

MASTERPIECE MARKETING
PRESS RELEASE

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Dr. Leonard Sweet Joins Faculty of Evangelical Seminary *World-Renowned Scholar and Best-Selling Author to become* **Charles Wesley Distinguished Professor of Doctor of Theology Studies**

(Myerstown, PA) – Evangelical Seminary is pleased to announce that world-class scholar and author **Dr. Leonard Sweet** will be joining their faculty as the new Charles Wesley Distinguished Professor of Doctor of Theology Studies, beginning January 1, 2018.

Evangelical's Doctor of Theology (ThD) program is currently in the proposal stage as they await approval (anticipated by February 2018) from accrediting agencies including the Association of Theological Schools and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The ThD program, which will commence in the summer or fall of 2018, is designed for reflective ministry practitioners. Seminary President Tony Blair describes the ideal candidate as "those who want a rich theological foundation for ministry practice." Dr. Sweet is serving in a part-time role, leading the ThD program's **Semiotics track** (studying signs) and teaching several of the core courses.

President Blair writes, "Leonard Sweet is a prophet to the Church in our generation, a prophet who not only speaks of what *can be* but also translates for the Church what the Spirit of God is doing in the world. That's why he teaches semiotics...he pays attention to what God is up in the world, and helps others to see it and then to join God in that work." President Blair studied under Sweet in a Doctor of Ministry program years ago and calls the experience "life-changing."



Leonard I. Sweet is an honors and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Richmond, having earned his Master of Divinity degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School and PhD from the University of Rochester. **The author of more than 200 articles, 1300+ published sermons, and more than sixty books**, Leonard Sweet's publications include the best sellers *Soul Tsunami*, *Aqua Church*, and *Jesus Manifesto* (with Frank Viola), as well as many other volumes that are revolutionizing the church's mission. In 2006 and 2007, Sweet was voted by his peers "One of the 50 Most Influential Christians in America" by ChurchReport Magazine, and in 2010, he was selected by the top non-English Christian website as one of the "Top 10 Influential Christians." His popular podcast, "Napkin Scribbles," is widely quoted, as is his homiletics resource, preachingthestory.com.

Currently a Visiting Distinguished Professor at Portland Seminary in Oregon and Tabor College in Kansas, Previously, Sweet was Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Theological School at Drew University. He also served for eleven years as President and

Professor of Church History at United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio and is currently their President Emeritus. Sweet resides in the San Juan Islands off the coast of Washington State.

President Blair shares, "I am delighted that a scholar, thinker, futurist, prophet, and author of his stature would want to serve the students of Evangelical Seminary in this capacity for years to come. Leonard Sweet is first and foremost a Jesus guy, one who emphasizes experience with God."

As proposed, the ThD program is 39 credits and 3 years in length, and offered in a hybrid delivery: partly online and partly in residencies in Myerstown or elsewhere. It includes core courses, a dissertation (or integrated research project), and a readings-and-research track. Students may choose a pre-prepared track, like the Semiotics track Sweet will teach, or submit a proposal to create their own.

The Seminary is also launching next month its first-ever graduate program accessible entirely online. The new Master of Arts (Bible) is, like the ThD, designed for practitioners, and supplements a more intensive Master of Arts in Religion (Bible concentration) created for those pursuing a scholarly career in biblical studies. The MA (Bible) can be earned through courses at the Myerstown campus of the Seminary, or online, or a combination of the two.

For more information about Evangelical Seminary, please visit www.evangelical.edu, email admissions@evangelical.edu, or call the seminary.

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The mission of Evangelical Theological Seminary, in partnership with the Church, is to develop servant leaders for transformational ministry in a broken and complex world by nurturing rigorous minds, passionate hearts, and Christ-centered actions.