



**SHIRLEY MULLEN**

I was drawn to Fuller by its mission, and also by the high quality of people on its board,” says Shirley Mullen, president of Houghton College and a new Fuller trustee. “I served with some

of the Fuller board members when I was provost at Westmont, and it is a privilege to serve with those people again while being part of the mission of Fuller in the world at this time.”

A historian by training, Mullen has her PhD in history from the University of Minnesota and spent the first 23 years of her career teaching European history at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. During that time she received the college’s “teacher of the year” award three times. Her passion for philosophy of history led her to pursue a second doctorate in philosophy on the work of David Hume, at which point her growing interest in the larger institutional questions of education prompted an entry into college administration. After serving as provost at Westmont for four years, she took on the presidency of her alma mater, Houghton, in 2006—and joins the Fuller board this year.

“What excites me about Fuller,” Mullen says, “is that it brings together theory and practice in seminary education—something I feel strongly about as a Christian educator.”

Mullen sees Fuller’s ability to bridge gaps as one of its greatest strengths. “Fuller has the opportunity to play a key role in the work of the church in America,” she says, “since it seems to be well positioned as an intermediary between liberal and conservative voices. Meanwhile, Fuller is in a place where it can also be a catalyst for the church in America to interact with the global church.” In Mullen’s view, these are opportunities worth protecting: “We want to continue to work to provide Fuller with financial stability so that its role in the future is secure, because I do not see another seminary that is as well positioned to play the role that Fuller is positioned to play,” she explains.

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