

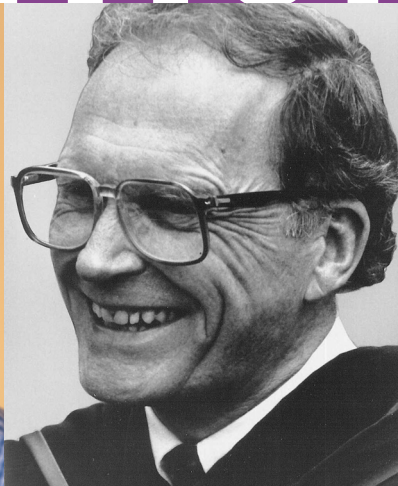
# AN EVENING OF RECOGNITIONS



DAVID BARD



TODD LIPPERT



JIM NELSON



CAROLYN PRESSLER

**NOVEMBER 1, 2021 | UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE TWIN CITIES**

Tonight we recognize these distinguished and beloved members of the United community. Thank you for joining us as we celebrate our history and look forward to all that is yet to come.

**5:30 - 6:00 PM CT | DISTINGUISHED ALUM AWARDS**

**WELCOME**

*Rev. Dr. Molly T. Marshall, Interim President*

**INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMS**

*Rev. Tara Parrish ('12, '16), DMin student, member of the Alum Council*

**2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUM: MINN. STATE REP. REV. TODD LIPPERT ('03)**

*Community Minister, Mayflower Community Congregational United Church of Christ, Minneapolis*

**VIDEO REFLECTIONS**

*Rev. Dr. Karen Smith Sellers ('76, '13), United Board of Trustees  
Rev. Sarah Campbell, Lead Minister, Mayflower Community Congregational UCC*

**2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUM: BISHOP DAVID A. BARD ('84)**

*Bishop of the United Methodist Church Michigan Conference; Interim Bishop of the Minnesota Conference*

**VIDEO REFLECTIONS**

*Rev. Stuart Jamieson ('86)  
Rev. Elizabeth MaCaulay ('99), Epworth United Methodist Church, Minneapolis, United Board of Trustees*

## 6:00 - 6:30 PM CT | LIGHT DINNER

Due to the ongoing impact of COVID, we will not have a reception as planned, but instead we will provide boxed lunches from Cafe Latte. We encourage you to select a lunch and find a place that is socially distanced for eating. Please return to the chapel by 6:30 PM for the Nelson Room Dedication.

## 6:30 - 7:15 PM CT | JAMES B. NELSON ROOM DEDICATION

As a teacher, Jim pioneered new avenues of thinking and ethics. Jim's early voice around human sexuality shaped and prodded the church in significant ways that are still known and celebrated. Jim was a gifted teacher and mentor and a brilliant academic. As a colleague and friend, he was beloved. Tonight we hear some video reflections from those who knew him well, whose lives were forever changed by his teaching and care, and who still celebrate his impact today.

### WELCOME

*Rev. Dr. Molly T. Marshall, Interim President*

### VIDEO REFLECTIONS

*Dr. Art Caplan, NYU, Professor of Bioethics*

*Rev. Jo Campe ('78)*

*The Honorable Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton ('21)*

*Sue Ebbers ('78), Professor Emerita of Theological Bibliography*

*Phebe Haugen, Esq., United Board of Trustees*

*Rev. Martha Postlethwaite, Recovery Church*

*Dr. Judith Scoville ('90)*

*Rev. Dr. Justin Sabia-Tanis, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics and Social Transformation Supported by the McVay Endowment / Program Director for Social Transformation*

*Rev. Lyta G. Seddig ('82)*

*Jean Trumbauer ('83, '95)*

*Rev. Dr. Wilson Yates, President Emeritus & Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Religion, Society and the Arts*

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Thank you for joining us tonight! Please take time to visit the James B. Nelson Classroom. You will find some of Jim's publications and the typewriter on which he wrote the book *Embodiment*. You will also see watercolor works done by Jim who was also an artist. Our gratitude to Wilson Yates who has curated and provided these framed works as a gift to the seminary.

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## 7:30 - 9:00 PM CT | PLENARY TALK: REV. DR. CAROLYN PRESSLER

Beloved professor, effective and powerful educator, and passionate activist for social justice, Carolyn Pressler will deliver the lecture originally scheduled for April of 2020 prior to her retirement. Tonight we celebrate the impact of her legacy at United.

### WELCOME

*Rev. Dr. Molly T. Marshall, Interim President*

### INTRODUCTION

*Rev. Carolyn Hendrixson ('99)*

### "TEACHERS AS LEARNERS AND LEARNERS AS TEACHERS: A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE"

*Rev. Dr. Carolyn Pressler, Professor Emerita of Biblical Interpretation*

## ABOUT TONIGHT'S HONOREES

**2020 Distinguished Alum Rev. Todd Lippert:** Since his graduation in 2003, Todd has lived into United's missional values and a commitment to the Common Good through ministry serving as Community Minister at Mayflower Community Congregational UCC (Minneapolis) and previously as Senior Minister at First UCC (Northfield, MN). Karen Smith Sellers ('76, '13, United trustee) nominated Todd. She says, "Todd models brilliantly the ways in which a graduate theological education at United Seminary prepares one for effective leadership in diverse sectors." As a Minnesota state representative, Todd serves Northfield, MN and surrounding areas (District 20B). He holds leadership roles in the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) caucus as Assistant Majority Leader and as Vice Chair of the Long-Term Care Division. About his legislative and advocacy work, Todd says, "I got involved in politics because I believe in the Common Good. Good for a few is not good enough. I am a person of faith. I follow the great commandment: Love God by loving our neighbor. We need to see ourselves in our neighbors and realize there is more that unites us than divides us. We are in this together, and to solve our greatest challenges we will need to come together in new ways."

**2021 Distinguished Alum Bishop David Bard:** Rev. Dr. David A. Bard ('84) is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. He has been in ministry for over 35 years and served First United Methodist Church of Duluth, MN. In 2016 David was elected Bishop by the North Central Jurisdictional Conference and assigned to the Michigan Area. He is also the Interim Bishop of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. In the Minnesota Conference, David served as a delegate, on committees, chaired committee, as conference parliamentarian, and as district superintendent with the conference for seven years. Kathi Austin Mahle ('78, former trustee) says, "David has provided outstanding leadership for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, serving churches and as a district superintendent. His intellectual gifts and personal caring have been demonstrated over and over. He is so deserving of this recognition at such a difficult time in the life of the United Methodist Church." Citing his own experience, David states, "God has put in my heart a burning desire to help people find a faith that is thoughtful, that engages both their minds and hearts, that is compassionate, that cares deeply about a hurting and wounded world."

*From 1963 until his retirement in 1995 Jim Nelson taught generations of United students, I among them, about Christian ethics, biomedical ethics, and sexual theology and ethics. He was also a pivotal figure in challenging the larger church to review its theological assumptions about sexual minorities. He and his beloved wife, Wilys Claire, opened their hearts to many seminarians who needed safe space, I among them. Jim Nelson was a stellar teacher, and a stellar scholar for the academy and the church.*

**Sue Ebbers**, United Theological Seminary alum ('78) and Professor Emerita of Theological Bibliography

The late **Rev. Dr. James B. Nelson**, Professor Emeritus of Christian Ethics, served on the faculty of United Seminary from 1963 to 1995. During his faculty tenure he had a deep impact on his students. At the same time he was a public theologian who had a great influence on the church and society. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, Jim had B.A. from Macalester College and a B.D., M.A., and Ph.D. from Yale University. Prior to his appointment at United, he served a UCC congregation in South Dakota. *Learn more about Jim at: <https://bit.ly/bio-james-b-nelson>*

**Rev. Dr. Carolyn Pressler** is Professor Emerita of Biblical Interpretation at United. Born and raised in Elkhart, Indiana, she received an M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Princeton Theological Seminary. Carolyn is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She is a beloved professor, an effective and powerful educator, and a passionate activist for social justice in the United community. She was appointed assistant professor in 1990, achieved tenure, full professor status, and in 1999 was installed as the Harry C. Piper Jr. Professor of Biblical Interpretation. For over three decades she made the Hebrew Bible come alive for United students and the greater community that United serves. Carolyn retired officially in the spring of 2020. Her lecture this evening was scheduled to be part of her retirement celebration. We give thanks that we can gather this evening in celebration of Carolyn's work as a teacher, mentor, and colleague. We offer our gratitude and appreciation for her work, her passion, and her legacy at United, and beyond.



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Education for Transformation