Dr. JoAnn Ford Watson, professor of theology and spiritual formation emerita at Ashland Theological Seminary, recently received an Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from the Marquis Who’s Who publication board. It is a honor reserved for those who have achieved career longevity and demonstrated unwavering excellence in their chosen fields as well continuous publication in scholarly fields of research and writing for over twenty years.

Watson was a tenured full professor at Ashland Theological Seminary for 31 years and published 13 books and over 50 articles. She is especially recognized for her seven volume set of Selected Spiritual Writings of Anne Dutton, 18th Century British Baptist Woman Theologian (Mercer University Press, Macon, Georgia 2003-2015).

Watson is recognized for her works on Anne Dutton in the Women’s Archives at Princeton Theological Seminary Library as making a significant contribution to women in ministry. She contributed an essay in a book honoring Henri Nouwen titled, “Turning Wheel,” a book that won first place award for pastoral ministry by the Catholic Press Association.

Watson has received numerous mentoring and teaching awards at Ashland University and Ashland Theological Seminary. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church USA with various pastoral experiences, including serving with Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India and teaching in Colon, Argentina. She served on the International Association of Women Ministers Board of Trustees and is a member of Presbyterian Writers Guild and Presbyterian Women in Leadership, and American Academy of Religion. She previously received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters and was inducted into the Hall of Fame with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the IBC, Cambridge, England and inducted into the World Congress of Arts and Communications in Cambridge, England,