

Comment

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In this issue we proudly present the texts of inaugural lectures given by three faculty members who were recently named to endowed chair positions at North Park Theological Seminary. Hauna Ondrey, dean of faculty, appointed to the Wilma E. Peterson chair in church history, presented “Purposeful Narrative? Covenant History Past, Present, and Future.” This reading will challenge every reader to consider how you and your ministry participate in the story of the Covenant movement and how that story will be told moving forward. Assistant Professor Michelle S. Dodson, appointed to the Milton B. Engebretson chair of evangelism and ministry, presented a synthesis of her doctoral research in her lecture titled “Racial Discourse, Social Engagement, and Misalignment: Assessing the Impact of Multiracial Churches.” Her sociological input evaluating local ministries raises fruitful questions all of us in ministry need to consider in our local contexts. Max Lee, appointed as Paul W. Brandel Professor of Biblical Studies, challenged the audience and will challenge readers with his lecture titled “Be Loud and Brace for Impact: Anti-Asian Violence, the Model Minority Myth, and the Martyrs of Revelation 7:9–14.” His personal insight as a theologian, biblical scholar, minister of the gospel, and Asian American follower of Christ combine in a discipling work of testimony worthy of reflection. We are grateful to God for each of these significant appointments to the faculty profile of North Park Theological Seminary, recognizing how each person has been and will continue to be an enriching blessing and resource to the Evangelical Covenant Church and beyond.

In addition, we include the text of two sermons of historical importance. Both were given at ordination services of the Evangelical Covenant Church as part of the Annual Meeting. In this issue we remember our

brother Thomas Kelly, who served as Covenant global personnel along with his wife, Janice, in Mexico for many years and passed away in July 2024. His sermon at the 2004 ordination service is presented here in its entirety. And thanks go to Howard Burgoyne, superintendent of the East Coast Conference, for sharing the manuscript of his inspiring sermon given at the ordination service in 2024, also included in this issue.

Finally, we include an article addressing a topic of vital importance to all Covenant pastors who regularly present the Word of God to their flock in preaching. Christopher J. Wall, NPTS alumnus and associate pastor of youth and congregational life at Beacon Covenant Church in Attleboro, Massachusetts, presents “Toward a Pietist Homiletic.” Wall’s work reminds us of our heritage as a Pietist movement and helps us frame how the Word is passed in our churches today.

We trust that the book reviews included in this issue will challenge you to read and expand ministry in the area where God has called you to serve. Many thanks go to Scott Burnett, book review editor, as well as to the Covenant Publications editorial and production team. The Covenant’s mission priority of Serve Clergy has again graciously provided the financial backing for the publication and distribution of this volume of *The Covenant Quarterly*. Your comments, feedback, and submissions are always welcome.

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