

# *RESOLUTION*

## Recognizing the Outstanding Service of Frank A. Spina

*WHEREAS*, **Frank A. Spina**—as the longest-serving professor in SPU’s history—has, for 46 years, engaged scripture for and of the Church, through an ecclesial interpretation in which biblical scholarship originates within the Church, is preserved by the Church, and should be expounded for the Church—formative of Christian faith and life with God;

*WHEREAS*, he contributed enormously to making this ecclesial orientation a guild-worthy enterprise, by producing leading scholarship, including his highly influential book, *The Faith of the Outsider: Exclusion and Inclusion in the Biblical Story*, as well as many scholarly articles;

*WHEREAS*, his commitment to the Church is expressed in his ordination as an Episcopal priest and his many speaking engagements at area churches;

*WHEREAS*, he has taught us how to read the synagogue’s scripture as Christian scripture, and its story of Israel as a figuration of the Church;

*WHEREAS*, he has insisted that his approximately 40,000 students close readings of the Bible, urging them always to ask the question: “What does the text actually say?”;

*WHEREAS*, his gifts as a scholar-teacher have frequently been recognized both by his colleagues, who elected him as Chair of the Faculty for 1988-89 and as the Winifred Weter Lecturer for 2008, and by the SPU student body, who voted him Professor of the Year for 2000;

*WHEREAS*, he maintains that ideas matter and academic arguments and debate are essential at a university;

*WHEREAS*, he was a key person in moving SPU faculty culture toward greater valuing of scholarship;

*WHEREAS*, he has shared his profound knowledge of the Christian scriptures, not only in his various undergraduate and seminary courses at SPU, but also in hundreds of public lectures, academic presentations, sermons, *Lectio* podcasts, and adult church talks;

*WHEREAS*, he has been a tireless advocate of shared governance in the university and a staunch champion of faculty rights and responsibilities;

*WHEREAS*, his chapel sermons have inspired the SPU community countless times, delighting us in times of celebration and encouraging us in times of sorrow; and

*WHEREAS*, on June 5, 2014, when the SPU community faced the horror of gun violence on our campus, he was the person to whom we turned in order to hear a word from God; therefore, be it

*RESOLVED*, that we congratulate **Frank A. Spina** for his years of dedicated service to Seattle Pacific University, and we extend our heartfelt appreciation for his numerous contributions to the life of our community; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, that we bestow on **Frank A. Spina** the status of *EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF OLD TESTAMENT*, with all the rights and privileges accompanying such rank, yet understanding that no title nor honor can fully convey our lasting appreciation and knowledge of how richly he has deserved all that is in our power to bestow.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, this Resolution has been adopted by the Seattle Pacific Board of Trustees this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2019.