



SAN FRANCISCO
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Whole Leaders for the Whole Church

105 Seminary Road
San Anselmo, CA 94960
415.451.2800
www.sfts.edu

SFTS Contact
Holly Woolard
Communications Associate
415-451-2823
hwoolard@sfts.edu

Board of Trustees adds five new members, including three alumni

SAN ANSELMO, Calif., May 7 – The San Francisco Theological Seminary Board of Trustees added five new members during its regularly scheduled spring meeting May 3-4, including three alumni and two executives with valuable management and nonprofit experience.

“SFTS is blessed to welcome five new board members, each with unique gifts that will assist us in educating and training outstanding students who will soon serve as caring pastors and visionary church leaders,” said SFTS Interim President Dr. Laird J. Stuart. The Board of Trustees provides governance oversight of the historical Presbyterian seminary. The five new board members bring the SFTS board membership to a new total of 34, plus two life trustees. Each trustee serves no more than two consecutive five-year terms.

SFTS welcomes home three new board members who attended seminary on its San Anselmo campus. The three alumni currently serve three different size congregations in three very different regions of the United States.

Rev. Timothy C. Lanham, pastor at Sunrise Presbyterian Church in Great Falls, Mont., earned his Master of Divinity from SFTS in 1988. A member of Lanham’s congregation is already a student at SFTS.

Rev. Mary Paik, senior pastor of Nu’uanu Congregational Church in Honolulu, received her M.Div. in 1987. Paik served as vice president of student affairs at McCormick Theological Seminary for more than 12 years.

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Snyder, senior pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian Church in Champaign, Ill., earned a joint MA/M.Div. degree in 1974 and then received his Doctor of Ministry from SFTS in 1979. Just as SFTS has campuses in Northern and Southern California, Snyder’s church has campuses in downtown Champaign and southwest Champaign.

“My own ministry was shaped and given form by the ministry and care of SFTS,” Snyder said. “I came to SFTS as a math major, never having had a religion course. SFTS nurtured my spiritual development, helped me grasp the message of Scripture, gave me

practical skills and taught me the importance of leadership, all in an environment of care and accountability. I hope to help continue this legacy.”

Hugh J. Ralston, another new board member, is president and CEO of the Ventura County Community Foundation, which distributes \$5 million annually to nonprofits and student scholarships. He also serves on the board of Scripps College, Community Arts Music Association in Santa Barbara, and the Community Foundations National Standards Board.

William N. Parham, Jr., will help SFTS reach out to Presbyterians on the East Coast. He is a member of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in Baltimore and the Baltimore Presbytery. The retired senior manager worked in a fellowship program as a “Community Builder” for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), promoting self-sufficiency among assisted families.

###

San Francisco Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) graduate school, has prepared whole leaders for the whole church since 1871. One of the founding members of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, it offers theological degrees at two campuses, in San Anselmo and Pasadena. Its innovative Program in Christian Spirituality is open to clergy and non-ordained individuals. For more information please call SFTS at 1-800-447-8820 in San Anselmo or 1-800-473-8772 in Pasadena. Also find information on our Web site: www.sfts.edu.