

By John Helt '73

Walter Brueggemann was the first seminary professor that I met before attending seminary. While I was anticipating going to a different school, Dr. Brueggemann wrote me a personal and passionate letter about why I should come to Eden (where he was teaching and dean at the time) instead.

He somehow knew of my own home church and personal family ties to the Evangelical Synod of North America, and articulated how important the connection to Eden would be for me and for the future of the United Church of Christ.

He was such an encourager in so many ways. He made me more passionate about scripture in general and the Old Testament in particular. He taught us all about the power of prophetic imagination in a world that overwhelms the church. He reflected the wisdom of H. Richard Niebuhr, his predecessor as Eden's dean, who said that the ethical problem for us is not "the church in the world," but "the world in the church."

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