

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 31, 2017

Contacts: Lisa Dagher, Vice President of Seminary Relations and Development (McCormick)  
[ldagher@mccormick.edu](mailto:ldagher@mccormick.edu)  
773-947-6320  
Eliza Smith Brown, Director of Communications and External Relations (ATS)  
[brown@ats.edu](mailto:brown@ats.edu)  
412-977-3939

## **Frank M. Yamada named next executive director of The Association of Theological Schools**



Pittsburgh, PA . . . The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) has named Frank M. Yamada as its next executive director. In a meeting this morning, the ATS board voted unanimously to appoint Yamada, who currently serves as president of McCormick Theological Seminary. He will begin in his new role on July 1.

Yamada was selected after a comprehensive bi-national search led by a committee with equal representation from the ATS Board of Directors and the Board of Commissioners of the ATS Commission on Accrediting, with assistance from consulting firm Diversified Search.

Yamada joined the McCormick faculty in 2008 as associate professor of Hebrew Bible and director of the Center for Asian American Ministries. In 2011 he was elected as McCormick's 10th president, the first Asian American to lead a Presbyterian Church (USA) seminary. His tenure has been marked by increasing diversity in McCormick's student body and creative engagement with the shifting realities of theological education.

Yamada previously had taught Hebrew Bible/Old Testament for nine years at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. A graduate of Southern California College, he earned his Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy from Princeton Theological Seminary. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

"We are delighted that Dr. Yamada will bring his considerable gifts to ATS," said Association president Janet Clark. "As we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018, we find ourselves in an era of unprecedented

change for the more than 270 schools in our membership. We believe he is the right leader for this pivotal time in the history of the Association.”

“It was not surprising that our exhaustive search led us back to Dr. Yamada,” added James Hudnut-Beumler, immediate past president of ATS and chair of the search committee. “He has served on the ATS Board of Directors since 2014 and shown himself to be a person of great vision with an inclusive spirit and a deep passion for theological education.”

“I am honored and humbled to accept this call to be the next executive director of ATS. As we approach a new century in the Association’s history, our schools are poised to address faithfully the challenges that face theological education for the next century,” said Yamada.

Yamada will succeed Daniel O. Aleshire, who has served on the ATS staff for 27 years, the past 18 as executive director. Aleshire will retire June 30.

The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada is a membership organization of more than 270 graduate schools across North America. The Association provides a host of programs, services, research, and other resources to support the work of administrators and faculty at member schools. The Commission on Accrediting of ATS accredits institutions and approves degree programs offered by accredited schools.

###