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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SFTS appoints new vice president for Southern California campus

San Anselmo, Calif., Dec. 19 – San Francisco Theological Seminary’s Board of Trustees and Faculty have enthusiastically endorsed the appointment by President Philip Butin of the Rev. Dr. Judy Yates Siker as the new vice president of the SFTS Southern California campus in Pasadena and Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins.



Judy Yates Siker

Siker, a PC(USA) minister who lives near Los Angeles and is a member of the Presbytery of the Pacific, teaches widely for SFTS-related congregations and governing bodies on subjects related to the New Testament, the church, and the relationship of early Christianity to early Judaism, as well as being experienced in and committed to spiritual formation in theological education and the church.

“Judy is known and respected in Presbyterian circles throughout Southern California,” said SFTS President Phil Butin, noting Siker’s recent role as the keynote preacher/teacher and worship leader for the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii. “She reaches out graciously and warmly to Christians across various theological continuums, helping people from various cultures and denominations find their common ground in Jesus Christ.”

Siker currently serves as Dean of the Faculty at the American Baptist Seminary of the West, one of nine member schools belonging to the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

Butin said SFTS is gaining a skilled administrator as well as a noted scholar and preacher.

“I am impressed with the organizational, relational and leadership gifts she brings to our vice president position,” he said.

She has served the GTU as a member of the core doctoral faculty, coordinator of the M.A. Program in Biblical Languages, co-chair of the Women’s Studies in Religion Program, and faculty representative to the GTU board.

Siker is looking forward to her new opportunities at SFTS/SC. “I am especially excited about the opportunity to help the southern campus of SFTS continue to live into its hallmark vision of providing a creative model of theological education that reaches out to a diverse population and is clearly sensitive to the inherent needs of such diversity,” she said. “At a time when the face of theological education in America is changing it is a privilege to become part of SFTS as it continues to blaze new trails in providing strong theological education in the Reformed tradition to today’s global communities.”

Siker earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in New Testament and Christian Origins from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to serving at ABSW, Siker was a visiting professor of New Testament Studies at Loyola-Marymount University. Her husband, Jeff, is currently a professor of theology at Loyola-Marymount.

Siker will begin her position at SFTS/SC in June, following the retirement of Rev. Dr. David Tomlinson.

“Judy will do a wonderful job of carrying forward the broad-reaching and unitive legacy of retiring Vice President Dave Tomlinson,” Butin said.

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