

Forum for Theological Exploration Announces Three New Trustees

ATLANTA, January 12, 2016 – Three accomplished leaders in ministry, theological education and religious scholarship have joined the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) Board of Trustees. Elected by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), Rev. Drs. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, Jesse Miranda and Frank Yamada began serving as trustees effective January 1, 2016.

“These three leaders bring distinctive gifts and experiences to the Board that will help FTE strengthen its work to cultivate diverse, courageous leaders needed today for the church and academy,” said FTE President Stephen Lewis. “We are grateful for their commitment to FTE’s mission and to advance Christian ministry and God’s work the world.”

The FTE Board of Trustees has governance responsibility for advancing FTE’s mission to cultivate diverse young people to be faithful, wise and courageous leaders for the church and academy. Trustees Conde-Frazier, Miranda and Yamada will serve a three-year term, which may be renewed.

Elizabeth Conde-Frazier is dean and vice president of education at Esperanza College of Eastern University in Philadelphia, PA. Rev. Dr. Conde-Frazier was previously tenured associate professor of religious education at the Claremont School of Theology and taught Hispanic Latino/a theology at the Latin American Bible Institute. Prior to teaching, she served as founding director of the Orlando E. Costas Hispanic and Latin-American Ministries Program at Andover Newton Theological School. While she was director, Rev. Dr. Conde-Frazier developed programs for the continuing education of ministers and lay leaders including youth. She has over ten years of experience as an ordained pastor and formerly served as a bilingual teacher in the New York City school system. Rev. Dr. Conde-Frazier holds a Ph.D. from Boston College and a Master of Divinity degree from Palmer Seminary.

Jesse Miranda is founder and president of the Jesse Miranda Center for Hispanic Leadership (JMC). Most recently he served as distinguished professor at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, CA, providing the leadership for this institution to become the second Christian Hispanic Serving Institute in the nation under Title V of the U.S. Department of Education. Rev. Dr. Miranda’s expertise, background and commitment to Latino civic engagement have led to him founding the largest Latino seminary in the nation, The Latin American Theological

Seminary, and becoming the founding president of AHET (Hispanic Alliance of Theological Education) of Southern California. He is also the founder and president of the Alianza de Ministerios Evangelicos Nacionales (AMEN), a multi-denominational association of Hispanic Protestant lay and clergy leaders in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada and Mexico. Currently, he serves as an executive Presbyter with the General Council of the Assemblies of God and co-founder and CEO emeritus of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, America's largest Hispanic Christian organization. Rev. Dr. Miranda received his B.A. at Southern California College (Vanguard University), a master's degree in religious education at Talbot Theological Seminary (Biola University), a Master of Science degree in school administration from California State University (Fullerton), and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Frank Yamada is president and Cyrus McCormick Professor of Bible and Culture at McCormick Theological Seminary. He is an ordained minister and the first Asian American to serve as president of a Presbyterian Church (USA) seminary. Prior to becoming president, Rev. Dr. Yamada was the director of the Center for Asian American Ministries and associate professor of Hebrew Bible at McCormick Theological Seminary. He also taught Hebrew Bible/Old Testament for nine years at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. Rev. Dr. Yamada received his Bachelor of Arts degree in religion from Southern California College. He earned his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy from Princeton Theological Seminary, where he studied Hebrew Bible with an emphasis in hermeneutics, feminist theory, and culturally-contextual biblical interpretation.

The Forum for Theological Exploration is committed to cultivating diverse young adults to be faithful, wise and courageous leaders for the church and the academy. FTE provides resources and a forum for young adults and students to explore their purpose and call to pastoral ministry and teaching. For more information, visit fteleaders.org.

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