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**TO:** Boston University Faculty and Staff

**FROM:** Jean Morrison, University Provost and Chief Academic Officer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "jm", written over the printed name of Jean Morrison.

**DATE:** January 21, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of Sujin Pak as Dean of the Boston University School of Theology

During the 2019-2020 academic year, we undertook a national-level search for a new Dean of the School of Theology. We sought candidates who would bring the proven organizational and pastoral leadership, strategic vision, and a portfolio of accomplishment in religious scholarship and teaching essential to guide one of our most historically significant schools into the future. After a competitive search process that considered many exceptional candidates and completion of the tenure review process, President Brown and I are delighted to announce the appointment of **Dr. Sujin Pak** as the new Dean of the Boston University School of Theology and a Professor in the School of Theology, effective January 1, 2021.

Dr. Pak joins BU from the Divinity School at Duke University, where she most recently served as Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and Vice Dean of Academic Affairs – a position that oversaw all of the school's degree programs (MDiv, MTS, ThM, MA, DMin, and ThD) and their curricula, as well as the departments of admissions, financial aid, student affairs, field education, and ministerial formation. Recognized among the world's leading scholars of Christianity in late medieval and early modern Europe, Dr. Pak focuses on the theology of the Protestant reformers, the Protestant Reformation and the Jews, women and the Reformation, and the history of biblical interpretation. She has published two acclaimed books through Oxford University Press – *Judaizing Calvin: Sixteenth-Century Debates over the Messianic Psalms* (2009) and 2018's *The Reformation of Prophecy: Early Modern Interpretations of the Prophet & Old Testament Prophecy* – alongside dozens of articles in leading theological journals and encyclopedia entries. She is a member of the American Historical Association, a board member of the Calvin Studies Society, and served on the editorial board of the Encyclopedia of Martin Luther and the Reformation.

Dr. Pak is a United Methodist layperson with active roles as a teacher and lay preacher in the United Methodist Church. At a time of tectonic change in both the church and academia, she thoughtfully led Duke Divinity School through significant transitions, advancing efforts to enhance diversity by providing greater flexibility to students of limited means, and to improve inclusiveness, particularly for LGBTQIA+ students, faculty, and staff. She played a major role in successfully adapting the school's curriculum to remote teaching and operations amid the

start of the pandemic last spring. Her work in and out of the classroom at Duke garnered a host of honors, including the Divinity School's Exemplary Teacher of the Year Award and recognition as an "Emerging Woman in Leadership" by the Association of Theological Schools.

Dr. Pak received her PhD from the Duke University Graduate Program in Religion, her MTS from Duke University's Divinity School, and her BA from Emory University. Through extended conversation with her and with our Search Advisory Committee, it was clear early on that Dr. Pak's scholarly credentials, her gift for building community through consensus and collaboration, and her ability to provide vision and steady, clear-headed leadership through periods of change have prepared her well to lead the School of Theology.

Dr. Pak began her duties as dean on January 1. We hope that you will join us in formally welcoming her to the BU community in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, we remain grateful to Dean Mary Elizabeth Moore, who led the School of Theology with exceptional grace and distinction since 2009, for her outstanding service through the end of 2020.

We want to express our gratitude to the members of the STH Dean Search Advisory Committee, whose considerable efforts and unwavering standards – particularly during a period of unprecedented global challenge – were vital to the success of the search. We would also like to thank the STH community for its assistance throughout this process and for its continued work advancing the school's standing as a nationally-respected center for religious and theological scholarship.

Cc: Robert A. Brown  
University Leadership Group

### **Search Advisory Committee for the Dean of the School of Theology**

#### **Chair:**

**David Chard**, Dean *ad interim*, Wheelock College of Education & Human Development

#### **Members:**

**Cristian De La Rosa**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Contextual Theology and Practice, STH

**Ellen DeVoe**, Professor of Social Work, SSW

**Courtney Goto**, Associate Professor of Religious Education, STH

**Shelly Rambo**, Associate Professor of Theology, STH

**Dana Robert**, Truman Collins Professor of World Christianity and History of Mission, STH

**Judith Swanson**, Associate Professor of Political Science, CAS/Political Science

**Jay Wexler**, Professor of Law, LAW