

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Working Guidelines

(Awaiting Final Confirmation in November 2009)

Background:

In September of 1996 the Committee on Theological Education (COTE) voted to establish the Award for Excellence in Theological Education.

- AWARD POLICY-

The Award for Excellence in Theological Excellence honors a person biennially who has made an outstanding lifetime contribution to theological education in and for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The award will normally be presented during the meeting of the General Assembly. The recipient may also be recognized at a COTE meeting.

In order to ensure the broadest and most comprehensive possible consideration and discernment of possible candidates for the award—and in order to facilitate a representative selection of nominees for the award—the following policy will govern the award:

- 1. **Nomination Pool:** Every effort will be made to develop and maintain an ongoing pool of distinguished and diverse nominees, who can be considered for reception of the award in an appropriate year so as ensure that nominees who have served each PC(USA) seminary can be fairly represented in the process.*
- 2. **Nomination Process:** The following nominating process will be used to ensure a large pool of nominees is available for consideration in each General Assembly cycle:
 - a. Nomination forms will be circulated by email to all elected and institutional members of COTE in the summer a full year prior to each General Assembly.*
 - b. Each COTE member will be strongly encouraged to submit at least one nomination form in each biennial nomination cycle.*
 - c. Reminders will be sent out to COTE members who have not returned a nomination form no less than one month before the Fall COTE meeting prior to each General Assembly.*
 - d. Nominations will be considered, and a nominee selected, during the Fall COTE meeting prior to each General Assembly.*
 - e. Names seriously considered and deemed of interest for a given General Assembly cycle will remain in the pool and be carried over for consideration in the next two nomination cycles.*
 - f. Joint nominations from multiple institutions or COTE members are strongly encouraged.*
 - g. Nomination forms will be submitted to the **Theological and Church Concerns Committee** for review and recommendation to COTE.**
- 3. **Nominee Criteria:** The nomination form will remind potential nominators of the following criteria and values which will inform the selection process:
 - a. Insofar as possible, the selection process will draw upon nominees who have offered **distinguished lifetime service in Presbyterian or Reformed Theological Education**. When the award is granted for service at particular seminary or**

seminaries, priority will be given in following nomination cycles to those who serve or served other schools that have not been represented by an award winner for some time. The goal is to reflect distinguished service and leadership for at as many PC(USA) seminaries as possible before honoring service at the same seminary or seminaries more than once.

- b. Over the years, every effort will be made to ensure that candidates selected will reflect the following **diversity criteria** valued by the PC(USA) as a whole:*
 - i. **Geographical** diversity as reflected in service and leadership in various regions of the country and territories, and all of the seminaries that participate in COTE.*
 - ii. **Cultural and racial** diversity as reflected in intentional efforts to strengthen the list of nominees who represent and/or have served the variety of cultural and racial contexts, congregations, and communities the PCUSA seeks to serve.*
 - iii. **Gender** diversity in achieving as close to a 50/50 gender balance as possible.*
 - iv. **Theological** diversity as reflected in contributions to theological education that represent the full theological range of the PC(USA).*
 - v. Diversity of **roles** in contributing to Presbyterian theological education will be honored, including:*
 - 1. Faculty members*
 - 2. Administrators*
 - 3. Leaders and innovators in new patterns of theological education including former COTE members.*
 - 4. Governing Body leaders demonstrating exceptional commitment to theological education*
 - 5. Trustees of Seminaries*
 - 6. Exceptional Presbyterian or Reformed leaders serving seminaries preparing leaders for but not directly affiliated with the PC(USA).*
 - 7. Donors making exceptional financial contributions to PC(USA) theological education.*
 - 8. Other categories as COTE shall determine appropriate.*



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NOMINATION FORM (Page 1 of 2)

CRITERIA

The nominee fulfills three of the following four criteria:

1. Ten or more years of service at an accredited theological institution and an advocate for seminaries.
2. Active in PC(USA) theological education leadership for a minimum of ten years.
3. Visionary, a leader into new frontiers.
4. Formative influence on the church's mission in theological education.

By July 15th in odd number years please email seminaries@pcusa.org and attach the following:

- A completed COTE AFE Nomination Form page 2
- A brief bio of the nominee
- A list of specific examples of how this nominee has demonstrated these distinguishing characteristics and established criteria.
- A digital photo (in JPEG format.)
- Co-signer letters or statements in support of this nomination (Encouraged but Optional).

PLEASE REMEMBER: The Theological and Church Concerns Committee depends on the information you provide in support of the criteria and does not engage in its own research into the worthiness of the nominees. This nomination will be considered for (four) consecutive years, after which time a new form may be submitted if you choose to do so.

Previous Recipients:

1997	Robert Wood Lynn
1998	C. Ellis Nelson
1999	James H. Costen
2000	None
2001	None
2002	Sara P. Little
2003	Jack Leven Stotts
2004	Henry Luce III
2005	None
2006	Catherine Gonzalez
2008	Sara C. Juengst



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NOMINATION FORM (Page 2 of 2)

NOMINEE

Name: _____

Address : _____

City: _____

State or Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Office Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

e-mail address: _____

NOMINATOR

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State or Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Office Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

e-mail address: _____

- Check to certify you have reviewed the Award for Excellence Guidelines fully.

Return this form to the Office of Theological Education or the Executive Committee Chair no later than
July 15th in odd numbered years for consideration at the Fall COTE Meeting.

<http://www.pcusa.org/seminaries/cote.htm>