stephen minister in her church and as a lay chaplain at Houston Methodist Hospital.

Now, as a Perkins student preparing to become a full-time, board-certified chaplain, Potes is grateful for the new concentration in Healthcare Chaplaincy offered at Perkins School of Theology.

The program was launched last fall and is open to all Master of Divinity students. To date, four have enrolled.

“This is a unique opportunity for students to study theology and learn from seasoned chaplains and hospital administrators

at the same time,” said Dr. Hugo Magallanes, associate dean for Academic Affairs. Most in-person classes for the Houston-Galveston (H-G) program are taught at Houston Methodist Hospital as part of a partnership that creates a number of opportunities for Perkins students interested in chaplaincy.

In addition to the basic requirements of an M.Div., students who enroll in the concentration must complete 12 hours of required courses, including Level 1 Clinical Pastoral Education,

“It’s preparing me to do what I feel God’s calling me to: meeting people in those sacred spaces where they are hurting, and trying to lift them up spiritually, knowing that the mind, body and spirit are all connected.”

GENIE POTES



Bioethics, and Health Care/Holy Care, a January term immersion course that gives students hands-on experiences at Houston Methodist Hospital. In addition, students must complete six hours (two courses) in core electives, choosing from 13 options, including; Disability Studies; the Bible and Theology; Patristic Anthropology and Soteriology; Ethics, Theology, and Children; Ethics, Theology, and Family; Contemporary Moral Issues; and Evil, Suffering and Death in the New Testament. Students are also required to participate in two one-day events (one per semester), that include a lecture sponsored by Houston Methodist Hospital, participation in a shadowing program, and sharing their personal reflections with seasoned hospital chaplains and administrators.

Students currently enrolled in the concentration say the coursework provides solid spiritual and intellectual grounding for their planned careers. Michele Mrak, a part-time M.Div. student, praised an elective course, Evil, Suffering and Death in the New Testament, taught by Dr. Jaime Clark-Soles.

“She probed into death and dying from a scriptural perspective that was so powerful and so enlightening,” Mrak said. “That really brought out for me why we’re doing this kind of work in the world. It’s about the transformative love of God.”

Potes praised Pastoral Care Special Problems, an elective taught by Dr. Charles Millikan in 2020.

“We learned about other people’s faiths, to be able to take the good from them and help us grow spiritually,” she said. “There was a section dealing with end-of-life issues, including the debate about quality of life versus quantity of life. We also studied a book, *Tales from the Bedside*, about one minister’s work in pastoral care in hospitals. Of all the classes I’ve taken so far, this one has spoken to me the most.”

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

The Healthcare Chaplaincy concentration is one step toward certification as a professional chaplain, which also requires a bachelor’s degree, an M.Div., and a full year in a clinical pastoral education (CPE) residency. Houston Methodist is one of the largest CPE programs in the state of Texas, with 31 CPE students in the hospital system.

Claudia Stephens, a part-time M.Div. student enrolled in the concentration, earned the first unit for her CPE last summer at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas.

“I worked everywhere they would allow us to go — the emergency room, surgery, labor and delivery and the ICUs,” she said. “This was during COVID, but I loved every single minute of it. You’re helping people who are in crisis. I want to be there for people. I want to encounter them at this critical crossroads.” The Healthcare Chaplaincy concentration is open to Perkins students in Dallas as well as those in the Houston-Galveston program.

“This is a unique opportunity for students to study theology and learn from seasoned chaplains and hospital administrators at the same time.”

DR. HUGO MAGALLANES



“You’re helping people who are in crisis. I want to be there for people. I want to encounter them at this critical crossroads.”

CLAUDIA STEPHENS



“That really brought out for me why we’re doing this kind of work in the world. It’s about the transformative love of God.”

MICHELLE MRAK



“I feel a call from God that is humbling. It’s not a sense of heroism but a sense of mourning and crying with those who experience a genuine loss.”

BRYAN HOFF

Dallas students must travel to Houston in order to complete the additional course requirements not available online or in Dallas. There is no required timeline as long as students earn sufficient hours/credit to fulfill the requirements of this concentration.

Program leaders say the Healthcare Chaplaincy concentration responds to student interest as well as market demand for chaplains.

“We are seeing a large number of students and prospective students who are interested in chaplaincy, especially hospital chaplaincy,” said Dr. Dallas Gingles, site director of the Houston-Galveston Extension Program. “There is also a growing demand in clinical settings for chaplains and others who are capable of serving the spiritual needs of their people (both patients and providers), as well as for those who are capable of serving on ethics boards and helping to shape the culture of the institution. We think that this concentration will help our students develop those skill sets.”

Chaplaincy offers career opportunities at a time when employment options for M. Div. graduates are dwindling. A growing number of other institutions — hospitals as well as corporations and the military — will look to add chaplains in the coming years. As an example, Houston Methodist’s staff has grown over the past 15 years, from a dozen to 85 chaplains (36 part-time and full-time staff chaplains, 18 affiliated chaplains, and 31 chaplain residents and extended students).

WOUNDED HEALERS

Like Potes, each of the students enrolled shared a personal experience that shaped their interest in the chaplaincy.

Bryan Hoff was in the room when his wife’s aunt passed away in 2013. It was a sad occasion, but also a pivotal one. Death, he believes, is a sacred transition, like birth and marriage. He hopes to serve patients and their family members in this difficult time.

“That’s why I’m so drawn to palliative care,” said Hoff, a second-year M.Div. student. “I feel a call from God that is humbling. It’s not a sense of heroism but a sense of mourning and crying with those who experience a genuine loss.”

A series of deaths in her family also led Claudia Stephens to choose the Healthcare Chaplaincy concentration. She lost her husband, mother, father, sister and several extended family members within the space of just a few years.

“Each death was different, but all engaged me at a powerful emotional and spiritual level,” she said. “Some might wish to run from that. But I felt loved, protected and upheld by God, the world and other people during those horrible days. I want to be with people who are in those situations, to help them connect with their spirituality.”

Potes concurs, adding that she’s grateful for this Healthcare Chaplaincy concentration. Said Potes, “It’s preparing me to do what I feel God’s calling me to: meeting people in those sacred spaces where they are hurting, and trying to lift them up spiritually, knowing that the mind, body and spirit are all connected.”



Physician
OF THE SOUL

Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner
teaches students
to practice self-care

As professor of pastoral care and pastoral theology, Dr. Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner sees the many connections between theology, health and medicine. When pastors understand those links, she says, they are better equipped to serve and to practice self-care. Stevenson-Moessner, an ordained clergyperson in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), shares her insights into the links between the disciplines.

Q: HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF THEOLOGY AND HEALTH?

A: A catalyst for me was a conference in Boston at Deaconess Hospital sponsored by Harvard Medical School called Spirituality and Healing that I attended in the 1990s. It was led by a Harvard cardiologist, Herbert Benson, who wrote a groundbreaking book in 1975 called *The Relaxation Response*. He showed that cardiac patients undergoing heart surgery did better on the operating table and post-operatively if they were involved in some relaxation response before surgery. By “relaxation response” he meant a bodily state of deep rest brought on by prayer, yoga, chanting or repetitive motion as well as other forms of meditation from other faith traditions. Through statistical, empirical, quantifiable research, this was clinically proven. Similarly, research has suggested that patients who are prayed for (by people they do not know, with the patients unaware of the prayers) have significantly better medical outcomes. This research is a bit more ambiguous, and still ongoing, but the possibilities fascinate me.

I began to see that theology is not just relegated to the soul. Theology, to me, underscores the interrelationship among the soul, the body, the mind and culture. I became fascinated by the term “physicians of the soul.” It came from John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople in the 4th century C.E., who talked about dis-eases of the soul. I’m beginning to look at the term, to see if we can reclaim that concept as we religious professionals work in partnership with other healers.

Q: WHAT MAKES YOU SO PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS PERSONALLY?

A: I grew up in a medical family. My father was a physician specializing in internal medicine. Among other family members, I also had two uncles who were surgeons. My family was involved in the care of the body, which I thought was separate from theology, which only related to the soul. But then I discovered that in ancient cultures, and even in not-so-ancient cultures, the religious leader and the healer were the same person. That was a real awakening for me. I began to open up to the impact of spirituality on healing of the body. I remember talking to my dad in his office at Methodist Hospital in Memphis. He had stacks and stacks of medical journals on his desk. He was behind on his reading, he said, because he spent much of his time listening to his patients. He heard their aches and pains inside, not just what was going on bodily. He made house calls. He sat with patients who were elderly and alone, who were dying, who had no one. His manner was a wonderful example of the art of medicine.

As he talked about listening to people’s stories, I thought, ‘That is what I want to do. I want to listen to people’s personal pain and hear about their invisible aches.’ I didn’t know how I was going to do it but that is what I wanted to do. Growing up as a woman in a southern, conservative home, medicine was never an option. But eventually, at Princeton Theological Seminary, I learned how to listen to the internal aches and pain and scarring of people. I didn’t have the chance to become a medical doctor, but I could be a physician of the

soul. That’s part of pastoral care: being a good listener and allowing people to talk about the scarring they’ve endured. It’s also become clear to me that any violation of the body is a spiritual issue. The rape, battering and mutilation done to the bodies of women — those are theological issues. Protestants have been impoverished because we have not done much with Mary. We were afraid we might idolize her, so we went the opposite direction, and lost some of the importance of the incarnation. God became flesh – not just spirit – in the body of a woman. God dwelt among us in a physical body. That’s a huge part of my understanding of the connection between theology and health.

Q: PASTORS AND CLERGY HAVE ALWAYS PLAYED A ROLE IN CARING FOR THE SICK. HAS THAT PRACTICE EVOLVED OVER THE COURSE OF YOUR CAREER?

A: Pastors have learned to care for themselves, to protect themselves against compassion fatigue. There were a couple of studies that triggered this. One study out of Austin Theological Seminary showed a very high rate of burnout among clergywomen who were in years 3-5 of their ministry. They gave it their all, sometimes while caring for children or aging parents, and it just overcame them. This was alarming. Similarly, Duke University did a comprehensive study in 2008, as part of the Clergy Health Initiative, where



Several Perkins grads at a 2018 meeting at Children’s Medical Center Dallas, left to right: The Rev. Velma Johnson-Wyatt (M.Div., 2005), Sarah Vance Goodman (M.Div., 2012), Courtney Webb (M.Div., 2017), Cassie Wohlfarth (M.Div., 2017), Stevenson-Moessner and the Rev. Margaret Watkins (M. Div. 2001).

“We’re training students at Perkins to realize there are three loves: love of God, neighbor, and self, and they’re interconnected.”

JEANNE STEVENSON-MOESSNER

they interviewed almost every United Methodist minister in North Carolina, then compared them to their nonclergy peers with the same demographics. The results were shocking. In almost every category, UMC ministers were less healthy in mind, body and soul. They had more instances of problems like diabetes, arthritis, and depression than their non-ministerial peers.

We’ve woken up to the fact that, yes, we can continue caring for the sick, but foremost, we need to make sure we care for ourselves. That’s one of the most significant changes in the years that I’ve been in this field.

Q: YOU TEACH AN ELECTIVE COURSE IN PASTORAL SELF-CARE. TALK A LITTLE ABOUT THAT.

A: Yes, it’s an entire course in self-care, anchored in the Holy Scriptures. We look at other faith traditions as well, but mainly the Christian tradition. Luke 10:27 says to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul, and your neighbor as yourself.” The last injunction, “love yourself,” has been largely neglected in religious circles.

In the course, we bring in experts who talk to students about financial and nutritional health. We have an SMU nutritionist who talks about caring for the body with nutrition. We bring in someone from the Texas Methodist Foundation who talks about getting one’s financial household in order. We have someone from the health center talk about depression, which is a high risk among clergy.

We’re training students at Perkins to realize there are three loves: love of God, neighbor and self, and they’re interconnected. Students are graduating from here not feeling guilty about working a self-care program for themselves. We’ve had this elective course in place since 2005, and as far as I’m aware, we’ve not had any former students who’ve dropped out of ministry due to compassion fatigue.

Q: WHAT IS THE CAREER OUTLOOK FOR STUDENTS WHO SPECIALIZE IN PASTORAL CARE?

A: It’s excellent. As examples, our graduates are serving in hospices and other palliative care organizations. We have a number who are chaplains in hospitals. There’s one in the oncology unit at Baylor Scott & White Health in Dallas. We have a number of alums who are Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) supervisors around the country. One graduate is at C.C. Young Retirement Community in Dallas, working in palliative and elder care. We have a graduate who is working with justice issues and the underserved at CitySquare. Another graduate, the Rev. Deanna Hollas (M.Div., 2015) is minister of Gun Violence Prevention for Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. She’s the first in the nation.

Q: HOW HAS COVID-19 CHANGED THE PASTORAL CARE PROFESSION? DO YOU ENVISION WAYS THAT PASTORAL CARE MAY CHANGE LONG-TERM, EVEN AFTER THE PANDEMIC IS OVER?

A: One thing is clear: more senior ministers will be leaving the ministry soon. A recent Barna survey of Protestant pastors of all denominations found that 29% had given “real, serious consideration to quitting full-time ministry” during the COVID pandemic. Pastors are tired. During the pandemic, they didn’t have in-person contact. They couldn’t make visits in hospital or home. They’ve had to instead concentrate on video productions. There’s a kind of electronic fatigue that set in. Also, politics sometimes take over the congregational life. That sometimes gets very acrimonious. Many senior pastors are thinking, “Maybe it’s time for me to retire.”

On the positive side, some of our younger graduates, who are ten years or less into ministry, have asked for help during this very hard time. That is something we ministers have not done in the past. It was seen as a sign of weakness. Now we’re teaching that to ask for help when you need it is a sign of strength. That’s been a huge shift. We had a group of alums that formed a support group during the pandemic. They met for several weeks during the pandemic. Bravo. Our students have learned the importance of support groups and of having conversation partners. They have learned to ask for help when they need it. That’s progress.

BRINGING THE SEMINARY TO THE HOSPITAL:

Q&A with Charles Millikan

Starting in the fall of 2018, students in Perkins School of Theology's Houston-Galveston (H-G) Extension Program began reporting to Houston Methodist Hospital to attend many of their in-person classes. (Due to the pandemic, H-G classes shifted temporarily to fully online in 2020, and this year the program is meeting at another location.) The partnership between Perkins and Houston Methodist was shepherded by Dr. Charles R. Millikan, an ordained United Methodist clergyman and the hospital's vice president for Spiritual Care and Values Integration. Millikan shared his perspective on how the two institutions work together to help students prepare for holistic ministry.

Q: HOW DID PERKINS H-G CLASSES COME TO BE LOCATED IN A HOSPITAL?

A: A few years ago, Dean Craig Hill and I talked about re-invigorating the H-G program. At the time, the program was hosted at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, which was under construction and could no longer provide space for classes. So we got creative and put together a consortium of places in Houston where we could hold classes: St. Paul's United Methodist in Houston, Moody Memorial Methodist in Galveston, St. John's United Methodist in downtown Houston, and the hospital. So we have four sites, with Houston Methodist at the center. In non-pandemic times, most in-person classes are taught at the hospital, with some offered at the other three locations. H-G students spend 40% of the class time face-to-face and 60% online. Usually, the students attend the in-person classes in the evenings for one week at the beginning and end of the semester.

Houston Methodist became a center because it has phenomenal resources, including IT and food service. The hospital hosted the classes at no charge and provided meals to the students for free. The hospital also has tremendous conference space that can house as many students as need be, as few as 10 or as many as 50 students. We're also located in the center of the Houston Museum District, which might lend itself in the future to interesting venues for courses, such as the Museum of Fine Arts or the Holocaust Museum.

The move to Houston Methodist took place in 2018, the same year that H-G launched its program in the hybrid format, combining in-person and online coursework. Full-time students may earn the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) in three years, or Master of Arts in Ministry (M.A.M.) degree in two years, without having to take courses at the Dallas campus. Houston-Galveston students take courses with many of the same professors as those students based at the Dallas campus, so this is a very appealing option to students who work in full-time ministry or in secular jobs.

"People who work in the hospital setting love to learn. We have many people here who are interested in exploring their spiritual side."

CHARLES MILLIKAN

Q: YOU ALSO PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE INCEPTION OF THE H-G PROGRAM IN 1994.

A: Yes. At the time, I was senior pastor at Moody Memorial Methodist, and there was no ATS-accredited seminary in the Houston area. I discussed the possibility of an extension campus with Dr. Robin Lovin, then dean at Perkins. We held an Inside Perkins event in Houston at St. Luke's United Methodist Church to gauge interest, expecting a dozen or so potential students. More than 150 attended and 64 enrolled! Moody donated \$400,000 to help launch the program and St. Luke's provided office space. United Methodist Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey and BJ Hightower (now a senior chaplain in the Houston Methodist system) were among the students in the first classes in the program.

Q: WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF SITUATING THEOLOGY CLASSES IN A MAJOR MEDICAL CENTER?

A: Perkins shares a similar culture and sense of mission as Houston Methodist, which is a faith-based hospital system. As a Methodist institution, the hospital treats patients holistically, where spiritual care is seamlessly integrated into the physical care. The partnership provides a great training ground for anyone who aspires to go into ministry, and especially for those with an interest in the chaplaincy.

Another advantage: at the hospital, you're around other people, not just theological students. We're in the center of a very large Methodist institution. Students are studying in a place where birth, death and healing are taking place round the clock.

The partnership has sparked some unique collaborative courses, including an elective course called Health Care Holy Care, usually offered during the January term. Taking advantage of the hospital setting, students "shadow" chaplains at Houston Methodist and attend lectures on pastoral listening skills, bereavement, spiritual care, confidentiality, compassion fatigue and topics such as suffering and God's will, or how to deal with patients who pray for miracles, or those whose religious beliefs may lead to harm. This course is open to all Perkins students regardless of their campus location but tends to attract students who have a particular interest in chaplaincy.

The H-G Extension Program also occasionally offers an elective in Bioethics, team-taught by Dr. Dallas Gingles, site director of the Houston-

Galveston Extension Program, and Baylor University's Janet Malek, who is also director of the Houston Methodist Biomedical Ethics Program. We have incredible resources of people here who can assist Perkins professors in teaching specialized courses without having to travel.

I believe that offering training in hospital chaplaincy will open up additional job opportunities for Perkins graduates. Many churches are no longer hiring ordained persons, so graduates need to find places where their ministries can flourish.

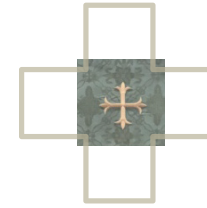
Q: WHAT NATURAL CONNECTIONS DO YOU SEE BETWEEN THEOLOGY AND HEALTH?

A: It's imperative to understand that there are certain social determinants of health that get in the way of healthy living. Wesley's understanding of theology is that we're all to live healthy lives. A hospital is not just a place you go when you're ill; it's a place you go to stay well. We are constantly looking at ways to help people find ways to remain well. Part of that is educating ourselves on having regular checkups, understanding what it is to combat these social determinants of health, such as the lack of transportation, the lack of food, the lack of medication, as well as providing spiritual and emotional support when a person is going through a trial of some kind. So, we see the very two as very closely related.

Q: TALK ABOUT HOW COVID HAS AFFECTED THE H-G PROGRAM AND HOW IT MIGHT CHANGE THE PROGRAM GOING FORWARD.

A: Since the pandemic began, we have ministered to more than 17,000 COVID-19 patients. At the peak of the pandemic, Houston Methodist had more than 800 COVID patients in the hospital. During the pandemic, in-person classes were suspended for H-G students. We had hoped to be able to resume face-to-face classes at the hospital in the fall, but the Delta variant of the coronavirus made that impossible, unfortunately. Instead, H-G students are meeting in person this fall at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Houston.

Interestingly, very few people have had the flu during the last 18 months or so. That's because they have been social distancing, wearing a mask and keeping their hands clean. When I started working here, I kept catching colds. A medical colleague asked me, "How often are you washing your hands?" Apparently, not often enough! I started washing them often, and it really makes a difference.



"For Perkins to be conjoined with one of the country's top hospitals for patient care, research, and education helps pastors cope and learn and work with people who excel in the medical industry."

CHARLES MILLKAN

Q: DO YOU SEE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER INITIATIVES IN THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PERKINS AND THE HOSPITAL?

A: We're looking into creating a program for a doctorate in clinical theology that would be open to social workers and physicians who have a lifelong desire for learning. Many people who work here have a desire to understand how spirituality can be researched — how to do research with faculty and with students.

We also hope to offer additional courses and seminars down the road for physicians and other hospital staff with an interest in spirituality and medicine. Houston Methodist is part of Texas Medical Center; the complex is home to 50 different medical agencies — hospitals, clinics, medical and nursing schools — and employs 100,000 people. People who work in the hospital setting love to learn. We have many people here who are interested in exploring their spiritual side. Perkins can offer opportunities to talk about culture, purpose, mission and philosophy in a high-quality academic education.

Q: MANY LOW-INCOME PEOPLE HAVE NO ACCESS TO GOOD HEALTHCARE (OR HEALTH CARE). HOW CAN HOSPITALS ENSURE CARE IS EXTENDED TO ALL WHO NEED IT?

A: I'm proud of how Houston Methodist Hospital has worked to make medical care more accessible to more people. We understand

that once we have a patient, they are a patient for life. Every patient at the hospital is given a doctor and an appointment within 30 days after leaving the hospital. We make sure they have a medical home outside of our medical departments.

Houston Methodist also has a very robust charity program, where we donate more than \$1 billion in medical care for patients who cannot pay their bills. Roughly 20% of our budget goes to charity care. We also partner with federally qualified and charity clinics in Houston neighborhoods. During COVID-19, for example, we brought the vaccinations to these clinics to help our vulnerable neighborhoods.

Q: WHAT "FRUITS" DO YOU ENVISION WILL RESULT FROM THE PARTNERSHIP IN THE FUTURE?

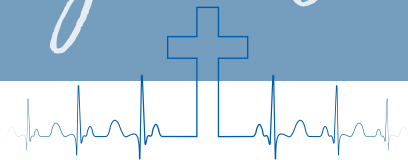
A: Collaboration and partnerships work best when you're in the church and in ministry. There are several things that Houston Methodist could learn from SMU, and that Perkins could learn from us.

This hospital is a parish. We can do things united that we possibly never could have done separately. For Perkins to be conjoined with one of the country's top hospitals for patient care, research, and education helps pastors cope and learn and work with people who excel in the medical industry.

I'm proud that Houston Methodist is connected with Perkins in Dallas, and we're proud to contribute to the success of SMU.



Healing Ministries



Members of the Perkins community minister to the sick, the suffering, the marginalized and the dying, as chaplains, pastors and community leaders.

A 50-year-old man without health insurance walks into the ER at a county hospital with severe abdominal pain. After a few blood tests, a cursory exam and 12 hours in the waiting room, he's given pain medication. He leaves the hospital with a huge bill — but no answers. And when the pain returns a few weeks later, he's back in the ER again. Now imagine repeating that scene again and again over the course of year.

The Rev. Freedom McAdoo tells this story to show how difficult it can be for uninsured people in underserved

“We work with people in the community who need help understanding and navigating through the clinical space at hospitals and need to know how to advocate for themselves.”

FREEDOM MCADOO



communities to navigate the healthcare system — and how the DFW Faith Health Collaborative, the nonprofit she leads, can assist.

“This gentleman didn’t know how to obtain a primary care provider within the hospital’s network,” said McAdoo, who is executive director and co-founder of the Collaborative. “He had no insurance and no idea how to get financial assistance for the hospital bill. He didn’t know the language to use to advocate for what he needed.” Volunteers in the Collaborative helped the man connect with a primary care provider and a gastroenterologist, who diagnosed an ulcer. Now he’s scheduled for a procedure which should help correct the problem.

That’s just one example of how DFW Faith Health Collaborative has helped people in marginalized communities. And McAdoo, who earned her M.Div. at Perkins in 2015, is just one of many members of the Perkins community — alumnae/i, students and others — who are helping to minister to the physical, spiritual and mental health of the community. Here we meet just a few of them.

FREEDOM MCADOO DFW Health Collaborative

DFW Faith Health Collaborative helps congregations create or strengthen their internal health ministry, establishing an avenue for local hospital systems to provide preventive information and local health resources. The Collaborative also trains a core group of volunteers in faith communities to support patients before, during and after hospital stays by assisting them in making healthier decisions, providing transportation to and from medical appointments, helping patients communicate their health needs with the appropriate care providers and connecting them to community resources that can help improve their quality of life.

Recently, the Collaborative deployed paid community educators to canvass homes in low-income neighborhoods to provide information on vaccinations. The Collaborative also offered COVID-19 education to the Fair Park community for more than six months and is currently supporting the programming of the vaccine distribution at McAdoo’s church, Abundant Life AME Church, as part of a partnership between the Collaborative, Abundant Life and MCI Diagnostics. (Dr. Michael W. Waters, a Perkins grad, is the church’s pastor.)

“We work with people in the community who need help understanding and navigating through the clinical space at hospitals and need to know how to advocate for themselves,” said McAdoo. “We have caregivers who partner and support their neighbors in navigating the health system. When that happens, we see better outcomes and patients live longer.”

STEPHANIE BOHAN Bonton Farms

Before Bonton Farms was established, access to healthy food in the Bonton neighborhood of Dallas was non-existent. Not surprisingly, the cardiovascular disease rate there is 54% higher than the rest of Dallas. Incidences of diabetes are 45% higher; cancer is 58% higher.

“So many of the diseases that are more prevalent in South Dallas are related to the lack of healthy food and the lack of access to preventative healthcare,” said Stephanie Bohan, an M.A.M. student at Perkins and Director of Health and Wellness Services at Bonton Farms.

Residents in the Bonton area also struggle with factors such as past incarcerations, poverty, underemployment and unemployment and lack of health insurance, all of which inhibit many from seeking health care.

“How do we get people well, rather than just treating disease?” Bohan said. “By offering easy-to-access preventive medicine and supportive services that promote wellness. Right now, people here tend to access medical care on an emergency basis. They don’t get routine primary care.”



“We want to empower people to get healthy, so that we can break the cycle that has kept residents of south Dallas sick for so long.”

STEPHANIE BOHAN



“Methodist was created as a healing ministry.”

JULIE YARBROUGH



“I’ve always wanted to walk with others, to affirm them that they are not by themselves. Not to rescue them, but to sit with them and to be a resource.”

WILLACIN PRECIOUS GHOLSTON

Bonton Farms will soon build a 10,000-square-foot clinic, which will offer primary medical care provided by Parkland Hospital, as well as some specialty medical care. Bohan joined Bonton Farms recently, after ten years serving as executive director of the Agape Clinic, a free medical clinic in East Dallas.

“We hope the Bonton Farms Health & Wellness Center will become the medical home for our residents as well as a place where they come for exercise, nutrition, cooking classes and other educational programming that promotes health and wellness. We want to empower people to get healthy, so that we can break the cycle that has kept residents of south Dallas sick for so long.”

Bohan adds that her Perkins education — and in particular, the classes she has taken with Dr. Hal Recinos — are helping her better serve the mostly Black and Latino clients at Bonton Farms.

“His classes are teaching me cultural awareness, diversity and competence,” she said. “It’s helping me to meet people where they are, to understand them, honor them and give them their agency in their health decisions. Each culture views health and wellness differently. We strive to respect the cultural emphases of each patient’s beliefs, values and spirituality as they relate to their illness and treatment.”

JULIE YARBROUGH
Serving the Underserved

In 1921, a men’s Sunday school class at First United Methodist Church in Dallas identified an urgent need for medical care for people in Dallas’s southern sector. On Christmas eve in 1927, Methodist Dallas Hospital in Oak Cliff opened its doors.

Today, the not-for-profit Methodist Health System continues to offer compassionate quality healthcare. In 2020, Methodist spent some \$180 million of its net patient revenue on charity and uncompensated care to provide healthcare services to the underinsured and uninsured patient population in the southern sector of Dallas County.

Julie Yarbrough, a member of the Perkins Executive Board, is immediate past chair of the Board of Methodist Health System and has served on this fiduciary board for 13 years.

“Methodist was created as a healing ministry,” Yarbrough said. “From humble beginnings, Methodist Health System has become one of the leading healthcare providers in the North Texas area.”

She is especially proud of the system’s response to COVID-19.

“People in the southern sector of Dallas have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 because of preexisting healthcare conditions and large numbers of family members in the same households,” she said. “From the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, the response of Methodist Health System has been collaborative, compassionate and mission-focused in order to save lives and keep patients and staff safe. The vaccine clinic at Methodist Dallas has administered almost 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine.”

Yarbrough also ministers to those who grieve as author of a series of books on grief. She was motivated to write about grief after the 2004 death of her husband, the Rev. Leighton Farrell (M.Th. 1953), a United Methodist minister for over 50 years, and the death of her father eight months later.

“When Leighton died, I felt that something good must come out of his tragic and untimely death,” she said. “The only way this seemed possible was to write about the pain and suffering of this enormous loss to my life and find a way to share in the experience of grief with others.”

Yarbrough hopes her most recent book, *Present Comfort: Meditations on Modern Loss and Grief* (Invite Press, April 2021) will speak to readers following the extraordinary losses and upheavals that have affected so many in 2020, due to COVID-19, racial reckoning and natural disasters.



“A lot of my job is just being with kids going through difficult things, who need to be able to talk about it. I try to create a space for them to express themselves through play.”

COURTNEY WEBB

“In writing about grief, especially in the context of our current culture, I seek to meet those who grieve where they are emotionally and spiritually by offering comfort, encouragement and hope,” she said.

WILLACIN PRECIOUS GHOLSTON
Called to Serve

In 2003, the Rev. Willacin Precious Gholston traveled to Botswana to serve at an AME mission. At the time, Botswana had the highest number of AIDS infections in the world, with one in three people infected. Daily, she witnessed people succumbing to the dreaded disease.

“I had people literally dying in my arms of AIDS,” she said. “While I was equipped to run the administrative side of the mission, I left the mission field desiring to acquire ministry training for how to be with people who are sick, suffering and dying.”

Gholston’s experiences in global missions put her on a path that brought her to Perkins, where she earned a M.Div. in 2009, ultimately leading to her current position as manager of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Programs at Methodist Health System in Dallas. She ministers to patients as a chaplain and leads the training and education for chaplain students in the hospital system.

“I’ve always wanted to walk with others, to affirm them that they are not by themselves,” she said. “Not to rescue them, but to sit with them and to be a resource.”

An ordained elder in the AME Church, Gholston proudly notes that no one on the chaplain staff at Methodist Charlton Medical Center contracted COVID-19 during the pandemic. Through a partnership with a local nonprofit, Gholston was able to obtain PPE for her staff independently, keeping them safe without taking away from the medical staff.

Gholston first learned about CPE certification in a course taught by Dr. Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner at Perkins.

“I was sitting in Jeanne’s class and realized, ‘This is exactly the type of training that I want and need,’” she said. “I knew I wanted to minister to the sick, the suffering and the dying.”

COURTNEY WEBB
Connecting with Children

Courtney Webb (M.Div. 2017) was drawn to the chaplaincy in college, when she got to know the chaplain at her great-grandmother’s nursing home.

“Chaplain Ralph was incredibly kind and understanding,” she said. “I didn’t know it was a job before meeting him.”

Today, Webb is an ordained deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) and a staff chaplain at Children’s Memorial Hermann hospital in Houston, providing spiritual care in the ER, the pediatric and neonatal ICUs, labor and delivery and pediatrics, and for hospital staff.

For Webb, it’s a dream job.

“It’s amazing to get paid to be with people who just need someone to listen or support them during challenging times in their life.”

Her special passion is for teens with behavioral and mental health issues.

“A lot of my job is just being with kids going through difficult things, who need to be able to talk about it,” she said. “I try to create a space for them to express themselves through play.”

She uses a church-based curriculum called Godly Play, which incorporates Bible stories like the parables of the mustard seed and the good shepherd.



“Over the pandemic, we developed a strong relationship with our neighbors and we want them protected.”

GEOFFREY MOORE



Hamilton Park UMC served as a vaccination hub. Pictured: Sheron Patterson (right) and her husband Robert Patterson.

Sometimes she works with Holy Listening Stones, a set of 28 symbols that help spark conversations with young patients.

“We get to use all these different ways to be with kids, to give them a safe space and a way to find emotional and spiritual and physical healing,” she said.

Her job also involves hospitality — shepherding parents and family members during traumas and medial emergencies. “

“Sometimes I’m helping the parents find where they’re going, or helping them call other family members or just bringing a cup of water,” she said. “It’s being with them during that initial shock.”

PRACTICING PARISH MEDICINE

While chaplains worked the front lines, many Perkins grads in parish ministry also worked to help protect the health of their communities. Many pivoted quickly to support COVID-19 testing locations, and later, as vaccination hubs.

Hamilton Park United Methodist Church in Dallas

hosted COVID-19 testing in the summer of 2020, and this spring, offered its parking lot as a vaccination hub.

“Over the pandemic we developed a strong relationship with our neighbors and we want them protected,” said Dr. Sheron Patterson (M.T.S. 1983, M.Div. 1989, D.Min. 1996). “We spent the summer as a COVID-19 testing site. It was imperative that Black and Brown communities be tested. So it was only natural that we offer the COVID-19 vaccine. Also there is a hesitancy about the vaccine in our community and the church is a trusted voice.”

St. Stephen’s United Methodist Church in Mesquite, Texas, helped replenish the Red Cross’ critically low supply of blood, starting in March 2020.

“We wanted to not only serve our congregation during this time but also to respond to the pandemic itself — to help support the public health effort and public health officials who were working to turn the tide,” said Dr. Geoffrey Moore (M.M. 2003, M.Div. 2010, Ph.D. 2020), the church’s lead pastor.

Brian Moeschler, a member of the church and a regional donor services executive with the American Red Cross Blood Services, alerted the church to the need. Sponsors of blood drives that had been scheduled for months were canceling, and the country was within days of running out of blood.

“All we needed to do was open our doors and provide space,” Moore said. “Of course, space was something we had in abundance. Our building was eerily silent and empty.”

The American Red Cross provided the staffing and followed protocols to ensure the safety of donors and volunteers. The first few drives were held in classrooms, but as the need grew, the church moved the drives to the sanctuary.

“Like the community that prayed there every week to become ‘the body of Christ for the world, redeemed by his blood,’ this community, too — or, perhaps, more literally — would be providing redeeming blood for a world in need,” Moore said.

Over the course of the last 16 months, the congregation of 150 people has hosted 31 drives and collected more than 900 units of blood, impacting more than 2,700 people.

“And more importantly, more than 900 people from the community around us — people who would never had known who we were — have come forward as donors to partner with us in this effort,” Moore said.

PERKINS NAMES TWO NEW CHAIRS

In May, the appointment of two new holders of endowed chairs was announced: Dr. Rebekah Miles as the Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology and Ethics and Dr. Ted Campbell as the Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies. Both appointments began on June 1. The recommendations were made by Perkins Dean Craig C. Hill and supported by the unanimous vote of those holding chairs at the Perkins School of Theology.

“We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Miles and Dr. Campbell to continue the legacy of these two prestigious endowed chairs,” said Dean Craig Hill. “These two professors have been leaders in the Perkins community as well as outstanding scholars and teachers, and their appointments underscore Perkins’ abiding commitment to Methodist and Wesleyan studies.”

Dr. Rebekah “Beka” Miles, professor of Ethics and Practical Theology, was appointed Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology and Ethics, a chair recently vacated by Dr. Evelyn Parker, associate dean for academic affairs, who retired last spring, and who was named inaugural holder of the chair in 2015. The chair was established in 2014 by a \$2.5 million gift made by an anonymous donor through the Texas Methodist Foundation. It honors Susanna Wesley, frequently referred to as “the mother of Methodism.” Her sons, John and Charles Wesley, led a revival within the 18th-century Anglican Church that sparked the emergence of global Methodism and the Methodist Episcopal Church in the American colonies. Historians point to the “practical divinity” embraced by Susanna and her sons John and Charles after her.

Miles is an ordained elder in the Arkansas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and has served five times as a clergy delegate to the United Methodist General Conference. A recipient of the Henry Luce III Fellowship

in Theology, Miles writes in the areas of Christian ethics, practical theology and Wesley studies, including an edited collection of the works of Methodist practical theologian Georgia Harkness. She is now co-editing “Volume 15: Domestic, Moral, Political, and Economic Writings” in *The Bicentennial Edition of the Works of John Wesley*.

Dr. Ted Campbell, professor of Church History, was appointed Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies. Dr. William J. Abraham, who has held the chair since 1995, retired last spring. The chair was established in 1982 in honor of Albert Cook Outler (1908 – 1989), a longtime faculty member at Perkins as well as a distinguished Methodist theologian and philosopher. Outler made crucial contributions to the scholarship of John Wesley including a critical selection of John Wesley’s work published in the Library of Protestant Thought which led to his leadership in the Wesley Works editorial project, now *The Bicentennial Edition of the Works of John Wesley*. Funding for the chair was provided by the Texas Annual Conference. The chair is designated to promoting the study of John Wesley, as well as his brother Charles Wesley and other leading Methodist thinkers.

Campbell is an ordained elder of the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, a former president of the Charles Wesley Society (1999-2003), and a delegate to the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches in the USA (1992-2002). Campbell served as the American Convenor for the Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies in 2013 and as co-convenor of the Wesleyan and Methodist Studies Unit of the American Academy of Religion. His scholarship in Wesley Studies includes having edited the third volume of John Wesley’s letters, and he is now editing the fourth volume for *The Bicentennial Edition of the Works of John Wesley*.

Miles and Campbell have also worked closely together, including their co-authorship of *Wesley and the Quadrilateral* with Scott Jones, Randy Maddox and Stephen Gunter. They are also both John Wesley Fellows of A Foundation for Theological Education (AFTE).



Rebekah Miles



Ted Campbell

“These two professors have been leaders in the Perkins community as well as outstanding scholars and teachers, and their appointments underscore Perkins’ abiding commitment to Methodist and Wesleyan studies.”

DEAN CRAIG HILL

2021 SEALS LAITY AWARD RECIPIENTS



NANCY SEAY



LISA TICHENOR

Perkins School of Theology announces the 2021 recipients of the Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award: Nancy Seay, a philanthropist and elder of Highland Park Presbyterian Church (HPPC); and Lisa Tichenor, an active community leader and lay member of Highland Park United Methodist Church (HPUMC).

The Awards were presented during the online worship service for Perkins Summit for Faith and Learning on March 19. Mary White, the 2020 recipient of the Seals Laity Award, was also honored at that virtual event.

The Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award is presented annually to a layperson in the United States who embodies the Christian faith and commitment of service to Christ in the church, community and world as exemplified by Judge Woodrow B. Seals, a distinguished layperson whose interest and energy were instrumental in establishing the Perkins Summit for Faith and Learning (formerly the Perkins Theological School for the Laity). Selection for the Seals Award is made by the Perkins Lay Advisory Board.

As an elder of HPPC, Seay has held a variety of leadership roles, from serving alongside middle schoolers as a confirmation mentor to leading a church-wide visioning committee to enhance the church’s 90-year-old building. A former president of the Junior League of Dallas, she has also served on numerous boards, including UT Southwestern Medical Center’s President’s Advisory Board and the Parkinson’s Voice Project Advisory Board, and as a philanthropic supporter of Children’s Medical Center, Baylor Scott & White Medical Center and the North Texas Food Bank. She is also former Board Chair of Langham Partnership, a nonprofit Christian international fellowship working to foster the growth of the global church.

“Nancy has given of herself in service to our church, but her passion reaches far beyond that, into our city and the world,” said Dr. Bryan Dunagan, senior pastor of HPPC. “Nancy has been deeply formed by a global understanding of the church’s role in helping all people flourish – especially those on the underside of power.”

Tichenor’s service to God through the United Methodist Church has touched many lives locally and globally, especially the students of Africa University (AU), a United Methodist-related institution in Zimbabwe. Her involvement began in 1988 as part of the first Endowment Fund Campaign Committee and continues today as a member of the university’s Development Committee and Advisory Development Committee. Most recently, she spearheaded the construction of a dormitory and student union building funded by HPUMC. Following the death of her son, Willie Tichenor, in 2006, Tichenor formed a non-profit in his memory, the Quad W Foundation, which provides financial support to efforts in higher education, sarcoma research, personally transforming mission experiences and general philanthropy.

“From inception, Lisa has been a catalyst for the development of Africa University,” said James H. Salley, associate vice-chancellor for institutional advancement. “The impact of her personal investment and passionate advocacy on behalf of AU is incalculable.”

Nominations for the 2022 Perkins School of Theology Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award will be accepted through December 1, 2021.

To submit a nomination visit smu.edu/perkins/seals

2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



DONALD W. UNDERWOOD



SIDNEY G. HALL

In December, the Perkins School of Theology Alumni/ae Council announced the selection of the Rev. Donald W. Underwood and the Rev. Dr. Sidney G. Hall, III, as recipients the 2020 Perkins Distinguished Alumnus/a Award.

The Award recognizes Perkins graduates who have demonstrated effectiveness and integrity in service to the church, continuing support for the goals of Perkins and Southern Methodist University, outstanding service to the community and exemplary character.

Underwood (M.Th. ‘73) served as lead pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas, from 1983 until his retirement in May 2020. Christ UMC is one of the largest congregations in the denomination, with an average weekly attendance of 1500. Under his leadership, Christ UMC launched several ministries to serve lower-income persons in Plano, including Project Hope, which helps struggling families break the cycle of poverty; House on the Corner, a homebuilding effort; Hotel Katrina, a shelter that provided emergency and long-term support for 71 evacuees from Hurricane Katrina in 2005; and School on Sunday, a tutoring program. Underwood is also the author of two books, *The Long View: Reflections on Life, God, and Nature* (2011) and *Pray Like Jesus: Rediscovering the Lord’s Prayer* (2017).

“Don is one of the most imaginative and creative ministers in United Methodism,” Bishop Michael McKee (M. Th. ’78) said in a letter affirming the nomination. “His ministry is a witness to Christ and to the impact Perkins has had on his life.”

Hall (M.Th. ‘84, D.Min. ‘88) is pastor emeritus of Trinity Church of Austin, Texas, a United Methodist congregation co-affiliated with the United Church

of Christ. Hall served as Trinity’s lead minister for 33 years, from 1988-2021. An ordained elder in the Rio Texas Conference, Hall is also a leader in the Reconciling Ministries Network, which advocates full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons in the United Methodist Church, and has served on numerous boards of Austin nonprofits including Political Asylum Project of Austin, Texas Freedom Network and the Austin Mayor’s Task Force on Human Rights. In 1991, Hall was the recipient of the first annual Jewish Community Friendship Award by the Jewish Federation of Austin. He is the author of *Christian Anti-Semitism and Paul’s Theology* (1993) and co-author of *Three Mystics Walk into a Tavern: A Once and Future Meeting of Rumi, Meister Eckhart, and Moses de León in Medieval Venice* (2015).

In a letter supporting Hall’s nomination, Cecile Richards praised his interfaith work in the early days of the Texas Freedom Network/Texas Faith Network.

“Sid was able to bring together leaders from the Jewish faith, Baptist ministers and Catholic, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Methodist clergy, to organize together around common beliefs,” said Richards, who is founder of Texas Freedom Network/ Texas Faith Network. “It was hard work, and Sid’s gentle nature and patience helped the group stay together and begin to work effectively as one.”

The 2019 Perkins Distinguished Alumnus/a was the Rev. Katherine Glaze Lyle, an active community volunteer and retired pastor in the North Texas Conference.

Underwood and Hill will be honored, with the 2021 and 2022 recipients, during the November 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award Banquet.



SMU Perkins School of Theology

BLACK/AFRICANA CHURCH STUDIES PROGRAM

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM INCLUDE:

- ✦ Preparing Black/Africana students both at the Dallas campus and the Houston/Galveston Extension, for innovative and impactful leadership in the Black Church, academy and the world.
- ✦ Educating the entire Perkins and SMU community about the origins, development and diversity of the Black Church Tradition, including Africa and the Diaspora.
- ✦ Hosting events, including worship services, revivals and gospel concerts, in conjunction with the Black Seminarians Association and Black Perkins faculty.
- ✦ Establishing a Perkins Black Alumni Network/Association.
- ✦ Creating a warm atmosphere of nurture, support and community for Black seminarians and others in order to increase student recruitment and matriculation in a wholesome environment.
- ✦ Connecting the religious academy with the Black church by bringing together a consortium of ministerial leaders and religious scholars for the sharing of research and critical reflection.
- ✦ Integrating Africana and African American themed curriculum into Perkins' core courses and promoting successful student participation and completion of the Concentration in African American Studies.

BLACK/AFRICANA CHURCH STUDIES PROGRAM

In May 3, Perkins faculty approved a proposal to launch an SMU Perkins Black/Africana Church Studies (BACS) Program. Dr. Tamara Lewis, Professor of the Practice of Historical Theology and Director of the Black/Africana Church Studies Program, will serve as the program's director.

"The program will critically explore Black theology, Black Biblical studies and interpretation, history, pastoral theology, preaching, worship, religious education, ethics and other practices in conjunction with African American, African, and other African Diasporic churches, non-profit organizations, and social justice ministries," said Lewis.

The BACS program will offer a range of opportunities and activities designed to enrich the educational, cultural and communal experiences of Black students at Perkins School of Theology and the Graduate Program in Religious Studies (GPRS) as well as the broader SMU community.

"A first priority of the program is to promote the Concentration in African American Church Studies among students through informal sharing and informative presentations on African American courses and degree requirements and electives at the Community Hour at Perkins (CHAP)," Lewis added. The Concentration is available to all M.Div. students who wish to broaden their understanding of African American religious experiences as well as prepare for leadership in the Black church or related social agencies. Interested students declare their intent to earn the certificate with their advisor and registrar.

Perkins established the first Black Church Studies Program in 1970 under Dean Joseph D. Quillian, Jr. The first Coordinator of Black Church Studies was also the first Black faculty member of Perkins, the Rev. Nathaniel Lenard Lacy, Jr. (1935-2016), a United Methodist clergyman who served as Assistant Professor of Practical Theology from 1970-74. However, without specifically designated funding, the Black Church Studies

Program and Director ceased by the 1980s; instead, Black faculty advisors worked with the Black Seminarians Association.

Program organizers also hope eventually to offer scholarships, stipends and other funding opportunities for qualified Black students and anticipate the development of Black archival collections and papers of Black Perkins professors, students and local ministerial leaders. They also hope to expand student mentoring and networking opportunities.

An overall goal of the program is to improve campus quality of life for members of the SMU Black community, starting with a biennial survey of the campus climate as seen through the eyes of students, faculty and staff.

Lewis and other program leaders will prepare a BACS constitution and by-laws, formalize and recruit a Board of Advisors, assemble a Consultation Team (consisting of Black seminarians, Black Perkins alumni, Black Perkins doctoral students, community leaders, and other invested individuals), set up office space and administrative help for the program and establish a web presence on the Perkins website. In conjunction with the BSA, program leaders will also plan worship programming for the 2021-2022 school year and schedule gatherings for Black student fellowship, fun, support and nurture.

"The program will critically explore Black theology, Black Biblical studies and interpretation, history, pastoral theology, preaching, worship, religious education, ethics and other practices in conjunction with African American, African and other African Diasporic churches, non-profit organizations and social justice ministries."

TAMARA LEWIS



Tree of Life

By Anthony Elia, director and J.S. Bridwell Foundation Endowed Librarian

NATURE'S BOOKS, HEALTH AND SPIRITUAL MEDICINE AT BRIDWELL LIBRARY

In the antique lands of Central Asia, the many languages that spread along the Silk Road through desolate passes, over sky-reaching mountains and into remote oases often shared vocabularies with the itinerating travelers who roamed its landscape. The similarities of one regional dialect with another stretched far back to a parent tongue that had some common meaning. These verbal relationships often took shape through environmental markings, objects, or food. In a few languages, the roots of the words for *tree* and *medicine* were identical.

This same phenomenon was not unheard of in Europe, where the use of nature to acquire medicine was widely recognized and often used. Most notably, the extraction of salicylic acid, which is found in willow bark helped to mitigate fevers. Though, it wasn't until 1899 that the chemical formulation was manufactured industrially as aspirin for the populace.

Trees themselves may serve as one of nature's most important apothecaries, but they may also be the nexus of human sustainability, growth and cultural development. In fact, beyond these healthful extractions from many trees — like alder as an astringent for wounds; ash as a laxative; beech for respiratory issues; and willow for inflammation and pain relief — the dendrological contributions to the world are even more extraordinary. Today, we live in a world that not only relies upon the legacy of trees and their medical uses, we also live on a planet that requires trees to function as the healthful filters of carbon dioxide, to yield lumber for building and furniture,

to produce fruits that go to market. And the very tissue of these organic miracles offers endless possibilities to how civilizations were founded and evolved. In the pulp of ground up wood we have gone from making paper more than a millennium ago to ingloriously adding cellulose ("saw dust") to packaged parmesan cheese for longevity!

The seldom-used word *codex* — meaning "book" or "manuscript volume"— comes from Latin and is related to the earlier term *caudex* — or, "tree trunk" and "block of wood." Here again, we see the great trees of the earth grow up and produce the foundations of our global societies — arguably through the codification of human ideas. Perhaps a circular definition, codification itself comes from *code* ("a systematic compilation of laws"), which itself comes from *codex* ("a book"). Therefore, there has come to be a human belief that once ideas are set into physical space, into a fixed location, into a book, then into law and regulation, they are final and determine how we need to live our lives appropriately in society.

This fixity, though, is much more malleable and fluid than many of us might imagine. Books themselves have evolved and changed. We have gone through revolutions in papermaking, ink development and printing advancements. We have seen the handwritten word yield to Chinese woodblocks, then Gutenberg in Mainz during the 15th century, commercial steel presses in the 19th century, and now digital publishing where the role of trees, wood and paper are diffuse, attenuated and obscured, but not absent.

At Bridwell, the curious connections of tree, wood, book and text have come together in innumerable and surprising ways — not just in vast collections of historical medical books, like the Sellers Collection, for example, but in the very formulation of books as healthful curatives and medicines for our mental, physical, emotional and spiritual ills. It is no coincidence that the very objects that are kept on shelves or in secured chambers and bookcases themselves resemble the chemist shops of medieval China or the ancient Near East. Very much in the way that we take our medicines, which we hope will affect us, change us and enhance us positively, the encounter with the book does the same, though in very different ways depending on how a book appears to us and what it actually says.

I have had many daily encounters with books throughout my life, and I have had equally as many distinct experiences and reactions, especially among the extraordinary tomes at Bridwell. We all have our favorite titles—in history, arts, music, literature, poetry, and social sciences—and these fields connect with our own interests and desires, just as they help us grow, learn and discern the world around us. Throughout my life I have been transformed by the entrancing prose of Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, Ernest Hemingway, Frederick Douglass, James Baldwin and Toni Morrison, among many others. The content and fluidity of their writing are not just points of information that I ingest, but soulful remedies to ills I didn't even know I had.

When I first came to Bridwell, I looked at our collections with great amazement and awe. The gorgeous and weighty tomes had embossments, illuminated pages of golds, reds and blues, and sundry articulations of fanciful imaginary beasts. In more recent years, I have come across other

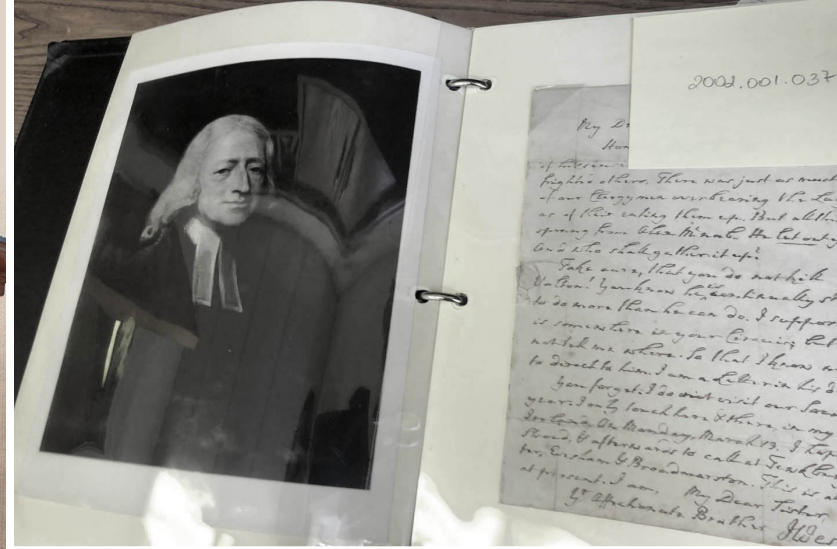


Anthony Elia

unexpected, the sublime and the exceptional creations and inspirational acquisitions that will further our mission and elevate our standing as an institution of distinction.

Among our favorite items that have recently been acquired are works that exist not simply as "traditional" or "regular" books but are themselves significantly beyond the boundaries of a traditional volume with pages and covers. Many so-called art books display aspects of sculpture and three-dimensionality that require the viewer to encounter the works in wholly new ways.

These include: multi-colored pop-up books by Tauba Auerbach, rectangular tubal carved books by Ian Tyson, a pear and body-shaped book by Jan Sobota, the Circle Press wire and paper detachable puppet books by Ron King, and perhaps my favorite, the wood trunk "tree book" also by the same artist. Indeed, we have come full circle. A book that is a tree, now a tree that is a book, a reversal of time and process. Held with a leather cord binding, demonstrably unique in every way, it is connected to both nature and the earth. Different from the literary expressionism of my favorite writers, whose own words have transformed me for what they wrote, the Ron King "tree book" transforms us through encounter—like an experience of the divine, the participation in communion or the thoughtful meditation of prayer. I see it and behold it in shock, disbelief and uncertainty, only to be relieved in the acknowledgement that I'm privileged to experience such objects and they exist in Bridwell Library. The ability for us to transform after these encounters is crucial. That is the spiritual medicine of nature's offering; it is also the medicine of the tree of life.



World Methodist Museum

COLLECTION TRANSFERRED TO BRIDWELL LIBRARY

Bridwell Library has been named the recipient of the collections of the recently closed World Methodist Council Museum. After the April announcement by the World Methodist Council (WMC) Archival Committee, the collection was transferred from the museum in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, to Bridwell Library at SMU in May.

Founded in 1956, the World Methodist Council Museum held one of the world's largest collections of historical items related to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. The WMC Archival Committee chose Bridwell Library based on its ability to preserve, curate and display materials and to engage a broad public. Bridwell's long history with Methodist collections, along with its staff expertise, physical space availability, museum-grade exhibition halls and advanced secured and climate-controlled facilities made it the ideal location for the collections.

"We are honored to be chosen as the recipient of the collections and will continue to oversee and curate these items with the highest quality and standards," said Anthony J. Elia, director of Bridwell Library.

The remarkable acquisition brings a treasure trove of Methodist-related historical documents, books and artifacts to Bridwell Library, including more than 50 original manuscript letters of John Wesley and a traveling pulpit used by Wesley himself. The collection also brings artifacts that illustrate Methodism on the ground and with people around the world: portraits, hymnals, ceramics and other artifacts.

"We appreciate the great trust that the museum has placed in us by giving the collection to Bridwell Library," said Craig Hill, dean of Perkins School of Theology. "Wesley Studies has always been a strong point of Perkins, and this gift creates new and undreamed-of prospects for its future."



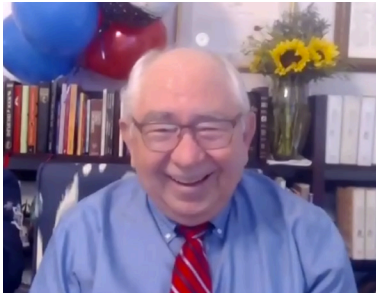
Opposite: Dean Craig C. Hill traveled to the World Methodist Council Museum in Lake Junaluska, N.C., this spring for a ceremony marking the transfer of the collection to the Bridwell Library. Above: The World Methodist Museum (left), in Lake Junaluska, before it closed and the collections moved to SMU's Bridwell Library (right).

"Wesley Studies has always been a strong point of Perkins, and this gift creates new and undreamed-of prospects for its future."

DEAN CRAIG HILL

2020-2021 News Roundup

BISHOP MAX WHITFIELD RETIREMENT CELEBRATION



Humility. Kindness. Wisdom. Those were a few of the words repeated often at the retirement celebration of Perkins Bishop in Residence D. Max Whitfield, held virtually just before he officially retired on August 31, 2020, as Bishop in Residence at Perkins and as director of the Center for Religious Leadership.

Noting that Whitfield launched his career from Perkins — he earned his M.Div. in 1969 — and now was concluding his career at Perkins, Dean Craig Hill said, “You’re coming full circle. You’ve had a 50-year relationship with Perkins. Instead of retiring, you came back to continue to shape church leaders.”

Whitfield had served since 2012. Previously, he was bishop of the New Mexico and Northwest Texas Conferences of The United Methodist Church from 2000 – 2012. He was ordained as an elder in 1970 in the North Arkansas Conference. In addition to his M.Div., he earned a D.Min. from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1983.

Nearly 30 Perkins faculty, staff and students were on hand for the Zoom celebration, as well as the bishop’s wife, Valerie Whitfield and other family members.

“The Perkins community welcomed me with open arms in 2012, just as it did when I was a student,” Whitfield said. “You treated me as a colleague, which is the greatest honor that could be bestowed. These past eight years have brought great joy and fulfillment.”

FALL CONVOCATION

Some 250 attendees from around the U.S. gathered virtually November 15-16, 2020, for the annual Perkins Fall Convocation, “Leading Into Change,” with author Tod Bolsinger of Fuller Seminary and Grammy Award-winning gospel music icon Kirk Franklin. Normally held on the campus of SMU in Dallas, this year’s event took place online, with attendees joining from 19 different states, including Alaska and Pennsylvania.

Franklin kicked off the event on Sunday evening with an informal conversation with Priscilla Pope-Levison. Monday’s events opened with online worship with global music led by IziBongo. Tod Bolsinger presented three plenary programs: “Leading in Uncharted Territory,” “Trust, Conflict and Transformation in Uncharted Territory”

and “Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change.” Participants also had the opportunity to interact with Bolsinger and in breakout groups, and to attend a selected afternoon workshop. Bolsinger talked about how the pandemic has led leaders into uncharted territory — and how it has exposed the “underlying conditions” of the church: a lack of deep discipleship; a lack of deep community that keeps people connected in times of division; and a lack of wisdom and courage to speak prophetically, collaborate for justice and serve the common good. But he also sees the pandemic as providing “opportunities to hit the organizational reset button.”

TESTIMONY HQ GRANT

Southern Methodist University (SMU) has received a \$999,975

grant to support Perkins School of Theology’s Testimony as Community Engagement program. The grant is being made through Lilly Endowment’s nationwide Thriving Congregations Initiative.

The program, embedded in the newly renamed Perkins Center for Congregational Vitality, is working to increase the practice of testimony as community engagement both inside and outside the church. The Rev. Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison and Bart Patton of Perkins School of Theology serve as co-principal investigators. This is the second Lilly Endowment grant awarded to SMU to fund the work of Pope-Levison and Patton; the first was a \$1 million grant awarded in 2018 to strengthen congregational ministries with youth.

Over the five-year course of the grant, the program will help

Continued on page 36.



BREATH OF LIFE

About 50 members of the Perkins community gathered on June 28, 2020, for Breath of Life, a day of prayer for healing from social injustice, racism, racial profiling and stereotyping, sponsored by an alliance of student, faculty and administrative organizations at SMU.

The event was sparked by an impassioned email sent by Barbara Taylor (M.Div. '22) to the Perkins community a few weeks earlier.

“As a world changer being shaped at SMU ... I am requesting pastors, liturgical leaders and students to unite as models of righteousness in organizing a peaceful communal gathering of prayer or march in protest of the death of George Floyd,” she wrote. “We must serve as God’s mouthpiece against social inequalities and racial injustices to unweave the threads of immorality and prejudice that course through this nation. If SMU speaks, the city will listen. If the church speaks, people will come.”

The program began in the morning on the lawn of SMU’s Dallas Hall, and concluded in the afternoon at Dallas City Hall. Students led a series of prayers at each venue, and there were addresses from community leaders and elected officials. To minimize risks of COVID-19, participants observed safe social distancing practices and wore masks.

congregations master how to utilize testimony as community engagement; rename the current Perkins Center for Evangelism to Perkins Center for Congregational Vitality (PCCV), encouraging it to become an international and ecumenical hub for training congregations in best practices for testimony; lead each cohort congregation in four concentric circles of learning communities; develop a prescribed course of study through the PCCV and launch an internationally recognized Certificate for Congregational Vitality; and establish a grant website as the vehicle for sharing resources related to testimonies of community engagement,

such as podcasts, webinars, downloadable resources and written materials. “Testimony is a fundamental building block of the church as a welcoming body, where even newcomers can overhear authentic faith stories,” said Pope-Levison. “Community and connection flow out from a thriving congregation’s practice of testimony into the world around it.”

BOLIN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP EVENING

The decision to hold the Bolin Family Scholarship Evening program virtually this year turned out to be providential. The event took place on

February 16, a night when much of Dallas was paralyzed by a winter storm. But the Zoom program was able to proceed as planned.

This year’s event, named for sponsors Jane Bolin, a member of the Perkins Executive Board, and her husband Pat, raised \$175,000 for the Perkins Student Scholarship Fund. The speaker was David Brooks, *New York Times* columnist, best-selling author and regular commentator for the “PBS NewsHour” and NPR’s “All Things Considered.” Brooks returned, having spoken in 2020 on campus to a sold-out crowd at the Perkins’ Bolin Family Perkins Scholarship Luncheon.

Brooks offered his thoughts on the past year, asking, “How can we repair a society that’s become pretty broken?” Brooks noted that he expected the pandemic might rally the nation; instead, it fostered distrust and conspiracy theories. That distrust is a crisis, Brooks added — but crises have the advantage of revealing problems and pointing to potential solutions.

“It’s the hard times, ‘in the valley,’ that can open up our spirits and our souls,” he said. “The past year has been a hard year but a revelatory year. I hope it has shifted our culture, that we will come out of it different than we went into it.”

DO NO HARM: BLACK BODIES AND BIOETHICS

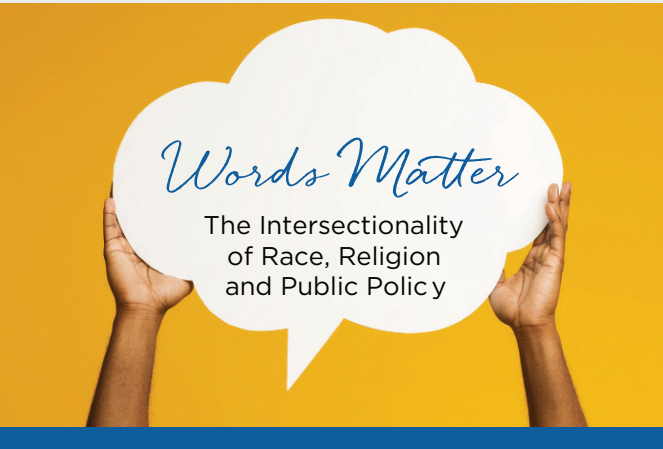
“Do No Harm: Black Bodies and Bioethics,” was presented on April 26, 2021, and sponsored by Perkins School of Theology, the Robinson Arts Fund at the Perkins School of Theology and the Perkins African American Fine Arts and Bioethics Project.

The program’s centerpiece was “Do No Harm,” a filmed play portraying the story of three enslaved Black women — Lucy, Anarcha, and Betsey — who were the subjects of needlessly horrific medical and surgical experiments by Dr. James Marion Sims (1813-1883.) Sims, a white male surgeon, is still honored today in the medical community as “the father of modern gynecology.”

Evelyn L. Parker, Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology at Perkins School of Theology, presented the introductory lecture, followed by a showing of “Do No Harm.” A worship service followed, with music and liturgy by Garth Kasimu Baker-Fletcher. The program concluded with a lecture on “Bioethics, including ‘Black Bioethics,’” by Theodore Walker, Jr., associate professor of Ethics and Society at Perkins.

“The program affirms that Black lives matter in medicine and in bioethics,” said Walker. “Books in medical schools and statues continue to celebrate Sims while ignoring the Black lives of Lucy, Anarcha and Betsey.”

“Do No Harm” was written by Anyika McMillan-Herod and premiered in January 2021 at Soul Rep Theatre in Dallas. The world premiere was originally commissioned by Parker and the Association of Practical Theology.



WORDS MATTER

More than 150 people gathered virtually on April 19 for “Words Matter: The Intersectionality of Race, Religion and Public Policy.” A panel of academicians and community leaders explored the power of language in the intersection of race, religion and public policy and how that is reflected in the ways that different groups thrive while others remain marginalized.

The Zoom webinar was sponsored by Perkins School of Theology’s Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions and the Department of World Languages and Literature at Dedman School of the

Humanities and Sciences. Isabel Docampo, director of the Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions, co-hosted with Ángel J. Gallardo, associate director of the Perkins Intern Program.

Speakers included Bill Holston, executive director of the Human Rights Initiative in Dallas; Dr. Alberto Pastor, associate professor of Spanish, Department of World Languages and Literature, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, SMU; Emily Timm, co-executive director, Proyecto de Defensa Laboral/Workers Defense Project, in Austin-Dallas-Houston; Shellie Ross (M.Div. 2011), executive director of Wesley-Rankin Community Center, who spoke along with Alé Lopez, a longtime resident of the west Dallas neighborhood the center serves; the Rev. David Wilson, assistant to the Bishop at the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church; and Dr. Evelyn Parker, Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology at Perkins.

“We brought together experts from the academy with leaders working in the community, and the result was a rich and thought-provoking conversation,” said Docampo.

NEW FACES AT PERKINS



Jeanette Cordova is administrative assistant for Perkins School of Theology’s Testimony HQ grant-funded initiative.



Pauline Martin is head of Access Services & User Experience Librarian at the Bridwell Library.



Brice Priestly is financial business manager for Perkins School of Theology. He joined SMU in May 2017 and has since served in a variety of finance and accounting roles in the Office of Budgets and Finance.



“Ministry and teaching continue even though I think it is time to let Perkins move into a new phase of its life with new faces and voices.”

WILLIAM ABRAHAM

Truett Seminary has trained students primarily from Baptist congregations; the Wesley House will ensure that students attending from Wesleyan traditions “are nurtured and networked for the ministries into which they are being called,” according to a Baylor University press release. Wesley House of Studies seeks to form and equip Christ-centered, Spirit-led students to serve churches and other institutions in the Wesleyan tradition. Additionally, Abraham will regularly teach courses at Truett pertaining to Wesleyan thought and practice, and will collaborate with individuals, congregations and organizations in the Wesleyan tradition in recruiting, training and placing students and in supporting and educating ministers who already are engaged in Christian service.

“Ministry and teaching continue even though I think it is time to let Perkins move into a new phase of its life with new faces and voices,” Abraham said.

of Christian Studies for *Canon and Criterion in Christian Theology* (1999). In 2018, he was the recipient of the SMU Faculty Career Achievement Award for his extensive work and dedication to Perkins and Southern Methodist University.

“For me, the greatest joy has been working through a research agenda in philosophy, theology and Wesley Studies and sharing this with students across multiple degree platforms,” he said. “I also took enormous pleasure in helping students find their own voice in the conversation and becoming my teachers.”

What he’ll miss most about Perkins: “Meeting students at my corner table early in the morning at la Madeleine restaurant,” he said. “I am working on securing the table as a relic! Working informally was as precious as working formally.”

In addition to his new role at Truett, Abraham will be working nationally and internationally in Wesleyan circles, and writing an intellectual biography of Basil Mitchell (1917-2011), an English philosopher and Oxford professor. Abraham has been a prolific author and sought-after lecturer. He holds an undergraduate degree from The Queen’s University in Belfast, Northern Ireland; a master of divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary; and a doctorate from Oxford University, Regent’s Park College. He has taught at Seattle Pacific University and Harvard Divinity School, as well as SMU. An ordained elder in the Southwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, he served on the General Commission on Unity and Interreligious Concerns of the United Methodist Church (1992-present). He was the recipient of Pew Evangelical Scholars Program Grant, Pew Charitable Trusts (1993-1996) and Joint Book of the Year Award from the Institute



Isabel Docampo, Director, Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and religions; Co-director of the Intern Program; Professor of Supervised Ministry

Docampo earned her D.Min. from Perkins. Her academic work focused on peace

and social justice ministries, cross-cultural and interfaith communication, urban ministry, church and community studies and Latino/a ministry. An ordained Latina Baptist Clergy, she was a Dallas Peace and Justice Center award recipient for co-founding the DFW Women’s Interfaith Dialogue. In 2015, she was co-leader with Dr. Hind Jarrah of a live-streamed workshop at the Parliament of the World’s Religions.

Retirees We Will Miss

Four longtime members of the Perkins faculty and staff — Billy Abraham, Isabel Docampo, Evelyn Parker and Duane Harbin — retired at the end of the Spring 2021 semester. The four retirees served a total of 109 years at Perkins.

Editor’s Note: At press time, we learned of the sad news that Dr. William J. “Billy” Abraham passed away suddenly on Oct. 7, 2021. A tribute to Dr. Abraham will be published in the next Perkins Perspective magazine.

“**T**hese four are so much a part of the fabric of this school. I’ve never known Perkins without them, and find it difficult now to imagine it. We are profoundly grateful for the enormous contributions they’ve made over the span of many years,” said Dean Craig Hill. “We wish them the best, and they will certainly be missed.”

A farewell celebration for members of the Perkins community took place in May. Here’s a brief look at what the retirees accomplished at Perkins and their plans for the future.



**William J. Abraham
Albert Cook Outler
Professor of Wesley Studies**

While he is retiring from Perkins, Abraham is also embarking on a new journey too, as founding director of the recently established Wesley House of Studies at Baylor University’s Truett Seminary.

“I have learned so much from my students about faith, commitment, theology and walking together in ministry.”

ISABEL DOCAMPO

Looking back over her career at Perkins, Docampo says she's most proud of the Perkins Internship Program, in which each student participates in a continuous 9-month immersion in one setting with the support of a pastor, faculty, mental health consultant, a peer group and laity. These internships give students the opportunity to integrate seminary classroom work with their practices with great depth.

"Students are given the time to experience failures, successes and everything in between as they engage in ongoing critical theological reflection and grow in self-awareness in a most unique way," she said. "As an intern faculty advisor, it has been my privilege to learn and reflect and grow with them. I will miss the students and how they always challenged me to growth as I walked alongside them during their internships. The friendships that I have made with Intern Program colleagues, students, mentor pastors, mental health consultants and laity are treasures. I have learned so much from my students about faith, commitment, theology and walking together in ministry."

Another highlight of Docampo's tenure has been leading The Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions, which has contributed to theological education through a variety of publications from a Latinx perspective. The Center has fostered partnerships, faculty and student immersion trips to Latin America, and the Th.M. in Spanish cohort of 2017-2019, impacting the lives of current and future scholars, pastors and theological education.

"A great joy is all the relationships with faculty friends, staff and students," said Docampo. "These have made a deep imprint on my heart and I am grateful." Docampo looks forward to traveling to England along with her husband, Scott, to visit their children, whom they haven't seen since 2019 due to COVID, and learning how to grow

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to do this ecumenical work ... It's the natural thing if you want to be Christ present in the world where people are suffering."

EVELYN J. PARKER

vegetables in their community garden. She says she will miss Faculty Lunches, where she had the chance to learn from colleagues' work as they shared recent projects and books, and the SMU campus, having worked remotely since 2020.

"I like walking across campus and sitting in different benches and being part of university life," she said.



**Evelyn L. Parker
Susanna Wesley
Centennial Professor
of Practical Theology**

Parker spent one of the last years of her Perkins career in South Africa as a 2019-2020 U.S. Fulbright Scholar, based at the Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice and the Department of Theology and Religion at the University of Western Cape in Cape Town, where she worked on a project titled "Role of Religious Leaders in Preventing and Intervening in Teen Dating Violence in South Africa." As Parker got to know the young women studying there, she said, "Their stories weave a beautiful tapestry of characteristics that include sassiness, savviness, tenacity, courage, resistance and persistence."

That work related to Parker's academic focus, which included religious identity and spiritual formation in African American adolescents, adolescents in sociopolitical movements and their understanding of vocation, adolescent resiliency and vocation.

What will she miss most after retiring from Perkins? Having served as a faculty advisor and academic dean for six years, it's the students.

"I sincerely loved teaching and advising Perkins students," Parker said. "Their probing questions about vocation, justice and ministry intersecting with theory/theology/practices about topics that include spirituality of African descended youth/young women, issues of race, class, gender and sexuality were always energizing. I learned from my students how to formulate questions that have the potential to change lives and transform unjust situations through my teaching and research. I learned how to listen closely to their concerns as they sought comfort and care and to celebrate their joys as they overcame challenges."

Looking back on her Perkins career, Parker is most proud of her work which led to the move of the Houston/Galveston Program to the Houston

Medical Center, where the program is now affiliated with the Houston Methodist Hospital (HMH), St. John's UMC, and St. Paul UMC.

"I conceived the idea as I was transitioning into the academic dean's office in 2013 after Dr. Charles Millikan, VP of Spiritual Care and Values Integration at HMH, approached former dean Bill Lawrence about collaborations between the hospital and Perkins," she said. "Evaluating the Houston/Galveston Program for Association of Theological Schools (ATS) accreditation was the perfect moment to make the move for many, many reasons, to help our students, faculty, ecumenical clergy/ministers and the greater Houston community."

She adds that it was also "a self-enlightened interest" of hers, as a former biomedical scientist who desired to reconnect with the biomedical world through her teaching, research and administration. Parker is an active member of Kirkwood Temple CME Church in Dallas and serves as a representative of the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) denomination to the World Council of Churches. Her WCC work spanned more than two decades and a variety of positions and responsibilities. She represented the denomination in the WCC's Faith and Order Plenary Commission from 1996 to 2006. In 2014, she was elected to the WCC's Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA).

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to do this ecumenical work," Parker said. "It's the natural thing if you want to be Christ present in the world where people are suffering."



**Duane Harbin
Assistant Dean
for Technology,
Planning & Compliance**

After celebrating his 25th year with Perkins last fall, Duane Harbin retired last fall and headed to Scottsdale, Ariz., to be closer to family.

A 1981 graduate of Yale Divinity School, Harbin joined SMU in 1995 as associate director of Bridwell Library and was appointed assistant dean for Information Technology and Institutional Research for Perkins in 2001. He stepped into his current position in 2015.

What Harbin will miss most: the people of Perkins and lunchtime in the refectory. "I don't get to meet

"The faculty and staff are a delightfully mixed bag, and they are all dedicated to the school."

DUANE HARBIN

the majority of our students anymore, but I get to know a core that show up regularly," he said. "They give me great faith in the future because they are so smart, disciplined, creative and kind. The faculty and staff are a delightfully mixed bag, and they are all dedicated to the school. They have certainly taught me that a team does far better work and makes far better decisions than any individual."

He'll also miss the Bridwell Library: "I think my biggest regret in leaving Dallas is that I won't be able to play among its amazing collections now that I will have spare time. And of course, nobody parties like librarians!"

He also regrets that he won't be here to contribute to the reimagined curriculum for Perkins. "The Curriculum Review Committee under the leadership of Prof. Rebekah Miles is doing a very serious and thoughtful job of discerning how the Perkins curriculum needs to function to equip the next generation of students for their future ministries." What's he most proud of? "It's completely nerdy but I am tickled that for our last ATS reaccreditation review, Perkins had a clean review," he said. "That wasn't my doing but it showed the school's growing awareness that it is part of the broader project of theological education and the school's ongoing commitment to excellence. I am extremely pleased that Andy Keck will be Perkins' ongoing liaison with ATS because of his personal commitment to that broader project."

Now that he's settled in Scottsdale, Harbin plans to pursue a couple of hobbies: cars and corgis. He's looking forward to attending classic car club shows with friends and seriously considering enrolling in an automotive mechanics class at Maricopa Community College. He's getting to know some Arizona breeders of Pembroke Welsh Corgis because he eventually would like to adopt and raise a puppy. "In the past, I've adopted two adult rescue corgis, but I've always wanted to raise a puppy," he said. "This will need to wait for a while because Bella, my corgi companion, is 14 and too senior to adapt to a puppy at this point in her life."

Friends We Will Miss

"The best of all is, God is with us."

- JOHN WESLEY

We remember all those who have gone before us this past year and pray they dwell forever with God.

The Rev. Dr. Jack Albright (B.D. '58)
 The Rev. L. George Buck (M.T.S. '60)
 Charles Evans Cole (M.Th. '65)
 Patricia Ellen Howery Davis (Former Perkins Professor)
 The Rev. James F. Dean, Jr. (M.Th. '58)
 The Rev. Dr. Michael Deaton (M.Div. '01)
 The Rev. Dr. Andy Fowler (B.D. '63, S.T.M. '64, D.Min. '70)
 The Rev. John Ed Francis (M.Th. '59)
 The Rev. Charles Harrison Frye (M.T.S. '58)
 The Rev. Justus H. Edmondson (M.Th. '52)
 The Rev. Gene Gordon (M.Th. '69)
 The Rev. Dr. Norman Wesley Grigsby (M.Th. '57)
 Charles Frederick Hahn (M.Div. '55)
 The Rev. Dr. Malford (Mal) Cotham Hierholzer, (M.Th. '60)
 The Rev. George Holcombe (M.Th. '59)
 The Rev. Donald Horton (M.Th. '55)
 Patrick Alton Hudson (M.Th. '59)
 The Rev. Sullins Marlin Lamb (B.D. '55)
 The Rev. Van Lazaroff (M.Div. '97)
 The Rev. Daniel Joseph Louis, Jr. (M.Th. '73)
 The Rev. Ansel Jarratt Major (M.Th. '58)
 The Rev. Brian McCarthy (S.T.M. '76)
 The Rev. Dr. Ella Mae McDonald (M.Div. '08, D.Min. '14)
 The Rev. James Scott Moore (M.Div. '10)
 The Rev. Norman Moyer (M.Th. '81)
 The Rev. Reginald Nelson, (M.Div. '18)
 Marietta Norwood (M.S.M. '98)
 The Rev. Wayne C. Odom (M.T.S. 1955, D. Min. '76)
 Cynthia K. "Cindy" Perkins (M.R.E. '83)
 The Rev. Gene Thomas Price (M.Div. '95)
 Dr. Howard Lynn Ramsey (M.Th. '53)
 The Rev. Dr. Daniel Z. Rodriguez (M.Th. '57)
 The Rev. David L. Semrad (M.Th. '67)
 The Rev. Bill Smith (M.Th. '71)
 The Rev. Ralph L. Smith (M.Th. '61)
 The Rev. Lee F. Soxman, Jr. (M.Th. '48)
 Betty Charlene Stone (B.Min.)
 The Rev. Gene Wisdom (M.Th. '75)
 The Rev. Richard Fleming (M.S.M. '70, D.Min. '80)



Patricia Ellen Howery Davis passed away January 11. She was an assistant professor (1991-1997) and associate professor (1997-2004) at Perkins. From 2008 to 2012 she served as an adjunct professor at Perkins'

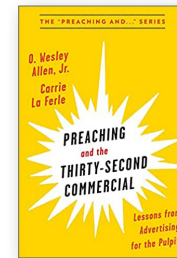
Center for Religious Leadership. She earned an M.Div. and Ph.D. at Princeton Theological Seminary and a J.D. at Southern Methodist University School of Law in 2002. She wrote many articles and two major books, including *Counseling Adolescent Girls* (Creative Pastoral Care and Counseling.)

"Patricia was a mother, a sister and a daughter," according to an obituary provided by her family. "She was a psychologist. She was a professor of pastoral care and family systems. She was a human rights activist. She was an attorney. The thread through all of these things was love. She sought out the vulnerable, and she protected them/us. She worked across five continents challenging oppressors and using her American privileges to witness and engage, and then educate us back at home. And somehow, she was able to be the coolest, happiest and funniest lady. Her home was constantly filled with laughter."

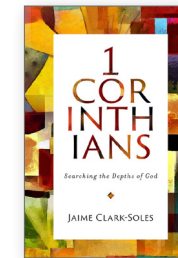
Davis is survived by her three siblings: Susan Marie Davis, Barbara Jean Davis and Thomas Andrew Davis and his wife, Terri Porterfield Davis; her two children, Sarah Megan Howery and Thomas Steve Howery and his wife, Nivasha Gayapershad Howery; and her granddaughters, Maya Eleanor Howery and Asha Sarah Howery. A memorial service was held July 31, 2021, at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

For a comprehensive list of all Perkins alumni/ae who have died during the past 12 months, please visit smu.edu/perkins/memoriams.
 Note: All information regarding deceased Perkins alumni/ae is provided by Southern Methodist University's official database.

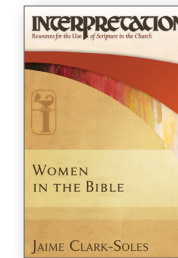
Faculty Books



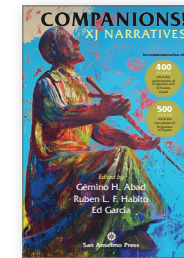
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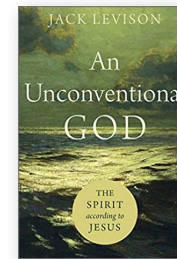
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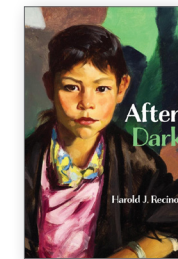
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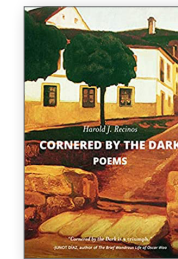
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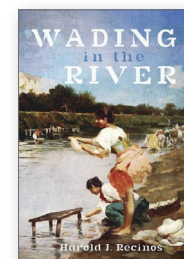
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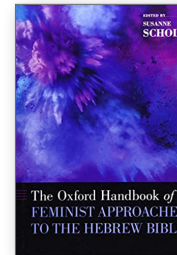
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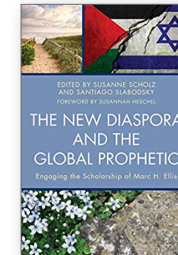
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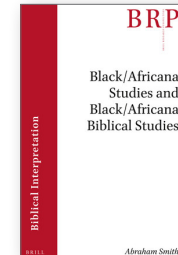
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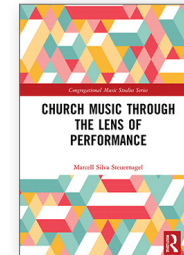
SUSANNE SCHOLZ, *The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Approaches to the Hebrew Bible*. co-authored with Editor. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021).



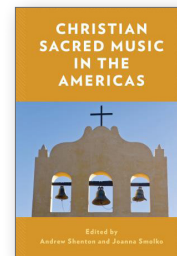
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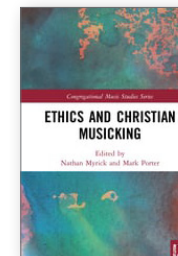
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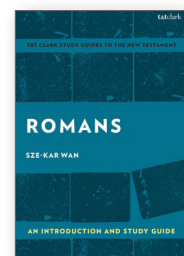
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Save the dates for these exciting Perkins opportunities in 2021-22

PERKINS FALL CONVOCATION November 15-16, 2021

This year’s hybrid conference features Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt Divinity School; Lillian Daniel, pastor and author of *When ‘Spiritual But Not Religious’ Is Not Enough*; and Patrick B. Reyes, Chicano educator, administrator and institutional strategist. With the theme, “Speak Up! Stories for a New Day,” the convocation includes plenaries, worship and storytellers. For registration info go to smu.edu/Perkins/PublicPrograms/Perkins-Fall-Convocation.

CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION December 1-2, 2021

Continuing education workshop focusing on “Internal Family Systems” as a tool for understanding relationships in the spiritual journey. Seasoned directors and newcomers alike are welcome. Visit smu.edu/perkins/csd for more information.

2021 ANNUAL ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE December 2, 2021

Advent Service at 6 p.m. in Perkins Chapel on the Southern Methodist University campus. Free and open to the public.

PERKINS CERTIFICATE IN PRACTICAL MINISTRY January Term Courses January 6-14, 2022

Course for non-credit students looking for specialized training in relevant, practical knowledge that informs their lifelong spiritual journey and ministry. Email theoexternalprograms@smu.edu or call 214-768-3664.

PERKINS SCHOOL OF YOUTH MINISTRY (PSYM) January 10-13, 2022

Practical and theological training programs to resource those in the church whose ministries focus on youth and young adults. Visit smu.edu/perkinsyouth

CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION APRIL COHORT DUE DATE February 28, 2022

Become a mentor in the Christian way of life and help others find the movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Every April and August new CSD cohorts are formed. Learn more at smu.edu/perkins/csd or call 214-768-3664.

PERKINS SUMMIT FOR FAITH AND LEARNING March 24-26, 2022

Join us for three days of study focusing on the Bible, theology and spirituality with Perkins faculty and guest speakers. Request email updates at smu.edu/perkins/oepupdates

COMMENCEMENT AND CONFERRAL OF DEGREES May 14, 2022

Perkins School of Theology will honor graduating seniors during the University-wide commencement ceremony in Moody Coliseum, followed by the annual Celebration of Degrees and Academic Achievements at Highland Park United Methodist Church.



THE GIFT of GIVING

The learning that takes place in our classrooms, whether Dallas or Houston, both virtual and in person, is vital for the future of the church. An untold number of lives will be touched by the students studying at Perkins. Leaders, many of whom will serve a generation-and-a-half, are currently studying under Perkins faculty members. They will face a changing church and world as they pursue their individual paths to ministry.

You can help these leaders achieve their education and ministry goals. Did you know that you can give recurring gifts to help Perkins students in the same way you pay monthly bills? Your donation can come from a checking account, or a credit or debit card. To set it up, visit giving.smu.edu/perkins and select “Perkins School Student Financial Aid” from the drop-down menu. Gifts of any size are important as we seek to make education more affordable for students called to ministry. One-time gifts are welcome, but recurring gifts are a handy way to continually participate in this important work. Recurring gifts can be scheduled monthly, quarterly or yearly. Of course, these can also be made for other Perkins needs. In the drop-down menu on our Giving page, you will see other available opportunities. Included in the list is the “SMU Fund for Perkins,” an important unrestricted fund that Dean Hill uses for a variety of purposes.

If you would rather donate by check, you can send it to me at the address below. Checks should be made out to “SMU,” with “Perkins Development” on the notation line. If you want to target your gift further, note Student Financial Aid, or SMU Fund for Perkins, or some other fund.

Another way to make an enormous difference in a student’s educational life is to sponsor a Perkins Scholar. That designation is used for a select group of Master of Divinity students who have outstanding academic abilities paired with leadership potential. A three-year,

\$7,000-per-year commitment is required to sponsor a Perkins Scholar (\$583 per month). Perhaps you or your church would like to sponsor a student in this way.

Do you want to honor a parent, pastor, mentor or a person who has been a spiritual influence for you? Contact me and I will be glad to share ideas about a named scholarship endowment. Recently a new friend to Perkins endowed a scholarship in the name of a graduate who had been influential in her spiritual growth. What a wonderful way to honor an important person in your life!

A final reminder—the leaders being trained at Perkins today will be shaping the church for decades to come. Your financial impact will be felt for many years. We want to help our students avoid the burden of personal debt as they follow God’s call to study at Perkins. Our tagline is “Called to serve, empowered to lead,” but it is difficult to lead if encumbered by a large debt. The cost of seminary education discourages many outstanding candidates from applying. In spite of that, God is still calling people to minister to a needy world. Please help these students achieve their educational and ministry goals and invest in the future health and growth of the Church and God’s mission.



With a thankful heart,

John A. Martin
Director of Development
Perkins School of Theology

To join the effort, please visit giving.smu.edu/perkins or contact me at:
John A. Martin, Perkins Development, PO Box 750133, Dallas, TX 75275-0133
214-768-2026 (direct line) | johnma@smu.edu

Who We Are

2021 AT A GLANCE



61%

UNITED METHODIST,
with more than 20 other
denominations represented



STUDENT BODY
OF MORE THAN
315 STUDENTS

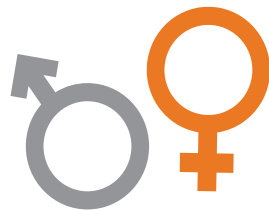


37% OF STUDENTS
REPRESENT MINORITY
ETHNIC GROUPS

LOCATED IN DALLAS, TEXAS,
with an extension program
in Houston-Galveston



HOUSTON ENROLLMENT = 91
DALLAS ENROLLMENT = 225



APPROXIMATELY
48% MALE
52% FEMALE



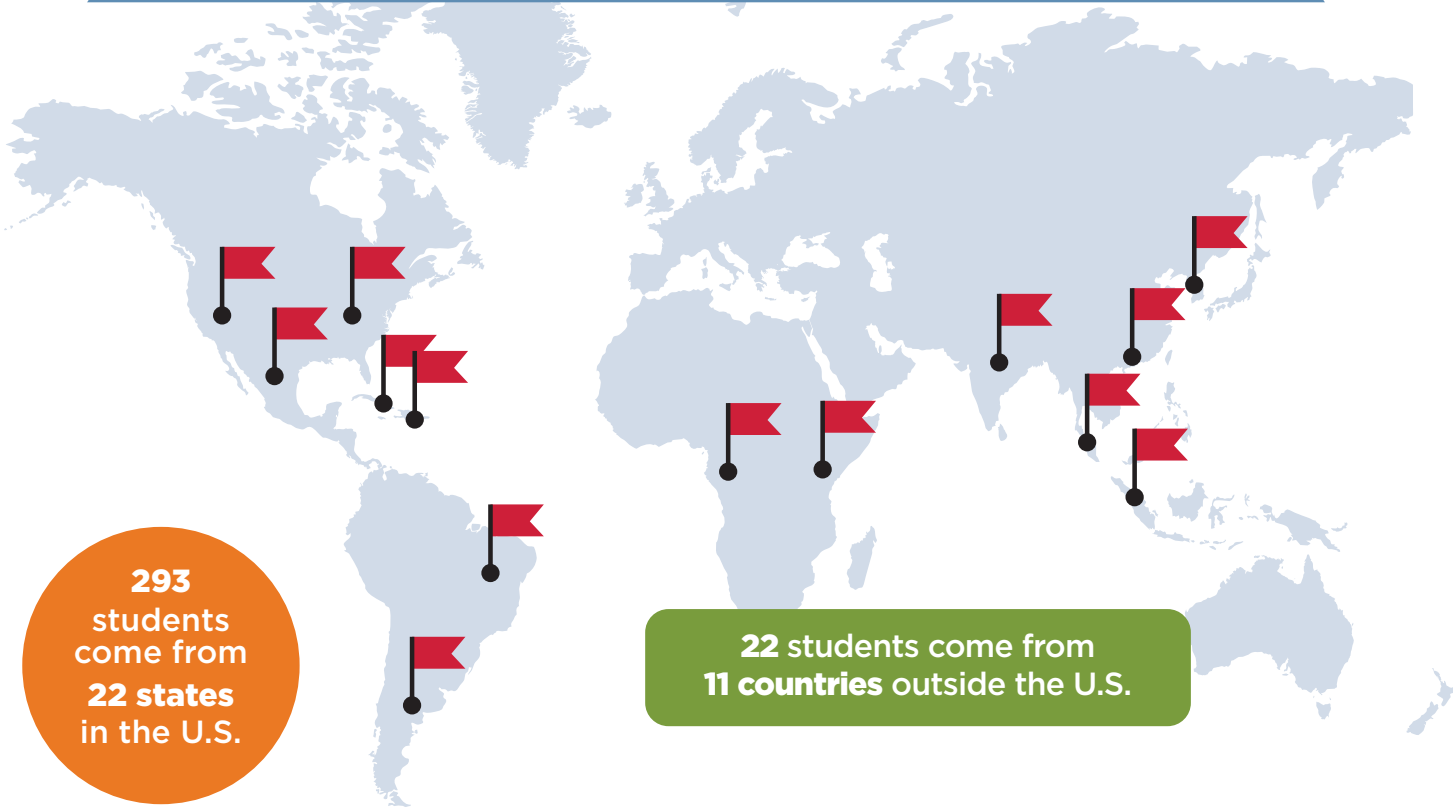
ALUMNI/AE NETWORK
ACROSS THE GLOBE, FROM
AUSTRALIA TO ZIMBABWE



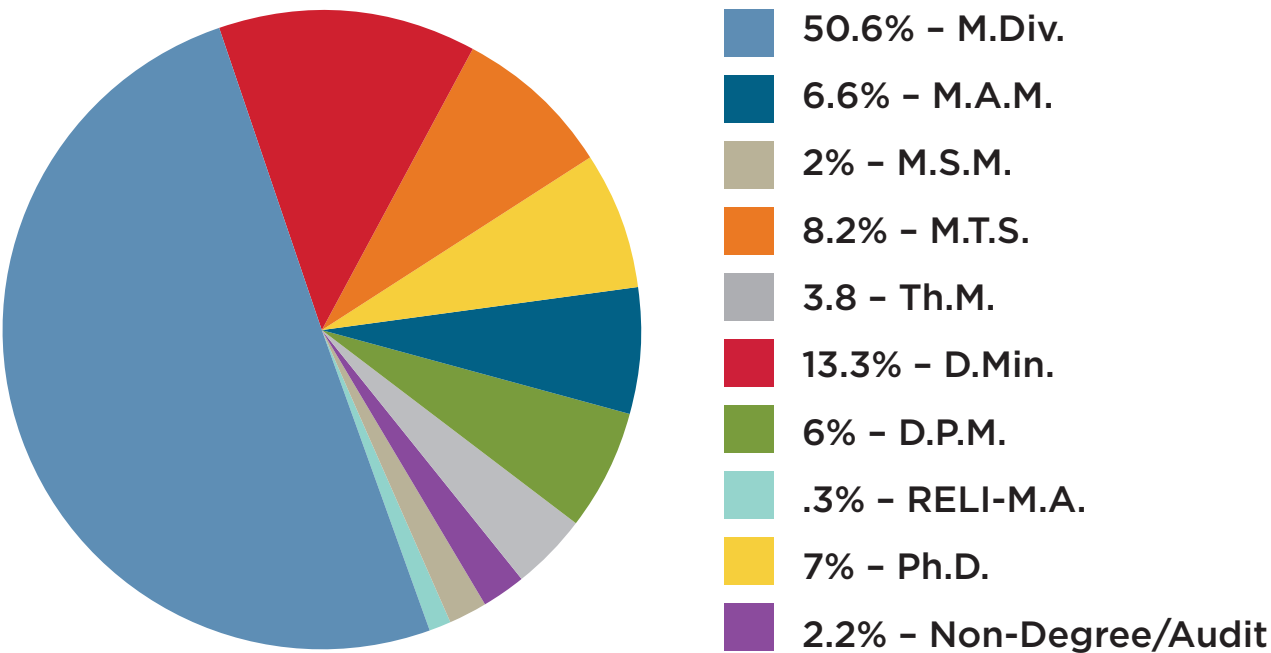
FACULTY OF 30

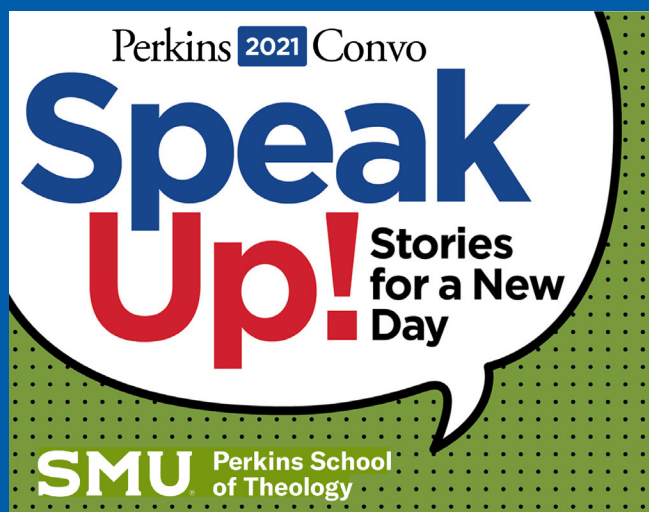
40% female and more than 1/3 representing minority ethnic groups, providing internationally recognized scholarship, teaching and church leadership

A GLOBAL COMMUNITY – GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN



ENROLLMENT BY DEGREE





**SAVE THE DATE:
NOVEMBER
15 & 16**

Make plans now to attend the
Perkins 2021 Fall Convocation

With the theme, "Speak Up! Stories for a New Day," this hybrid conference features Amy-Jill Levine, University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies, and Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Graduate Department of Religion, and Department of Jewish Studies; Lillian Daniel, pastor and author *Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To* and *When 'Spiritual But Not Religious' Is Not Enough*; and Patrick B Reyes, Chicano educator, administrator, and institutional strategist.



Amy-Jill Levine



Mary Jane Werthan



Patrick B. Reyes

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Called to Serve. Empowered to Lead.