

## BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

G. Sujin Pak, Dean

I am profoundly grateful for your partnership, prayers, and support in these challenging times. A year like 2021 makes even more relevant BUSTH's historic and ongoing commitments to peace and justice in cultivating transformational leaders. We remain hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

### Breaking News

- **Return to Campus:** Faculty, administrators, and library returned to in-person instruction and work in fall 2021, with many events reaching hybrid audiences. Strict COVID-19 precautions continue to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and administrators.
- **Students:** Our fall 2021 entering class was among our most diverse, with 108 new students enrolling in September.
- **Faculty:** In September we celebrated the appointment of Cristian De La Rosa as associate dean for Students and Community Life. Professor Shelly Rambo leads the Lilly-funded project on Trauma-Responsive Congregations, and two faculty members — professors Dana Robert and Wesley Wildman — were each honored with festschrifts. Professor Jonathan Calvillo's book *The Saints of Santa Ana* received the HTI Book Award, and professor Choi Hee An published *A Postcolonial Leadership*. BUSTH is conducting two faculty searches with anticipation of welcoming new faculty in the fall.
- **Launch of a New Online Degree:** BUSTH's first fully online master's degree — the Master of Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL) — is currently enrolling students for its first cohort in fall 2022. MARPL seeks students who wish to be prepared for leadership roles that creatively engage the challenges of public life.
- **Peale Foundation Grant:** Professor Steven Sandage and his research team were awarded a \$2.19 million, five-year grant by the Norman Vincent Peale Foundation for a project that fosters a network of communities for relational care and support to spiritual leaders and therapists to offer resources to reduce trauma risk and vocational burnout and foster flourishing.
- **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to UMC-registered candidates for ordained ministry and leadership fellowships that support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies. New funds include the Sacred Worth Scholarship Fund and the Dean Thurman & Bishop Easterling Fellowship Fund.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online workshops for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent workshops include Practices of Grief in a Time of Pandemic and Reflecting with Howard Thurman. To learn more, visit [bu.edu/sth/oll](http://bu.edu/sth/oll).
- **Development:** Recent accomplishments include endowing the Center for Global Christianity and Mission upon its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and new funding for student scholarships and academic programs.

### Commitment to Justice and Compassion

- BUSTH's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offers webinars on timely inclusion efforts, such as Increasing Participation of Students of Underrepresented Backgrounds.
- The 2021-22 Lowell Lectures are dedicated to cross-advocacy and intersectionality in racial justice efforts. This fall, Dr. Kwok Pui Lan advocated for broader understandings of political theology and greater awareness of anti-Asian sentiment and violence. A diverse panel response fostered rich conversation.
- Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU and active in the Green Seminary Initiative.