

FFWPU USA: Unification Theological Seminary Inaugurates President Dr. Thomas Walsh

Naokimi Ushiroda
October 10, 2022



On Oct. 10, Dr. Thomas G. Walsh was inaugurated as the seventh president of the Unification Theological Seminary ([UTS](#)). With this new appointment from UTS co-founder, True Mother, he succeeds former UTS president and current provost, Dr. Thomas Ward.

"The core vision [of UTS] remains unchanging, even if some particulars are changing," said Dr. Walsh in his inaugural address. "I am convinced of the enormous opportunity and huge potential for growth going forward ... Together, we can build a world-class graduate school of ministry and public leadership, with men and women who develop the spiritual, moral, and intellectual capacities that impact the world - this is the mission of UTS that will continue and be expanded in the years to come."

Some 120 participants on Zoom and 50 in-person attendees joined the inaugural ceremony held at the 43rd Street building in New York City. The program featured congratulatory messages from a range of distinguished leaders from around the world. Dr. Walsh, who also serves as chairman of the Universal Peace Federation ([UPF](#)), was presented the UTS presidential medallion and mace by Dr. Ward.

"I feel very privileged to work with [Dr. Walsh] at this time," said Dr. Ward. He said the many shared testimonies from various dignitaries show Dr. Walsh as "a friend, a confidant, a person they can trust, believe in, and want to work with."

With a PhD from Vanderbilt University in Religious Studies and Ethics, Dr. Walsh has traveled to more than 120 countries, contributed to countless volumes of religious text, advised True Mother on the global work of UPF, and has passionately educated the next generation as a UTS professor of religion and peace. Dr. Walsh said he personally benefited from the words and wisdom of past UTS presidents, such as Dr.

Hugh Spurgin and Dr. Theodore Shimmyo, and holds deep gratitude and appreciation for his many colleagues. "I admire all of you," he said. "I'm humbled and honored to receive so many words of congratulations ... and messages of sincere appreciation of the [UTS] founders."

Dr. Sun Jin Moon, senior vice president of the Women's Federation for World Peace International, called Dr. Walsh, with True Mother's guidance, "a winning combination for peace."



"I believe the best days are yet to come," she said, as she described Dr. Walsh as "a man of character" with "unwavering dedication." She commended Dr. Walsh's transformative work with UPF, as did other leaders including Dr. Young-ho Yun, director-general of UPF International. He said Dr. Walsh's role as UTS president is now "an opportunity to take a big leap forward."

"The UTS founders, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, knew there was nothing more important than education to restore the world," said Dr. Yun. "That is why they made tremendous effort to establish UTS." He called the seminary "an historic turning point," which will raise future international leaders who can "effectively and wisely take responsibility" for various initiatives in and out of the Unification movement. "Focusing on peace studies and public leadership ... will be the key to raising future generations of leaders," he said. "[UTS] will be a place of creative convergence and comprehensive education."

Several leaders said Dr. Walsh's vast experience in the religious sphere will be a big asset to the seminary. In his video remarks, Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land stated Dr. Walsh's diverse talents can "advance [God's] glory in this world."

"We need to prepare a new generation that understands that everyone has human rights, freedom of religion, freedom of conscience, and freedom of conviction," said Bishop Younan.

Dr. Walsh highlighted that UPF can play a "strong role" in leveraging its relationships and networks with UTS. The graduate school is establishing two education tracks going forward, one focused on divinity and the other on peace studies. Dr. Walsh called the change in seminary leadership and curriculum "a dramatic new chapter in our history, and a new era at UTS."

"We see many encouraging opportunities for developing partnerships," said Dr. Walsh. "UTS's restorative vision and practices offer hope."



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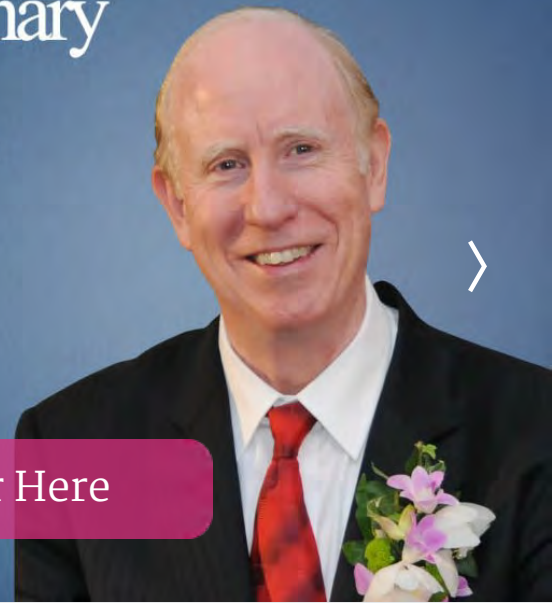
Unification Theological Seminary

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION OF

DR. THOMAS G. WALSH

7TH PRESIDENT OF UTS

MONDAY, OCT 10, 2022 | 1:30 PM ET
4 W 43RD ST, NEW YORK, NY



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UTS NEWS



UTS Provost Thomas Ward honored by United Nations NGO

UTS Communications

On September 28 UTS Provost Thomas Ward was invited by ICERM, a United Nations NGO, to be its Annual Conference's Keynote Speaker at Manhattanville College.



Melanie Komagata visits UTS

UTS Communications

Melanie Komagata, a student in the UTS Master of Arts in Peace Studies visited the UTS New York City on Friday August 26, UTS Fall Onsite Registration Day, with her husband Taelun Moon.

Announcements

- ["Never Defeated": Father Moon in Danbury](#)
- [A Big Thank you to Robert Pumphrey and a Warm Welcome Ken Sohn!](#)
- [Dr. Drissa Kone Named Director of Doctor of Ministry Program](#)
- [Steven Boyd to become Director of Enrollment Management and Student Life](#)

Other News

UTS Plans to Close its Master of Religious Education Program

UTS Communications

Unification Theological Seminary plans to close its Master of Religious Education (MRE) program and remove it from its Inventory of Program Offerings as of August 31, 2023.



UTS Hosts Retreat for Full-Time Faculty and Staff

UTS Communications

UTS full-time faculty and staff participated in a one-day retreat at East Garden in Irvington, NY.

- [UTS Provost Thomas Ward honored by United Nations NGO](#)
- [UTS congratulates students and recent graduates who were Blessed in Marriage in April 2022](#)
- [Spiritual Connections: Living in the Flow of God's Love](#)
- [Congratulations to the Class of 2022!](#)

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UPF-SAN MARINO HOSTS 'FOOTBALL FOR PEACE'

Sixteen teenage boys from the Middle East took part in the "Football for Peace" project.

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October 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

[OCT 11: UK: Introduction to Universal Peace Federation](#)

[OCT 12: UPF-Italy: ART and CULTURE Instruments of Peace](#)

[OCT 24: United Nations Day](#)

[NOV 11: UPF-EUME: Conference with the Podgorica Club](#)

[NOV 19: UUPF-EUME: Family, Society and Universal Values](#)

[DEC 15: The 17th Global Forum on Human Settlements](#)

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United Nations Relations

UPF International Elected to the Board of CoNGO

UPF International—UPFI was elected to the board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CoNGO) for the term 2021-2025.

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United Nations Relations

UPF International Attends Annual Prayer before the 77th Opening of the UN General Assembly

UPF International—UPF International attended the annual prayer before the 77th opening of the UN General Assembly hosted by the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See.

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Conferences

UPF-Austria Holds 'Rethinking Peace' Event

Stadtschlaining, Austria—Speakers at a UPF peace conference described their experiences of reconciliation.

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CHAPTER REPORTS [View All Chapters](#)



Portugal

UPF-Portugal Partners with Estoril Conferences

Cascais, Portugal—UPF was included among the partners at the seventh edition of Estoril Conferences 2022.



Lebanon

UPF-Lebanon Brings Students on the Peace Road

Menjez, Lebanon—A small, ancient village in the north of Lebanon was the site of a Peace Road event.



Uruguay

UPF-Uruguay Commemorates UN International Day of Peace

Montevideo, Uruguay—UPF-Uruguay held a commemoration of the UN International Day of Peace on September 24, 2022.

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Universal Peace Federation is an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations We support and promote the work of the United Nations and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

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