

New Faculty Member Appointed at Austin Graduate School of Theology

(Austin, Texas –October 24, 2011) Dr. Daniel Napier will join the faculty of Austin Graduate School of Theology (Austin Grad) in August of 2012. Napier received his BA degree from Austin Grad in 1998. He earned a MA in the History of Theology at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 2000, and the PhD from the Free University in Amsterdam, the Netherlands in 2010. Napier is currently a missionary and lecturer in Philosophy and Theology at the Institute of Biblical Studies in Zagreb, Croatia.



Napier was selected after an intensive search was conducted by a committee of Austin Grad faculty members. President Stan Reid appointed the search committee upon the announcement of Dr. Michael Weed's retirement after 36 years of service at the school.

"The invitation to join the Austin Grad faculty both honors and humbles me," said Napier. "It seems especially appropriate to be handed the baton by Michael Weed. He first taught me the significance of receiving the tradition of Christian faith from those who have gone before us and passing it on, ever so slightly enriched, to the next generation. As I reach back to receive the baton from Professor Weed, I celebrate how well he ran the race before me. I also look forward and pray that God will make use of me too in shaping a new generation of servants in his kingdom."

Reid noted that Napier has described himself as having an "intellectual passion to understand how God transforms our minds en route to changing our lives entire." According to Reid, "Dr. Napier understands that the goal of a seminary is to join in a quest to understand the faith better in order to live the faith better. His desire to use philosophy and theology as tools for spiritual renewal will equip our students to live, witness, and minister effectively in a post-modern culture."

"It's wonderful to welcome an alumnus back home to teach Scripture and theology," said Dr. Jeff Peterson, faculty chair at Austin Grad. "Daniel Napier has distinguished himself," said Peterson, "not only as a student here and at other theological schools but also as a minister, a missionary teacher and mentor, and most recently in his doctoral dissertation on Augustine at the Free University of Amsterdam. The faculty looks forward to the contribution Dr. Napier will make to faith and life at Austin Grad."

Napier served as a visiting professor at Austin Grad last June. One student, Matt Porter, described his experience in Dr. Napier's class on Introduction to Theology. "It was one of the most challenging and spiritually uplifting courses I have taken at Austin Grad. "Through diligent and careful teaching," Porter continued, "we learned how the study of theology throughout history has emphasized a pastoral function for the sake of the church." Napier impressed Porter as one who truly lived what he taught. "It is

evident,” said Porter, “that his understanding of theology has contributed to a deeper and more mature practice of the Christian faith.”

Napier, his wife, Karly, and their daughters Rebecca and Kristina will move to Austin upon the completion of his commitment for the 2011-2012 academic year in Zagreb.

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For more information see www.austingrad.edu

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