

NEW DIRECTOR LOOKS FORWARD TO COMING CHANGES

In February 2016, Michelle Spomer moved east across the country to begin her new appointment as director of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's Clifford E. Barbour Library. With well more than a decade's worth of experience in theological librarianship—most recently at Azusa Pacific University in Southern California—Michelle will contribute important insights and leadership as the Seminary moves forward with the renovation of the 50-year-old Library building. Not only does Michelle bring to her position a breadth of experience and a deep commitment to theological librarianship, but she also exudes enthusiasm and collegiality—traits that fit well the welcoming, hospitable ethos that are ever-increasing hallmarks of Pittsburgh Seminary's campus community.



“PTS is in a time of transition, so a lot of exciting things are happening as a result,” notes Michelle. “Barbour Library will have a chance to support the mission of PTS in a number of ways. Most immediately, the Library’s renovation will provide a variety of spaces that support the research needs of students and faculty, as well as providing collaborative spaces for the PTS community and a variety of on-campus events. Library staff are also looking forward to building on current instruction initiatives and will be evaluating how best to meet the needs of both current and future courses. It is a privilege to be a part of the PTS community, and I look forward to tackling the challenges of growth and change in theological education.”

At Azusa Pacific, Michelle served as head of The James L. Stamps Theological Library in addition to a variety of previous roles there, such as associate professor of theological bibliography and research. Prior to her work at Azusa she served in two other libraries, including that of her Master of Divinity alma mater, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Also a graduate of San Jose State University (MLIS), Michelle has held memberships in and served in leadership roles for a number of professional organizations: the American Library Association, American Theological Library Association, Association of College and Research Libraries, California Academic and Research Libraries, Southern California Theological Library Association (former president), and Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium. She has given presentations at professional conferences on topics ranging from resources for faith integration research and scholarship to social networking on Facebook. She has also served on a number of library advisory boards.

On Feb. 15, Interim Director of Barbour Library Darlene Veghts resumed her position as technical services librarian and lead cataloger after handing over the director’s reins to Michelle.

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