



Inviting Applications and Nominations

Dean of the James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology

For best consideration, materials should be submitted by **September 15, 2015**.

Mercer University invites applications and nominations for the **Dean of the James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology** in Atlanta, Georgia. This leadership position provides an exceptional opportunity for an experienced academic administrator to guide this independent theology school in its commitment to preparing men and women to serve in Christian ministry globally.

Search Profile: [Full information on this search is available in the Search Profile.](#)

The Opportunity

After serving nearly 20 years as the founding dean of McAfee School of Theology, Dr. Alan Culpepper has announced plans to step down from the deanship in 2015. Under his distinguished leadership, McAfee has established a solid foundation of theological education of both graduate and doctoral programs, attracted nationally recognized faculty, and graduated more than 600 alumni, who are making an impact for the Kingdom of God.

Mercer seeks a theology leader who will continue to advance the School to its fullest potential in accomplishing its mission. The next dean will have a heart for preparing men and women for ministry while embracing diversity, collaboration, collegiality and a global vision.

Responsibilities will include:

- Supervise the development, planning, implementation, administration, and continuous improvement of all academic curricula and programs, support services and administrative functions of the School, including operating policies and procedures and student recruitment
- Advance research, scholarly and creative activity within the School, in keeping with institutional initiatives and resources
- Cast a vision for the School, developing long-term goals and strategic plans
- Develop and manage budgets for the School
- Advance excellence in teaching by supporting, encouraging, and managing faculty development and evaluation

Qualifications

A Ph.D. or Th.D. from an accredited institution and at least five years of distinguished teaching experience that includes at least three years of administrative experience are preferred. A demonstrated history of

academic leadership, budget accountability, student recruitment, and a commitment to fundraising are also preferred. Candidates must have the ability to manage people well while articulating a strategic vision for the future.

While being a member of a Baptist church is not required, the successful candidate must have a deep understanding of and appreciation for the Baptist tradition and be fully committed to the founding principles of the School. ([See the Search Profile.](#))

Other qualifications include:

- Ability to cultivate relationships with churches, organizations, and educational programs that will benefit the School's teaching, research, and outreach programs
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills
- Commitment to diversity, with enthusiasm to reach out to under-represented populations
- Influence to attract nationally recognized faculty and speakers
- Successful fundraising and resource development experience
- Ability to develop new relationships and partnerships and nurture present ones that support the School's vision, mission, and goals

McAfee School of Theology : Founded in 1996, The James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology offers degree programs leading to a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry. The School also offers several joint programs: an M.Div.-Master of Business Administration, M.Div.-Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and M.Div.-Master of Science in Organizational Leadership with a Concentration in Non-Profit.

The faculty is committed to nurturing the spiritual life and character of students in a community that values both authentic scholarship and authentic piety. The School equips students for Christian leadership through personal mentoring, challenging courses, community worship, and the integration of scholarship and experience in the practical tasks of ministry.

Fall 2014 enrollment was 209 students, with 15 in the graduate program and 194 in the professional. While 54 percent of the students are Baptists, other denominations represented include Methodist, Presbyterian, African Methodist, Church of God, Assembly of God, Seventh-Day Adventist, Pentecostal, Lutheran, Evangelical, and Episcopal.

McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University offers a fully integrated program of study that places theological education in the twin contexts of a strong university and vibrant partner-churches. The curriculum is planned around the three convictions that a minister needs 1) to know certain things, 2) to be prepared to do a wide variety of practical tasks, and 3) to be a person of spiritual depth and maturity. Each course in the curriculum are planned around these needs, as well as integrated with the other disciplines of the theological curriculum.

McAfee is home to three distinct Mercer Centers:

- The Bough Center for Baptist Leadership offers academic programs and promotes research initiatives that bring students, professors, pastors, and other Baptist leaders into collaborative relationships.

- The Center for Theology and Public Life promotes public dialogue, research, and constructive solutions related to important public issues to which theology and ethical reflection can make a significant contribution.
- The Center for Teaching Churches is a pioneer effort to fill the transitional and educational need for McAfee's newly graduated ministers. It is also an opportunity for churches to extend their ministries by partnering with McAfee in the training of ministers.

Mercer University : Mercer University is one of America's oldest and most distinctive institutions of higher learning, offering rigorous programs that span the undergraduate liberal arts to doctoral-level degrees.

Founded by Baptists in 1833, Mercer today is an independent university that remains grounded in a tradition that embraces freedom of the mind and spirit, cherishes the equal worth of every individual, and commits to serving the needs of humankind.

Mercer has more than 8,500 students from 43 states and 64 foreign countries enrolled in 12 schools and colleges on campuses in Macon, Atlanta, and Savannah; three medical school sites in Macon, Savannah, and Columbus; and at four Regional Academic Centers around the state. The University is consistently ranked among the nation's leading institutions by such publications as *U.S. News & World Report*, which in 2014 named Mercer as the No. 1 Best Value in the South.

About Atlanta, Georgia : McAfee School of Theology is located on Mercer's Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta, Georgia. Despite a metropolitan population of more than five million and one of the world's busiest airports, Atlanta is known for its friendly Southern hospitality, rolling hills, and beautiful trees.

Nominations and Application Process

Confidential inquiries are welcomed; nominations are invited. They should include the name, current position, e-mail address, and telephone number of the individual being nominated.

An application should include a letter describing relevant experiences and interest in the position; a curriculum vitae; a statement of leadership vision; and five professional references. References will not be contacted without consent from applicant.

Nominations and application materials must be submitted to:

Mercer-Theology@myersmcrac.com

For best consideration, materials should be submitted by **September 15, 2015**.

Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting is assisting Mercer University with this search. The consultants are: **Emily Parker Myers**, President and CEO, and **Hunter Godsey**, Vice President.

Mercer University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in employment without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, age, or religion (except in limited circumstances where religious preference is both permitted by law and deemed appropriate as a matter of University policy).