

**Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Presidential Search Committee
Final Report, June 2010**

In August of 2009, the Board of Trustees elected a Presidential Search Committee to search for the Ninth President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The committee was comprised of the following people:

Board of Trustees:

Barbara Barnes (MDiv '87), Oxford, Ohio
Dan Ellinor, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Sumpter Logan, Southlake, Texas
Irv Moxley (MDiv '59), Columbus, Ohio
Rick Nutt (MDiv '80), Zanesville, Ohio
Pam Kidd, Grand Rapids, Michigan (as ad hoc member with vote) — as Board Chair

Faculty:

David Hester, Harrison Ray Anderson Professor of Pastoral Theology and Seminary Dean
Debra Mumford, Frank H. Caldwell Assistant Professor of Homiletics

Administration:

Pat Cecil, Vice President and CFO

Staff:

Bobi Bilz, Administrative Coordinator, Library and IT Services

Alums:

Karen Devaisher (MDiv '92), Pastor Avon United Methodist Church, Avon, Indiana

Students:

Christine Coy-Fohr (MDiv '10), 2009-2010 Student Body President

Chair:

Conrad Sharps (MDiv '85), Pastor Independent Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Alabama

The members of our committee, recognizing the significance of our task, sought to approach our work with great prayer and humility. We bonded as a team with the common desire to find the right leader for our Seminary.

Committee members met with various constituencies to seek their input and insights concerning the future needs and aspirations of our community. We met on the campus three times and once in Cincinnati. We also conducted 12 phone conference meetings. To assist us in our task we hired Sally Speaker of Birmingham, Alabama, as our administrative assistant.

Highlights of the Committee's work:

We convened in September 2009. At our first meeting we agreed upon a budget, a website, advertising, and an independent office to be established in Birmingham, as well as necessary agreements concerning practices of confidentiality and fairness.

At the meeting, a small group was also delegated to develop a [Presidential Position Profile](#) and a [Presidential Position Description](#). With insight from both the Board of Trustees and Seminary constituencies, these were finalized by mid-October and shared broadly.

We advertised in 13 different denominational, theological, and educational publications and sent by email or US Postal Service more than 6,000 personal invitations to trustees, faculty, administration, staff, students, friends, supporters of the Seminary, and leaders in the denomination, requesting the names and contact information of individuals we might wish to consider. We also established an electronic submission form on our webpage.

We began to receive recommendations immediately, even before the active advertising campaign began, and were pleased with the quantity and the quality of the names submitted.

By mid-February, we had received and investigated more than 150 recommendations for 86 people, 83 of whom qualified for consideration, that is, they have a terminal degree in their field and are members of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The 86 people recommended to us represented 31 different states and territories of the United States. The 83 qualified recommendations included 25 women and 11 ethnic minorities.

The committee diligently researched those recommendations with whom we wished to engage in more in-depth conversations.

We had preliminary conversations with 17 suggested candidates to determine their interest, as well as their initial demonstration of necessary people skills. We accomplished this through "get-acquainted" interviews. Most of these conversations took place in person; however, due to distance and scheduling constraints some of these initial conversations were accomplished by Skype calls. Of this group of 17 candidates interviewed, 7 were women and 4 represented racial ethnic minorities.

In late April, we commenced an in-depth interviewing phase with four candidates whom we believed might best serve as our next president. Of the four candidates there was one racial ethnic minority.

Following a period of in-depth review, committee sharing, reflection, and prayerful discernment, our committee (in its very first vote) unanimously chose The Reverend Doctor Michael Jenkins as our nominee.

On May 1, 2010, (a Derby Day for us all to remember) Pam Kidd, as Board Chair, and I called Dr. Jinkins with our unanimous decision to ask him to prayerfully consider allowing us to present him to the Board of Trustees as our nominee for the Ninth President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Dr. Michael Jinkins is currently Academic Dean at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where he has served as a lecturer in theology, a member of the administration, as a professor since 1991 (and as Dean since 2004). Dr. Jinkins has been ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for 29 years and joined the Austin Seminary faculty following 14 years in pastoral leadership, mission, and service in several congregations throughout the State of Texas. In addition to information about his passion for theological education and preparing men and women for practical, public, and pastoral leadership in a world of cultural and religious difference, biographical information is available at http://www.lpts.edu/News-Events/Documents/Jinkins_Michael_Bio_Formatted.pdf.

In his personal life, Jinkins is married to Dr. Deborah Jinkins. Deborah is an associate professor of curriculum and instruction (with tenure) at Texas A&M University, Central Texas, where she has taught undergraduate and graduate courses on reading and writing since 2000. Michael and Deborah are the parents of two adult children, Jeremy and Jessica. Jessica owns a small business in Austin, where she lives with her husband Cliff. Jeremy and his spouse Caroline just graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary and are moving to Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Conclusion of the Committee's work:

With the unanimous vote by the Board of Trustees, Dr. Michael Jinkins was called as the Seminary's Ninth President on June 4, 2010 at a meeting, held on the Seminary campus. At that meeting, the Board of Trustees also voted to disband the Presidential Search Committee "with deep thanks and gratitude for a process and task well done."

For Louisville Seminary's official announcement regarding the new president, visit <http://www.lpts.edu/News-Events/article.asp?intid=391>.

Sincerely,
Conrad Sharps,
Chair