

News Release  
March 23, 2015  
For Immediate Release

## The Rev. Neale Bennet Named Next President of Atlantic School of Theology

Halifax, NS—The Rev. Neale S. Bennet, MBA, MDiv, has been appointed the next President of the Atlantic School of Theology (AST) effective July 1, 2015.

Bennet, a graduate of AST, is an Anglican priest with a background in strategic organizational leadership, organizational learning, and leadership development. His appointment was approved by AST's Board of Governors on February 23.

“AST plays a critical role in our society, shaping effective and faithful leaders who make a difference in the lives of their communities,” said Steve Foran, Chair of the AST Board of Governors. “Our task in the search for our next president was to find a leader who embodies what the university stands for and who has the right mix of skills and experience to take AST forward into the next chapter of our history. The board is very pleased to have found in the Rev. Bennet the leader we have been looking for at this unique time.”

The Rev. Bennet is currently Director of Organizational Learning at Nova Scotia Community College and previously was Director of Organizational Development and Transformation at Capital Health. He co-leads the Vision, Strategy and Support Team on Building Healthy Leadership for the Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI and is a conference leader at the annual diocesan gathering for those discerning a call to ordained ministry. An Honorary Assistant at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Halifax, the Rev. Bennet was ordained in 2004 after a successful career in the marketing and communications business.

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“I’m thrilled to be returning to AST in this role,” said Bennet. “AST offers students a transformative learning experience enabled by outstanding faculty who are thought leaders in their field. And with more than a 40-year history of ecumenical collaboration, the university is a living example of community in diversity. I’m excited about the opportunity to build new partnerships and engage with other organizations who see society’s need for inspired leadership grounded in deep values.”

This appointment follows an extensive community consultation process that began in September 2013. The process reaffirmed AST’s role as a much-needed voice in society.

Bennet replaces Dr. Dan O’Brien who completes his second one-year term as President. “The Board of Governors is most grateful for Dan’s contribution to AST. His university acumen and commitment have moved our school forward on several important fronts, not the least of which was the search for our next President,” said Foran.

Bennet resides in Halifax with his wife Sharon and their grown children, Jack and Claire.

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