

Dr. Stephen A. Hayner



An ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) for more than 36 years, Dr. Hayner is the ninth president of Columbia Theological Seminary. He joined the seminary's faculty in 2003 after a long history of experience in ministry to the church and to university students. His passion is to prepare men and women to lead congregations toward the fulfillment of God's call to be missional churches—churches that are biblically faithful and growing steadily in their love for God, their love for each other, and their love for Christ's work in the world.

After graduating from Whitman College with a degree in English literature, Dr. Hayner went to Harvard University and completed the M.T.S. degree in Semitic languages and literature. While at Harvard, he experienced God's call to full-time ministry in the church. He received a Th.M. degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 1973, and was ordained and installed as "university pastor" at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle where he was involved with students and faculty for 11 years.

In 1984, Dr. Hayner completed his Ph.D. in Old Testament from University of St. Andrews, in Scotland, and was called to be vice president for student life at Seattle Pacific University. In 1988, he became president of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a non-denominational discipleship ministry to students on campuses across the country. He led InterVarsity for 13 years before leaving to re-engage parish ministry, serving from 2001 to 2003 as associate pastor in two ethnically and theologically diverse congregations in Madison, Wisconsin. Dr. Hayner has served on a number of national and international boards, including World Vision, International Justice Mission, Christian International Scholarship Foundation, Evangelical Environmental Network and Presbyterian Global Fellowship.

He and his wife, Sharol, a 2006 graduate of Columbia's M.Div. program, have three children: Emilie, her husband, Chad, and their daughters, Claire and Anna, live in Winston-Salem, NC; Chip and his wife, Kristen, live in Nashville; and 18-year-old Drew.