

Molly T. Marshall, Ph.D.

President and Professor of Theology and Spiritual Formation

President Molly T. Marshall's great passion in life is theological education. "I love to witness what transpires in the lives of students as they engage the great intellectual heritage of the church. I love even more when they discover their depth of giftedness and begin to sow seeds of hope in the congregations where they practice their craft."

"I believe in what we do at Central as we seek God together. We are in the process of forming persons for transforming ministries, which is the heart of theological education. I'm grateful for the trust and confidence the board has given me to lead Central as a teaching church seminary--realigning congregational life with theological education," said Dr. Marshall. During her tenure as president, Central has moved the campus to a new location, opened two extension sites, and found new ways to focus the seminary's mission in congregational health and global Christianity.

For the past twenty-five years Molly T. Marshall has been in theological education. She served as Visiting Professor of Theology, Spiritual Formation, and Worship for two years and was elected as the Professor of Theology and Spiritual Formation with tenure at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in 1997. Beginning in 2004 she served as Central's Acting Academic Dean until her appointment to President. Previously, Dr. Marshall was Associate Professor of Theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. Her experience in ministry is varied. She has served as youth minister, campus minister, and pastor in churches across Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Kentucky.



A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, she received her M.Div. and Ph.D. from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Further graduate work has been completed at Tantur Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem, Israel; Cambridge University, Cambridge, England; and Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, where she was a Visiting Scholar (1990-91), and resident scholar at the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research (2000). Her writings include three monographs, *No Salvation Outside the Church?*, *What it Means to Be Human*, and *Joining the Dance: a Theology of the Spirit*, as well as numerous chapters in books, dictionary and journal articles, and Bible study curricula.

Dr. Marshall and her husband, Dr. J. Douglas Green, are life-long Baptists. They are members of Prairie Baptist Church in Prairie Village, Kansas, which is affiliated with the American Baptist Churches. Douglas, a retired physician, stays busy at home reading widely in the field of medicine and trying to keep up with Wilfred Amsdorf Marshall-Green, their theologically attentive schnauzer. She is an avid tennis fan, a collector and reader of books, and enjoys English choral music. Molly has also been known to cook world-class chili for friends and family and other brave souls. Her "Make your Bed in Sheol" chili will revise your eschatology.

Dr. Marshall has presented papers before the Society of Biblical Literature, American Academy of Religion, Society for Biblical Literature, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and conference on Baptist Distinctives at Green Lake, Wisconsin. In addition to a regular preaching schedule, she is a nationally recognized lecturer at colleges, universities, and other seminaries. Recently, she served as president of the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion and as editor of the NABPR Dissertation Series. She is on the Editorial Board of the American Baptist Quarterly. She has also lectured internationally, offering the Belote Lectures at Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary and the Nordenhaug Lectures at International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, Czech Republic.

I view my vocation as an "equipper of ministers," a midwife of grace who helps deliver what I discern is struggling to be born in the lives of students. Theological education is a process of discovering and refining calling and gifts—learning where one's "great gladness meets the world's deep need," in the words of Frederick Buechner.

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