

THE HYMN SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Fred Kimball Graham honored as Fellow by The Hymn Society

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Fred Kimball Graham and Nicholas Temperley, new Fellows of The HSUSC.

Bexley, Ohio. Fred Kimball Graham has been honored by The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada (The HSUSC) at its annual conference in Bexley, Ohio, from July 13-17, 2014 by being named a Fellow of The Hymn Society. This award, the highest honor given by the organization, was conferred because of Graham's work as a teacher, organist, hymnal editor, writer, and scholar of hymnology.

Born in Ontario, Graham was educated at the Royal Conservatory of Music; the University of Toronto; Berlin, Germany; the Royal College of Organists in London; Eastman School of Music; and Drew University. He served as teacher and church musician in Ottawa, Ontario; Saint John, New Brunswick; Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Toronto, Ontario; and has given organ recitals in Canada, the U.S., Germany, and the United Kingdom. He continues to be active in The United Church of Canada.

Graham's doctoral dissertation focused on Methodist hymn tunes in the United States of the 1800s. He is a charter member of the Charles Wesley Society. In addition to this ecumenical work he served the Consultation on Common texts two terms as chair, and helped to develop the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). Published works include the 20th Anniversary Annotated Edition for the RCL, twenty short articles in Edward Foley's *Worship Music: A Concise Dictionary*, an essay on singing for a Drew

festschrift, an article on Methodist hymn tunes in *The Contribution of Methodism to Atlantic Canada* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1992), and "John Wesley's Choice of Hymn Tunes" in *The Hymn* 1988. From 2007 to 2010 Graham convened the Southern Ontario Chapter of the Hymn Society; he has also served on the Editorial Advisory Board of The HSUSC. In 2011 The United Church of Canada awarded him the Davidson Trust Award "for excellence in teaching and scholarship in theological education," following a successful decade of teaching at Emmanuel College, the largest theological school of the United Church.

Graham's abilities are aptly illustrated by work he performed while serving on the committee compiling *Voices United*, the hymnal of The United Church of Canada. The committee very much wanted to include the hymn text "A woman and a coin – the coin is lost" by Jaroslav Vajda, but expressed their desire for a fresh tune. Graham composed a lovely tune in about thirty minutes, to the stunned surprise of the committee. Robin Knowles Wallace, Professor at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH, notes: "[Graham] combines warm compassion and biting brilliance. To sit with him in a hymn festival or presentation is to have new worlds opened to the details of choice and performance. To listen to him and sing with him as he plays a festival is to appreciate once again the ability of the organ to support and encourage congregational singing. To list his accomplishments is to marvel at the scholarship and tenacity that can move mountains to prepare a denominational hymnal and to start a Master of Sacred Music program."

Reflecting on his work on the RCL, Graham states, "In my worldview, theological thinking starts with story-telling, biblical story-telling. That's why there's a lectionary...to tell the story of the birth, death, resurrection and mission of Christ Jesus." (<https://www.drew.edu/theological/news-and-publications/theo-spirit/theospirit-archive/theospirit-february-2014/why-a-lectionary-by-fred-kimball-graham>, accessed 8/1/14).

Founded in 1922, The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada is an ecumenical organization of people who are passionate about hymns and congregational song. We recognize the importance of the people's song in worship and want to assure its vitality in the future. The Hymn Society community, open to all, is made up of scholars, church musicians, poets, composers, choir directors, choir members, clergy, worship planners, song leaders, music publishers, music educators, and people who love to sing. The mission of The Hymn Society is to encourage, promote, and enliven congregational singing.

For further information about The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, contact Deborah Carlton Loftis, Executive Director, 8040 Villa Park Drive, Suite 250, Henrico, VA 23228, or call 800-THE-HYMN. Please visit the website at www.thehymnsociety.org.