

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Candler School of Theology is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concerns. Its mission is *to educate—through scholarship, teaching and service—faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world*. These purposes define Candler's role as a school of Emory University and of the United Methodist Church and point to the unique challenges and opportunities we face in leading a national research university in re-discovering what it might mean to relate to a major denomination.

Our school, unique in its placement within a top twenty research university and its commitment to educate pastoral and academic leadership, is poised to play an active role in the positive transformation of the church and the world. Religion has bound and divided communities since the beginning of time and now is no different. When polled about their research, over three hundred Emory professors named "religion" as a theme in their work. Ethically aware, theologically profound voices are desperately needed in our society, and Emory draws on its Methodist heritage and looks to Candler to bring wisdom, clarity, compassion, and tolerance to the conversation. For example, Mary Elizabeth Moore, professor of religion and education, is co-chairing one of our university strategic initiatives, "Understanding Religions and the Human Spirit."

Candler's faculty continues to be among the most distinctive in theological education. Forty-six members hold full-time appointments, and six hold part-time appointments. An additional fifteen serve in an adjunct capacity. Woodie White and Jack Meadors serve as the United Methodist bishops in residence. Bishop L. Bevel Jones III remains at Candler working with the Development Office.

In our commitment to the practice of ministry, we partner with eighty churches to ensure that ministerial preparation takes place in both the local church and on the campus. Candler's Contextual Education program intentionally pairs a faculty member with supervisors from church and community ministries so that teaching teams represent the church and the academy. Twenty-nine teaching supervisors support our Contextual Education and Teaching Parish (student pastor) programs. Dr. Alice Rogers has broadened the Teaching Parish program, and it now includes students appointed to churches in the Alabama-West Florida, North Alabama, North Georgia, South Georgia, and South Carolina Annual Conferences.

This year, enrollment was 510, with 396 in the Master of Divinity program, 59 in the Master of Theological Studies program, 20 in the Master of Theology program, 9 in the Doctor of Theology program and 26 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. Eighty-three percent of students are enrolled full-time. The student population is 23% US ethnic minority, 10% international, and 51% women. More than 50 denominations are represented with 56% of MDiv students being United Methodist from 34 Annual Conferences. Other denominations of the Methodist family represented at Candler include African Methodist Episcopal, Free Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist and the Methodist Church of Korea.

Good things are happening as we develop and put into action a plan for the life-long learning of church leaders. A group of leaders in life-long learning, including a number of United Methodists, have given advice on enhancing our programs. Our Institute of Preaching and Pastoral Renewal led a group to the Holy Land after having taken a course in continuing education and funding for this program has been renewed for 2007. Information on upcoming events is available at www.candler.emory.edu.

Groundbreaking on Phase I of our new building is planned for spring 2007. Our full project—two buildings—will provide faculty and administrative offices, state-of-the-art classrooms, new library facilities, a teaching chapel, and space for the University's Ethics Center. The University plans to gather its rich religious resources within and near the Candler facilities to create a "religious complex" centered around Candler.

The faculty has begun to implement an inspiring strategic plan that calls for the facilities noted above, new faculty chairs, program support, and increases to our scholarship endowment. This year, 77% of eligible students received scholarship support from Candler with an average scholarship covering 78% of tuition. Gifts from the Methodist Education Fund (MEF) have played a large role in this support. However, so much more still needs to be done. More than 60% of Candler's MDiv graduates leave school with educational debt. This burden undermines their effectiveness in ministry, such that some seek alternative employment. Your continued support, gifts, and prayers mean a great deal as we work to provide a strong educational program as well as support for the courageous and committed students who choose to undertake the challenge of theological education.

I am honored to be Candler's dean as of January 2007. I am deeply grateful for the leadership of Russell Richey in the previous six years and for his help in ensuring a smooth transition. I look forward to his continued, powerful presence at Candler as a leading scholar of Methodism, as a teacher, and as one who makes significant contributions to the life of the church. Thank you for your many expressions of welcome and for your support of Candler. I very much look forward to getting to know you all better in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely and with thanks,

*Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity
and World Politics*