

For Immediate Release

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Kevin Hester to Chair FWBBC Theological Studies Department

NASHVILLE, TN—Dr. Kevin Hester has been named chair of the Department of Theological Studies at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Provost Greg Ketteyman. A member of the college faculty since 2003, Dr. Hester served the past three years as program coordinator for Biblical Studies. He succeeds Dr. Garnett Reid who chaired the department 2008-2011. Dr. Reid will continue teaching Bible where he specializes in Old Testament studies.

“This kind of shift in duty posts occurs frequently in the academic community as personal responsibilities and professional work loads change among the faculty,” Dr. Ketteyman said. “We are confident that Dr. Hester will continue the same tradition of solid biblical leadership in the department that Dr. Reid provided. The college is fortunate to have a number of outstanding professors who step up and deliver when their names are called.”

In a related adjustment within the Department of Theological Studies, the Reverend Matthew McAfee has been appointed program coordinator for Biblical Studies. McAfee returned to FWBBC in a full-time capacity last fall and has served as Bible instructor and campus pastor since August 2010. He has been on leave of absence pursuing doctoral studies in Near Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago. He has served as part-time FWBBC faculty since 2003, on campus 2003-2006, and after that worked with distance-learning students.

Dr. Ketteyman said, “Dr. Hester and Reverend McAfee represent the finest in scholarship and commitment to Christian ministry. Both are published journalists and creative speakers whose classes inspire and energize students. Both men expect to shoulder broader faculty duties and provide oversight for various campus activities.”

For the past three years, Dr. Hester has chaired the college's Compliance Committee for accreditation. He is frequently published in professional journals and denominational publications. His 2010 pamphlet, *Free Will Baptists and the Priesthood of Believers*, was published by the Free Will Baptist Historical Commission. His first book was published by Paternoster (an English evangelical firm) in 2007, *Eschatology and Pain in St. Gregory the Great: The Christological Synthesis of Gregory's Morals on the Book of Job*. The book is an adaptation of Hester's doctoral dissertation.

A 1993 FWBBC graduate, Dr. Hester completed the M.Div degree at Covenant Theological Seminary in 1997 and his Ph.D. at Saint Louis University in 2000.

President Matt Pinson said, "We are thankful for the godly example and influence that the ministries of Dr. Hester, Dr. Reid, and Reverend McAfee continue to make on the FWBBC campus. They all three have a servant outlook toward our students and the mission of the college. They are excellent scholars, students of the Word, and men of God. As they hand off campus and faculty responsibilities, our students and denominational constituency will reap the benefits."