

THE HYMN SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

João Wilson Faustini honored as Fellow by The Hymn Society

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Waterloo, Ontario. João Wilson Faustini has been honored by The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada (THS) at its Annual Conference in Waterloo, Ontario, on July 18, 2017, by being named a Fellow of The Hymn Society. This award, the highest honor given by the organization, was conferred because of Faustini's work as a composer, publisher, translator, educator, and practitioner of church music, particularly of his home country of Brazil.

João Wilson Faustini was born in Bariri, a small town in **São** Paulo, Brazil. He studied at Westminster Choir College (BM) and Union Theological Seminary School of Music (MSM in composition), with additional studies at Princeton Theological Seminary. He served both as minister of music (1964-1972) and pastor (1982-1996) at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, a Portuguese-English speaking congregation in Newark, New Jersey. He also served as organist and choir director at Second Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, New Jersey (1996-2006). During this time, he founded the Brazilian Millennium Presbyterian Community in Hillside, New Jersey. After over 20 years of ministry in the U.S., Faustini returned to Brazil and plunged into new facets of service, establishing an annual Sacred Music Choral Seminar in São Paulo. Recently the mayor and city council of his home city of Irati recognized Faustini's contribution to the culture and unity of Christians there and awarded him the title of *honorary citizen*.

Faustini has published the largest modern collection of single-author sacred music in the Portuguese language. He has published four volumes of *Organ Music from Brazil* (Wayne Leupold Publications), and three single-author hymn tune collections: *When Breaks the Dawn: Hymns From Brazil* (2006), *Adoro Te Devote* (2015), and *The Heavens Are Telling* (2015), also published by Wayne Leupold. Faustini collaborated with text writer Gracia Grindal to produce *A Treasury of Faith: Lectionary Hymns, New Testament, Series A* (2015, Wayne Leupold Publications). Now in retirement, Faustini continues to compose and compile the church's song.

In addition to writing and editing, an important part of Faustini's work continues to be the encouragement and mentoring of Brazilian church musicians. For the past several years, Faustini has helped bring a delegation of younger church musicians from Brazil to The Hymn Society Annual Conference, providing an opportunity for them to experience a rich environment of congregational song through lectures, worship, and hymn festivals.

Founded in 1922, The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada is an ecumenical organization of people who are passionate about hymns and congregational song. We recognize the importance of the people's song in worship and want to assure its vitality in the future. The Hymn Society community, open to all, is made up of scholars, church musicians, poets, composers, choir directors, choir members, clergy, worship planners, songleaders, music publishers, music educators, and people who love to sing. We believe that the holy act of singing together shapes faith, heals brokenness, transforms lives, and renews peace. Our mission, therefore, is to encourage, promote, and enliven congregational song.

For further information about The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, contact Jan Kraybill, Executive Director, 7111 W 151st St, #374, Overland Park, KS 66223, or call 800-THE-HYMN. Please visit the website at www.thehymnsociety.org.