

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug 11, 2026

Berkeley School of Theology Appoints Rev. Dr. Cheryl F. Dudley as Interim President

Berkeley, CA — The Board of Trustees of the Berkeley School of Theology (BST) is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Dr. Cheryl F. Dudley as Interim President, effective September 1, 2026. Rev. Dr. Dudley will reside on campus during her tenure, providing spiritual, administrative, and strategic leadership during a season of change and transition.

Rev. Dr. Dudley brings decades of executive leadership experience across faith-based, ecumenical, and social justice organizations. Most recently, she served as the Regional Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York from 2015 to 2026. In this role as Chief Executive Officer, she provided spiritual and administrative oversight to the region, acting as a vision caster, mission steward, and lead pastor-to-pastors. Her extensive career in executive leadership and institutional advancement includes serving as Global Religions Director at the Arcus Foundation, Senior Advisor to the President & CEO at Church World Service, and Associate Executive Director at the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, where she directed community transformation efforts and served as Chief Development Officer.

An ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches USA, Rev. Dr. Dudley holds a Doctor of Ministry in Executive Leadership from McCormick Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity in Theology and Ethics from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Pomona College. Her widespread leadership within the broader ecumenical community includes roles as President of the Council of Churches of the City of New York, President of the ABC Regional Executive Ministers Council, and board appointments with the International Baptist Theological Seminary and Bricks & Mortals.

"We are blessed to have Dr. Cheryl Dudley join Berkeley School of Theology as the interim president. Dr. Dudley brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as a CEO of various non-profit organizations and Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York, a region of 180 diverse churches. BST will find Dr. Dudley an outstanding leader in a time of change and transition. Most of all BST will find her to have a pastor's heart and woman of strong conviction and faith."

— Rev. Katie Choy-Wong, Chair, BST Board of Trustees

About Berkeley School of Theology

Founded in 1871 by the American Baptist Home Mission Society, Berkeley School of Theology is now an interdenominational graduate school of theology committed to forming leaders for the church and the

world. Ranked among the ten most interculturally diverse seminaries in the nation, BST offers graduate theological education rooted in the conviction that *Imago Dei* — the image of God reflected in every person — is not a box to check, but a reality to be deeply lived. It is a founding member school of the Graduate Theological Union, and a premier seminary dedicated to preparing leaders for compassionate ministry, social justice, and transformative service in a diverse world.

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