



Contact: Kimberly Daniel
(404) 727-1013
kdaniel@fteleaders.org

The Fund for Theological Education
Announces Five New Trustees

Diverse and Distinguished Leaders Join A Growing FTE Board

ATLANTA, January 10, 2012 – Five accomplished leaders in theological education, ministry and scholarship have joined The Fund for Theological Education (FTE) Board of Trustees, expanding the board to 14 members.

The new trustees, elected by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), are the Rev. Dr. Wendy Fletcher, the Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty, Dr. Byron Klaus, Dr. Juan Martinez and Dr. Emilie M. Townes. Their appointments as FTE trustees were effective January 1, 2012.

Representing a diverse cross-section of FTE stakeholders, the five new trustees serve a three-year term, which may be renewed. The FTE Board has governance responsibility for advancing FTE's mission to develop young leaders from diverse backgrounds for vocations in pastoral ministry and theological scholarship. FTE annually awards more than \$1.5 million in fellowships to undergraduates and seminary and doctoral students, and also provides training and grants to congregations and communities to help nurture vocational discernment among youth and adults.

"These five distinguished trustees will strengthen our historic commitment to diversity on the changing landscape of religious leadership," said FTE Board Chair Florida Smith Ellis. "Together with our president, Stephen Lewis, they will help navigate our way into the future as we continue to serve young people who show extraordinary potential as future leaders."

The new trustees represent one of the largest expansions of the FTE Board at one time.

Wendy Fletcher is principal and dean of Vancouver School of Theology in British Columbia, Canada. Also a professor of church history, she teaches in the areas of social history and the spirituality of leadership. For two decades Fletcher has worked in a variety of roles with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) of North America, as a commissioner on its Accreditation

Commission and as a seminar leader on the subjects of leadership, conflict resolution and women in leadership.

Lee Hinson-Hasty is coordinator for Theological Education and Seminary Relations and a lead staff person for the Committee on Theological Education for the General Assembly Mission Council of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He has served as a campus minister and pastor in Virginia and as director of church relations at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in North Carolina. Hinson-Hasty is part of the ATS “Theological Schools and the Church” project and serves on the Board of Church Visitors of Maryville College in Tennessee.

Byron Klaus is president of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Mo., where he is also professor of intercultural leadership studies. He previously served for 20 years on the faculty and administration of Vanguard University of Southern California, and in leadership roles at churches in California, Illinois and Texas. While at Vanguard University, Klaus was vice president for Latin America Child Care, a development ministry that benefits children in 21 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Juan Martinez is associate provost for diversity and international programs and associate professor of Hispanic studies and pastoral leadership at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. He joined Fuller from the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary in Guatemala, where he served as rector for nine years. A Mennonite Brethren pastor, Martinez has extensive experience in church planting and teaching in both religious and secular venues. His research focuses on Latino Protestant history, identity and ministry.

Emilie M. Townes is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of African American Religion and Theology at Yale Divinity School and an ordained American Baptist clergywoman. An FTE Doctoral Fellow, she is a leading scholar of Christian ethics, womanist ethics, critical social theory, cultural theory and studies, and social postmodernism. Prior to her appointment at Yale, Townes was the Carolyn Beard Professor of Christian Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York. She served as president of the American Academy of Religion in 2008.

“We are grateful for the commitment of these trustees and we are honored by their service,” said FTE President Stephen Lewis. “Our entire Board plays a vital role in helping others understand the positive impact that supporting faithful young leaders has on the church and world.”

FTE is a national, ecumenical organization dedicated to supporting a new generation of diverse young Christian leaders who renew the church and change the world through vocations in pastoral ministry and theological scholarship. For more information, visit www.fteleaders.org.

###