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In Memoriam

Rev. Dr. Richard D. Weis

1949-2020
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Editor’s Note

This issue of the Quarterly is dedicated to the memory of the Reverend Doctor Richard W. Weis who served as dean of Lexington Theological Seminary 2011-2017. He is remembered as a fine scholar and good, kind person. One of the authors of an article in this issue, Professor Marvin A. Sweeney writes the following about him:

Rich Weis and I have been friends and colleagues ever since the fall of 1977 when he first arrived in Claremont to begin his Ph.D. program. With the founding of the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center in 1979, we worked closely together, he as Director of the ABMC and I as Head Cataloguer. We remained friends and colleagues following my 1983 graduation and departure for my first full-time academic appointment at the University of Miami. Rich wrote a fine dissertation on the Mašša’ Oracle Form in 1986. Unfortunately, he never published the work, but I cited it repeatedly in my own work, particularly Isaiah 1-39 in the FOTL commentary series. I will miss his friendship and wisdom greatly.

May his memory be a blessing.

Dean and Professor Emeritus of Hebrew Bible Weis loved his scholarly work. He served as an editor of the Biblica Hebraica, Editio quinta funditus renovate for over 30 years. His work there has been invaluable to the study of the Hebrew Bible. Unfortunately, his work on the text of Jeremiah was cut short of its completion, a project he had looked forward to in his retirement. The study of that book is diminished by the absence of his completed work.

Dean Weis came to LTS when the seminary was in the midst of an extensive reworking of its curriculum and its vision of its educational offerings. He immediately caught the faculty’s vision and furthered and improved it. His attention to student needs and curricular excellence helped the seminary create a program that was ground-breaking and successful. He also worked tirelessly for the good of our students, as he helped administrators and trustees understand the workings and best practices of an academic institution. We miss his gentle humor and his nudges to help us become not just a better academic institution, but also better educators, faculty members, and human beings.

All of the essays in this issue except that of Paul K.-K. Cho were initially presented at a panel of the Theology of Hebrew Scripture at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting on San Diego, CA in Nov. 2019. The theme of the session was Theological Perspectives on Sacred Space in the Hebrew Bible. We are pleased to be able to publish these essays together. Individually and as a group they advance our understanding of this aspect of the Hebrew Bible. I particularly want to thank Marvin Sweeney for suggesting that they be published together and Soo Kim Sweeney for the way she has helped shepherd the project to completion.

JLS