



## DSF Staff, Student & Alum News & Announcements



**Rev. Yolanda Norton**, a Disciples minister, was hired to teach at San Francisco Theological Seminary as Assistant Professor of Old Testament. She is currently finishing her Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University. "I am excited to have another Disciples colleague and Hebrew Bible colleague in California - and especially one with Vanderbilt roots," said DSF President Jon Berquist. "Welcome, Yolanda Norton!" Here's the link to SFTS's press release: <http://sfts.edu/yolanda-norton-joins-sfts-faculty/>



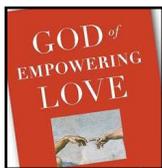
Our students are active on the web, especially DSF/CST student **Eli Rolon Jeong** (Ph.D.). Check out his post titled "The Treachery of Identity" here: <https://constructivetheologies.org/2016/06/02/the-treachery-of-identity/>



PSR President David Vásquez-Levy announced on June 2 that **Rev. Dr. Mary Donovan Turner** has agreed to serve as PSR's interim dean for the 2016-2017 academic year. She was the DSF Dean in Berkeley from 2011-2014.



Congratulations to our esteemed colleague and graduate of CST David Polk, who has put out a book through Process Century Press. This is what John B. Cobb Jr. (Professor Emeritus, Claremont Graduate University and Claremont School of Theology), had to say about the book:



*David Polk's "God of Empowering Love" demonstrates that in the process community he is the outstanding student of the history of theology. Since we believe that the present cannot be understood in separation from the past, the work he has done is of immense importance in understanding ourselves and the challenges we face. Historical understanding and even knowledge of the past gets far too little attention in contemporary society and in the church as well as it is shaped by that society. Polk's book might help to renew historical awareness and the recognition of its importance.*

The book can be found at: <http://www.amazon.com/God-Empowering-Love-Reco.../.../1940447143>

Meet UrbanMission, A Green Chalice Congregation

UrbanMission is an unusual new church start in Pomona CA. Its approach to the work of "church" is 180 degrees different from most church-planting efforts: UM is a ministerial collective, established to live out Jesus' call to serve. Its premise is that a worshipping congregation will develop from those who serve together, rather than vice versa. Its individual ministers are self-contained but interdependent. This is one of various experimental models of "being church" which are taking place around the nation today.

Food justice and a desire to offer "open table" meals where all are welcome, and where community members come together to share concerns and celebrations is just one of their founding goals.

Check them out!



UrbanMission, a new church start that involves several DSF alums and students, was featured in Green Chalice News, a monthly e-newsletter for Disciples Home Missions. To subscribe, visit: <http://goo.gl/9PkcVt>. For more about UM: <http://www.umpomona.org/>



Three Disciples Seminary Foundation Students were selected for the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) Doctoral Cohort. Congratulations to **Toni Bond Leonard**, **Eli Rolon Jeong**, and **Rev. José Francisco Morales Torres**! Link to press release: <https://cst.edu/4-cst-students-selected-for-fte-doctoral-cohort/>

We have a busy year ahead of us. Our CST Hybrid students will be with us on campus in August and classes begin for all campuses shortly after that. We look forward to seeing you all at our many social and educational events this academic year. Check out our full calendar here: <http://dsf.edu/news/upcoming.html>



### Disciples History and Polity August 17-20, 2016 at DSF

The class, which will be taught by our Director of Pastoral Formation **Rev. José Francisco Morales Torres**, will survey the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from its foundings 2 centuries ago to the contemporary manifestations of the church.

**To register, please contact Carolyn Scott-Patterson at: [cscottpatterson@dsf.edu](mailto:cscottpatterson@dsf.edu).**

*\*Note to our DSF/DOC students: As part of your covenant agreement with DSF, all DOC students must take this course before they graduate. Also, this course is mandatory for fulfilling PSWR ordination requirements.*

The official announcement of preachers for GA2017 in Indianapolis was recently revealed, and our very own, **Rev. José Francisco Morales**, DSF's Director of Pastoral Formation, will be speaking on the theme: "We Pray All Unity Will One Day Be Restored." Check out the press release here: <http://ga.disciples.org/worship/>. For more information about Rev. Morales, visit: <http://goo.gl/3b-CKT3>



DSF/CST M.Div. student **Lori Tapia** was named as the Interim National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries during the business session

of the Hispanic Assembly in Miami on July 15. Congratulations Lori! Link to press release: <http://disciples.org/general/hispanic-asamblea-calls-interim-national-pastor/>



## DSF News & Announcements cont.



### Don Shelton Memorial Golf Classic

Monday, September 19, 2016

*This annual event honors the late Don Shelton, PSWR's Regional Minister from 1995-2007. This year, the tournament will take place at the San Dimas Canyon Golf Course. Proceeds from this event will benefit PSWR's 6 ministries: Eastmont Community Center, All Peoples Community Center, Project Impact USA, Chapman University's Disciples on Campus program, Loch Leven Camp and Conference Center, and Disciples Seminary Foundation.*

For more information or to register, please visit: <http://www.disciplespswr.org/golf-tournament/>.

If you'd like to make a donation to this event, checks can be made to the PSWR and sent to the regional office: 2401 N. Lake Ave. Altadena, CA 91001.



Registration for the first annual **Don Shelton Mini Golf Tournament** is also open! The event will be Sunday, September 18 - 4:00pm to 9:00pm - \$25/person or \$75 for groups of

4. Registration includes mini-golf, laser tag, bumper boats, arcade tokens, go-kart racing, and dinner! Help raise money for PSWR Leadership/Camp scholarships. You can't beat the price at this premiere mini-golf location - Camelot Golfland - 3200 E Carpenter Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92806. Click here to register today - <https://goo.gl/forms/i8ife0vd42w2cKV52>

## DSF Events



On June 3-5, **Rev. Jinsuk Chun**, Director of Mission and Peace Education at DSF, attended a three day symposium with Dr. Namsoon Kang at Good Neighbors Church of LA. Dr. Kang is a Professor of Theology and Religion at Brite Divinity School and recently wrote a book titled "Cosmopolitan Theology." We appreciate church leaders such as **Rev. Gunyong Kwak**, a DSF/CST Ph.D. student, and previous DSF staff **Rev. Dr. Aaron Park**, for providing this significant opportunity to reflect about the current church situation and Christian life.



On June 11, Dr. Julio Hernandez taught a Certificate of Ministry Studies (CMS) class in San Diego. CMS is DSF's Spanish Language ministerial certificate program.



On June 12, **Jeanette Larson** and **Melvin "Larry" Larson** graduated from Seattle University's School of Ministry and Theology. Jeanette completed her M.Div. degree and Larry received his MATL. Blessings to both!



On June 26, DSF/PSR graduate **Rev. Florentino "Tino" Cordova** (M.Div./2013) departed as the pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Watsonville. That Sunday, there was a farewell celebration in his honor. Rev. Cordova moved to Southern California with his partner Rong, who has accepted a position as a Civil Engineer with the City of Los Angeles. Here's a quote from Tino: "I do not yet know what door God will open for me, but I know I have many options, Pastor of a Metropolitan Community Church, Disciples Church or possibly a Hospital Chaplain. What I can count on is that God will journey with me whichever door I choose to walk through. I will miss the Community of Watsonville, Santa Cruz County and Faith Community who have journeyed with me these 2.5 years. I would also like to say a big thank you to the Regional Staff of the Christian Church Northern California/Nevada Conference for their prayers and guidance. Blessings upon the Community of East & South Bay and know that God will continue to see you through all things."

July 3-7, the 2016 International Meeting of Society of Bible Literature was held at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. We are so happy to announce that three DSF/CST/CGU graduates presented their papers in various sections.



On July 4, **Rev. Dr. Jae Hyung Cho** (Ph.D./2011), currently working for Korean Christian University in Seoul, spoke on "Allusions of Dionysus' Trial (Bacchae 431-519) to Jesus' Trial (John 18:28-38)" and also presented "The Influence of Ancient Gnosticism on the Early Christian Theology of God in the Gnostic Text of Nag Hammadi Library and the New Testament" on July 5.



On July 4, **Dr. Soo Kim** (Ph.D./2016) presented "A Third Person Addresser in Isa 51:1-3, Illeism? Or Redaction? Insights from the LXX Rendition and the Relation-Oriented Asian Language" and also presented "Pentateuch" at the Septuagint Studies Section.



On July 7, **Rev. HaeJin Park** (M.A./2016, and future Ph.D. student starting in Fall 2016) presented "The Feminine Characters in the Book of Job."



## DSF Events cont.



After the meeting, CChannel, a Korean Christian broadcasting system aired a report on the SBL International Meeting. Several Disciples were featured in the segment, including CST/DSF student **HaeJin Park** (Ph.D.), **Baekhee Kim** (a Disciples Ph.D. student at Brite Divinity School), and his wife, Stella. Check out the clip here: <http://goo.gl/7ojxOr>. Here's a rough translation of HaeJin's interview: "In my presentation, I wanted to share God's love of women by unveiling various positive images about women seen in the Book of Job."



On July 8, eight students (5 from San Diego and 3 from Claremont) graduated from the Certificate of Ministerial Studies program. The ceremony was held at Casa de Oracion (Discipulos de Cristo) in San Diego. Congratulations to: **Oswaldo Aguilar**, **Nancy Antonio**, **Cenir Calderon**, **Luis Campos**, **Andrea Cobos**, **Joel Cabrera**, **Benjamin Garcia**, and **Javier Gonzalez**!



On July 12, 2016, DSF/CST student **Eli Rolon Jeong** (Ph.D.) wrote an article titled: #BlackLivesMatter: A Gospel Reading on the Constructive Theologies website. Check it out here: <https://goo.gl/OmyxzV>



On July 15, DSF Director of Student Life **Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Bynum** was in Santa Monica to support and celebrate the release of **Dr. Monica A. Coleman's** new book, "Bipolar Faith: A Black Woman's Journey with Depression and Faith." Dr. Coleman, a CST professor and friend of DSE, conducted a reading and signing at Barnes & Noble. Here's a description of the book, courtesy of CST:

*Monica A. Coleman's great-grandfather asked his two young sons to lift him up and pull out the chair when he hanged himself, and that noose stayed in the family shed for years. The rope was the violent instrument, but it was mental anguish that killed him. Now, in gripping fashion, Coleman examines the ways that the legacies of slavery, war, sharecropping, pov-*

*erty, and alcoholism mask a family history of mental illness. Those same forces accompanied her into the black religious traditions and Christian ministry. All the while, she wrestled with her own bipolar disorder.*

*"Bipolar Faith" is both a spiritual autobiography and a memoir of mental illness. In this powerful book, Monica Coleman shares her life-long dance with trauma, depression, and the threat of death. Citing serendipitous encounters with black intellectuals like Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Angela Davis, and Renita Weems, Coleman offers a rare account of how the modulated highs of bipolar II can lead to professional success, while hiding a depression that even her doctors rarely believed. Only as she was able to face her illness was she able to live faithfully with bipolar. And in the process, she discovered a new and liberating vision of God.*



On July 21-24, we had a great time at National Convocation in Kansas City! Several of our staff, students, board members, and friends attended the event. Congratulations to DSF trustee **Karen Barrett**, part of the leadership for the National Convocation Disciples Women!



On July 23, DSF/CST graduate **Robin Stallings** (M.Div./2014), was ordained at First Christian Church in Mesa, AZ. Robin was a candidate from the Pacific Southwest Region (PSWR) until recently transferring to the Arizona Region to complete a year-long hospital chaplain residency of Clinical Pastoral Education at the University of Arizona Banner University Medical Center in Phoenix. DSF board member **Richard Follett** brought sermon!



On July 24, Filipino Disciples Christian Church (FDCC) in Los Angeles celebrated its 83rd anniversary. A few DSF folks were on hand to help celebrate this special day: DSF/CST student and FDCC's pastor **Jeffrey Ilagan** (M.Div.), DSF/CST student **Rev. Young Lan Kim** (D.Min), and DSF's Director of Pastoral Formation **Rev. José Francisco Morales Torres**, who gave the sermon. Congratulations to FDCC!



On July 30, DSF/PSR graduate **Sandy Berry** (2015/M.Div.) was ordained by the CCNCN at Cottage Way Christian Church in Sacramento, where Sandy serves as the Transitional Interim Minister. Congratulations Sandy!