

Dr. Stephen Chester

Dr. Stephen Chester is the Associate Professor of New Testament at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL.

Dr. Chester joined the North Park Theological Seminary faculty in 2006. He was formerly Lecturer in New Testament and Greek at International Christian College in Glasgow, Scotland as well as an honorary lecturer in the Department of Divinity and Religious Studies of the University of Aberdeen. At North Park he has taught: *Introduction to New Testament Greek Exegesis, Interpreting the New Testament 1 (The Gospels) and 2 (Acts – Revelation), 1 Corinthians, the Gospel of John, the Gospel according to Paul (history of Pauline interpretation).*

Dr. Chester led a team at ICC to develop a Master of Theology program in Urban Ministry and from 2002-06 was also the program leader for the College's first MTh program, which is in Biblical Interpretation. Dr. Chester speaks of his goals in teaching as: "to foster the development of independent critical thinking among students, encouraging them to question received wisdom and to regard learning from one another, as well as from lecturers and scholarly literature, as a significant part of the educational process."

Dr. Chester received his Ph.D. from the University of Glasgow in 1999. He received his B.D. from the University of Glasgow in 1994 in New Testament & Practical Theology (Undertaken as a candidate for the Church of Scotland Ministry) Dr. Chester received his B.A. in History from the University of New York in 1988.

Dr. Chester has published a book entitled 'Conversion at Corinth: Perspectives on Conversion in Paul's Theology and the Corinthian Church' (Studies of the New Testament and its world). London & New York: T&T Clark International, 2003.

Dr Chester and his family worship at Immanuel Covenant Church, Chicago and are involved in the congregation's work with children and young people. Ordained in the Church of Scotland, Dr. Chester was active in urban ministry in Glasgow from 1988 until 2006.

Dr. Chester, his wife, Betsy, and their two children, Iain and Mark live in Chicago, IL.

Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah

Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah is the Milton B. Engebretson Assistant Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL.

Since joining the faculty he has taught: *Communicating the Faith in the Contemporary World, The Post Modern Church, and Leadership Empowering the Laity*.

Rah is formerly the founding Senior Pastor of the Cambridge Community Fellowship Church (CCFC), a multi-ethnic, urban ministry-focused church committed to living out the values of racial reconciliation and social justice in the urban context. Soong-Chan has previously been part of a church planting team in the Washington DC area, worked for a number of years with IVCF in Boston (specifically at MIT), and had mobilized CCFC to plant two additional churches.

He currently serves on the board of Catalyst Leadership Center and Sojourners/Call to Renewal. He has been an active member of the Boston Ten-Point Coalition (an urban ministry working with at-risk youth) and is a founding member of the Boston Fellowship of Asian-American Ministers. He has extensive experience in cross-cultural preaching as well as on numerous college campuses. Soong-Chan was a plenary speaker at the 2003 Urbana Student Missions Conference, the 2005 Summer Institute for Asian American Ministry and Theology, the 2006 Congress on Urban Ministry, the 2007 ECC Midwinter Conference, the 2007 Urban Youth Workers Institute Conference and is scheduled to speak at the 2008 CCDA National Conference.

Soong-Chan received his B.A. in Political Science and History/Sociology from Columbia University; his M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; his Th. M. from Harvard University; and his D.Min. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He is a contributor author to *Growing Healthy Asian-American Churches* (IVP) as well as an upcoming IVP book on the topic of the cultural captivity of the American evangelical church (due early 2008).

Soong-Chan, his wife, Sue, who teaches special education, and their two children, Annah and Elijah live in Chicago. Soong-Chan is an interim pastor at Parkwood Community Church in Lombard, IL.