

January 26, 2026

Dear Mercersburg Society Members, Friends, and Inquirers,

Greetings! As the newly elected President, I look forward to serving the Society in 2026. On behalf of the Corporate Board, I offer deep thanks to Lee Barrett, outgoing President; Ronnette Comfort-Butler, outgoing Secretary; John Cedarleaf, outgoing Financial Liaison; and Nathan Baxter, outgoing Member at Large. We are grateful for your service. Under your leadership, we moved into our partnership with the Penn Central Conference and held our well-received June Convocation, “God Was in Christ Reconciling the World: Why We Still Care.”

Welcome to new Board members Linden DeBie (Secretary), David Layman (Financial Liaison), Tim Dugan, Ted Trost, and Matt Deal (Members at Large). Thank you for your willingness to serve the Society.

2026 promises to be an exciting year!

On June 1-2 we will hold our Convocation on the theme “Mercersburg in Glass and Stone,” an exploration of how theology gets expressed in church architecture and sanctuary enhancements, from stained glass and steeples to pulpits and altars. We will also consider from a Mercersburg perspective the devotional uses of more domestic visual artifacts, including icons and religious paintings. Speakers are being lined up and workshops are being planned.

We look forward to our collaboration with the newly formed Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ. Carrie Call, Transitional Executive Conference Minister, is committed to helping us gain a secure footing here. The Conference is hosting our website (<https://keystoneucc.org/what-is-mercersburg-theology/>). Through it, we will receive membership dues, donations, and Convocation registrations and provide information about upcoming events. In turn, the Conference is looking to the Society to provide opportunities for theological reflection to strengthen the church today. To this end, in addition to our Convocation, we will be offering a workshop at the Keystone Conference Spring Meeting, June 5-7, on Mercersburg and Parish Life.

The 2026 volume of the *New Mercersburg Review* is due out very soon, featuring articles by Linden DeBie, David Layman, Lee Barrett, Chris Crain, and a sermon by Deborah Rahn Clemens. The call for submissions for the 2026 Roth Prize for the best student paper related to Mercersburg Theology has gone out to all the members of the Association of Theological Schools. The next volume in the Mercersburg Theology Study Series, Volume 14, *Schaff's America and Related Writings*, edited by Lee Barrett, is expected this fall. At some future point, Volume 13 on the liturgy will be published under Walter Taylor's editorship.

If you'd like to read more about Mercersburg Theology, check out our resources list (<https://tinyurl.com/2tz47jcp>) and the website [mercersburgtoday.net](https://mercersburgtoday.net). If you want to join a Mercersburg Study Group, check out the details on our website

(<https://keystoneucc.org/what-is-mercersburg-theology/>). If you'd like to write a short article reflecting on a current spiritual or ecclesial issue, please email me.

If you have ideas for the Society going forward, please feel free to contact me. The Board and I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings,

Anne Thayer

President

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