

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

### *Regents Communication*

#### ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Brian B. Schmidt, D.Phil.**, professor of Hebrew Bible in the Department of Middle East Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2022.

Brian Schmidt attended Florida State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1977. He received a Master of Theology degree from Dallas Theological Seminary in 1983 and participated in the Hebrew University's visiting graduate student program before entering the University of Oxford where in 1992, he earned his D.Phil. degree in religion and theology. Professor Schmidt served as visiting fellow and visiting lecturer in religious studies at the University of North Carolina before joining the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1992. He was promoted to associate professor in 1997, and professor in 2017.

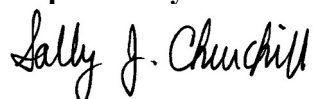
Professor Schmidt's research focuses on the interpretation of the Hebrew Bible; Ancient Israelite, Canaanite, and Syrian religions, cultures, languages, and literatures; and Ancient Israelite historiography and history. He is the author or editor of numerous books – including *The Materiality of Power: Explorations in the Social History of Early Israelite Magic* (2016), *Contextualizing Israel's Sacred Writings* (2015), *The Quest for the Historical Israel* (2007), and *Israel's Beneficent Dead* (1996) along with numerous articles. As general editor of the *Archaeology and Biblical Studies* series, an imprint of the Society of Biblical Literature, he revitalized the series publishing several volumes at the cutting edge of contemporary Biblical studies. His many doctoral students have made significant contributions to the field.

Professor Schmidt has been a prolific public lecturer and has held visiting positions at the Pacific School of Religion, Hong Kong University, and in 2014, as visiting scholar he delivered the Alan Crown memorial lectures at the University of Sydney. He has also received numerous research grants, including from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

As expressions of his commitment to service, he held membership on numerous committees at the University of Michigan and in professional societies. Professor Schmidt also served as guest lecturer in several courses of the Road Scholar/Elderhostel program and offered instruction in the rabbinical program at the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism. He also participated as a volunteer coach in Ann Arbor's youth sports programs and mentored troubled youth in Outward Bound's wilderness education programs.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Brian B. Schmidt, professor emeritus of Hebrew Bible, Department of Middle East Studies.**

**Requested by:**



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**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**  
**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**May 2022**