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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**President McAllister-Wilson Nominates Dr. Carla Works
to the Board of Governors as the Next Dean**

President David McAllister-Wilson has nominated Dr. Carla Works to the Board of Governors as the next dean of Wesley Theological Seminary, to begin July 1, 2023. Dr. Works' nomination will be formally presented to the Board of Governors for approval at its May 9th Board meeting. He said, "Dr. Works will lead us soulfully and with a joyful spirit in the tradition of the Wesley deans as player coaches by continuing to teach while she deans."

Dr. Carla Swafford Works, Professor of New Testament, has taught at Wesley Theological Seminary since 2009. Her immediate response was one of modest assent to a call. "I am humbled that God would call me to serve for such a time as this," she said. Adding, "I covet the prayers of this community as we all work together to strengthen Wesley Seminary's commitment to its mission to serve the church and our world, and I look forward to seeing where God leads us in the future."

Works earned her Ph.D. at Princeton Theological Seminary and holds masters' degrees from Yale University Divinity School and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Her research interests encompass the Pauline epistles, the New Testament's use of Israel's scriptures, biblical ethics, and theological interpretation. Her publications include *The Least of These: Paul and the Marginalized* (Eerdmans, 2020), *The Church in the Wilderness: Paul's Use of Exodus Traditions in 1 Corinthians* (Mohr Siebeck, 2014), "Philippians" in *The Women's Bible Commentary* (Westminster John Knox, 2012), and various articles. She is passionate about teaching and learning for the service of the church.

Dr. Works is mindful of the challenges of theological education in our time and is willing to face them with courage and hope. She says, "When visiting a vineyard, I learned that the stressed vine produces the best wines. The most productive grapevines grow under rocky conditions. I think there is a lesson here for those of us in theological education. In dire conditions, what matters most is bearing fruit. As Wesley moves into the future, we will invest our efforts in our mission to serve the church and the world and use our resources to bear fruit that the birds and the wind will scatter to places unknown. Come and see what God is doing in the vineyard."

"The Board of Governors looks forward to taking formal action to enable the faculty and administration to prepare for the 2024 academic year under new leadership," said Board of Governors Chair Monica Hargrove. "Professor Carla Works will bring thoughtful insights and innovative approaches to training new church leaders as dean of Wesley Theological Seminary."

About Wesley Theological Seminary

Founded in 1882, Wesley Theological Seminary is seated in the nation's capital and centered in the Christian faith; it annually prepares more than 1,000 students representing more than 30 denominations to become exemplary teachers, preachers, and leaders in the world today. Wesley graduates are in ministry in all 50 states and 20 countries as leaders of churches and service organizations. The mission of Wesley Theological Seminary is to prepare Christians for leadership in the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to model a prophetic voice in the public square.

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