

David Esterline to be next president of Pittsburgh seminary: People

News in the [May 27, 2015](#) issue

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), has named David Esterline as its next president. He will begin in the role on June 15 and also serve as professor of cross-cultural theological education.

“I share the seminary’s goal of reconfiguring theological education in an era when students take many paths to the ministry, not just the traditional full-time course load toward a master of divinity degree,” Esterline said.

Current president William J. Carl III is retiring in June.

“Dr. Esterline is well known in global theological education,” said Sandy Lamb, PTS board chair. “He’s a great listener. He’s a great convener.”

Esterline was most recently director of the Institute for Cross-Cultural Education at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, another PCUSA seminary, and a teaching elder in Blackhawk Presbytery of Illinois.

Esterline started his ministry with the PCUSA working alongside his wife, Jane Esterline, in mission in Cameroon and the Fiji Islands, serving at theological colleges. He was ordained by the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon in 1987. Esterline is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz; Trinity College of Oxford University; and the Graduate Theological Union.

Esterline is cochair of the recently formed Global Forum of Theological Educators, an initiative designed to foster mutual sharing among evangelical, Pentecostal, mainline Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and independent educators.