

# UNION NETWORK

The Magazine of Union Theological Seminary | Fall 2015



# UNION NETWORK

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## On the Cover

Benjamin Perry '15 (left) and Shawn Torres (right) at a December 18, 2014 street demonstration (die-in) at Broadway and Reinhold Niebuhr Place (120th Street), New York.

A week after a New York City grand jury announced that no charges would be filed against police officers involved in the death of Eric Garner on Staten Island, Union hosted a multifaith prayer breakfast on December 18 convened jointly by Union, Auburn Seminary, The Riverside Church, Interfaith Center of NY, Milstein Center For Interreligious Dialogue, and the Drum Major Institute. At breakfast, speakers included Martin Luther King III and Rev. Traci Blackmon along with organizers from Ferguson, MO: Jelani Brown, Tara Thompson, and Johnetta Elzie (who was named by *Fortune* magazine in March 2015 to its World's 50 Greatest Leaders list). Union students Benjamin Perry '15 and Shawn Torres also spoke about their starkly different experiences after being arrested in November while participating in the same NYC street demonstration. The prayer breakfast concluded with participants holding a die-in as pictured on the cover.

## Cover Photo by Richard Madonna

BELOW LEFT, L-R: Mary Foulke, Carol Ann Jensen, and Catherine Bowers Class of 1989 at their 25th Reunion; BELOW RIGHT: Students at work in the "Love Hub."

OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT: Commencement Day 2015 hug between Zachary Walter and Lindsey Nye; OPPOSITE PAGE, RIGHT: Love in Action: NYC demonstration with Rashad Moore '15 (left) and Itang Young '12 (right).



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Alumni/ae and Friends,

**WELCOME** to *Union Network!* I am thrilled to share news from the Union community. Eight years into my tenure I am still amazed by the courage and diversity of our beloved Seminary.

In September 2014, our student senate adopted “Love in Action” as its theme for the year. We’ve embraced it in this inaugural issue, for it is our charge as people of faith: to be agents of love in a world desperate for its revolutionary power. Our love cannot be passive. It must be a force that motivates us to better scholarship, smarter activism, and a deeper commitment to justice. This is the heart of Union.

## **#BlackLivesMatter**

Weeks before our year began, Ferguson, MO erupted in protests after the murder of Michael Brown, and the #BlackLivesMatter movement was born. Our students were involved, some going to Ferguson, many organizing in New York, all of them wrestling with the evil of white supremacy. When news broke that the officer responsible for Eric Garner’s murder had not been indicted, the nation’s attention swiveled to our city. Instantly at the movement’s center, our students emerged as some of its leaders. They marched, Tweeted, sang, got arrested, and had their stories told in *The New York Times*. Our campus protest center, the Love Hub, made resources available to people engaged in protest.

## **The Center for Earth Ethics**

In September 2014 we hosted Religions for the Earth, a two-day international conference that gathered over 200 religious leaders in advance of the UN Summit on Climate Change. Out of this gathering was born the Center for Earth Ethics, whose mission is to articulate a moral response to the threat that ecological destruction and climate change pose to vulnerable communities and degraded ecosystems. In order to survive, we need a conversion of spirit in our relationship with the earth.

## **Scholars/Activists-in-Residence**

In our long tradition of engaging preeminent thinkers and activists, we hosted the Right Rev. Disani Christopher Senyonjo, M.Div. ’66, S.T.M. ’67 and Rev. Dr. William Barber II as pastor-activists in residence. Bishop Senyonjo has been a strong advocate for LGBTQ safety in his home country of Uganda, as told in the documentary film *God Loves Uganda*, and he was recognized with the Clinton Global Citizen Award. Dr. Barber is president of the North Carolina NAACP, pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Goldsboro, NC, and architect of the Moral Monday–Forward Together Movement. He has catalyzed a new progressive movement that brought together the largest demonstration in the South since the Selma-to-Montgomery marches.

Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee will come to Union as Distinguished Scholar-Activist Fellow in 2015, and Mindahi Crescencio Bastida Muñoz and Geraldine Ann Patrick Encina will join the Center for Earth Ethics as scholars-in-residence. These three join the Rev. Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook, M.Div. ’83, Third United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom under President Obama, who has already arrived as a Distinguished Scholar-Activist Fellow.

Michelle Alexander joined us in March as our Judith Davidson Moyers Women of Spirit lecturer. Alexander wrote *The New Jim Crow*, which brought wide attention to the issue of mass incarceration and its disproportionate effect on people of color. Overflow crowds came to hear her speak,

and she reminded a packed James Chapel that all people of faith and conscience need to work together to affirm the dignity of every human life.

## **Union on the Hill**

We continue our faithful public witness by launching our Union on the Hill series, which explores the relationship between faith, politics, and government. Our first event in January focused on the dynamic between faith and governing, attracting over 200 participants, including four members of Congress and one senator, speaking to Union’s commitment to shape national conversations.

## **A Growing Community**

Thanks to a generous grant from the Templeton Foundation, author and scholar Robert Wright joined us last spring as Visiting Professor of Science and Religion. This fall the Rev. Dr. Andrea White and the Rev. Dr. Pamela Cooper-White will join us as professors in the fields of theology and psychology & religion, along with the Rev. Richard Landers as Senior Director of Special Initiatives. After seventeen years at Nineteenth Street Baptist Church in Washington, the Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins ’87, former Director of Faith Outreach for the Democratic Party and advisor to President Obama, joined Union as our Senior Vice President for Innovations in Public Programming. And just this July Martin Duus became our Vice President of Development.

You can’t visit Union without encountering the vibrancy of this community, and you can’t miss Union graduates when you meet them in the world. Union leaders shine. They are rooted in the resources of faith and equipped to guide in times of moral confusion. The world needs Union now more than ever.

Peace,  
Serene

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Serene Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "J".

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

# #LoveInAction and the Love Hub: Demanding a Not-Yet World

BY CANDACE SIMPSON



During the fall 2014 semester, Dr. James H. Cone, Briggs Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology, delivered the last lecture for his ST103/Foundations in Christian Theology I class at Union's "Love Hub."

In September 2014 we learned that the Student Senate, with input from student caucuses, chose "Love in Action" as its guiding theme for the academic year. The commitment we've shared is the process of love. How do we show love? What does love actually do? When do we feel loved? How do we bring love to those who need it most?

How does love respond to grief and trauma? And can we define love beyond that feel-good cotton candy fluff that lacks substance and only leaves cavities?

As the year progressed, the timeliness of this theme became clearer and clearer.

With humble responsibility to the #BlackLivesMatter movement, and particularly in response to the non-indictment decisions in the cases of Michael Brown's and Eric Garner's killings, the Union community gathered to determine our response. Students emailed professors to ask for grace because we were missing class to attend a protest in Union Square, only to hear "I'll be going, too!" as an enthusiastic response. We found that many members of the community wanted to be in solidarity with local protest actions. In order to encourage safer protest, we established a phone line to help facilitate jail support, provided quick trainings on what to do if arrested, and set up a buddy system. We collected contact information of those heading out, set up an "on-call schedule," asked for some cots to be delivered to our headquarters, and prayed. Thanks to the quick mobilizing of students, administrators, and staff, we chose to occupy classroom AD 30, which would come to be called the "Love Hub."

We knew not everyone would be able to participate in street-based protest. We came to view this space as a means of practicing responsive pastoral presence. We needed to be present in spirit while our friends were protesting. On the evening of the first mass mobilization, I chose to stay in the Hub. My job was to relay messages about the location of protests to our teams. While doing so, I had the privilege of watching the community come together. Families brought pasta dishes. Students came to pray and chant. Professors brought snacks and offered moral support. There were laughs, tears, and yes, arguments.

If anything is to be learned from the creation of the Love Hub, it is that oppression is everywhere, even in the institutions where we ground our work. As people of faith, we try to imagine ourselves as helpers, but too often we get it wrong. More than that, we offend. We cause harm. We traumatize. On several occasions I have been overwhelmed with the task of addressing injustice from a theological perspective in *this* Hub at *this* school. I'm tired. Yet there is value in exercising these muscles in community. I pray that members of this community, including myself, continue to be transformed as a result of this Love Hub.

As a team, our task is to ask: What are we doing, and what do we want?

Ultimately we are fighting the sin of white supremacy. We fight against multiple oppressions that feed each other. As seminarians we must be responsive to real questions of real people. We do not have the luxury of doing theology only for theology's sake. As we organize, I hear Dr. Cone's advice, "You got to work yourself out of a job!"

This advice could easily be lost. I don't think Dr. Cone or anyone else is asking that we work ourselves past human limits. There is indeed a difference between consenting to commit to the struggle and being spent by it. Unfortunately, we know a larger truth. Black women like myself are easily used as currency and mules in organizing work. Too often we are forgotten from narratives of police brutality. In the last year I have

learned to set up boundaries and step back when the load gets too heavy. Thankfully, I trust my comrades to support me as I support them. That too is love in action.

For this reason, living in this body and inheriting this legacy presents a challenge and an incentive. Yes, I would like to work myself out of this job because I cannot see myself working at this pace for too long. We work as intensely as we do because we hope for a day that has not yet arrived. We imagine a world that has not yet appeared, for the sake of the Movement and for the sake of our own survival.

Still, I have been questioned in church pews and at rallies. "Why are you protesting *this* as a Christian?"

Protest and justice advocacy are part of my tradition as a Black Christian. I read the Beatitudes as a litany of demands. As the story goes in the fourth chapter of Matthew, Jesus proclaims to a crowd of sick people who represent a disenfranchised demographic. He preaches, "Blessed are the poor in spirit" and "blessed are the meek." As I read from my context, these sound like protest chants. I can imagine him lifting protest signs bearing the names of Mya Hall and Freddie Gray and holding a bullhorn on his hip. Jesus sounds like an organizer inspired by Afro-Futurism. He sounds like he's read Walidah Imarisha, who argues that social justice is the result of imagining "worlds that do not currently exist... collectively dreaming up one means we can begin building it into existence."

Jesus insists on a new world order. I like to believe that Jesus is not offering fluffy progressive platitudes on reconciliation without reparations or forgiveness without repentance. I hear him making demands of this world. An insistence that these people are "blessed" is heard in the assertion that "Black Lives Matter." The forgotten are blessed. They matter.

Union students, brought together as a multicultural, multi-faith people, resist injustice because that is what theology looks like for us. It is what love in action looks like. We ground ourselves in a host of traditions, represent a variety of backgrounds, and bring gifts of many kinds to the table. But what is central for us all is love.

What can this Love Hub space be? What must we be? We must provide transformative places for people to locate themselves in the intersection of their spiritual gifts and the world's needs. This is an urgent time. As we return to campus this fall, we will continue to utilize this responsive space for organizing and planning. Because Union imagines itself as an institution that holds faith-based justice advocacy as sacred, we will believe in, and act with, "love in action." We must move as Angela Davis once pleaded: "Whoever you are, wherever you are, whether you are a student, a teacher, a worker, a person involved in your church, an artist, there are always ways to gear your work toward progressive radical transformation." ¶



An action on December 18, 2014 at Broadway and Reinhold Niebuhr Place (120th Street)



The Rev. Dr. Calvin Butts '75 (left), Senior Pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church, and Dr. Cornel West (right), Union's Professor of Philosophy and Christian Practice, march arm-in-arm at a demonstration in NYC.

EDITOR'S NOTE: M.Div. student Candace Simpson is Student Senate co-chair for 2015-2016 along with M.Div. student Gregory Simpson.

## #LoveInAction:

### Archiving the History of Student-led Activism at Union

An interview with **Elizabeth Call**, Public Services Librarian, Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University Libraries

#### How did this project start?

During the 2014-15 academic year, Union's Student Senate, inspired by Professor Cornel West's reminder to "never forget that justice is what love looks like in public," chose #LoveInAction as its guiding theme, which beautifully embodies the activist spirit of Union's students, faculty, and alumni/ae.

As Public Services Librarian at Burke Library, I immediately saw possibilities of linking current students to materials in Union's archives. With the support of library director Beth Bidlack, I recruited current M.Div. student Benjamin Van Dyne, Ph.D. student Carolyn Klaasen '13, and M.Div. student Timothy Wotring to curate three exhibits for the library's first-floor display cases to help tell the story of Union's rich activist history.

#### What is the focus of these archival exhibits?

Each student is curating an exhibit that narrates Union's activist history in a particular area. Timothy is focusing on the East Harlem Protestant Parish (EHPP), an interdenominational ministry that provided leadership in the development of community life and serves as an excellent example of an ecumenical ministry in a local, inner-city setting. The EHPP (1942-2007) records at Burke Library offer a rich testament to a very powerful ministry in the East Harlem neighborhood. Timothy's display cases are on view from May to the end of September.

With assistance from Burke staff, Benjamin is using our archives on student-led activism to examine the many ways Union students have voiced and documented their dissent to the injustices suffered both by students and society-at-large. Benjamin's display cases will be on view in October and November, including during Union Days.

Carolyn's focus on education has her digging into the Student Interracial Ministry (SIM) records (1960-1968), and also into the archives relating to the Free University and the Union Commission. SIM was a student-driven program that placed theological students into Black churches in the South to serve as assistant pastors living within the community. These students often experienced similar discrimination and rebukes that their hosts suffered. Carolyn's display cases will be on view from January through early April 2016.

#### What are you planning in addition to the displays?

Each display case will be accompanied by a related public program. Our goal is not only to celebrate the archival work of the student-curators, but also to make connections between current Union students and alumni/ae.

We kicked things off with the unveiling of Timothy's display cases on May 1 accompanied by a panel. The panelists are at various points in their careers. Union Ph.D. candidate Colleen



Public Services Librarian Elizabeth Call, Burke Library Director Beth Bidlack, and Ph. D. student Carolyn Klaasen '13 view a #LoveInAction archive case.

Wessel-McCoy '07 works with the Poverty Initiative. Alumnus Chris Shelton '03 is pastor of the Broadway Presbyterian Church. M.Div. student Candace Simpson is co-chair of the Student Senate. The panelists were asked to reflect on questions around the guiding philosophies of the EHPP's two creators, who were both Union students at the time. The Rev. Dr. Don Benedict '49 and the Rev. Dr. George "Bill" Webber '48, '64 stated, "[This] church... will be a militant, aggressive organization, unafraid to fight for justice on economic and social levels."

To kick off the second #LoveInAction display, the library will host a panel with two alums and two students discussing the ways Union has prepared them for their activist roles. The event will take place in the library's main reading room on October 9, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., as part of Union Days.

#### Haven't you also created a website?

Yes, in order to help students document all their work that embraces the theme of #LoveInAction, we have created a website ([bit.ly/Love\\_In\\_Action](http://bit.ly/Love_In_Action)) where members of the Union community can contribute images, documents, and audio/video materials for public view. The site will serve as an archive for collecting important documentation as well as celebrating the tremendous amount of #LoveInAction that the Union community continues to put forth into the world.

These outreach efforts are already bringing more attention to the library from Union students, and I'm confident we can build on this foundation in the upcoming semesters. We also hope to foster stronger ties between students and the amazing array of Union alumni/ae. Please tell people to send their questions or comments to me at [elizabeth.call@columbia.edu](mailto:elizabeth.call@columbia.edu). ♪

# Launching The Union Alumni/ae Network

“UNION BENEFITS GREATLY from its wonderfully loyal and generous alumni and alumnae,” observes the Rev. Dr. Marvin Ellison '81, Director of Alumni/ae Relations, who serves its 5,000 alums in the U.S. and its 500 international alums, “but the irony is that Union has not had a formal alumni association until very recently. Yes, Union keeps teaching its students to organize everything from congregations, to the academy, and to our communities at every level, but somehow Union forgot to organize itself—or at least develop an alum association. What’s now emerging, to everyone’s delight and appreciation, is the Union Alumni/ae Network.”

The Network’s mission is to connect alumni/ae to one another and to provide opportunities for service and support to each other, to current Union students, and to the Seminary. Together alums are creating a robust culture of “going back and giving back.” Alums can “go back” to Union by attending on-campus events, including Union Days each October; by turning to the recently upgraded Union website for resources through

## PLANNED GIVING: DREAM SCENARIOS

If all 5,000 Union alums based in the U.S. each made a legacy gift to Union of \$10,000, it would total \$50 million, which would provide tuition-free education, plus a living stipend, for all current students. If every alum left a \$25,000 planned gift, that accumulated giving would total \$125 million, which would pay for upgrading Union’s aging physical plant and also maintain it well into the future.

For information, contact Kevin McGee at 212-280-1590 or [kmcgee@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:kmcgee@uts.columbia.edu).

live-streaming, podcasts, and access to library resources through ATLA; and by participating in local Network chapter events.

Alum chapters are in various stages of development in Metro New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Washington DC, Cleveland, Chicago, Maine, North Carolina, San Francisco, and through an informal network of Unitarian Universalists who gather at their annual General Assembly meeting. Additional chapters will soon be initiated in Atlanta, Minneapolis, and Seattle. Typically, chapters hold two events annually, one for networking and socializing and the other for an educational program, often a visit with a Union faculty member on the road. An online survey of alums, conducted last fall, indicates that alums show the greatest interest, by far, in hearing current Union faculty speak and share their cutting-edge research.

Union alums also find multiple ways to “give back” through recruiting prospective students, mentoring current students and recent graduates as they launch their ministries, and through their social justice engagements. The latter is often done in connection with the Poverty Initiative (now the Kairos Center), the Center for Earth Ethics, and other Union Forum programs. Union alumni/ae also make a significant difference by contributing financially to the Annual Fund and to special fundraising efforts, such as helping to endow the Eunice Jackson and Ella Mitchell Fund to guarantee that the Union faculty will include Womanist scholars to teach and mentor Union students far into the future.

Even without a formal alum association, almost 25% of Union’s graduates contribute to the school financially. “While some of us may discount the importance of our personal donations, especially in comparison to deeper-pocketed major donors who make \$1 million gifts,” Ellison notes, “Union taught us to work collaboratively and to claim our social power to make a difference together, so it’s wiser to think about how alumni/ae collectively can make a huge impact.”

Alumni/ae connections to and service for the Seminary are supported by the Office of Alumni/ae Relations in conjunction with the Alumni/ae Council, comprised of approximately 20 volunteers who seek to encourage as many alums as possible to participate in Union’s ongoing life and programming in multiple, mutually beneficial ways. For those alums interested in serving on the Council or in suggesting the name of a classmate to serve, an online nomination form is available on the Union website at [utsnyc.edu/alumnae-council-nominations](http://utsnyc.edu/alumnae-council-nominations). And for suggestions on how to strengthen the Union Alumni/ae Network or bring it to your area, contact the Director of Alumni/ae Relations at [mellison@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:mellison@uts.columbia.edu). ♪



Members of the Class of 2004 at their 10th reunion, Union Days 2014: BOTTOM ROW, (L-R): Mim Warden, David Lewicki, Andrea Watson, Dennis Patterson, Kelly Murphy Mason, Carol Dufresne; TOP ROW, (L-R): Miller Jen Hoffman, Eugene Palmore, W. Franc Perry, Denise Janssen, Nancy Neal

# ALUMNI/AE PROFILES

A new feature on Union’s website is a rotating roster of alumni/ae profiles. These profiles connect alums with each other and help create a strong network through sharing common interests and diverse ministries. Profiles also help prospective students imagine how Union can prepare them for a variety of vocations in church, academy, and society.

A sample of these profiles appears on the following pages. We invite you to contribute your own voice to this important collection by filling out the very easy form on Union’s website, found at [utsnyc.edu/alumniae-profiles](https://utsnyc.edu/alumniae-profiles). Or, to be interviewed, contact Marvin Ellison ’81, Director of Alumni/ae Relations at [mellison@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:mellison@uts.columbia.edu).



## **The Rev. Nicholas S. Richards, M.Div. '09**

*Assistant Minister for Global Outreach*  
Abyssinian Baptist Church  
New York, NY

### **What do you do?**

I’m one of the ministers at The Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York. I’m Abyssinian’s Minister for Global Outreach, and I’m also the Executive Secretary for the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention. Lastly, my job with the National Baptist Convention also focuses on international development, mostly in Africa and South America, where we support schools, hospitals, and community development projects.

### **What’s the best thing about your job?**

The best thing about my job is that I am doing the work I love. There’s nothing better. I love being able to think about big problems and then organizing around the world to make a difference.

### **How did Union prepare you for this?**

Union stresses a really broad understanding of the Christian faith, and it stretched me to appreciate a truly broad Christianity. I found Union to be a free environment intellectually, culturally, personally, and in almost every other way. Union encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and think outside of the box, and fortunately, Abyssinian sees itself as a teaching parish.

### **How have you stayed connected to Union?**

Abyssinian keeps bringing on new Union students as interns. Right now I’m mentoring a Union field education student, and I occasionally preach in chapel. And you’ll find me in Burke Library regularly, especially when it’s time for me to write a sermon.

### **What would you say to someone applying to Union?**

Union offers the best theological education in America, especially in terms of intellectual breadth and the focus on the lived experience of theology in community.

**“Union stresses a really broad understanding of the Christian faith, and it stretched me to appreciate a truly broad Christianity. I found Union to be a free environment intellectually, culturally, personally, and in almost every other way.”**



**The Rev. Dr. Amy E. Greene, M.Div. '86**  
*Director of Spiritual Care*  
 The Cleveland Clinic  
 Cleveland, OH

**What do you do?**

I am the Director of Spiritual Care at the Cleveland Clinic, which means I oversee a team of chaplains, Clinical Pastoral Education students, holistic nurses, and family liaisons who care for patients, families and staff, especially around issues of death, grief and trauma, but also in everyday matters. I co-teach a course on spirituality and medicine in the Clinic's medical school, and I serve on many committees. I am also involved at the national level with the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education.

**What's the best thing about your job?**

I get to help define what ministry/chaplaincy looks like in the 21st century in a world-class medical institution, and I have the most amazing team of caregivers on the planet working with me to do it.

**How did Union prepare you for this?**

Union prepared me by asking me better questions and by teaching me to ask better questions.

**How have you stayed connected to Union?**

Mostly through the personal friendships formed there. I recently became involved in the Union Alumni/ae Network. We had an event in Cleveland, and it was so impressive to see a gentleman in his 80s show up and say some of the same things that I say about Union.

**What would you say to someone applying to Union?**

Don't go unless you want to be challenged to change the world. Don't go unless you are ready to get a fire in your bones that may not let you rest much.



**The Rev. Preston A. Davis, M.Div. '11**  
*Minister to the University*  
 High Point University  
 High Point, NC

**“When I think of my Union education, I remember that every class period, every conversation, there was this awareness by everyone that there was something at stake.”**

**What do you do?**

I pastored at First United Methodist Church in Bessemer City, NC, for two years and joined the staff at High Point University in the summer of 2013.

**What's the best thing about your job?**

There is nothing quite like working with college students. By virtue of their age and the season of their lives, they are asking questions that matter the most: what am I called to do with my life? What does a worthy life look like? If I can help them with these questions, while also helping them transcend their own vocational questions to be passionate about making the world a more just and compassionate one, then I've had a good day.

**How did Union prepare you for this?**

When I think of my Union education, I remember that every class period, every conversation, there was this awareness by everyone that there was something at stake. Theological study was rooted in a passion to address and alleviate suffering in the world, to be an ally to those hurting. Union helped me to be relevant, to ask questions that matter, to remember that there is something at stake—and to do all this with love for the person and community in front of me.

**How have you stayed connected to Union?**

In the summer of 2014, I was fortunate to participate in Union's Millennial Leaders Conference. I have made it a priority to give financially to Union each year, even when I don't have much to offer. The habit is important. I've also made it a priority to bring Union to High Point University, so to speak. Union alumni/ae and representatives, such as Eboni Marshall Turman '05, '10, Raphael Warnock '06, and President Jones have all been to High Point, helping our students see faith as an indelible foundation to being a just and loving actor in the world.

**What would you say to someone applying to Union?**

Union prides itself on being a prophetic institution, and it is. Union faculty, staff, and students take up this banner. But I think all of this pride comes from a place of humility. The ability to speak prophetically first comes from listening attentively.



**“What’s fascinating about my work is my ability to attend to the classroom and its rigors while simultaneously and creatively nourishing the spirits of students....”**



**The Rev. Dr. Eboni Marshall Turman, M.Div. '05, Ph.D. '10**  
*Assistant Research Professor of Theological Ethics, Black Church Studies, and African & African American Studies and Director of the Office of Black Church Studies*  
 Duke Divinity School  
 Durham, NC

**What do you do?**  
 I'm in my second year of teaching theology, ethics, and Black church studies at Duke Divinity School. In addition, as an ordained clergywoman, I have a thriving preaching ministry that takes me all over the nation and the world. Through my LLC, I work to encourage women's empowerment in church and society by planning conferences, workshops, and retreats that support women in living lives that are consistent with their vision of their best. I also write and publish.

**What is the best thing about your job?**  
 The very best thing is teaching and encouraging future pastors, religious leaders, and community leaders to think theologically about their lives and about the pressing social issues of the day. I truly love teaching. What's fascinating about my work is my ability to attend to the classroom and its rigors while simultaneously and creatively nourishing the spirits of students and others who are inspired by the richness of African-American religious traditions, broadly speaking, especially those who are called to serve communities of African descent.

**How did Union help to prepare you for this work?**  
 Union stretched and expanded me in particular ways, especially through field education where you are exposed to the workings of congregations as well as non-profits. When I first came to Union, I never imagined myself serving the church, in large part because I had not seen any models of Black women in church leadership. I am especially grateful that a Union education addresses social difference as a central theological issue and deeply values a multiplicity of identities in the midst of very complex social indicators.

**How have you stayed connected to Union?**  
 It's so hard to disconnect from Union because Union is on the cutting edge of theology! I want to stay connected and need conversations that are provocative and induce responses from the church. I stay connected by serving on the Alumni/ae Council, engaging students on and off campus, networking, recruiting, and sharing my experience. I've also lectured at Union, participated on various panels, and been a guest lecturer in classes. I also donate to Union. And sometimes I just stop by and walk the halls, especially the Burke Library.

**What would you say to someone applying to Union?**  
 Go, go, go! My time at Union included some of the best years of my life. The diversity and intellectual sophistication of the faculty were unparalleled.

**Dr. Marilyn Keiser, S.M.M. '65, S.M.D. '77**  
*Director of Music*  
 Trinity Episcopal Church  
 Bloomington, IN

**What do you do?**  
 I am the Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Church in Bloomington, Indiana and Chancellor's Professor Emerita of Music at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University where I taught organ and church music from 1983-2008.

**What do you like best about what you do?**  
 I love making music with other people, and my work with choirs of adults and college students brings me great joy. I often tell the choir that if the whole world could hear them sing, wars would cease.

**How did Union prepare you for this?**  
 I learned what it meant to be a Minister of Music as a pastoral presence to a church choir and a colleague to the clergy and lay staff.

**How do you stay connected to Union?**  
 I contribute regularly to the Annual Fund at Union, and I read news from UTS with real interest and joy.

**What would you say to someone applying to Union?**  
 I loved living in New York City where it was possible to attend so many musical events and sacred concerts on Sunday afternoons and evenings. 🙌

# FACULTY PUBLICATIONS SINCE 2011

The list below includes books authored or edited by Union faculty members published from 2011 to date.

A more complete listing of Union faculty books, magazine articles, book reviews, and editorial entries can be found by visiting Union's website at [utsnyc.edu](http://utsnyc.edu) and each individual faculty page.

**Sarah Azaransky** | Assistant Professor of Social Ethics

- ***Religion and Politics in America's Borderlands***. Plymouth, U.K.: Lexington Books, 2013, ed. Sarah Azaransky.
- ***The Dream Is Freedom: Pauli Murray and American Democratic Faith***. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

**Mary C. Boys** | Dean of Academic Affairs and Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology

- ***Redeeming Our Sacred Story: The Death of Jesus and Relations between Jews and Christians***. New York and Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2013.

**Euan K. Cameron** | Henry Luce III Professor of Reformation Church History

- ***The European Reformation, second edition***. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- ***Enchanted Europe: Superstition, Reason and Religion 1250-1750***. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010; paperback edition 2011.

**David M. Carr** | Professor of Old Testament

- ***Holy Resilience: The Bible's Traumatic Origins***. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014.
- ***The Formation of the Hebrew Bible: A New Reconstruction***. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

**James H. Cone** | Charles Augustus Briggs Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology

- ***The Cross and the Lynching Tree***. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2011.

**Pamela Cooper-White** | Professor of Psychology and Religion

- ***Exploring Practices of Ministry***. Pamela Cooper-White and Michael Cooper-White. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.
- ***The Cry of Tamar: Violence Against Women and the Church's Response***. 2nd revised edition. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2012.
- ***Braided Selves: Collected Essays on Multiplicity, God, and Persons***. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2011.

**Samuel Cruz** | Assistant Professor of Church and Society

- ***Christianity and Culture in the City: A Postcolonial Approach***. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2013, ed. Samuel Cruz.

**Gary J. Dorrien** | Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics

- ***The New Abolition: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Black Social Gospel***. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, forthcoming 2015.
- ***Kantian Reason and Hegelian Spirit: The Idealistic Logic of Modern Theology***. Chichester, West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012; paperback edition 2014.
- ***The Obama Question: A Progressive Perspective***. Plymouth, U.K.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2012.

**Roger Haight** | Scholar in Residence

- ***Christian Community in History, III, Ecclesial Existence***. New York, London: Continuum, 2008; second edition, London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2014.
- ***Spirituality Seeking Theology***. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2014.
- ***Christian Spirituality for Seekers: Reflections on the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola***. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2012.

**Esther J. Hamori** | Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible

- ***Women's Divination in Biblical Literature: Prophecy, Necromancy, and Other Arts of Knowledge***. Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library; New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015.

**Jerusha Tanner Lamptey** | Assistant Professor of Islam and Ministry

- ***Never Wholly Other: A Muslima Theology of Religious Pluralism***. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

**John Anthony McGuckin** | Ane Marie and Bent Emil Nielsen Professor in Late Antique and Byzantine Christian History & Professor of Byzantine Christian Studies, Columbia University

- ***The Concept of Beauty in Patristic and Byzantine Theology***. Saarbrücken: Scholars Press, 2014, ed. J.A. McGuckin.
- ***Orthodox Monasticism Past and Present***. New York: Theotokos Press, 2014.
- ***The Concept of Beauty in Patristic and Byzantine Theology***. New York: Theotokos Press, 2012, ed. J.A. McGuckin.
- ***The Orthodox Church. An Introduction to Its History, Theology & Spiritual Culture***. Oxford and New York: Blackwell-Wiley, 2008. h.b. 2010, p.b. 2012.
- ***Biserice Ortodox. Editura Institutului Biblic***. Bucharest: 2013. (Romanian edition)



Union's faculty authors and their books. FRONT ROW, L-R: Esther Hamori, Serene Jones, Mary Boys, Chung Hyun Kyung, Daisy Machado; SECOND ROW, L-R: Sarah Azaransky, Su Yon Pak, Brigitte Kahl, Roger Haight, John Thatamanil, Troy Messenger, Jerusha Lamptey, John McGuckin, David Carr, James Cone, Gary Dorrien, Samuel Cruz, Janet Walton, Aliou Niang; NOT PICTURED: Euan Cameron, Cornel West, and Robyn Whitaker

- ***I Believe in One Lord Jesus Christ. Ancient Christian Doctrines: Volume 2.*** Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2009; Chinese edition, Hangzhou: Campus Evangelical Fellowship Press, 2012; Russian edition, Moscow: Theological Commission of the Moscow Patriarchate, 2012.
- ***Two Akathists.*** (Editor and Translator). New York: Theotokos Press, 2011.
- ***The Ascent of Christian Law: Patristic and Byzantine Reformulations of Antique Civilization.*** New York: SVS Press, 2012.
- ***Prayer Book of the Early Christians.*** Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2012.
- ***Orthodox Monasticism Past and Present.*** New York: Theotokos Press, 2014.

**Jan Rehmann** | Visiting Professor for Critical Theory and Social Analysis

- ***Max Weber: Modernization as Passive Revolution, A Gramscian Analysis.*** Amsterdam: Brill, forthcoming 2015.

- ***Theories of Ideology: The Powers of Alienation and Subjection.*** Amsterdam: Brill, 2013; paperback edition, Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2014.
- ***Max Weber: Modernisierung als passive Revolution: Kontextstudien zu Politik, Philosophie und Religion im Übergang zum Fordismus.*** Hamburg and Berlin: Argument-Verlag, second edition with a new preface, 2013.
- ***Pedagogy of the Poor: Building a Movement to End Poverty.*** New York: Teachers College Press, 2011, with Willie Baptist.

**Janet R. Walton** | Professor of Worship  
**Troy Messenger** | Director and Visiting Assistant Professor of Worship

- ***James Chapel Worship: Renovation and Renewal.*** For two years, Professors Janet Walton and Troy Messenger have been creating a video and, along with Susan Blain '86, an accompanying book presenting what has happened

in James Chapel since its renovation in 1979. The project includes history, principles that guide their work in the chapel, and many examples of their findings. Both the video and the book will become part of the Union archives. The video is nearing completion and will be available for congregational use through Union's website.

**Cornel West** | Professor of Philosophy and Christian Practice  
***Black Prophetic Fire.*** In dialogue with and edited by Christa Buschendorf. Boston: Beacon Press, 2014.  
***The Radical King.*** Edited and with an Introduction by Cornel West. Boston: Beacon Press, 2015.

**Andrea White** | Associate Professor of Theology  
***The Scandal of Flesh: Black Women's Bodies and God Politics.*** New York: Palgrave MacMillan, forthcoming 2015.

## Faculty Comings & Goings BY JAMALL CALLOWAY

Union prides itself on the accomplishments of its alums and faculty, both inside and outside the institution. We have students and faculty who challenge us to uphold our ideals as a community through spiritual insight, analytic rigor, and matchless passion for justice. Simultaneously, outside the institution our same students, faculty, and alums help challenge the larger national and global community to be more just, ethical, and compassionate in our relations with one another. As a community we take our vocation seriously. Because of this ethos and our shared mission, we are always excited when new faculty members arrive to teach and contribute to the rich community we strive to cultivate. This fall, in addition to welcoming two new faculty members, Union congratulates a beloved community member on her retirement.

First, we are delighted to welcome Dr. Pamela Cooper-White and Dr. Andrea White to the Union community. After an intensive search for the position in the psychology and religion department, Dr. Cooper-White was selected for the Christiane Brooks Johnson Memorial Chair in Psychology and Religion. Before arriving at Union, Dr. Cooper-White served as the Ben G. and Nancye Clapp Gautier Professor of Pastoral Theology, Care and Counseling at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA and co-directed the Atlanta Theological Association's Th.D. program in Pastoral Counseling. The Rev. Dr. Pamela Cooper-White is an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church, and was formerly an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Not only was she ordained in two denominations, she also holds two doctoral degrees, one from Harvard University and the other from The Institute for Clinical Social Work in Chicago, IL. She is the first theologian to hold the title of Fulbright-Freud Visiting Scholar of Psychoanalysis through the Sigmund Freud Foundation and Sigmund Freud Museum in Vienna. She is the author of many publications, including *The Cry of Tamar: Violence Against Women and the Church's Response*, 2nd revised edition, and *Braided Selves: Collected Essays on Multiplicity, God, and Persons*.

After a rigorous and lengthy search in the theological field, Dr. Andrea White has been appointed as a tenured Associate Professor of Theology. Before arriving at Union, Dr. White was Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture and associated faculty in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. She brings specializations that will enrich our conversations and push us forward intellectually. Dr. White has also engaged in activism and ministry outside of the academy. She worked with The Carter Center's Human Rights Defenders Policy Forum on Faith, Belief, and the Advancement of Women's Human Rights. She is an ordained American Baptist minister and has served as a pastor and hospice chaplain in the state of New York. She has written two forthcoming books, *Black Women's Bodies and God Politics: A Womanist Theology of Personhood* and *The Back of God: A Theology of Otherness in Karl Barth and Paul Ricoeur*.

As we welcome new arrivals, we also want to celebrate the retirement of Union alumna Penna Rose '68 from the James Chapel staff as Director of the Union Choir. She has played an invaluable leadership role in the Union community because of her expertise, experience, and generosity. Ms. Rose continues as Director of Chapel Music at Princeton University. Outside of Union and Princeton, she has conducted at Seija Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood and Carnegie Hall. She was the Assistant Conductor and pianist of the New York Choral Society and Director of Music at the First Congregational Church in Stockbridge, MA. In 1968 she received a Master of Sacred Music degree from Union, and in 2008 she received a well-deserved Unitas Distinguished Alumna Award. We wish to congratulate Penna Rose on the occasion of her retirement as we continue to embrace her as one of our own. **U**



**TOP: Pamela Cooper-White (left) and Andrea White (right) join the faculty; BOTTOM: Troy Messenger presents Penna Rose '68 with a commemorative gift on the occasion of her retirement at the 2015 Commencement ceremony.**

# 177TH COMMENCEMENT

On May 15th, Union students and their families, faculty, and staff congratulated the graduating class of 2015. To watch video of the ceremony, visit [unon.in/20com15](http://unon.in/20com15).



Foster Pinkney



Elizabeth Assenza with her fellow graduates



Natalie Perkins



Dean Mary Boys



Jay Hooper



Board Chair Wolcott B. Dunham, Jr., Dr. Stewart J. Everett, and Prof. Janet Walton



President Serene Jones



The Seminary Choir performing



Aimme Rogers, Lindsey Nye, and Bridget Kelso Anthony





# UNION CLASS OF 2015

# 177TH COMMENCEMENT

After the ceremony, graduates, faculty, alumni/ae, and family gathered for a reception and posed for photographs to commemorate the event.



Paul Knitter, Maggie Jarry, and Gary Dorrien



Jason and Emily Wyman



Ranwa Hammany and Mandy Carter



Shawn Torres, Shay O'Reilly, Kathryn Berg



Sindy Eunice Morales Garcia with family



Samantha Gonzalez-Block, Matt Hoffman



Emily Brewer and family



Michael Crumpler, James Cone



Pilar Millhollen and family

# Union Medal Recipients 2015



On May 15, 2015, former **Vice President Al Gore** and **LGBTQ activist Mandy Carter** received the Union Medal, the highest honor awarded by Union, at the 177th Commencement exercises.

In responding to this honor, Mr. Gore said, “Union Theological Seminary is a unique and truly extraordinary institution that educates, inspires, and empowers leaders uniquely suited to help humanity embrace and successfully deal with the greatest moral challenges of our time. I am deeply honored and genuinely humbled to receive the Union Medal.” Gore is co-founder and chairman of Generation Investment Management, a senior partner at Kleiner, Perkins, Caufield, and Byers, and a member of Apple, Inc.’s board of directors. He spends the majority of his time as chairman of The Climate Reality Project, a non-profit organization he founded to focus on solutions for the global climate crisis.

Mandy Carter describes herself a southern, African-American, lesbian social justice activist with a 47-year movement history of social, racial, and LGBTQ justice organizing. She helped co-found two groundbreaking organizations, Southerners On New Ground (SONG) and the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC). SONG, founded in 1993, is about building a progressive movement across the South by creating transformative models of organizing that connect race, class, culture, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Specifically, SONG integrates work against homophobia into freedom struggles in the South. Ms. Carter served as its Executive Director from 2003-2005.

In her remarks, Ms. Carter said, “I am constantly reminded that changing ‘hearts and minds,’ the work of spiritual renewal and transformation, is always central to social justice movements whether based on race, gender, class, culture, ability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. That’s why I am honored to receive the Union Medal from an institution committed to this crucial work.”

The Union Medal was established in 1991 to recognize people engaged in works of ministry in congregations, public service, government, business, education, and the arts. It is the

equivalent of an honorary degree. Previous medalists include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, William Sloane Coffin Jr., Marian Wright Edelman, and Judith and Bill Moyers, among others.

Both recipients this year were given, in addition to the actual Union Medal, a framed citation in beautifully handwritten calligraphy. Vice President Gore’s citation reads: “Al Gore, you have been an elected official of the United States Government, serving in turn as Congressman, Senator and Vice President; a best-selling author, Oscar winner and Nobel laureate; but most importantly, you have been the single, most resolute catalyst for action against global warming. You have roused and inspired the environmental activist in each of us.... Your life and your activism embody the highest ideals and aspirations of Union Theological Seminary.... For your unremitting courage in uncovering and delivering the truth, for your tireless campaign to put climate change on every personal and political agenda, and for mobilizing a global, multi-faith network that will support ongoing environmental activism and commitment to the cause, we award you Union’s highest honor, the Union Medal.”

Ms. Carter’s citation reads: “Mandy Carter, you have been the unsurpassed coalition builder of a generation. You remind us every day, and every hour of every day, that we are, all of us—every single individual on the planet—in this together; and that there is no justice unless there is justice and equality for all.... Your life and your activism embody the highest ideals and aspirations of Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. For your stellar coalition building; for creating transformative models of organizing that truly connect; for being ‘out, visible and vocal’ as the face and voice for those who cannot be out themselves; and for continuing to ask, over and over, ‘Are we about justice or are we about “Just Us?”’—we award you Union’s highest honor, the Union Medal.”

President Jones spoke for the entire Union community in saying, “I’m thrilled to honor two people who so beautifully and consistently exemplify the spirit of Union’s mission. At a school with a rich tradition of faithful activism rooted in bold scholarship, I can’t imagine having two people who more fully encapsulate who we are at Union than Al Gore and Mandy Carter.” 

# The Center for Earth Ethics

BY KARENNA GORE '13

On Earth Day Union launched a new initiative designed for students and the public square. The Center for Earth Ethics grows out of the Seminary's longstanding commitment to social justice, the eco-theology work done here by Larry Rasmussen '70 and other scholars, and the Religions for the Earth conference Union hosted September 2014.

That watershed conference ([unon.in/rfeyoutube](http://unon.in/rfeyoutube)) gathered over 200 religious leaders from around the world on the occasion of the UN Climate Summit and the People's Climate March. The goal was to reframe climate change as a moral issue and galvanize faith-based activism. Among the luminaries who addressed the conference were three remarkable Union graduates: Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker '85, whom I proudly introduced as "the godmother of this movement," Rev. Fletcher Harper '91, the founder of Greenfaith, and Rev. Dr. Melanie Harris '06, whose eco-womanist speech elucidated deep connections between violence against the Earth and violence against people of color. In addition, Dr. Rasmussen, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor Emeritus of Christian Social Ethics, penned a beautiful declaration, which continues to be read around the world ([see sidebar for excerpt](#)).

The basic science of the climate crisis has been clear for some time, but we have not always addressed it as an ethical imperative. Global warming, severe weather events, and rising sea levels are obviously tied to human behavior, yet the very people who bear the brunt of it—the poorest inhabitants of the poorest nations—are those least responsible.

More and more, we are also aware of the ground-level costs of extreme extraction from the Earth, including the harm inflicted on those who live near strip mines, power plants, and fracking sites. Violence done to the earth is violence done to the most vulnerable and oppressed people. This is especially true of the slow violence done by the poisoning of air, land, and water.

This ethical picture is complicated by the fact that many do this damage in the name of progress and growth, driven by the conventional metrics of a successful society. To shift to sustainable energy for all, we must adopt a new bottom line for economic development that considers planetary boundaries and human well-being when calculating the cost of goods and services.

Climate change demands a more precise articulation of Earth ethics, about who we are and what we value. Religious and spiritual traditions are called to lead the way in this time of crisis when business models and politics have failed. Interfaith dialogue clarifies shared values and bonds people of faith to one another across nations and cultures. Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* is playing an epic role in shifting conversation as have messages from Bishop Desmond Tutu and indigenous spiritual leaders.

Organized religion must lead the way toward a solution because it has been a large part of the problem. Faith as a social construct expresses people's fears and prejudices as well as their hopes. The Union community interrogates the role that

belief systems have played in creating this damage. How did we begin to define issues involving air, water, soil, and other living beings as "environmental," something separate from people? To what extent has missionary Christianity, in suppressing place-based spiritualities, exacerbated the problem? Why do so many believe in an afterlife of heaven or hell, away from the Earth? We need carefully wrought theological tools for the transformative work at hand.

The Center for Earth Ethics regards our ecological crisis as the consequence of a deeper malady: dominant measures of success value short-term profit and growth over long-term well-being of the whole. Drawing on Union's convening power and broad ecumenical reach, the Center cultivates the public consciousness needed to change policy and culture. Through course offerings and public programs, Union is educating a wave of ecologically conscious leaders in ministry and public service and modeling best practices for an ecologically and socially just community. **!**

## DECLARATION FOR AN AWAKENED KINSHIP WITH EARTH

### *We commit our lives to these principles and actions:*

- ~ Our religious communities will join the urgent global conversation about climate change and speak on behalf of the voiceless.
- ~ We will join forces to help brothers and sisters who are in harm's way that stems from global warming.
- ~ We will mobilize our faith communities to support those leaders who promise to engage these issues and deliver on their promises.
- ~ Whenever entities become destructive of these ends, placing private needs over planetary well-being, we support the right of the people to ask that they forfeit their power.
- ~ Our places of worship will be living examples of how to design spaces more in harmony with nature.
- ~ We will love ourselves and each other enough to change in the name of Earth.

READ THE FULL DECLARATION: [unon.in/ceeras12](http://unon.in/ceeras12)

## Travels in Peru BY EMILY BREWER '15

The first time we saw it was from about three miles away. We walked into the Llaqtapata ruins in the Sacred Valley of Peru after hiking about 38 miles over three days and with over 8,000 feet of elevation change. Machu Picchu was off in the distance, but we could see it clearly, framed perfectly by precisely constructed stone doorways that led in and out of the main building of the Llaqtapata ruins. It was hazy, but we could make out hillside terraces and the tall Huayna Picchu Mountain, whose picture had become familiar after months of planning this trip and years of longing to go to this 15th century Incan site.

Matt Hoffman '15 and I had become friends during our orientation week at Union in 2012. Not long after, we discovered we both had been fascinated by Machu Picchu since we were kids, and we joked that we would go together if we ever graduated. Then in January of this year, when it looked like we might actually graduate, we bought our plane tickets from New York to Lima/Cusco to leave two days after graduation and made plans to hike the Salkantay Trail, named for the 15,000 foot glacial mountain we would summit before descending through a cloud forest to the rain forest and then back up to Machu Picchu. Little did we know that Kevin McGee, of Union's Development Office, was simultaneously planning his trip to Machu Picchu. We learned that we would unfortunately miss meeting him by one day.

I had read a lot about Machu Picchu in the weeks before we left. Matt, who has his Bachelor's in Latin American studies and an encyclopedic memory of things he's read, had been telling me about Incan cosmology for days. Yet the magnificence of the Incas was overwhelming when I walked through the back doorway of Llaqtapata and saw Machu Picchu framed by the front doorway. What's more, these doorways also perfectly align with the summer solstice, so that one day a year the sun shines directly through the doorways toward Machu Picchu. Many of the Inca sites are connected to the sun, the Milky Way, and to each other, with Machu Picchu as the central place toward which all the others are oriented. I had read about this, but seeing it made it both more real and more mysterious.

Llaqtapata is thought to have been a resting place for those who were traveling to Machu Picchu, so we also rested there for a few minutes before continuing our own journey. We arrived at Machu Picchu around 7 a.m. the next day along with several hundred other tourists and guides who had arrived via the alternative Inca Trail or by bus or train. This was not like the January-term trip Matt and I had taken to El Salvador with Professor Janet Walton, nor was it like the journey Professor Chung Hyun Kyung '89 recently made to walk for peace across the demilitarized zone in Korea. Our trip to Peru was certainly educational, but we went as tourists to see one of the wonders of the world.

While in Peru we saw and talked often about the problems that tourists like ourselves create, but it is not difficult to understand why so many people flock to this religious and cultural

site. The Incas themselves are thought to have used Machu Picchu as a place of refuge for a time after the Spanish invaded the area capital of Cusco. Almost six hundred years later, the stones of the buildings sit silently, witnesses to stories we could only try to imagine as we quietly wandered for hours around corners and curves of these buildings.

Finally arriving at Machu Picchu felt to us like the end of a pilgrimage. We had hiked four days and 50 steep miles to get here. At the risk of sounding cheesy or contrived, I have to say that our trip to Peru also felt like the end of a seminary pilgrimage. We walked together at some points, and at other times one of us would go ahead and wait for the other. We encouraged each other, joked, argued, and sometimes walked for long stretches in silence. We learned about ourselves and other people, and we learned that there is much we will never know. **U**



**Matt Hoffman '15 and Emily Brewer '15 above Machu Picchu with Huayna Picchu in the background.**



**Kevin McGee on Huayna Picchu with Machu Picchu below.**

# 2014–15 Annual Giving Report

JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

**SINCE THE 1840S**, Union has conducted annual fundraising outreach to support the ongoing work of the Seminary. Some donors, in early years known as “subscribers,” prompted by fond memory, pride in education, faith in the work of justice making, or a simple sense of gratitude, hope, and giving back, made a financial pledge they fulfilled each year. Today, very much in that tradition, the Annual Fund offers one important way that you may fulfill your generosity in service to our Seminary.

On June 30, Union closed the 2014-2015 Annual Fund. Thank you to all Union alums and friends for their generous support! Our faithful Annual Fund donors continue to astonish, with almost 25% of Union Alumni/ae making donations to the fund this year. They are joined by our trustees, faculty, staff, friends, and supporting churches who also play very significant roles year after year.

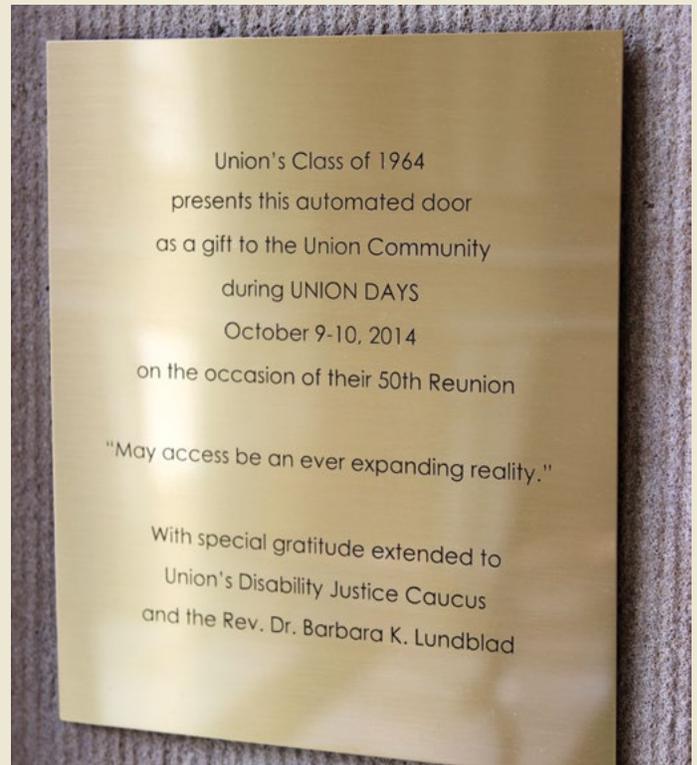
Small gifts and large gifts, made once a year or monthly by “sustaining” donors—the 21st century equivalent to the 19th century “subscribers”—become the foundational fund that enables the Seminary to carry forth its mission. Among other things, your generosity helps to keep our historic buildings sound, provides access to 21st century technology in the classroom, and ensures Union’s presence on the metropolitan, national, and global stages.

Union is now beginning its 180th academic year! You help to keep Union a living tradition. Thank you. 

## GIVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND

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

- Kevin McGee, *Annual Fund Director*  
kmcgee@uts.columbia.edu  
212-280-1590
- Martin Duus, *Vice President of Development*  
mduus@uts.columbia.edu  
212-280-1426



The Class of 1964, as part of their 50th Anniversary Class gift, paid for the installation of an automatic door at Union’s main entrance, at Broadway and 121st Street. A theme for the reunion was “accessibility,” remembering the Civil Rights struggles of the 1960s and the many challenges of accessibility over time and remaining today. The door was dedicated on October 9, 2014, during the reunion, with words offered by Garry Hesser ’64. (A class photo and additional information appear on the inside back cover.)



M.Div. student Kendrick Kemp, Disability Justice Caucus chair, at the dedication of the automated door with President Jones and Executive Vice President Fred Davie.

# CARITAS DONORS

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The “Caritas” giving level at Union recognizes donors to Union Theological Seminary who made gifts of \$1,000 and above during the last fiscal year, from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. These gifts are also listed online at [utsnyc.edu/caritas](http://utsnyc.edu/caritas).

The word Caritas is the third word found in the center of Union Seminary’s Seal and follows Unitas and Veritas. These three words express what the spirit of the Seminary should be—that of harmony, of supreme fidelity to truth, and of love. The Seminary Community wishes to express our great appreciation to all of our donors.

## Tower Associates

### \$500,000 AND ABOVE

The Ford Foundation  
John Templeton Foundation  
Anonymous Donor

### \$250,000 – \$499,999

Virginia Kreyer Trust  
The Henry Luce Foundation, Inc.  
Anonymous Donor

### \$100,000 – \$249,999

Elizabeth L. Carl 1990 and Victoria C. Hill  
Wolcott B. Dunham, Jr. and  
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Estate of John H. Fish  
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of Liberal Religion  
International Institute of Islamic Thought  
David H. McAlpin, Jr. 1953  
Helmar Nielsen  
NoVo Foundation  
The Unitarian Church of All Souls,  
New York, NY

### \$50,000 – \$99,999

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Anne Hale Johnson 1956  
Mary Lindsay  
Bill Moyers and Judith Davidson Moyers  
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The Rockefeller Brothers Fund

### \$25,000 – \$49,999

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Imago Dei Fund  
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Estate of Eleanor J. Miles  
National Academy of Sciences  
New York Community Trust  
Trinity Church, New York, NY

## Founders’ Associates

### \$15,000 – \$24,999

Estate of Harold S. Eberhard  
Cynthia A. Fields and Herbert Fields  
Blake T. Franklin 1988 and Thomas Getgood  
Catherine M. George and Paul E. Cain  
Bill and Beverlee Lehr Fund #2 of the  
Foundation for Enhancing Communities  
Jacqueline Livingston  
William T. and Kathleen G. Reiland  
Laurance S. Rockefeller Fund  
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James S. Sligar and Diana M. Sattelberger  
Marian Marcus Warden 1998  
Arthur Williams Charitable Trust

### \$10,000 – \$14,999

C. Douglas Ades 1969 and Elzbieta Dec  
Estate of David J. Maitland  
Calvin M. Mew 1973 and Mary F. Crawford  
Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation

Katharine C. Shinn (died April 4, 2015)  
Carol S. Wheeler  
Anonymous Donor

## Union Associates

### \$5,000 – \$9,999

John M. Ankele 1967 and Mary Alix Ankele  
Kendall C. Baker 1964 and Sonia E. Baker  
William Candelaria  
Estate of Cora K. Dice  
General Board of Global Ministries – UMC  
David W. Hornbeck 1966  
Nancy Steeger Jennings 1995  
Christopher L. Jones 2013  
Edward L. Long, Jr. 1948  
Craig C. Malbon 2010 and Hsien-yu Wang  
The New World Foundation  
Estate of John G. Pack  
John A. Pecoul, Jr. 1964 and  
Ellen Rasche Pecoul  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Louisville, KY  
Mary C. Ragan  
Virginia H. Richards 1951  
John E. Sallstrom 1964  
Donald W. Shriver, Jr. and Peggy Leu Shriver  
Thomas L. Stiers 1964  
Christopher H. Strayhorn 1983  
Arthur E. and Katharine R. Trotman  
United Church of Christ, Cleveland, OH  
Myrle H. Wall  
John C. B. Webster 1960 and  
Penny Lee Stearns Webster  
Mary H. White, M.D.  
David O. Woodyard 1958 and  
Joanne A. Woodyard  
Anonymous Donor

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## **\$2,500 – \$4,999**

Helen F. Andrew 1964  
David J. Callard 1967 and Mary R. Morgan  
Lindley G. DeGarmo 1999 and Sarah J. Finlayson  
Anne Gartner  
Karenna A. Gore 2013  
Marybelle B. Hollister 1991 and Don Gardner  
Heidi Hudnut-Beumler 1985 and James D. Hudnut-Beumler 1983  
Harriet C. Hunter 1947  
Serene Jones  
Dennis Keller and Connie Keller  
Robert P. Keller  
James H. Miller 1961 and Margaret C. Miller 1966  
Samuel A. Nickols 1967  
St. James' Church, New York, NY  
St. Lawrence Foundation for Theological Education  
James H. Stentzel 1968 and Catherine F. Stentzel  
Anthony J. Tambasco 1979  
The Charles T. and Marion M. Thompson Foundation  
Philip N. Yang 1960  
Anonymous Donor

## **President's Associates**

### **\$1,000 – \$2,499**

Johanna E. Alpert and Laurent Alpert  
LaVonne Althouse 1959  
S. Wyndham Anderson 1964 and Huldah Anderson  
Barclays Educational Matching Gift Program  
Dorothy C. Bass 1972 and Mark R. Schwehn  
Craig C. Berggren 1996  
Bethany Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY  
Phyllis A. Bird 1964  
David L. Bourns 1966 and Ruth W. Bourns 1964  
Jo Ana Elise Brown 1989  
Lora Lee Brown 1965  
Glenn R. Bucher 1965 and Mary K. Bucher  
Frederick Buechner Center

Karyn Carlo 2005  
Covenant Baptist Church, Washington, DC  
Ellis B. and Betsy W. Cowling  
Joanne F. Cox 1971  
Larry R. Cox 2013  
Frederick A. Davie and Michael Adams  
Rosamond Arthur Dean  
Robert C. Douglas 1961 and Ginny Douglas  
Martin Duus  
Marvin M. Ellison 1981 and Franklin L. Brooks  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Advent, New York, NY  
First Presbyterian Church, New Canaan, CT  
First Presbyterian Church, New Haven, CT  
John Paul Frelick 1948  
Barbara J. Gaddis 1978 and Paul B. Volker  
Ruth Garwood 1996  
Annabeth M. Gay 1949  
Faith E. Gay and Francesca Zambello  
Lorna Goodman  
Amy C. Gopp Vigne 2005 and Frédéric Vigne  
Clifford J. Green 1964  
Dorothy A. Greene 1986  
Dennis W. Haas 1959 and Thomsa Stewart Haas 1958  
D. Bruce Hanson 1961  
Dale C. Harris 1958 and Carla M. Harris  
Amy M. Heinrich 1985 and Robert K. Heinrich  
Thomas J. Herin 1974 and Miriam MacFarlan Herin  
Garry W. Hesser 1964  
Carter Heyward 1971 and Sue Sasser  
Carolyn S. Hopley 1979  
International Business Machines Corporation  
Darcy R. James 1963  
Kevin B. Jennings and Jeffrey Davis  
Jewish Theological Seminary  
Thomas S. Johnson and Ann W. Johnson  
Bruce W. Jones 1959 and Alice Cook  
Joe R. Jones and Sarah Jones  
Peter R. Kellogg  
Frances Kennedy

David Shepherd King 1958  
Peter Kinoy  
Charles O. Klawitter  
Betsy F. Koester 1992  
Ernest F. Krug III 1971 and Sarah D. Krug  
Larchmont Avenue Church, Larchmont, NY  
Linda Lear  
Martin C. Lehfeldt 1965  
Sara Lindholm and George Surgeon  
Marian M. Logan 1956  
Thomas R. W. Longstaff 1973 and Cynthia C. Longstaff  
Richard A. Lundy 1957  
Mary Rose Main  
Kathryn M. Marion  
Carol E. Matheis-Kraft  
David M. McAlpin  
George D. McClain 1964 and Tilda A. McClain 1966  
Constance C. Coles 1971 and William B. McKeown 1971  
Lelan D. McReynolds 1964 and Joy McReynolds  
Paul Mojzes  
Christopher L. Morse 1968  
Robert P. Noble, Jr. 1965  
Su Yon Pak 1999 and Kathleen T. Talvacchia 1992  
Daniel E. Pellegrom 1969 and Sara S. Pellegrom 1968  
Karen M. Peters 1995  
Rebecca Todd Peters 1996 and Jeffrey C. Hatcher  
William M. Polk 1966 and LuAnn S. Polk 1966  
Michael T. Price 1964  
Susan S. Purdy 1978 and Peter J. Purdy  
Paul H. Randall 1962 and Margaret W. Randall 1961  
Larry L. Rasmussen 1970 and Nyla L. Rasmussen  
Petero A.N. Sabune 1981 and Maureen Fonseca Sabune  
Roy I. Sano 1957  
Jean E. Schmidt  
Marilyn Seven 1962 and Theodore Yanow

Susan L. Sgarlat 2007 and Charles Fels  
 Farley Snell 1958 and Ann Snell  
 John W. Sonnenday III 1971 and  
 Kristine A. Haig  
 St. Barnabas Episcopal Church,  
 Greenwich, CT  
 St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery,  
 New York, NY  
 William H. Steward 1974 and  
 Nancy L. Steward

Alfred W. Tate 1972 and Susan C. Tate  
 Elizabeth A. Theoharis 2004  
 Ellis and Betsy Cowling Donor-Advised  
 Fund of the Triangle Community  
 Foundation  
 Phyllis Tribble 1963  
 Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland, OH  
 David R. Trower 1973 and Carol Trower  
 Darla Dee Turlington 1979 and  
 R. Donald Turlington

Paula Tusiani-Eng 2001  
 United Church of Christ, Houston, TX  
 United Way of King County  
 Dawn Van Denend  
 Jacquelynn C. Van Vliet 2008  
 Mary Jo Walters 1955  
 H. Mitchell Watson, Jr. and Kate Watson  
 Charles C. West 1945 and Ruth C. West  
 Peter S. Wilson  
 Anonymous Donor 

# UNION AT A GLANCE 2014-15

## RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

### 27 Different Denominations/Religious Affiliations

African Methodist Episcopal Zion	2
Association of Vineyard Churches	1
Baptist	20
Buddhist	2
Christian Churches and Churches of Christ	3
Christian Science	1
Church of the Nazarene	1
Disciples of Christ	1
Episcopal Church	33
Friends (Quakers)/Brethren/Mennonite	4
Hindu	1
Interdenominational/Multidenominational	5
Jewish	2
Lutheran	9
United Methodist	17
Non-denominational	18
Orthodox (Coptic, Eastern, Greek, Russian)	3
Other	10
Pagan	1
Pentecostal/Apostolic/Assemblies of God/ Church of God/Four-Square	9
Presbyterian	18
Reformed Church in America	1
Roman Catholic	14
Seventh Day Adventist	1
Unitarian Universalist	23
United Church of Christ	15
Undeclared or Unaffiliated	20

## DEGREES

Total Candidates for All Degrees	231
Master of Divinity (incl. M.Div. and M.S.S.W.)	138
Master of Arts	48
Master of Sacred Theology	9
Doctor of Philosophy	36
Non-degree	4
Enrolled from Other Institutions	34
Auditor and Visiting Scholars	18
Total number of registered	287

## POPULATION

American Indian or Alaska Native	3
Asian American	12
Black/African American	53
Hispanic	23
Multiracial	8
White	125
Undeclared	63

## GENDER

Male	137
Female	150

## AGE

20-24	42
25-29	53
30-34	40
35-39	35
40-49	27
50-64	34
65+	4
Undeclared	52

# CLASS NOTES

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## 1950s

**William J. Nottingham, M.Div. 1953, Ph.D. 1962**, and co-author Charles Harper have published *Escape from Portugal—the Church in Action: the Secret Flight of 60 African Students to France*. The story of a dramatic clandestine operation in June 1961 sponsored by the World Council of Churches and the French human rights organization CIMADE, will be made into a documentary. Many of the students later became leaders in their home countries—two presidents, two prime ministers, a bishop, several ambassadors, and many government ministers.

**J. Heywood Thomas, S.T.M. 1953**, has published *Theology and Issues of Life and Death*, Cascade Books, Oregon 2013; and *Legacy of Kierkegaard*, Cascade Books, 2011. He is Emeritus Professor of the University of Nottingham, England, where he was also Head of the Department of Theology and consecutively Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Arts Faculty. He holds a D.D. from the University of Wales and has been awarded the honorary degrees of D.D. Edinburgh and D.Litt Wales. He has also been elected Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales.

**Finley Schaef, M.Div. 1957**, was recognized by the New York State Bipartisan Pro-Choice Legislative Caucus and Concerned Clergy for Choice as a pioneering champion for women's reproductive health. Among other notable accomplishments, Schaef co-convoked the Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion with the Rev. Howard Moody. On May 22, 1967, *The New York Times* carried a front page announcement of the Service, including the names of Rev. Schaef and other clergy, and their offer to refer women for safe and affordable abortion. By the time of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, more than 1,400 clergy had joined the Service, having referred 100,000 women for abortion without a single fatality.

## 1960s

**Lawrence W. Althouse, part. 1961**, retired from the United Methodist Church since 1994, celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination on April 23, 2015. He is in his 51st year of writing a weekly syndicated newspaper column, "The Bible Speaks," based on his Uniform Lesson Series of the National Council of Churches Division of Education, and is the author of several books, among them *You Can Save Your Breast: One Woman's Experience with Radiation Therapy* (W.W. Norton 1982), written with his late wife, Valere; and *Sixty Days with Luke: A New Devotional-Study Excursion Through the Third Gospel* (2011, Trafford). On October 19, 2014 Althouse married Katherine (Katy) Lasater Freiburger, a composer, pianist, and poet.

**Edward E. Clark, S.M.M. 1965**, marked 50 years as organist at First Church of Christ, Farmington, CT (and more recently as Minister of Music), with celebrations by his 362-year-old congregation of "Half a Century of Joyful Noise." Clark has served as organist for the Hartford Symphony since 1984, and also teaches at the University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music.

**Judith Bledsoe Bailey, M.R.E. 1966**, received her Ph.D. in American Studies from the College of William & Mary on May 11, 2014.

**Charles Douglas Ades, M.Div. 1969**, was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Polonia Restituta by the Polish American Freedom Foundation, for supporting the transformation of Poland, at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw on May 14, 2015. Ades, the Senior Consultant of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation, had worked for over twenty years for the Polish-American Enterprise Fund established at the initiative of the President George H. Bush with the goal of supporting the market economy in Poland. After completion of its operations, the Fund

transferred part of its funds to the Polish-American Freedom Foundation. Ades served on Union's Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2012.

## 1970s

**Ronald L. Grimes, Ph.D. 1970**, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Lund in Sweden, for major international contributions to the interdisciplinary field of ritual studies.

**Dominic V. Monti, S.T.M. 1971**, celebrated 50 years as a friar and member of Holy Name Province, the largest community of Franciscan friars in the United States. From 2005 to 2014 Provincial Vicar of his order, Monti is currently stationed at St. Bonaventure University in western New York, where he is a distinguished professor of Franciscan Studies.

**Joseph Komonchak, S.T.M. 1969, Ph.D. 1976**, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, MO, on May 8, 2015. An ordained Roman Catholic priest, he is now retired after having taught for nearly 45 years, most recently at the Catholic University of America, where in 1996 he was named the first occupant of the John C. and Gertrude P. Hubbard Chair in Religious Studies. He assists at Sunday Masses at St. John the Evangelist Church, Goshen, NY.

**Howard B. Major III, M.Div. 1976**, has retired from the ministry after serving a church in New Paltz, NY, for 20 years. He is now pursuing a master's degree in communications at New York University.

**Warren H. Stewart, Sr., M.Div. 1976**, was inducted into the 30th Martin Luther King, Jr. College of Ministers and Laity at Morehouse College. He is the author of *Victory Together for Martin Luther King, Jr.*, and is presently the senior pastor of the First Institutional Baptist Church of Phoenix, AZ, where he has served since July 1, 1977.

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**Kenneth L. Sehested, M.Div. 1978**, published *In the Land of the Willing: Litanies, Prayers, Poems, and Benedictions*, with a forward by **Walter Brueggemann '61**, who notes that Sehested sustains his evocative poetic imagination and capacity “for finding the right text at the right time.” Sehested is one of 3 co-pastors of the Circle of Mercy Congregation in Asheville, NC. Until he stepped down in 2002, he was the founding executive director of the Memphis-based organization BPFNA (Baptist Peace Fellowship National Association), a national network of Baptists involved in personal causes from health care to hunger, nuclear disarmament to gay rights.

## 1980s

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**Alice Carol Burnett, M.Div. 1982**, was honored to be a member of the United Methodist Women's delegation to the 59th annual United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-59) in New York City in March 2015. Her article about it appears in the July/August issue of *Response* magazine. Burnett is Executive Director for Moore Community House in Biloxi, MS.

**Katie Geneva Cannon, Ph.D. 1983**, was lauded by the Literary Awards Committee of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, which chose *The Oxford Handbook of African American Theology*, edited by Katie G. Cannon and Anthony B. Pinn, as its 2015 Honor Book winner in the nonfiction category.

**Derrick Harkins, M.Div. 1987**, joined Union's staff as Senior Vice President for Innovations in Public Programming. Previously he was the pastor of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church in Northwest Washington, DC, and a member of the Seminary's Board of Trustees. He has a long history of working for social justice in both the church and the public square.

**David J. Tombs, S.T.M. 1988**, was appointed to the Howard Paterson Chair in Theology and Public Issues at the University of Otago, North Dunedin, New Zealand. Previously he was Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation at the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, undertaking that work in Belfast as director of Trinity's Centre for Post-Conflict Justice.

**Chung Hyun Kyung, Ph.D. 1989, Unitas Distinguished Alumna 1994**, crossed the demilitarized zone from North Korea to South Korea on May 24, 2015, along with 29 other female peace activists, calling for an end to the Korean War. Chung is Associate Professor of Ecumenical Studies at Union.

**Mary L. Foulke, M.Div. 1989, Ed.D. 1996**, was called to serve as Rector at St. Mary's Church Manhattanville in New York City. Previously she was senior associate for Christian formation at the Church of St. Luke in the Fields (Episcopal), New York City.

## 1990s

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**David P. Gushee, Ph.D. 1993, Distinguished Alumnus 2012**, published *Changing Our Mind*, about his personal theological journey as he changed his mind about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender inclusion in the Church. Gushee is Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and Director of the Center for Theology and Public Life at Mercer University. He was at Union in February to offer a short lecture and Q&A during a lunch gathering.

**Winnie S. Varghese, M.Div. 1999**, was appointed Priest and Director of Community Outreach at Trinity Church at Wall Street in New York City, where she will focus on Trinity's social justice ministries. Previously she was Rector of St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery.

## 2000s

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**Wallace McPherson “Macky” Alston III, M.Div. 2000**, has been named by the Center for American Progress as one of its top faith leaders to watch in 2015. The leaders and faith advocates selected “remind us how important faith voices are as we work together to create a more just and equitable nation,” said the Center. Alston is Vice President for Strategy, Engagement, and Media at Auburn Seminary, and an award-winning filmmaker. He continues to lead movements addressing the most pressing issues of our time, including LGBTQ rights, racial equality, and climate change.

**Michael David Ellick, M.Div. 2000**, has been called to First Congregational Church in Portland, OR, as Senior Minister.

**Letitia M. Campbell, M.Div. 2003**, has accepted a new position at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Beginning this fall, she will serve as Director of Contextual Education I and Clinical Pastoral Education, and Senior Program Coordinator for the seminary's new Laney Legacy in Moral Leadership Program.

**Dionne P. Boissière, M.Div. 2004**, participated in the 59th annual United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-59) in New York City in March 2015. An article about the conference written by Carol Burnett, M.Div. 1982, appears in the July/August issue of *Response* magazine. Boissière is Chaplain of the Church Center for the United Nations.

**Darrell Ezell, M.A. 2004**, was appointed the inaugural Program Director for Interfaith Action at Claremont Lincoln University. He is an expert in interreligious affairs, conflict resolution and diplomacy, and is the author of *Beyond Cairo: U.S. Engagement with the Muslim World*, in which he explores the roles and

impacts of U.S. public diplomacy in the Middle East during the Arab Spring.

**Ian Stuart Cliffe, M.A. 2008**, and his wife Ellie Martin Cliffe welcomed a baby boy, Rowan Thomas, born on September 16, 2014.

**David Frederic Greder, M.Div. 2009**, received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa on May 15, 2015.

**Karilynn J. Morris, M.A. 2009**, published *The Girl Who Could See*, her debut coming-of-age novel for tween girls. Morris is a writer, actor, filmmaker, and teaching artist. She lives in New York City.

## 2010s

**Martin E. E. Malzahn, S.T.M. 2010**, was appointed Chaplain at Wagner College, Staten Island, NY.

**Preston A. Davis, M.Div. 2011**, and his wife Dorsett welcomed twins, Christopher Andrews Davis and Jordan Phillips Davis, born on All Hallows' Eve.

**Peter C. Herman, M.Div. 2011**, and his wife Janine Calabro welcomed a son, Oscar Rocco Herman, on June 27, 2015.

**Angela Parker, part. 2012**, was appointed Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology. She completed her Ph.D. in New Testament studies at Chicago Theological Seminary, and her primary focus in research and academic presentations has been reading the Bible through the lenses of womanism and postcolonialism.

**Karena Aitcheson Gore, M.A. 2013**, was appointed Director of the Center for Earth Ethics at Union. Previously she worked as a lawyer for Simpson Thacher & Bartlett and Sanctuary for Families, and as Director of Community Affairs

for the Association to Benefit Children, where she continues to serve on the board. She has also been a writer for *Slate* magazine and other publications, and is the author of *Lighting the Way: Nine Women Who Changed Modern America*.

**William Bonner Owen, M.Div. 2013**, was clothed as a Novice in The Order of the Holy Cross on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY.

**Ashley Amber Birt, M.Div. 2014**, has been called by Rutgers Presbyterian Church to be their Director of Christian Education. Birt has worked with youth groups in several Presbyterian Churches in Pennsylvania and New York, and also brings a background in music, theater, and LGBTQ advocacy.

**Todd Andrew Clayton, M.A. 2014**, has been appointed Senior Development Associate for Grants and Major Donor Relations at Union. Previously he was Executive Assistant to the President. [U](#)

## Hortence Whetstone, Owner of Spotless Drycleaning, Retires



"Just call me Miss Hortence," I heard her saying to so many customers once they came back to Spotless Drycleaner a few times. That's what she told my family when I introduced them to her (she always made sure to have a holiday calendar and pen for all my family!). She used to ask me about students that moved and told me that in her over 30 years in that store, she had come to love and know so many of us here at Union, this of course being her second job. From the moment I crossed Broadway and walked in, she called me "Rev. Derrick" and always asked about my church and how it was doing. She knew all the churches in Harlem very well. I only remember her closing once and that was when the last of her sisters passed away in South Carolina. After that I often spent time sitting in her chair for about an hour or so, just to check on her. She will be missed, but we are so glad that we got to know her and her ministry of dry cleaning with a momma's heart. Best wishes, Hortence! — **Derrick McQueen '09**

# IN MEMORIAM

AS OF AUGUST 15, 2015

## ALUMNI/AE

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Yerby R. Holman '39  
Roberta Tucker Clair '41  
Robert M. Grant '41  
Herbert E. Pickett, Jr. '42  
Margaret Rinck Rideout '42  
Maxine Thornton Denham '42, '43  
Henry Stimson Harvey '43  
Charles W. Forman '44, '47  
Kenneth A. Friou, Sr. '44  
James E. Bean '45  
Doris Jones Trebat '45  
Kenneth R. Robinson '46  
Jack T. Barron '47  
E. John Yuells '47  
John E. Ensign '48  
Betty Reid Mandell '48  
David H. Newson '48  
Raymond O. Ryland '48  
E. John Harle, Jr. '49  
Kenneth W. Mellinger '49  
William C. Schram '49  
William Kilmer Sites '49  
Harold F. Eberhard '50  
Henry Shirley Fusner '51  
William D. Geoghegan '51  
Birger T. Johnson '51  
Charles F. Kriete '51  
Winifred Jean Porter McGillivray '51  
Jack L. Noble '51  
Edgar A. Raynis '51  
Helen Allan Archibald '52, '55  
Paul J. Carpenter '52  
Austin B. Coe '52  
Wells B. Grogan '52  
James A. Hand '52  
C. Harvey Lord '52  
Marilyn R. Penner '52  
Donald V. Roberts '52  
Joseph Bertalan '53  
William Gillies Kalaidjian '53  
Ercell V. Lynn '53

Donald W. Morgan '53  
Henry Jameson '54  
May Sweet Lord '54  
Paul L. Reynolds '54  
James R. Tanis '54  
Dallas W. Young '54  
Benjamin L. Armstrong '55  
Charles Robert Croghan, Jr. '55, '67  
Harold G. Deal, Jr. '55  
Malcolm Boyd '56  
Hobart A. Burch '56  
Barry Frank Cavaghan '56  
Albert S. Chappellear III '56  
Alexander H. Easley '56  
Franklin M. Elliott '56  
Isabelle V. Haeseler '56  
James N. McCutcheon '56  
Otto Schneider '56, '67  
Owen C. Thomas '56  
F. Benjamin Carr '57  
H. Dana Fearon III '57  
Hugh F. Hardin, Jr. '57  
Seth W. Newton '57  
Arden Brock Yakimow '57  
John W. Ackerman '58  
William Edward Farley '58  
Paul Leroy Kerlee '58  
J. Robert Meyners '58  
John G. Truitt, Jr. '58  
Kunnath V. Varkey '58  
Herbert D. White '58  
RoseMarie Schutte Wildman '58  
Coleman Barr Brown '59, '79  
John Dyson Cannon '59  
Hal H. Hargreaves '59  
Joseph L. Roberts, Jr. '59  
Robert Suydam Borden '60  
Charles E. Lange '60  
David R. Lewis '60  
J. Ralph Marshall '60

Peyton L. Palmore '60  
Ralph S. Carpenter '61  
Donald F. Jensen '61  
Charles R. Zweizig, Jr. '61  
Robert S. Magee '62  
Richard J. Wood '62  
James L. Boeringer '63  
Clifford C. Schrupp '63  
John Frederick Woolverton '63  
Mary Fisher Andrews '64  
Leo J. McDonald '64  
Monroe Peaston '64  
Richard Reid '64  
Richard W. Carlson '65  
Roger W. Freudigman '65  
Donald N. Oberdorfer '65  
John F. Chappell '66  
Jerry K. Fisher '66  
Leslie Douglas Fullerton '66, '66  
John R. Sharp '66  
David Alden Steere '66  
Lloyd August Svendsbye '66  
Almus M. Thorp, Jr. '66  
Marcus J. Borg '67  
James L. Anderson '67  
Harold E. Decker Charles '67  
Roy L. Horton '67  
Daniel H. Krichbaum '67  
William P. Epke '68  
Sidney D. Skirvin '68  
Robert L. Barrows '70  
Samuel Kelton Roberts '70, '75  
Gordon Dicker '71  
Elva E. Manuel-Douthat '71  
Joan C. Bender '73  
Clyde Barrington Holloway '74  
Holland L. Hendrix '75, '75  
Madeline L. McDonald '78  
Jonathan E. Currier '84  
Paul William Bradley '02

**FACULTY, STAFF, TRUSTEES,  
AND FRIENDS OF UNION**

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Marie C. Ackerman  
Mary L. Clifford  
Frank J. Coyle  
Doris Denning  
Ollie G. Friou  
Doris Bennett Haring  
Stephen Hayner  
J. Louis Martyn  
Sally Dallam McAlpin  
Dorothy Haughey Miller  
Anne E. Mouer  
Elizabeth "Betty" Bull Noyes  
John G. Pack  
Rene A. Pingeon  
Jerome M. Pollack  
Robert P. Richardson, Jr.  
William H. Scheide  
Katharine C. Shinn  
James D. Skillen  
George Stevens  
Karl W. Switzer  
Gardner C. Taylor  
Frances Thompson  
D. Alexander Tyree  
Ned E. Weller  
John C. Whitehead  
Stephen A. Wise

## Union Mourns

**Katharine C. Shinn**

*Wife of Reinhold Niebuhr Professor Emeritus of  
Social Ethics, Roger L. Shinn*

[unon.in/unnews45](http://unon.in/unnews45)

**The Rev. Gardner C. Taylor**

*Union Medalist 1984*

[nyti.ms/1fGauQL](http://nyti.ms/1fGauQL)

**The Rev. Dr. Joseph L. Roberts, Jr., M.Div. 1959**

*Unitas Distinguished Alumnus 2004*

[on-ajc.com/1hf1C5v](http://on-ajc.com/1hf1C5v)

**The Rev. Malcolm Boyd, S.T.M. 1956**

*Unitas Distinguished Alumnus 2005*

[nyti.ms/1Ppyrpe](http://nyti.ms/1Ppyrpe)

**Dr. James Louis Martyn**

*Edward Robinson Professor Emeritus of Biblical Theology*

[unon.in/loumartyn](http://unon.in/loumartyn)

**Dr. Holland Lee Hendrix, M.Div. and S.T.M. 1975**

*President Emeritus of Union*

[utsnyc.edu/?p=1928](http://utsnyc.edu/?p=1928)

**The Rev. Sidney D. Skirvin, part. 1968**

*former Dean of Seminary Life*

[unon.in/unnews45](http://unon.in/unnews45)



The Union Quad, because of the Facilities Staff's wonderful care, is enjoyed by the Seminary community, including a mother duck and her brood of 11 ducklings.

# UNION DAYS OCTOBER 8-9, 2015



2014 UNITAS HONOREES, L-R: Katherine Henderson '82, Marge Pols '64, Calvin Butts '75, and Anne Elliott '91 wearing their Union alum baseball caps!

Union Days, the annual two-day gathering that brings Union alumni/ae back to campus for stimulating presentations, conversation, and sharing the latest Seminary news, will take place on Thursday, October 8 and Friday, October 9, 2015. The theme this year is **“Why We Still Can’t Wait: Race Matters, Earth Matters,”** and the featured plenary speakers are Womanist theologian Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas '82, author most recently of *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God*, and Dr. Robert Jones, CEO of Public Religion Research Institute and the author of the forthcoming *The End of White Christian America*.

All alums and their guests are welcome, most especially graduates from the Classes of 1965, 1990, and 2005, who will be celebrating their 50th, 25th, and 10th anniversaries respectively. To register for Union Days, please go to the Union website or contact Kevin McGee at 212-280-1590 or [kmcgee@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:kmcgee@uts.columbia.edu) with any questions.

**Union Days 2014** concluded with the Unitas ceremony and a banquet to honor four distinguished alums, pictured above left.

The Seminary Community is very grateful to the members of the Class of 1964. The photo at left is of reunion attendees in October 2014. Class members, who, encouraged by a lead gift of \$50,000 made by Wyndham Anderson '64 and his wife, Huldah, collectively raised a total of \$46,841.23 during the anniversary year! This gift has established an emergency fund to assist students who find themselves in unexpected financial distress. In addition, the Class of 1964 gift also covered the cost of installing an automated door at the Seminary's main entrance, which guarantees accessibility to members for the Seminary and wider community. **!**



THE CLASS OF 1964, FRONT ROW, L-R: Wyndham Anderson, John Pecoul, Jack W. Jones, Linda Brebner, Marge Pols, George McClain, Helen Fischer Andrew, Margaret Cooley Hsaio, Carolyn Childs Shadle; BACK ROW, L-R: Thomas Stiers, Lee McReynolds, Barnett Shepherd, John Sallstrom, James Daugherty, Thomas Laws, Martin Lehfeltd

**Register online for Union Days 2015:**  
[utsnyc.edu/uniondays2015/registration](http://utsnyc.edu/uniondays2015/registration)

# UNION

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## WOMEN OF SPIRIT LECTURE 2016

On April 13, Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, climate scientist, communicator, and educator, will give the 2016 Judith Davidson Moyers Women of Spirit lecture at Union. Please watch your e-mail for the date registration will open, expected in early March 2016.

PHOTO: Ashley Rodgers



Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow* delivered the annual Women of Spirit Lecture on March 4, 2015. View the lecture in its entirety at [utsnyc.edu/michellealexanderlive](http://utsnyc.edu/michellealexanderlive).