

MEADVILLE LOMBARD

theological school

NEWS

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Michael Hogue appointed Assistant Professor of Theology

On March 2, 2006, the Meadville Lombard Board of Trustees unanimously approved the three-year appointment of Michael Hogue as Assistant Professor of Theology at Meadville Lombard Theological School. Lee Barker, Meadville Lombard's President, announced Hogue's promotion, describing Hogue as "an upcoming scholar of liberal theology who has energy for teaching and research, interest in issues of ministerial formation, and the ability to connect with students in the classroom and individually."

Hogue, who came to Meadville Lombard in September 2005 as a lecturer in liberal theology, earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in December 2005 and is honored by and excited about the prospects this new position holds for him, for the school, and for liberal religion in general, and Unitarian Universalism, specifically. "It's a thrill to be able to concentrate my vocational energy at such an important time in the history of the Unitarian Universalist movement," said Hogue. "The world is ripe to hear what liberal religion has to offer. The world is bleeding with ignorance of religious differences and fear of those differences. This is the time that religious liberals should be at the vanguard of the inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue," said Hogue.

Hogue, who was raised in the United Church of Christ, thinks of his role at Meadville as a "theological gadfly." He hopes to question and offer criticism, much like Socrates with the intent of empowering UU leaders with the tools and patterns of thinking that will allow them to communicate and engage people at the levels of their ultimate concern. He is fascinated by the work ahead of him, giving ministerial candidates the theological literacy required of them to facilitate conversation with people of differing faiths and cultures. "The social justice work and the cultural tasks of liberal religion require a coherent and comprehensive theological mooring," said Hogue.