

CHIMES

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*Creative,
visionary
ministries
are born here
and change
the world
as they grow*



SPECIAL EDITION

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for the
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Innovating Ministry

*New SFTS Center launch
brings together best
and brightest in
contemporary Church*



San Francisco
Theological Seminary



Chimes is a biannual publication of San Francisco Theological Seminary (105 Seminary Road, San Anselmo, California, 94960, 415.451.2800), a nonprofit corporation conducting a theological seminary solely consecrated to educating suitable persons for the offices and work of Christian service. *Chimes* is distributed without charge to alumni/ae, pastors, friends, and constituents of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Total circulation is 6,500 and we also offer *Chimes* online. SFTS does not discriminate on the basis of gender, age, race, color, physical disability, or national and ethnic origin in its educational programs, student activities, employment, admission policies, in the administration of its scholarship and loan programs, or in any other school-administered programs. This policy complies with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service Procedure 321-1, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments as amended and enforced by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

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Welcome to a new *Chimes*

This fall marks an exciting time at San Francisco Theological Seminary. The Center for Innovation in Ministry launches October 16 with a two-day event, the new M.Div. curriculum is in full swing, and construction on a new student village and faculty housing has begun.

And to top it off, we are embracing a brand new look.

In fact, there is so much happening at the Seminary that a special edition of *Chimes* is in order.

In the following pages, you'll read about the symbolism behind your Seminary's new look, the details of the Center for Innovation in Ministry's launch, a reflection on the March on Selma 50 years later, an update on campus construction, and a profile of our new Alumni/ae Mosaic Initiative Chair, the Rev. Dr. Herbert D. Valentine.

We hope you enjoy this special issue of *Chimes*!

**With blessings, grace, and peace
from the SFTS campus**



San Francisco Theological Seminary

Behind the New Look: *In Christ. A New Creation.*

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

One of the clearest ways we can express the new creation taking place at San Francisco Theological Seminary is through a new way of presenting the Seminary visually. A re-imagined logo and refreshed seal propel us visually into the 21st century and at the same time keep us rooted in our almost 150-year history.

What does the new logo mean? The symbolism behind the Seminary's new logo conveys and confirms the importance of history, Christian roots, and theological education.

The new logo and seal will accompany a re-design of all print and electronic publications, as well as a brand new SFTS website.

We hope you join us in our excitement!

NEW LOGO & SEAL

The torch and flame come from the Seminary's historical seal, and symbolize the pursuit of knowledge and truth. They have been redrawn to appear simpler, stronger, and more contemporary.

The three-part flame represents the Holy Trinity.

The marquee shape is found in the stained-glass windows of Stewart Chapel, and reminds us of our close bond to the Seminary's campus, and the beauty of its historical architecture.



The cross in the torch references the center of the Christian gospel, confirming the Seminary's historical roots in the Christian faith.



NEW MISSION VISION

Moved by God's love in Jesus Christ, San Francisco Theological Seminary prepares women and men for transformational ministries of justice, peace and healing, which advance the church's hopeful, loving engagement with the world.

As an ecumenical Christian graduate school, we offer a rigorous education, focused on critical theological reflection that equips graduates from all walks of life to meet the urgent needs of our times through both time-honored and innovative ministries.

Founded in 1871, and rooted in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), SFTS values dialogue and engagement with other religions and faith traditions. Our grounding in the Reformed tradition fosters faith-filled engagement in public life and service to others.

Located on the Pacific Rim and inspired by the diverse global expressions of Christian faith, we partner with educational institutions throughout the world to enrich our program and expand our understanding of God's redemptive work in human history.

SFTS is a founding member of the Graduate Theological Union, a consortium of Protestant and Catholic theological schools in the San Francisco Bay Area. SFTS students take classes at all the GTU seminaries as well as the GTU's centers and affiliates for the study of Judaism, Buddhism, Islam and other world religions.

Center for Innovation in MINISTRY

Launch

**THURSDAY,
OCT. 16, 2014**

11:00am: Check-in

12:30pm: Creative Worship

with Dr. Marcia McFee

1:30pm: Collaboratory 1 with Dr. Mary Hess, Derrick Kikuchi, the Rev. Sarah Moore-Nokes, and Jane McGonigal will explore the intersection of hunger, education, ministry, and technology.

4:00pm: Collaboratory 2 with the Rev. Byron Bland, Nane Alejandrez, the Rev. Ernest Jackson, and Jane McGonigal will explore the topics of violence and conflict resolution.

5:30pm: Dinner and Conversation

7:00pm: Keynote address

by Jane McGonigal

8:30pm: Theological Response

by Dr. Mary Hess

**FRIDAY,
OCT. 17, 2014**

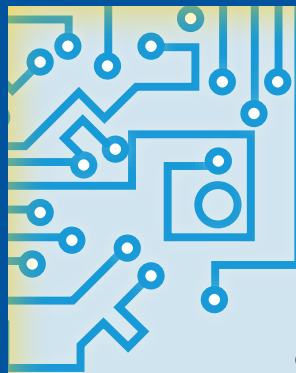
7:45am: Embodied Prayer

8:00am: Breakfast

8:30am – 12:15pm: Smallify

Rapid Innovation Lab that builds on Collaboratories, keynote, and theological reflections from Day 1

12:15pm: Closing Prayer



By Rachel Howard

THE CENTER

As people of faith, we know many things to be true: that ministry today is in the midst of radical change; that God's spirit is powerfully and playfully alive in the world; and that coming together with new, diverse, and unlikely partners, as at Pentecost (Acts 2), honors the inclusive nature of the Holy Spirit.

We know that we are constantly invited to join in God's work in ever expansive and creative ways, and that God has given us the intelligence and grace to face whatever challenges we face with fresh eyes.

With this knowledge, we come together at San Francisco Theological Seminary's new Center for Innovation in Ministry to accomplish three important goals: to build the capacity for innovation in the church, to connect innovators to each other, and to connect innovators to the church.

We hope you will join us!

THE LAUNCH

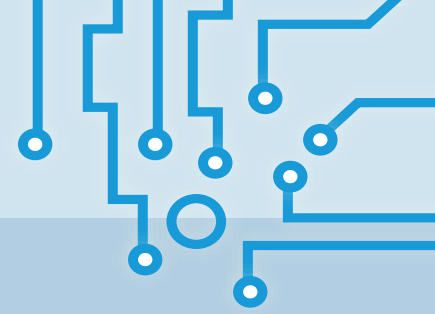
On October 16 and 17, we have the opportunity to join an intelligent and diverse group of experts that hail from the fields of ministry, education, conflict resolution, and technology - all for the benefit of ministry, the church, and the world.

Included in this group is Jane McGonigal, a game designer and researcher at the *Institute for the Future*, who believes the qualities nurtured through gaming can be harnessed by society in positive ways. We have the opportunity to explore this fascinating idea in a ministry context.

Participants should come prepared to strengthen their understanding, stretch academic and emotional boundaries, and test creative ideas for spreading the church's message of justice, peace, and healing.

WATCH JANE MCGONIGAL'S TED TALK

"Gaming can make a better world": tinyurl.com/McGonigalTED



THE LEADERS

The Center launch provides us with a unique opportunity to engage with the following partners:



Jane McGonigal is a visionary game designer and futurist, whose games challenge players to tackle real world problems like poverty, hunger, and climate change through planetary-scale collaboration.

She has created “games for good” for organizations such as the World Bank, the Olympic Games, the American Heart Association, the New York Public Library, and many more. Her book, *Reality Is Broken: How Games Make Us Better and How They Can Change The World*, is a *New York Times* bestseller.



The Rev. Sarah Moore-Nokes is the general presbyter of Winnebago Presbytery in Michigan and Wisconsin. She is the catalyst behind the internet-based ministry Just.Good.Food., a new gardening mission that creates and strengthens partnerships between

community gardens and organizations that provide food for those who are hungry.



The Rev. Byron Bland is associate director of the Stanford Center on Conflict and Negotiations and is an ordained Presbyterian minister and former Stanford chaplain. His recent work concerns the politics of reconciliation in divided societies, and includes

conflict negotiation in Northern Ireland and the Middle East. He holds an M.Div. from SFTS.



Dr. Marcia McFee, who draws on a first career in professional dance and musical theater, and is equipped with a Th.M. and a Ph.D. in Liturgical Studies, understands the role of any ritual artist in the church as that of creating extraordinary portals through which

communities journey with the Spirit. Dr. McFee has designed and led worship for regional, national, and international gatherings of several denominations for the last 20 years.



The Rev. Ernest Jackson earned his Masters of Arts in Theological Studies from San Francisco Theological Seminary and is currently working toward his Doctor of Ministry. He is in his 18th year serving as pastor of Grace Tabernacle Community Church in the

Bayview-Hunter’s Point community in San Francisco, a church that has long been active in social justice issues that affect the local community. He has most recently worked with the Ferguson community in the aftermath of the shooting of Michael Brown.



Dr. Mary Hess is professor of educational leadership and the chair of the Leadership Division at Luther Seminary. She is a Catholic layperson seeking to understand the ways in which religious educators might constructively meet the challenges posed by media culture.

Hess holds a Ph.D. from Boston College, an M.T.S. from Harvard, and a B.A. in American Studies from Yale.



Daniel “Nane” Alejandrez is the founder and executive director of Barrios Unidos, a nation-wide coalition based in Santa Cruz, California, that focuses on youth violence prevention and re-entry opportunities to former prisoners. From the barrio to the United Nations, he has shared successful,

concrete programs that provide youth with alternatives to crime.



Derrick Kikuchi is the owner of Reach and Teach, a peace and social justice learning company dedicated to transforming the world through teachable moments. He designs games that educate people of all ages about civil rights, economic inequity, and end of

life issues. Kikuchi is also a ruling elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto.



Smallify is a Silicon Valley innovation capacity-building firm that has worked with the White House, the University of California, Berkeley, and PBS. It uses rapid innovation labs to teach participants how to break seemingly intractable problems into smaller, actionable solutions.

SELMA

50 YEARS

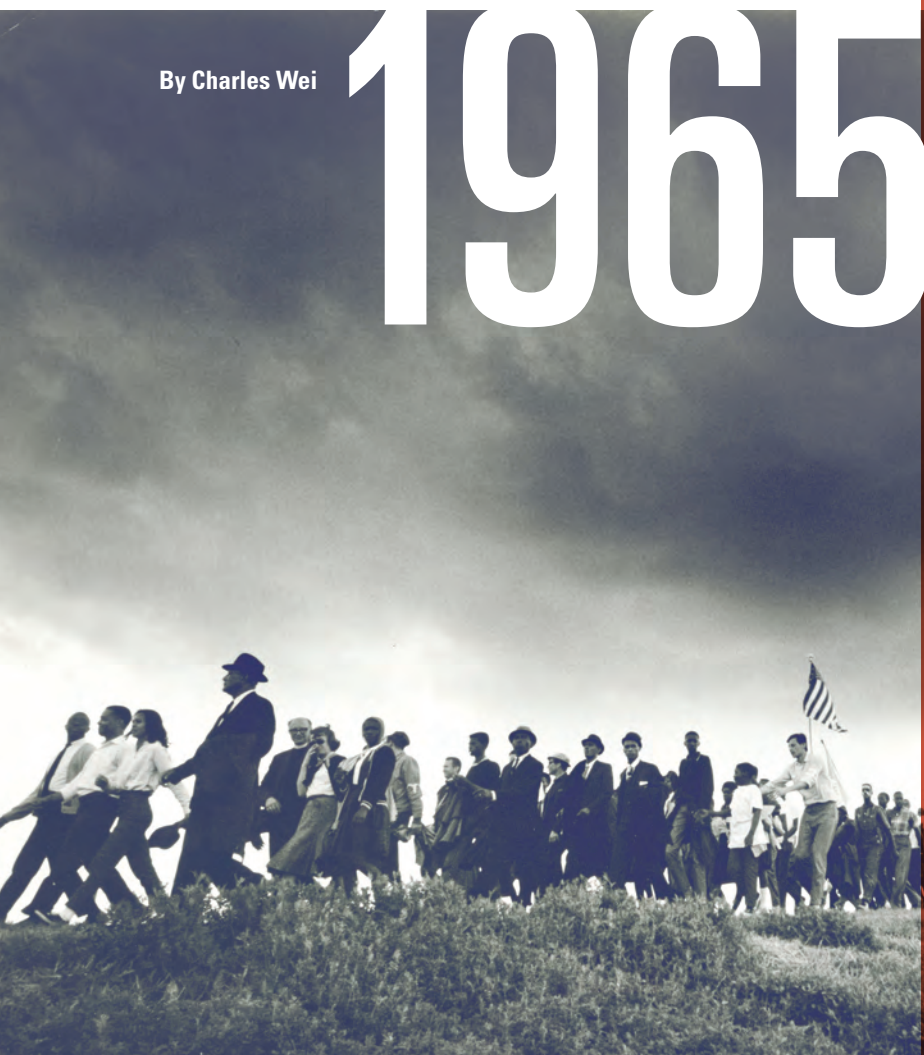


Photo by Steve Schapiro/Corbis

LATER

By Charles Wei

1965



WAS A TRYING TIME FOR OUR NATION.

Tensions were high in the South, as African American citizens struggled to exercise their right to vote. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., had been campaigning for some time to help African Americans register to vote in Selma County, Alabama. >>>



Photo by James H. Karales, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University



Clergy and lay people from all over the United States began to arrive to lend their support, including SFTS student Conrad Knudsen, who borrowed from concerned colleagues to pay for his plane fare. Some of those who went to stand with the protestors were beaten for showing their support. On Wednesday, March 10, 1965, one of those supporters, the Rev. James B. Reed, sustained a head injury that would later prove fatal.

As the events in Selma unfolded, many in the SFTS community felt compelled to join in the struggle. When the general presbyter of the North Coastal Area of the PC(USA) asked that all of the churches in the area send representatives to show support, three SFTS professors immediately began their journey across the country to Selma.

By Thursday, March 18, the Seminary community had collected enough money to send a busload of forty-three SFTS students, Academic Dean Edward V. Stein, and two students from the Pacific School of Religion, to join in the effort. The next day, SFTS President Dr. Theodore Gill, Professor Leonard J. Trinterud, and eight more students flew to Selma to meet those who had traveled cross-country by bus.

The plan was for the large gathering of protestors to march 50 miles from Selma to Montgomery, the Alabama state capital, over the course of 4 days. But because of the danger from snipers' bullets and the inadequate police and military protection, SFTS students were not permitted to march. Instead, they were part of a contingent that would set up and guard the campsites where the marchers would sleep.

In a special issue of *Chimes* published in 1965, President Gill described the students who participated in the march as "serious, biblical, theological, historical students for whom life and faith and doctrine and history suddenly leapt off the page and broke around them." He reflected: "How often had they been urged not to just analyze old words about God, but while doing so to listen for his living word about now?"

Gill was given a special role in the march. He was to walk the entire 50 miles among the front ranks of marchers, which included Jewish theologian Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, civil rights leaders John Lewis and Ralph David Abernathy, Sr., Dr. Ralph Johnson Bunche, and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The march began on Sunday, March 21. Marchers sang while they walked, their voices drowning out the jeers and catcalls coming from behind the line of National Guardsmen along the sides of the road who were protecting the marchers. They marched through pouring rain, singing louder when the rain came down harder and the threats and curses from the roadside became more aggressive.

The march ended on Thursday, March 25, at the steps of the capitol in Montgomery, and ended as it had begun, with a service of prayer and praise. The SFTS seminarians, exhausted but encouraged, reboarded the bus and headed back to San Anselmo.

Present-day tensions in Ferguson, Missouri, are a painful reminder that while as a nation we have come a long way in creating racial justice, there is still much work to be done. The call to act for racial equality, for love, and for the dignity of all of humankind was clear in 1965 and is still clear today.



Photos from 1965 edition of *Chimes*

Top: Students gather in prayer prior to departing for Selma.
Middle: Prof. Arnold B. Come prays with students.
Bottom: Students hold signs for use in the march.

SAVE THE DATE!

Registration for the SFTS commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the March on Selma opens Nov. 1, 2014 at www.sfts.edu.

BUILDING *for the* FUTURE



New Student Village

New Faculty Housing

Student Village building



Faculty home



Building on a nearly 150-year tradition of service and excellence, the San Francisco Theological Seminary campus is being physically transformed to meet the needs of the students, the mission of the seminary, and the church worldwide.

After five years of intensive planning, the seminary began construction on faculty housing and a new student village this past June. Funded through the sale of a small amount of peripheral property, the construction will be completed in time for the beginning of the 2015-2016 academic year.

We invite everyone to view our building plans at tinyurl.com/SFTSConstruction

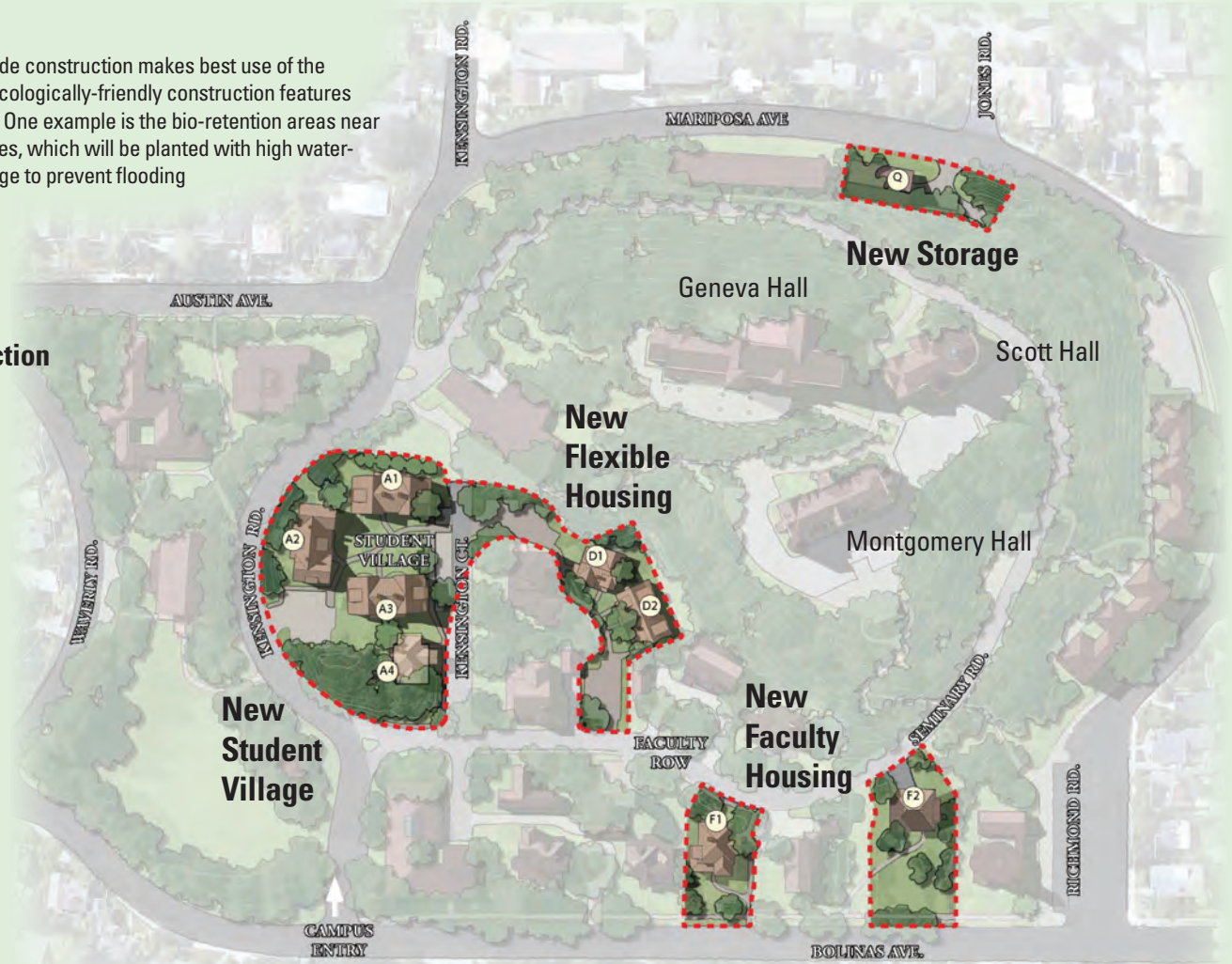
Images courtesy of HartWest

Campus Plan

The campus-wide construction makes best use of the most modern, ecologically-friendly construction features available today. One example is the bio-retention areas near the faculty homes, which will be planted with high water-absorption foliage to prevent flooding



Construction Zones



Student Village Plan



These modern, multi-unit, and multi-bedroom apartments will accommodate the increasing number of students who come to seminary with their families.

Faculty Housing Plan



New townhomes will provide additional on-campus housing for faculty, further integrating faculty and student life.

CHAPTER 1: DESIGNING A MOSAIC FOR MINISTRY

MOSAIC TRIBUTE PROGRAM

T | By James A. Sharpe (M.Div. 2000)

The impact of the San Francisco Theological Seminary community has been immense over the 145-year history of the Seminary. Whether through biblical scholarship, insightful theology, or new understandings of spiritual practice, SFTS has been at the forefront in preparing new pastors for work in the church.

However, the Seminary's full impact comes not only from training women and men to minister in the church, but also from the work done in communities across the nation and the world by those who have studied here. Whether you are an M.Div. student, a D.Min. graduate, or a spiritual director, you are changing the world.

As we continue to build the Seminary for the 21st century and beyond, it is appropriate to honor and remember those whose ministries in churches, social service agencies, educational institutions, and other organizations have so deeply touched others.

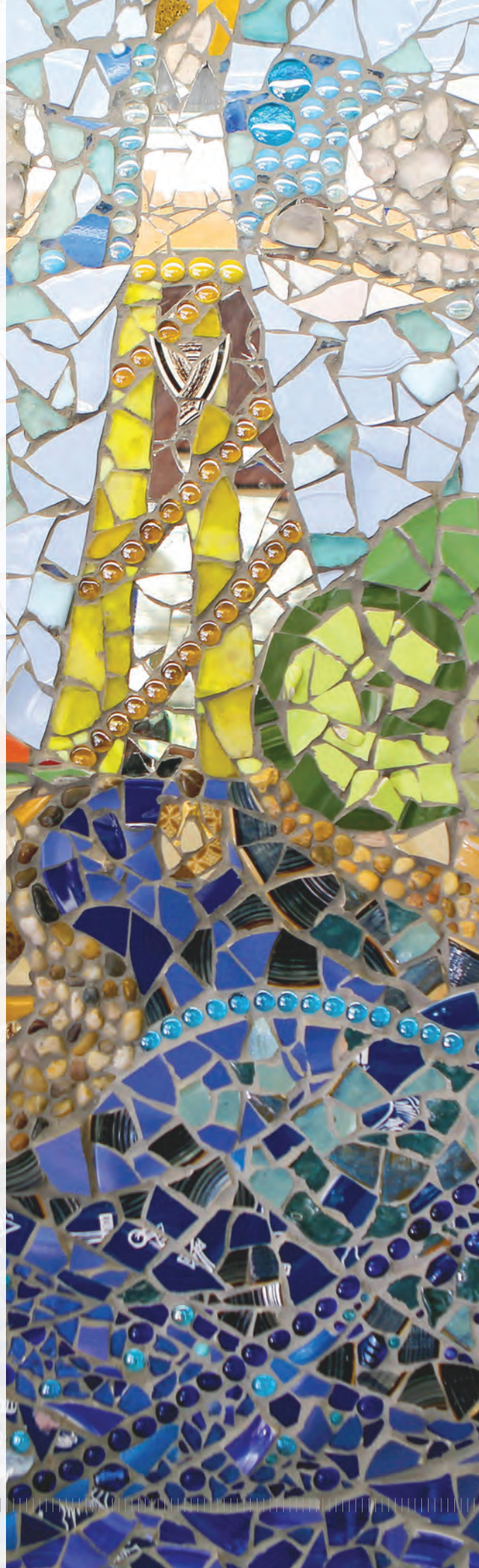
With this in mind, we invite you to help us create a "mosaic for ministry" by honoring or remembering these special fellow seekers on the path – faculty, faculty emeriti/ae, trustees, fellow alumni/ae, or any other member of the SFTS community. You can do that by:

1. Nominating someone who has touched you deeply;
2. Pledging a gift to SFTS that honors and remembers this person;
3. Challenging 50 other people you know to join you in honoring the person you have nominated; and
4. Helping SFTS invite others to participate in the program. You can complete the first step by submitting your nominee by e-mail to jsharpe@sfts.edu.

Through this simple act of recognition, we can collectively share, with thanksgiving, the essence of our faith, our commitment, and our ministry. The mosaic that results will affirm the purpose of our work and encourage others. We can do no less.

NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY!

Simply send an e-mail with the person you would like to nominate to James Sharpe at jsharpe@sfts.edu.



THE ALUMNI/AE PIECE OF THE MOSAIC

Social Justice Advocate the Rev. Dr. Herbert D. Valentine Accepts Role as Chair of the Alumni/ae Mosaic Initiative

By Rachel Howard

In the 54 years since the Rev. Dr. Herbert D. Valentine (M.Div. 1960) graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary, he has made many meaningful contributions in churches and communities across the country and the world. He worked as a post-graduate intern in an urban ministry program in San Francisco's Noe Valley, and then as an inner-city pastor in both Indianapolis and Gary, Indiana. In 1977 he was elected general presbyter of Baltimore Presbytery, and after retiring from the role in 2000, continued to serve as an interim minister of both large and small congregations in Philadelphia Presbytery. In his role as moderator of the 203rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), he was able to serve and represent the denomination across the country and worldwide.

Today, Valentine has a new role to add to his already impressive service to the church: chair of the SFTS Alumni/ae Mosaic Initiative.

"The greater church needs the leadership that SFTS can provide," Valentine said in accepting this key role on behalf of the Seminary. "There is a very creative energy present at SFTS and I believe a great future is ahead. While transitions can be difficult and the Seminary experience will be different than many may have known, all that is essential at SFTS—great teaching, preaching, and rigorous academics—will remain."

Valentine has been a strong advocate for social justice in every role in which he has served. In his long tenure in Baltimore, the Presbytery of Baltimore financed housing for persons with AIDS, senior citizens, and the homeless; rescued a retirement community from bankruptcy; and reinvigorated numerous congregations. Several New Church Developments were also started and ultimately thrived. Because of his strong belief that the church must engage with the world, the presbytery employed a public policy advocate to be a "lobbyist" at the Maryland State Legislature to advocate for policies that the presbytery stood for, such as the abolition of the death penalty.

"It is commencement time for the Seminary as it graduates with lessons learned."

— Herb Valentine (M.Div. 1960)



He has also been a strong advocate for the rights of the LGBT community. When Valentine was elected moderator of the PC(USA) in 1991, it was one of the largest, most contentious General Assemblies the denomination had ever seen. At the head of the unrest was a report on Human Sexuality, which called for

the full inclusion of the LGBT community in the life of the church.

As moderator of the Assembly, Valentine allowed a "Silent Witness" procession of the LGBT community and invited any commissioner to participate in solidarity to show their support. More than twenty years later, the General Assembly "heard" that witness and approved the full inclusion of gays in the ministry of the Presbyterian Church.

The pursuit of justice for all people led Valentine to Central America, where Baltimore Presbytery began a partnership for mutual mission with the indigenous Mayan Presbytery of Kechichel in Guatemala that included establishing a medical clinic and village outreach programs.

All of his work ultimately led Valentine back to SFTS, which he views as one of the church's most important partners in the quest for social justice. He looks forward to being a part of the Seminary's mission in preparing women and men for transformational ministries of peace, justice, and healing.

"We are training ministry leaders for a future that is unknown. The Seminary honors its past, but is not limited by it. We do not forget our history – rather, we are making a new history. It is commencement time for the Seminary, as we continually graduate with lessons learned."

50 YEARS LATER

Valentine joined other members of the SFTS community in the March on Selma in 1965. Please see the full article on page 6.





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SAVE THE DATE

Alumni Reunion 2015 &
Commemoration of the 50th
Anniversary of the March on Selma

APRIL 9 – 11, 2015

Registration opens Nov. 1, 2014 at www.sfts.edu.