

HENDERSON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

FAITHFUL AND FLEXIBLE:

Empowering Church Leaders for Emerging Possibilities



Featuring
The Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger

Sept. 19-20, 2025

Gain the tools and insights to navigate disruption, build resilient teams, and lead transformative change in your congregation with both conviction and creativity.

www.pts.edu/henderson-2025



Office of Continuing Education and the Neighborhood Collaborative

The **Office of Continuing Education** at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary offers theologically reflective and contextually relevant educational opportunities to empower you and the communities you serve. Through lectures, conferences, non-credit classes, and workshops both in person and online, and collegial learning groups, there is a diverse community of formation in which to grow vocationally and spiritually.



The **Neighborhood Collaborative** combines multiple programs at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to connect the learned theology of the academy with the lived theology of church and society to form present and future Christian leaders in service to their contexts.

The Collaborative offers certificate programs and non-degree educational offerings to a wide audience through collaboration of multiple departments including: Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry, Office of Continuing Education, Faith Forming Families Network, Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology, Metro-Urban Institute, Miller Summer Youth Institute, and World Mission Initiative.

Welcome to the Henderson Lecture and Leadership Conference



Hello, Neighbor! As the director of Continuing Education at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, my planning is guided by one question: “What do today’s Christian leaders most need?” This year’s Henderson Lecture and Leadership Conference is one attempt to answer that question. With the Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger as our keynote lecturer and teacher, and a packed Saturday of practical workshops, we hope that all the ministry leaders gathered with us—lay and clergy, paid and volunteer—will gain tools and insights to navigate disruption, build resilient teams, and lead transformative change in their congregation with

both conviction and creativity.

On Friday, Dr. Bolsinger will lead two sessions applicable to both lay and clergy ministry leaders: “How Not to Waste a Crisis: Leadership in an Age of Disruption” and “From Trust to Transformation: Building a Team to Go Off the Map.” He will also deliver a free public lecture, “The (Unexpected) and Most Important Aspect of Leadership.” Saturday is “Worship and Workshops” day, featuring inspiring worship and practical workshops sure to equip your congregation and its leaders with skills and knowledge for today’s rapidly changing contexts.

At every step of the planning for this Conference, I’ve been praying that God would lead you here for these days of learning. Now, I’m praying that you’ll find the insight and encouragement you need to go back to your congregation and lead faithfully into tomorrow’s unknown challenges and opportunities. Thanks for being with us this weekend!

The Rev. Erik Hoeke
Director of Continuing Education

Schedule

Friday, September 19

All presentations will be livestreamed and recorded unless otherwise stated.

Check In/Registration – 12:00-1:00 p.m.; Location: Knox Room, Long Hall

Session 1 with Tod Bolsinger – 1:00-2:15 p.m.; Location: Knox Room, Long Hall
How Not To Waste a Crisis: Leadership in an Age of Disruption

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/99069478459?pwd=XefVNjoilMaPgpyUo8ey0UKgb9Qrlu.1>

Webinar ID: 990 6947 8459 Passcode: 959751

Break – 2:15-2:45 p.m.

Session 2 with Tod Bolsinger – 2:45-4:00 p.m.; Location: Knox Room, Long Hall
From Trust to Transformation: Building a Team to Go Off the Map

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/99069478459?pwd=XefVNjoilMaPgpyUo8ey0UKgb9Qrlu.1>

Webinar ID: 990 6947 8459 Passcode: 959751

Happy Hour Networking – 4:00-5:00 p.m.; Location: Kadel Dining Room, McNaugher Hall

The Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology will also be available to visit (located on the ground floor of Long Hall).

Dinner* – 5:00-6:30 p.m.; Location: Kadel Dining Room, McNaugher Hall

**For full conference registrants*

Gathering Praise Music – 6:15-6:30 p.m.; Location: Chapel Sanctuary, Hicks Chapel

Henderson Lecture with Tod Bolsinger – 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Location: Sanctuary, Hicks Chapel

The (Unexpected) and Most Important Aspect of Leadership

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/92409086513?pwd=LeNY0WIKyQxsB4JJDfVUIfrK6y1UYI.1>

Webinar ID: 924 0908 6513 Passcode: 462616

Reception and Book Signing – 8:00-9:00 p.m.; Location: Chapel Lounge, Hicks Chapel

Saturday, September 20

All presentations will be livestreamed and recorded unless otherwise stated.

Breakfast – 8:00-9:00 a.m.; Location: Knox Room, Long Hall

Opening Worship – 9:00-9:45 a.m.; Location: Knox Room (live stream only)
Preacher: The Rev. Ross Pryor, Connellsville and Washington Districts
Superintendent, WPAUMC

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/99069478459?pwd=XefVNjoilMaPgpyUo8ey0UKgb9Qrlu.1>

Webinar ID: 990 6947 8459 Passcode: 959751

Break – 9:45-10:00 a.m.

Workshops A* – 10:00-11:30 a.m.; Location: Long Hall

Lunch – 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; Location: Kadel Dining Room, McNaugher Hall

Workshops B* – 12:30-2:00 p.m.; Locations: Long Hall

Break – 2:00-2:15 p.m.

Workshops C* – 2:15-3:45 p.m.; Locations: Long Hall

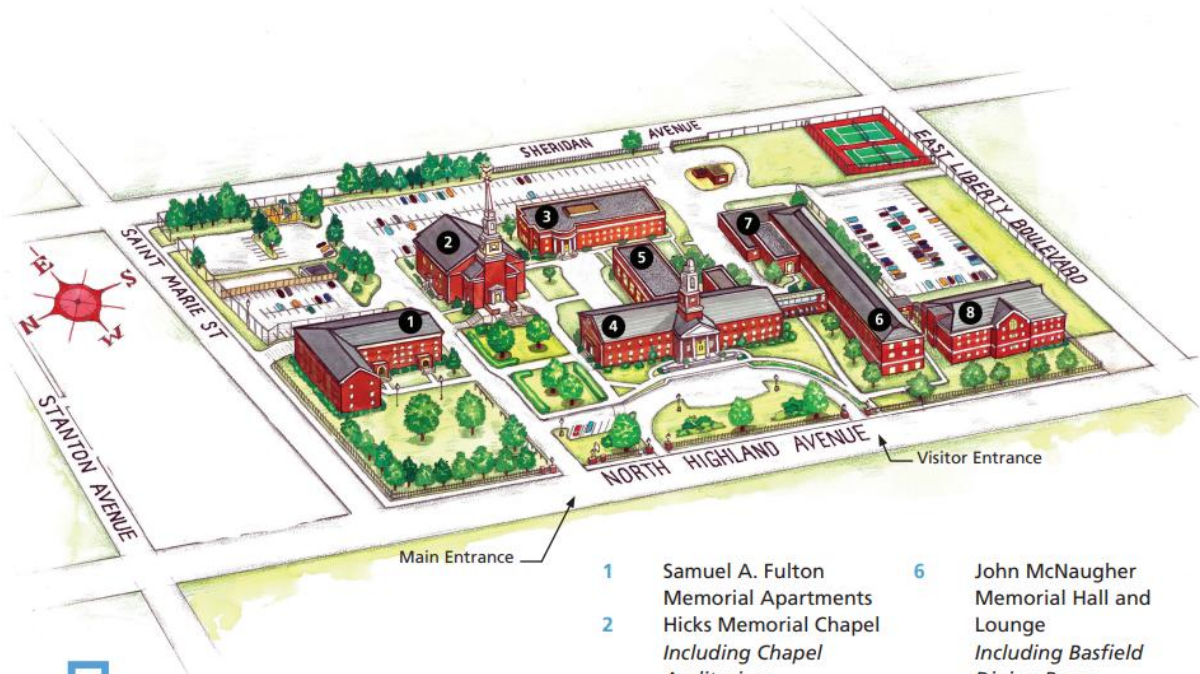
Closing Worship – 3:45-4:15 p.m.; Location: Knox Room, Long Hall

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/99069478459?pwd=XefVNjoilMaPgpyUo8ey0UKgb9Qrlu.1>

Webinar ID: 990 6947 8459 Passcode: 959751

*Please see page 9 for more detailed information on the Saturday workshops.

Campus Map



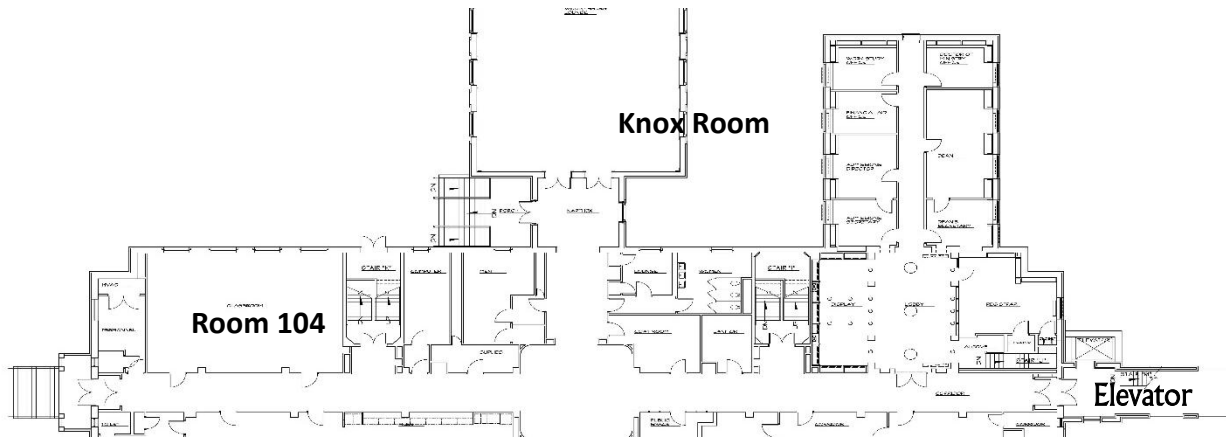
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|--|---|
| 1 Samuel A. Fulton Memorial Apartments | 6 John McNaugher Memorial Hall and Lounge |
| 2 Hicks Memorial Chapel Including Chapel Auditorium | 7 Including Basfield Dining Room |
| 3 Clifford E. Barbour Library | 8 President's Dining Room |
| 4 George A. Long Hall Including Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology | Starr Dining Room |
| 5 John Knox Room | Small Dining Room |
| | William H. Kadel Dining Room |
| | Calian Residence Hall |

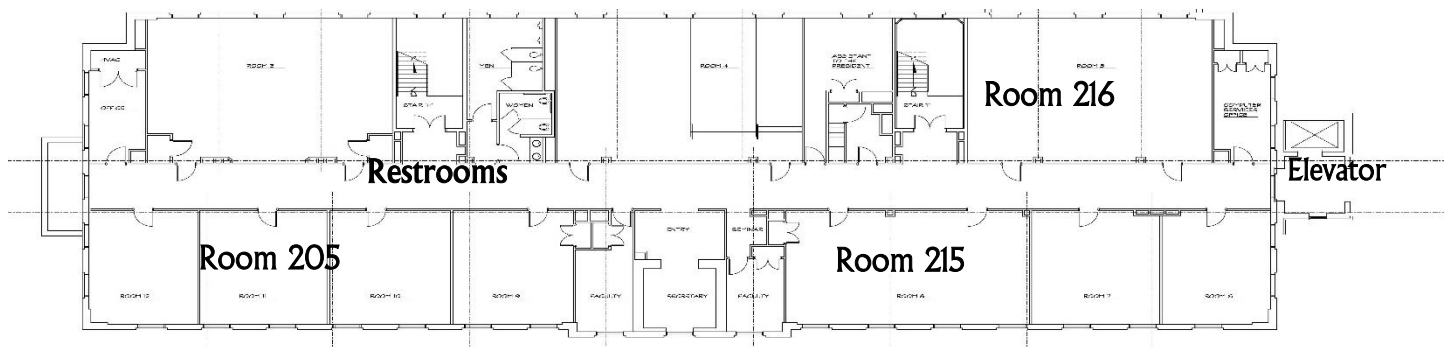
Campus Map (continued)

Room Map – Long Hall 1st Floor



→
Breezeway to Kadel Dining Hall

Room Map – Long Hall 2nd Floor



Henderson Lecture with Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger: *The (Unexpected) and Most Important Aspect of Leadership*

This session is both profoundly personal and unexpectedly universal—but very few leaders have ever been taught about it at all. In this lecture we will take a clear-eyed look at what Edwin Friedman called "The most important aspect of leadership," and how to prepare for it, and be ready to respond faithfully. Whether you are exercising leadership within your family, community, church, organization, or even corporation or nation, the key to effective leadership that unlocks deep transformation starts here.



The Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger is the co-founder and principal of AE Sloan Leadership Inc., an executive coaching and consulting firm that works with church, non-profit, university, and marketplace leaders in leading change. He is also the executive director of the DePree Center Church Leadership Institute, a senior fellow of the De Pree Center for Leadership, associate professor of leadership formation at Fuller Theological Seminary, was the founder of the Fuller Leadership Platform, and served as a vice president of Fuller Seminary for six years. Prior to his educational career, he served as a pastor for 27 years. Dr. Bolsinger has written several books about leadership, including *Canoeing the Mountains*, *Tempered Resilience*, and the *Practicing Change Series* consisting of four succinct and actionable leadership books.

Worship Service

The Rev. Ross Pryor

Ross Pryor is the conference superintendent for the Connellsville and Washington Districts of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the UMC. Ross holds an associate's degree in business management from the Community College of Allegheny County, a bachelor's degree in sociology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a master of divinity from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Ross has held numerous leadership positions in the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference and has been involved with Men's Ministry on the national level since 2014. Ross is passionate about his work to empower servant leaders to carry out God's will in the church and throughout the community, and enjoys walking alongside followers of Christ on their faith journey. He has a heart for discipleship and strives to have the people of God take their place in the Body of Christ.



Workshops

All workshops will be livestreamed and recorded unless otherwise stated. All workshops will be held in Long Hall.

Workshops A: 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Importance of Self-Care for Servant Leaders – Room 104

Presenter: Sister Maria Clara Kreis, CDP, Ph.D., L.P., Sisters of Divine Providence

Online: No (in person only)

Description: At this workshop, we will reflect on our current commitment to self-care so that we can determine, if, where, and how we would like to strengthen and sustain and/or make realistic and concrete changes as we seek to implement and sustain authentic self-care strategies.

Period Positive Church – Room 215

Presenter: The Rev. Karie Charlton '08, PCUSA Minister, USA Special Projects Coordinator for Days for Girls International

Description: This session explores how the period positive workplace movement could inform the ways churches hold space for people with periods. Period positive practices provide ways churches can acknowledge that we are more than souls and brains. We can honor and recognize our real bodies, creating safe and welcoming space for our community.

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/95562154509?pwd=0cJaAz4D9frEtZEwttYa7lkiGwiSxb.1>

Meeting ID: 955 6215 4509 Passcode: 230486

Ethical Decision Making for Christian Leaders – Room 216

Presenter: Dr. Vannessa Bush, Lecturer and Social Work Field Placement Director, Grove City College Coordinator for Days for Girls International

Description: This workshop explores the intersection of Christian faith and ethical decision-making, specifically for leaders. It will cover biblical foundations for ethics, common ethical dilemmas faced by Christian leaders, and a framework for navigating these challenges with wisdom, integrity, and faith-based discernment.

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/97924359726?pwd=LCRzpOTwUPTqIRQsMwtPFSp2uTTARp.1>

Meeting ID: 979 2435 9726 Passcode: 201018

Programming at the Intersection of Innovation and Necessity – Room 204

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Nichelle Nelson '05, Vice President of Programs at YWCA Greater Pittsburgh, Associate Minister at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church

Description: This workshop is designed to explore the assets and liabilities of Program/Ministry Development and Management. Often we recognize a community need or feel the leading of God to take programming/ministry in a certain direction. What we are left to then discern is how, with whom, and with what resources. This workshop addresses the practical elements of Program/Ministry Development and Management that feed the ground of innovation.

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/97679277917?pwd=tKvHWNSX75bv1DHY6t51Xlr4jeY2KS.>

Meeting ID: 976 7927 7917 Passcode: 718767

Workshops B: 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Resetting the Circuit: Answering the Call to Lay Leadership – Room 104

Presenter: Erica Rushing, Communications and Publications Director, The Fellowship of Worship Artists

Description: In this workshop, designed for clergy and laity, we will discuss the role of laity in our church systems; identify common obstacles to fully integrating laity into the life and leadership of the church; and brainstorm ways to help lay members discern their call to use their own unique array of God-given gifts to worship God and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/97776795075?pwd=KEXGQVC2esiZRqxjciHvaanQwjB6p.1>

Meeting ID: 977 7679 5075 Passcode: 730463

Leveraging Location: From Burden to Blessing in Historic Churches – Room 216

Presenter: The Rev. Anthony Hita '13, Principal, Archway Preservation, United Methodist Minister

Description: Many historic churches are held by congregations rich in legacy but uncertain how to steward their space for the future. This interactive workshop helps church leaders reframe their spaces as assets rather than burdens. Through case studies, practical tools, and theological reflection, participants will explore how mindset, not money, is often the biggest barrier to renewal and will be equipped with exercises and tools to begin thinking practically on how to manage their aging properties.

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/94977760581?pwd=eP2HQi93B17abuEeMj2bdh8Y16HpVI.1>

Meeting ID: 949 7776 0581 Passcode: 063641

Invitational Ministry in Small Places – Room 215

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Charles Cotheman '06, Executive Director of the Center on Rural Ministry at Grove City College, Pastor at Oil City Vineyard Church

Description: This workshop will identify the opportunities and challenges in each context and build a network of other pastors and lay leaders who care about rural and small-town congregations.

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/99450258440?pwd=ghIWuhJVzL49SzIK43psg55brtp2j7.1>

Meeting ID: 994 5025 8440 Passcode: 692940

Leading with the Spirit: Transforming Church Leadership – Room 204

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Joan Prentice '11, Pastor and Director of the Ephesus Project

Description: This workshop is designed for current and emerging church leaders who yearn to infuse spiritual depth into their work. Together, we will explore how spiritual practices and intentional discernment can transform routine committee meetings into meaningful acts of worship and discipleship—weaving worship, reflection and discernment into the fabric of church leadership.

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/93508721161?pwd=aavJw5ZYEkkoY25D6tpP4JfSAWqY2.1>

Meeting ID: 935 0872 1161 Passcode: 779498

Workshops C: 2:15-3:45 p.m.

Inclusion IS Worship: Making Space for People with Disabilities – Room 216

Presenter: Hunter Steinitz '22, Co-Moderator, Presbyterians for Disability Concerns

Description: During this workshop, participants will explore the presence of disability within our Scriptures and consider how we interpret those narratives in our modern world. We will then share some strategies for making your congregation a disability friendly space for everyone to share their God-given talents with the Body of Christ.

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/92612673202?pwd=dSKHTSXvvyPbghiFJ9cHT2qpOnWxjP.1>

Meeting ID: 926 1267 3202 Passcode: 622645

The Anxious Perfectionist: Managing the Stress Within – Room 215

Presenter: Dr. Lisa Hosack, Assistant Dean, Professor of Social Work, Grove City College

Description: Anxiety goes hand-in-hand with leadership. And at low levels, it's a productive companion, leading to conscientiousness and focus. Yet often, leaders experience a level of anxiety — tethered to perfectionistic self-expectations — that paralyzes versus motivates. This workshop will explore the origins of maladaptive perfectionism and practical ways to cultivate the peace of Christ within.

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/91683658756?pwd=39SV5gxigAnlYTyR3TetbKntdHhQK2.1>

Meeting ID: 916 8365 8756 Passcode: 343259

Holy Imagination: The Theology and Spirituality of Strategic Planning – Room 204

Presenters: The Rev. Ralph Lowe '21, Associate Minister for Congregational Support and Justice Ministries and the Rev. Jessica McClure Archer, General Minister of the Pittsburgh Presbytery

Description: Rooted in theological and spiritual discernment, this workshop will help church leaders approach strategic planning with faith and spiritual discernment. Participants will explore how planning for the future is not just a practical task, but a deeply theological and communal act. Through guided reflection, honest conversations, and practical tools, this workshop will equip you to ask courageous questions, listen for the Spirit's movement, and align the church's mission with God's unfolding vision. Ideal for congregations discerning their next chapter with hope, clarity, and integrity.

Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/97290241804?pwd=MfMaG3KIYoDZjiivGWwVnasJJVHxak.1>

Meeting ID: 972 9024 1804 Passcode: 581140

~~CANCELED: Resetting the Circuit: Answering the Call to Lay Leadership – Room 104~~

~~Presenter: Erica Rushing, Communications and Publications Director, The Fellowship of Worship Artists~~

~~Description: In this workshop for clergy and laity, we will discuss the role of laity in our church systems; identify common obstacles to fully integrating laity into the life and leadership of the church; and brainstorm ways to help lay members discern their call to use their own unique array of God-given gifts to worship God and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.~~

~~Zoom: <https://pts.zoom.us/j/96275641053?pwd=J5kfuaA14OjuBlude2BL0JfZeFCEaR.1>~~

~~Meeting ID: 962 7564 1053 Passcode: 749507~~

Workshop Presenters



The Rev. Karie Charlton '08

The Rev. Karie Ann Charlton is a PCUSA pastor, writer, and menstrual health advocate. She volunteers as the USA special projects coordinator for Days for Girls International, managing the PA Collection Point inventory and filling orders for menstrual product distribution.

The Rev. Dr. Charles Cotherman '12

The Rev. Dr. Charles E. Cotherman is executive director of the Center for Rural Ministry and an assistant professor of biblical and theological studies at Grove City College. He is also a pastor at Oil City Vineyard, a church he and his wife, Aimee '11, had the privilege of planting in 2016. He has written on rural ministry, church planting, and history for a variety of publications including *Evangelicals*, *Modern Reformation*, *Front Porch Republic*, and *Plough*. He is the author of *To Think Christianly* (IVP Academic) and a contributing editor of *Sent to Flourish: Guide to Planting and Multiplying Churches* (IVP Academic). He is currently working on a book on entitled *Strip Mine Jesus: Hope for the Rural Church, Small Towns, and Overlooked Places* (Baker, forthcoming in 2026).



The Rev. Anthony R.C. Hita '13

The Rev. Anthony R.C. Hita, PM-AIC is a professional architectural conservator specializing in vernacular architecture and historical masonry and an ordained elder in the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. A graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (2013) and the University of Pennsylvania (2018), he served in parish ministry for five years before receiving a call to historic preservation during his ordination pilgrimage to England in 2015. Since 2018, he has worked on the preservation of dozens of historical sites across the United States and abroad. The Rev. Hita is principal of Archway Preservation and manages the conservation laboratory at LimeWorks.us. He is a professional member of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) and an active participant in ASTM International.

Dr. Lisa Hosack

Dr. Lisa Hosack is an assistant dean and professor of social work at Grove City Colleg. She holds a PhD in social work from Michigan State University and is licensed as a clinical social worker in Pennsylvania. Dr. Hosack has published a faith-based textbook, *Development on Purpose*, as well as numerous peer-reviewed articles related to her research in vulnerable narcissism, child welfare, and street children in Liberia.



Sister Maria Clara Kreis, CDP, Ph.D., L.P.

Dr. Maria Clara Kreis is a Sister of Divine Providence and a licensed psychologist in Pennsylvania. She holds a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Marquette University. Her previous ministerial experiences include positions at Chatham University and Duquesne University. Dr. Kreis is the author of the Life Satisfaction Scale for Apostolic Women Religious (LSSAWR), which has been translated into multiple languages and has resulted in published academic work in peer-reviewed journals that has been shared worldwide. Dr. Kreis has extensive clinical experience as a clinician in both the United States and Canada.



The Rev. Ralph Lowe '21

As part of the leadership for the Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Rev. Lowe serves as the associate minister for congregational support and justice ministries. In this role, Ralph provides leadership in justice ministries dismantling barriers preventing truth, justice, and reconciliation as well as guidance for churches through transition and congregational vitality.

The Rev. Jessica McClure Archer

The Rev. Jessica McClure Archer serves as the general minister of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, where she brings her wisdom and experience as a pastor to bear as she helps imagine and lead the presbytery to strengthen and support the mission and ministry of its 120 individual congregations, new worshiping communities, and other fresh expressions of the church. Working with presbytery leadership and staff, she is shepherding a new strategic plan to increase the vitality and relevancy of faith communities and the capacity of ministry leaders to pastor in today's world. The Rev. McClure Archer's primary responsibility is to provide leadership for Pittsburgh Presbytery's mission and vision and to direct the Presbytery staff.



The Rev. Dr. Nichelle Nelson '05

The Rev. Dr. Nichelle Nelson is a native of Wilmington, DE and completed her undergraduate studies in psychology at the University of Delaware. She also possesses an MDiv degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and an MSW degree from the University of Pittsburgh. In 2017 she earned her doctorate in preaching and church transformation from Drew University. The Rev. Dr. Nelson is bi-vocational, currently serving as an associate minister at Mount Ararat Baptist Church and vice president of programs at YWCA Greater Pittsburgh. The Rev. Dr. Nelson has earned several awards in the fields of social work, education, and ministry. She has served communities locally and globally, striving to serve with excellence and positive impact.



The Rev. Dr. Joan Prentice '05, '11

The Rev. Dr. Joan Prentice serves as the executive director and pastor of The Ephesus Project, a nonprofit ministry that provides a distinctly Christian environment of spiritual and educational excellence for those looking to experience relevant and empowering ministry that transforms lives and builds leaders and communities. Dr. Prentice's work emphasizes deepening faith through contemplative practices. She is the author of *The Contemplative Healing Retreat* and a certified leader of S.E.E.L. (Spiritual Exercises for Everyday Life). She also has developed and implemented workshops and retreats that employ contemplative practices customized for individual ministries.



Erica Rushing

Erica Rushing is the director of communications and publications for The Fellowship of Worship Artists (formerly The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts). She also serves as content consultant for IV-CHARIS, a non-profit providing trauma healing through music science and art. Before moving West, she served as ministry coordinator at Edinboro UMC in Edinboro, Pa. Erica is a lay person in the Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church, an avid traveler, outdoor enthusiast, and John Wesley nerd.

Hunter Steinitz '22

Hunter Steinitz, MDiv. is a candidate for ordination under care of Pittsburgh Presbytery, and ruling elder at Riverview United Presbyterian Church (Pittsburgh, Pa.). She is also a contributor to *The Presbyterian Outlook* and disabled self-advocate. Hunter is the oldest woman in the United States with her rare genetic skin condition, and she advocates for the diverse beauty of all beloved people made in the Image of God.



Dr. Vanessa Vassar-Bush

Dr. Vassar-Bush received her BSW at Shepherd University. She then earned an MSW from West Virginia University and a doctorate in healthcare ethics from Duquesne University. Her research is focused on the effects of culture on giving and receiving medicine, sexual ethics among cultures, and the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder on teenage girls. She is the current director of field education and part-time lecturer at Grove City College in the Department of Social Work. She has over 30 years of social work experience, including medical social work, long-term care, juvenile delinquency, adoption, and post-adoption.

About The J. Hubert Henderson Lectures and Conference

The J. Hubert Henderson Lectures and Leadership Conference on Church and Ministry is an annual scholarly event held at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to educate, inspire, and equip both clergy and laity for the work of ministry in contemporary contexts. In 1982 the family of the Rev. Dr. J. Hubert “Hub” Henderson established an endowment in memory and recognition of his contributions to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, the Church, and the wider community. The Rev. Dr. J. Hubert Henderson was a graduate of Muskingum College and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and served as the pastor of Wallace

Memorial Presbyterian Church in Greentree, Pa. from 1944 until his retirement in 1979. He also served on the Board of Directors at PTS for 27 years, including serving as president of the Board for part of that time. Rev. Dr. Henderson is known for having taught a deep commitment to the church to a steady flow of seminarians who came to do their field education at Wallace Memorial PC, as well as to the congregation there who loved him.



We are grateful for the Henderson family, including his children (pictured above, L-R: Dick Henderson '72, Marge Johnston, Bob Henderson, Tom Henderson-d. 2021) and their families who from the beginning have actively participated in the planning of each year's lectures and conference and attend almost every year. The Henderson family's continued generosity and support has built a 41 year legacy of highly accomplished and well-known scholars and speakers coming here to Pittsburgh Seminary through this lecture series.



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