



For Immediate Release
July 20, 2021

ROBIN KNOWLES WALLACE HONORED AS FELLOW OF THE HYMN SOCIETY

Robin Knowles Wallace has been honored by The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada during its all-digital Annual Conference on July 15 by being named a Fellow of The Hymn Society (FHS). This award, the highest honor given by the organization, was conferred in recognition of her vital and influential contributions to hymnic research and pedagogy; as a teacher of congregational song; and for her service to The Hymn Society, particularly as editor of *The Hymn*.

Her timely and influential published works are characterized by usability for scholars and practitioners, attention to language for inclusion and justice, and the centrality of congregational song in worship as a spiritual and theological formational practice. Her academic preparation includes the University of Cincinnati, Ohio (BA, 1974, thesis: "The Shape-Note Tradition"); Scarritt College, Nashville, Tennessee (MA in church music, 1978); Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia (MTS, 1982, thesis developed under Don Saliers, "The Language of Hymnody: The Hymn Texts of Fred Kaan"); and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and Northwestern University, Illinois (PhD, 1996) dissertation developed under Rosemary R. Ruether, Ruth C. Duck, et al., "Moving Toward Emancipatory Language: A Study of Six Recent Hymn Texts."

An ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, Robin has taught at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, where she developed a multilevel curriculum in congregational song, choral music, liturgy, and preaching. Robin's many contributions to a wide range of hymnic biography and bibliography include fourteen entries in the *Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology* and as Resource Editor for *Worship Arts*, the journal of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts (1985–1993). This involved engaging a significant number of the membership in reviewing materials and resulted in thirteen years of columns on "Hymns for the Lectionary" (1985–1997).

Robin has served with distinction as editor of *The Hymn* (2012–2017; 2018–present), and as contributing editor for the column "Hymns in Periodical Literature." She has written twenty hymnology articles and fifty-five book reviews for twenty-nine journals, contributed to eleven books, and published sixty worship articles.

Her contributions to the *Proceedings* of The Charles Wesley Society include "Across the Pond: Charles Wesley and Holiness in Current British Hymnals" [18 (2014)], "'Jesu, United by Thy Grace': Wesleyan Hymn Singing as a Communal Spiritual Practice" [13, (2009)], and "Charles

Wesley's Tercentenary Celebration at the Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies" [11, 2006–07]. Her manifold hymnic interests have taken her to the annual meetings of the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland where she has presented papers including "Congregational Singing and Everyday Life: Results of a Survey 'Soundtracks of Our Lives'" at the tri-Hymn Society meeting in Cambridge, UK (2015), and published in the *Bulletin of the IAH (Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Hymnologie)* [43 (2015)].

This information was prepared by Carlton R. Young, FHS, and is provided for release by J. Michael McMahon, Executive Director of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, 5 Thomas Circle, NW, 4th floor, Washington, DC 20005-4153. For more information, please contact Dr. McMahon at mike@thehymnsociety.org or 800-843-8966.

Founded in 1922, The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada is an ecumenical organization of people who are passionate about hymns and congregational song. The Hymn Society community, open to all, is made up of scholars, church musicians, poets, composers, choir directors, choir members, clergy, worship planners, song leaders, music publishers, music educators, and people who love to sing. We believe that the holy act of singing together shapes faith, heals brokenness, transforms lives, and renews peace. Our mission, therefore, is to encourage, promote, and enliven congregational song.