*Dr. Károly Fekete*

Dr. Károly Fekete was born in *Kisvárda*, Hungary, on January 8, 1960, in a family of Protestant ministers. Between 1974 and 1978, he went to the high school of *Debreceni Református Kollégium* [Debrecen Reformed College] and then he continued his studies in music under the supervision of organist *Endre Virágh* at *Bartók Béla Zeneművészeti Szakközépiskola* [*Béla Bartók* High School of Music] in *Miskolc*, from where he graduated in 1982.

He started his studies in theology at *Debreceni Református Teológiai Akadémia* [Debrecen Reformed Theological Academy] in the fall of 1982. In the meanwhile, he was called up for 18 months of military service in *Lenti*. He passed his first pastor exam in the fall of 1988 and his second in the fall of 1989. He then served as an assistant pastor and later as a pastor in the congregation *Debrecen-Nagytemplomi Egyházközség* (1988-1992). Parallel with his pastoral service, he was commissioned to take care of a teaching position on February 15, 1989, at *Debreceni Református Teológiai Akadémia Rendszeres Teológiai Tanszék* [Department of systematic Theology of Debrecen Reformed Theological Academy], first, as an intern and, later, as a teaching assistant. In 1992, he was invited to take a full-time theology position in *Nagytemplomi Egyházközség* as an assistant professor.

He was ordained on December 2, 1992, in Debrecen’s *Nagytemplom* [verbatim: Big Church Building]. He acquired his summa cum laude doctoral degree in theology in 1995 at *Kolozsvári Egyetemi Fokú Protestáns Teológiai Intézet* [University-Level Protestant Theology Institute in Cluj]. From 1996, he became the head of *Debreceni Református Hittudományi Egyetem (DRHE) Gyakorlati Teológiai Tanszék* [Department of Practical Theology of Debrecen Reformed Theological University]. He took his habilitation exam at *Budapesti Evangélikus Hittudományi Egyetem* [Lutheran Theological University, Budapest] on May 11, 2009. He was appointed full professor in 2010. Between 2009 and 2013, he was a guest professor at *Kolozsvári Protestáns Teológiai Intézet* [Protestant Theology Institute in Cluj]. He is currently a core member of the Doctoral School of *DRHE*.

He served as the rector of Debrecen Reformed Theological University between 1997 and 2005 and between 2011 and 2014. During these periods, he also chaired *Debreceni Református Kollégium Igazgatótanácsa* [Board of Directors of Debrecen Reformed College]. During the time of university integration in Hungary, he was elected Vice President of the Senate of *Debreceni Egyetemi Szövetség* [Debrecen University Federation] between November 8, 1998, and December 31, 1999, as an active participant in the establishment of the integrated University of Debrecen.

Dr. Károly Fekete received research grants to Leipzig, Germany, in 2002 and in 2008. As of 2003, he has been a member of *Magyarországi Református Egyház Zsinata* [Synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church]. Between 2003 and 2014, he was the Vice President of *Doktorok Kollégiuma* [Collegium Doctorum], while between 2005 and 2014, he was the General Secretary of *Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Debreceni Területi Bizottság* [Debrecen Regional Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences].

In December 2014, he was elected bishop of *Tiszántúli Református Egyházkerület* [Transtibiscan Church District of the Reformed Church]. Currently, he is serving his second bishopric term, and he is also the elected bishop and pastor of *Debreceni Református Nagytemplom*.

As a recognition of his academic achievements, Dr. Károly Fekete has received several awards and prizes, including *Károli Gáspár-díj* (2004), *Trefort Ágoston-díj* (2014), the Officers’ Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit (2005), *Pro Scientia-díj* (*MTA DAB*, 2015), *Milotai Nyilas István-díj* (2018) and *Reményik Sándor-díj* (2019). In 2021, he was granted an honorary citizen title by the city of Debrecen.

Eddig tizenöt önálló kötete, nagyszámú tudományos tanulmánya és szakcikke látott napvilágot. Számos közegyházi, tudományos és közéleti tisztsége van. Több folyóirat szerkesztője és tudományos lapok szerkesztő bizottsági tagja.