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Rev. Beverly Brewster promoted to director of enrollment at SFTS

SAN ANSELMO, Calif., June 23 – Considering the circuitous path Rev. Beverly Brewster has traveled en route to becoming director of enrollment at San Francisco Theological Seminary, she has all the tools and inside knowledge to help others discern their calls in Christ's church.

"There is nothing more satisfying than hearing and heeding God's call," Brewster said. "I didn't think I would be called to work at the Seminary. I thought I would be called to parish ministry. It's been a surprise to me that this has been such a rewarding call."

Brewster graduated from SFTS with a Master of Divinity degree in 2008 and returned in February 2009 as director of enrollment for the SFTS Northern California campus. Brewster will play an even bigger role in the future of SFTS with her recent promotion to director of enrollment for both the San Anselmo and Pasadena campuses.

Brewster replaces Rev. Wendy Tajima as head of the SFTS recruitment team after Tajima accepted a position as interim stated clerk for the Pacific Presbytery.

"I am excited that Beverly Brewster is going to be our new director of enrollment," said Dr. Laird J. Stuart, SFTS interim president and professor of pastoral theology. "This is a very important position for us at SFTS. We have so much to offer people considering God's call in their lives on our two campuses, through our association with the GTU, because of our faculty and our variety of degree programs."

For 15 years, Brewster practiced law before exploring God's call to ministry at SFTS. She grew up in the Presbyterian Church, attending Grace Presbyterian in Springfield, Va. After graduating from Duke University and University of Virginia School of Law, she moved cross country to San Anselmo, where she raised her two children.

Brewster's own call began to take shape at First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael. She served as an elder, deacon, moderator of the board of deacons, Sunday school teacher and spiritual formation group leader. Involved in many facets of the Marin County community for the past 20 years, Brewster even handled chaplain duties for her son's championship high school basketball team. It's no wonder she was encouraged by church leaders to attend SFTS.

An excellent student at SFTS, Brewster served three churches as a pastoral intern: Calvary Presbyterian in San Francisco where Stuart was pastor, Knox Presbyterian in Santa Rosa and First Presbyterian Church of Oakland.

"I worked with Beverly when she was a seminary intern at Calvary Presbyterian Church while I was the pastor," Stuart said. "She is a wonderful embodiment of one of our ordination vows in that she brings outstanding 'energy, enthusiasm, intelligence, imagination and love' to her work. The congregation quickly realized Beverly was competent and committed."

Brewster's enthusiasm for SFTS runs deep. Her affiliation with the Seminary began in 2002 when she began auditing classes. Two years later, she enrolled at SFTS full-time and has now been a part of the Seminary community for eight years.

"I know firsthand what a wonderful life-changing, faith-growing experience SFTS offers," Brewster said. "I believe in the school."

Meshing her nurturing instincts, knowledge of Reformed theology and insights of how God uses SFTS to prepare leaders for the church, Brewster is thrilled that her new job encompasses so many opportunities to reach out to others. She serves First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo as parish associate to Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt (M.Div. '97, D.Min.'07), is a visiting pastor and worship leader, and is the chief recruiter at SFTS.

"I really like talking about SFTS and how coming to school here changed my life," Brewster said. "I love people. I love listening to people's stories. I like being a sounding board when they are discerning God's call. To head up the recruitment department, all of my gifts are useful."

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San Francisco Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) graduate school, has prepared leaders for the church since 1871. One of the founding members of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, it offers theological degrees, including Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry, at its campuses in San Anselmo and Pasadena. For more information please call SFTS at 1-800-447-8820 in San Anselmo or 1-800-473-8772 in Pasadena. Also find information online at www.sfts.edu.