



Dr. Stephen A. Hayner

Steve Hayner is the newly appointed President of Columbia Theological Seminary. Since 2003 he has served Columbia as Peachtree Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth. Steve holds degrees from Whitman College, Harvard Divinity School, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and University of St. Andrews where he completed his Ph.D. in 1984.

Previously Steve has served as university pastor at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, as vice president of Seattle Pacific University, as president of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and as associate pastor of two multiethnic churches in Madison, Wisconsin.

In his “spare time” Steve has served on a number of national and international boards, including World Vision, International Justice Mission, Presbyterian Global Fellowship, Christian International Scholarship Foundation, Fuller Seminary and The Navigators.

Steve loves students and he loves the church. His passion is to prepare men and women to lead congregations toward the fulfillment of God’s call to be missional churches—churches who are biblically faithful and growing steadily in their love for God, their love for each other, and their love for Christ’s work in the world.

Rev. Sharol R. Hayner

Sharol Rhodes Hayner grew up in Pasadena, California, and early on, began a relationship with Jesus Christ. In 1967, Sharol went to Wellesley College where she majored in music and piano performance. She met Steve at Park Street Church in Boston, where she served on staff with high school and college students following graduation.

Married in 1973, Sharol and Steve moved to Seattle where Sharol joined Steve in the university ministry and later, with some of those students, founded an intergenerational ministry to moms, Mothers’ Network. In 1988, the Hayners moved to Madison, Wisconsin. Throughout these years, Sharol served in worship and music ministry at Christ Presbyterian Church in Madison and in various capacities in the arts community of Madison. When she was 48, Sharol sensed God’s call to ordained ministry. Slowly, she began seminary one class at a time.

In 2003, the Hayners moved to Decatur, GA, where Sharol finished at Columbia Theological Seminary. In 2006, Sharol was ordained and was called as Associate Pastor for Discipleship at Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. Sensing God’s call to join Steve in ministry at Columbia Seminary, Sharol left Peachtree in 2009 and now offers hospitality to students, faculty, staff, and friends of Columbia while also mentoring and nurturing students on campus.

Steve and Sharol have three children: Emilie and Chad Wagner live in Winston-Salem, N.C. and are parents to Claire, 4, and Anna, 1. Chip and Kristen Hayner live in Nashville. Drew Hayner graduated from high school this past spring and will attend the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta.