

Harvey Cox, Jr., is the Hollis Professor of Divinity, the oldest endowed professorship in America. He has been teaching at Harvard since 1965, both at HDS and in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Harvey Cox was born in Malvern, Pennsylvania, received his A.B. with honors in History from the University of Pennsylvania, his B.D. from Yale University Divinity School, and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in History and Philosophy of Religion. An American Baptist minister, he was the Protestant chaplain at Temple University and the campus minister at Oberlin College; he was also an ecumenical fraternal worker in Berlin for a year just after the Wall was built, passing regularly through "Checkpoint Charley" to facilitate communication between East and West. Later he was Professor of Theology and Culture at Andover Newton Theological School. His book The Secular City, published in 1965, became an international bestseller and was translated into thirteen languages most recently, Russian. His Feast of Fools was nominated for the National Book Prize.

Among his other books are Many Mansions: A Christian's Encounters with Other Faiths (Beacon press, 1988), and the section on Christianity in Our Religions (Edited by Arvind Sharma, HarperSanFrancisco, 1993), a collection of articles by scholar-practitioners of the seven major world faiths and Fire From Heaven which traces the world-wide growth of Pentecostalism. Among Dr. Cox's interests are urbanization, theological developments in world Christianity, Jewish-Christian relations, and current spiritual movements in the global setting (especially in Latin America and Asia; and particularly the global growth of Pentecostalism). His current research project is the history of Christian interpretations of Islam. He has been a visiting professor at Brandeis University, Seminario Bautista de Mexico; the Naropa Institute, and the University of Michigan. Among his most recent books are; Common Prayers: Faith, Family, and a Christian's Journey Through the Jewish Year, and his latest book, When Jesus Came to Harvard: Making Moral Choices Today (Houghton Mifflin, December 2004).

In the 1960's Dr. Cox was a co-founder of the Boston chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the organization headed nationally by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He has also served as a member of the Working Committee of the Dept. of Church and Society of the World Council of Churches and as a consultant to the Roman Catholic Bishops of Latin America.

He is married to Dr. Nina Tumarkin, Professor of Russian History at Wellesley College. They have one son, Nicholas born in 1986. Harvey Cox is also plays lead tenor saxophone with a Boston-based Big band called "Soft Touch."