

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Your partnership, prayers, and support are a cherished gift as BUSTH seeks to serve the church and the world! In a year like 2025, BUSTH's commitments to equip transformational leaders for peace and justice are more necessary and significant. We are hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

NEWS:

- **Students:** The academic year 2025-26 entering class was among our most diverse, with 106 new students, 40% of whom are international students from 17 different countries.
- **Faculty:** In July, Rebecca Copeland and Luis Menéndez-Antuña were promoted to Associate Professor. In September, Nicolette Manglos-Weber became Associate Dean of Students & Community Life, and Rady Roldán-Figueroa ('05) started as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Timothy Adkins-Jones ('09,'21) joined as Assistant Professor of Homiletics.
- **Expanding Online/Hybrid Programming:** BUSTH launched a fully Online Master of Divinity (OMDiv) program in November and the first cohort is planned for Fall 2026. Learn more at bu.edu/sth/omdiv. In May, the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program graduated its largest class ever, 18.
- **Faculty Research:** Professor Steven Sandage is a co-principal investigator for "Training and Treatment Integration Research for Virtue and Flourishing in Mental Healthcare: A Team Science Project," which received a \$5.2 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation to address a growing need among therapists for training on how to integrate relational virtues and human flourishing in clinical practice. Faculty published more than 130 books, scholarly articles, op-eds, presentations, and book reviews during 2025. Many were interviewed by media publications or featured on podcasts for their scholarship in topics such as trauma-informed care, humility among religious leaders, and biblical agriculture. Selected stories: bu.edu/sth/research/faculty-research/.
- **Scholarships:** BUSTH continues to benefit from nearly 125 scholarships overall, donated to by school alumni, other BU alumni, and friends of BU including more than 20 named scholarships from living alumni and/or their family members.
- **Contextual Education:** Funded by the Lilly Endowment, Director of Contextual Education Anastasia Kidd and Director of Enrollment Chad Moore will lead "The New Wineskins Network" \$1 million initiative to build sustainable, collaborative infrastructure for student and clergy formation across the Boston region.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online courses for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent offerings include "Digital Ministry as Contemplative Practice." Learn more at bu.edu/sth/oll.
- **Development:** Recent accomplishments include a generous pledge to endow a Praise & Worship Fund as well as some new operating funds including the Manoog C. Peters Chaplaincy Fund to further support the school's chaplaincy curriculum, and the Center for Global Christianity and Mission Film Project Fund to promote the Center's ministry.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:

- BUSTH's inaugural Fr. Vincent Machozi ('15) Colloquium will be held in February to honor the life's work of our alumnus, martyred in the DRC for his work advocating for civilian victims of political violence. "Ecologies of Peacemaking" will bring together scholars in the areas of social conflict, economic inequalities, and environmental degradation. Register at bu.edu/sth/machozi-colloquium.
- Our Fall 2025 [Lowell Lecture](#) presented the work of Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary, whose topic "Leading Through and Beyond our Wounds" focused on becoming trauma-responsive leaders.
- Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing as written in our [2030 Strategic Plan](#). BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU.

With faith and gratitude,
G. Sujin Pak, dean

Candler School of Theology—2026 Report to the UMC Annual Conferences

As **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** continues in its second century of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world, we are heartened by the work and witness of The United Methodist Church and look forward to our enduring partnership as the denomination moves into its next chapter with a vision to **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously**.

An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler has a strong Methodist presence among our students, faculty and staff, while holding true to the Wesleyan value of ecumenical openness. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 507 from 11 countries, 42 states, 45 denominations, 34 UMC annual conferences, and 50% persons of color. We see this diversity as a blessing, enriching our life together and providing the perfect context for training for relevant ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ's love in and among us.

Last fall Candler welcomed its largest incoming class in over a decade. This strong enrollment reflects years of intentional work to reimagine programs, continue to invest in faculty excellence, and offer robust scholarship support through the generosity of alumni and friends. And even more importantly, it reflects that God is still calling people to join the holy work of transforming the world in Jesus' name.

Candler offers six degrees, most of which are available in hybrid or online formats. Nearly a quarter of MDiv students participate in Candler's Teaching Parish program, earning course credit by serving as student pastors in local churches. And our proven DMin program—with a remarkably high 94% completion rate—is 90% online. These flexible options along with Candler's recognized academic excellence and hands-on learning opportunities are opening possibilities for more people to follow God's call to ministry.

Reducing financial barriers to high-quality theological education remains a top priority at Candler. This year, we are on track to award nearly \$8.5 million in scholarship support across degree programs. All MDiv students receive scholarships, with those who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receiving full tuition.

Several programs beyond our formal degrees make Candler a true hub of Christian learning. The Candler Foundry, our public theological education initiative, offers in-person and online courses, events, and certificate programs. The United Methodist Course of Study School at Candler worked with 19 annual conferences to educate licensed local pastors in 2025. The Candler Center for Christian Leadership, which trains United Methodist leaders in best business practices, now has certified facilitators in 33 annual conferences. And a recent \$10 million grant from Lilly Endowment will further develop Candler's La Mesa Academy, a multicultural, multilingual program dedicated to the theological education of lay ministers.

We are preparing for a leadership transition in summer of 2026, as Jonathan Strom completes his tenure as dean of Candler in July. We invite your prayers as we search for the school's next dean.

When we talk to Candler alumni and students about their call, one thing becomes clear: The specifics may be different, shaped by their unique gifts, contexts, and life experiences, but their drive to join God's work of transforming lives and the world is a constant. We recently launched a series called "Candler Changemakers" highlighting the range of fascinating ways our alumni are leading change as they fulfill their call. Follow along on our website (candler.emory.edu) and social media to see how God is working through them. You'll be inspired!

Office of Communications
Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Drew University Theological School

Drew University Theological School is a global seminary with a global student population serving the worldwide church. Drew Theological School educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change agents for ministry and service in the church, society, and the wider world. Building upon its Wesleyan and Methodist foundations, Drew Theological School is diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities of its faculty, students, and staff. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate theological education with prior ministry experience, reflecting an ongoing trend among theological schools in the United States and Canada. In providing theological education to the world, Drew holds in-person classes in Madison, New Jersey, classes that meet exclusively online, while others meet in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person, as well as in-person Doctor of Ministry program in South Korea. Regular chapel services are offered in a hybrid way on Tuesdays and Thursdays with people participating from Seminary Hall as well as online. Chapel worship is live-streamed so that students, alumni, and friends around the world can participate.

In Fall 2025 Drew Theological School welcomed 88 new students in all degree programs, with total student enrollment (by headcount) in Fall 2025 semester being 365. Enrollment of international students at Drew is very strong at 140 students in Fall 2025. This number includes students who are studying full-time in the U.S.A. on a student Visa, students who are studying online from their home country, and students in the South Korean Cohort of the Doctor of Ministry program.

Drew's interdisciplinary degree programs provide real-world apprenticeships, promote adaptive leadership skills, and encourage innovation through team-taught core courses as well as a variety of electives that integrate theological disciplines and faith practices. The Drew faculty's shared values are infused across in the teaching, learning, and the formation of students. These values are: 1) a commitment to anti-racism; 2) gender and sexual-identity equality; 3) eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and 4) interfaith understanding and cooperation. Drew Theological School continues to experience an increase in United Methodist students, including United Methodist Global Fellows pursuing further education for ministry. UMC graduates are serving in conferences of The United Methodist Church across the United States, and especially within nearby regional episcopal areas of Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Susquehanna, Upper New York, New York, and New England.

Rev. Edwin David Aponte, PhD, ThD (honorary)
Dean and Professor of Religion & Culture

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Duke Divinity School celebrated its 99th Opening Convocation in August 2025 with a sermon from Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric to begin the Nicene Creed Preaching Series at Duke Divinity School. He emphasized that the Nicene Creed is both a Pentecost profession and a peace proclamation:

“Perhaps this is the season for untangling the Nicene Creed from state theology and church theology. Perhaps this is a task for a divinity school whose mission claims to 'engage in spiritually disciplined and academically rigorous education, in service and witness to the Triune God in the midst of the church, the academy, and the world.' ... Christ did not preach peace looking for recognition or awards. His life is a single extended sermon on peace. Peace is believing that our lowest point does not limit our highest hope, because we acknowledge the power of baptism, the possibility of repentance, and the forgiveness of sin. We believe. We believe. This is a Pentecost profession, a peace proclamation, and also a praise pronouncement.”

This year we have joined with Christians around the world to commemorate the 17th centennial of the Council of Nicaea and the Nicene Creed. Duke Divinity scholars and ministry leaders published the book *Trinitarian Matters: 1700 Years of Shaping Christian Identity and Practice*. The school hosted two conference events to explore and learn from Nicaea: Convocation & Pastors' School, focused for those in church and vocational ministry; and “Visible and Invisible: Surprising Encounters in Theology and the Arts,” with musical performances, poetry, and artistic expressions informed by the richness of the Nicene Creed.

Through God's sustaining grace, we continue to welcome students from across the nation and around the world to be trained for faithful ministries serving God in churches, chaplaincy, and community service. In 2025, we were joined by 219 students. The Master of Divinity program gained 120 new students in both residential and hybrid programs, a 10 percent growth over last year. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled six new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 34; Master of Theology, seven; Master of Theological Studies, 32; and the Doctor of Theology welcomed five new students to campus. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed 14 students.

Duke Divinity is committed to facilitating clear and supportive pathways into theological education to encourage and equip those who are discerning a call to ministry. We confirmed an MOU with Huntingdon College, reaffirming our mutual dedication to nurturing vocations, strengthening the United Methodist tradition, and investing in the next generation of Christian leaders.

We welcomed four new faculty this year: Jonathan Tran, professor of theological ethics; Natalie Carnes, professor of theology; Matthew Whelan, associate research professor of theology; and Nina Balmaceda, Irene and William McCutchen Associate Professor of the Practice of Reconciliation and director of the Center for Reconciliation.

Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist Church and partnership with this annual conference. We look forward to our ongoing work with you as we join the leading of God's Spirit in the task of preparing people for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Respectfully submitted,
Edgardo Colón-Emeric
Dean of Duke Divinity School

**GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
2025–2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT**

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY remains the only Historically Black Theological Institution (HBTI) of The United Methodist Church. Gammon Theological Seminary's mission is to provide academic and degree-granting programs that help prepare individuals who understand their vocation as working in partnership with God in forming a just and generative world for all, for the practice of Christian ministry and public leadership.

Accreditation

- Launched Gammon's independent Master of Divinity program in 2024 as a key step toward separate accreditation with SACSCOC and ATS.
- Hosted initial SACSCOC site visit in October 2025, received affirmation of 93% compliance on all SACSCOC Standards, final review pending the June 2026 SACSCOC Board meeting. Starting the ATS Accreditation process in 2026 with a goal of full ATS accreditation awarded by December 2027.

Enrollment

- As of Spring 2026, Gammon enrolls 41 students (10 new and 31 continuing), reflecting sustained growth since the Fall 2024 launch of the independent MDiv program.
- Student body includes 30 United Methodist-affiliated students (73.2 percent), with 28 specifically identifying as UMC (68.3 percent), demonstrating Gammon's deep denominational roots.
- More than 70 percent of students are directly engaged in or preparing for ordained and licensed ministry: 42.5 percent actively discerning call and 30 percent already certified candidates or licensed local pastors.
- Student-to-faculty ratios have remained healthy (4:1 to 7:1), with more than 70 percent of students enrolled full-time each term, demonstrating stable instructional capacity and careful scaling.

Fund Development

- Secured a three-year, \$975,000 capacity-building grant from GBHEM to underwrite Gammon 3.0 operational expansion and strengthen institutional infrastructure.
- Received a \$375,000 grant from the William I. H. and Lula E. Pitts Foundation to support Phase III renovations, modernizing classrooms, offices, and the faculty hub for collaborative learning and academic planning.
- Obtained a \$250,000 scholarship grant from The SOMA Foundation to provide current-use aid for students in the 2025–2026 academic year, directly reducing educational debt.
- Launched the "Become 1 of 1 Million" endowed scholarship campaign fund to raise \$1 million in scholarship funds for Gammon students, enabling students to answer their call to ministry without incurring significant debt.

We offer profound thanks to God and to the entire United Methodist connection—bishops, cabinets, annual conferences, congregations, alumni, donors, and friends—for your faithful partnership in this season of renewal. Your prayers, apportionment support, special offerings, and generous gifts are establishing the work of our hands and making it possible for the vision of Gammon 3.0 to become a lived reality for current and future students. Together, we are strengthening Gammon as a vital, sustainable, and innovative seminary forming leaders for the church and the world.

Respectfully Submitted,

Candace M. Lewis

Dr. Candace M. Lewis
President & CEO
Gammon Theological Seminary

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Garrett Seminary continues to embody a trajectory of growth, innovation, and deepening partnership across the connection. Rooted in its Wesleyan heritage and animated by its mission to form courageous leaders in the way of Jesus, the seminary looks toward the future with confidence and hope.

For the fifth consecutive year, Garrett welcomed an entering class that reflects sustained enrollment growth. This steady expansion signals renewed confidence in our approach to theological education and in Garrett's distinctive role within The United Methodist Church and the global Christian community. The newest students represent geographic and cultural breadth, coming from across the United States and more than twenty countries throughout the worldwide connection. They prepare for ministry in congregations, chaplaincy settings, nonprofit leadership, academia, and mission contexts, reflecting the increasingly diverse and global nature of the Church's leadership needs.

In response to the evolving realities of ministry and lifelong learning, Garrett launched The Garrett Collective, a comprehensive digital platform offering theological resources, courses, learning experiences, and stackable microcredentials. Designed to serve laity and clergy alike, The Garrett Collective expands access to high-quality theological education in multiple languages and modalities. Content is curated and developed in partnership with annual conferences, congregations, and mission-driven organizations to address expressed needs across the connection. This initiative strengthens ongoing professional development for clergy, equips lay leaders for faithful witness, and extends Garrett's reach to communities that may not otherwise have access to formal theological study. The Garrett Collective represents a significant step toward greater accessibility, affordability, and contextual responsiveness in theological education.

The seminary also announced a historic agreement with its long-standing campus partner, Northwestern University. Through this agreement, Garrett will relocate to newly designed, state-of-the-art facilities on the southern end of campus. These buildings will support the seminary's increasingly multi-modal student body—those studying on campus, in hybrid formats, and in fully immersive online programs from across the nation and around the world. The new facilities will allow Garrett to invest more fully in vibrant residential theological formation while simultaneously expanding global access through digital and hybrid degree offerings. This agreement reflects a deep and mutual commitment between the seminary and the university, positioning both institutions for a strong and collaborative future. Most importantly, it enables Garrett to remain focused on mission-driven initiatives for generations to come.

Garrett has also experienced significant success in foundation and grant support for innovative learning and leadership initiatives. Strategic investments have strengthened The Garrett Collective, the Center for Ecological Regeneration, the Job Institute for Spiritual Formation, the National Initiative to Strengthen Hispanic Pastoral Leaders and Congregations, the Mageto Fellows Program in partnership with Africa University, and the Faith and Leadership Collaborative. Each of these initiatives extends the seminary's relationship with congregations and their leaders, resourcing the Church in areas of ecological justice, spiritual formation, intercultural ministry, global partnership, social impact, and leadership development. Together, they represent a widening circle of accessibility and impact, ensuring that theological education is responsive to the needs of diverse communities throughout the connection and beyond.

Garrett Seminary remains deeply committed to the vitality of The United Methodist Church. Through enrollment growth, digital innovation, historic institutional partnerships, and expanding grant-supported initiatives, the seminary is strengthening its capacity to serve the Church in a season of significant transition and opportunity. Guided by the conviction that God continues to call and equip leaders for this moment, Garrett looks forward to continued partnership with annual conferences, congregations, and ministries across the connection.

Javier A. Viera, President

Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Thank you for this opportunity to bring news from MTSO.

MTSO is selected to offer Clinical Pastoral Education through CIPP

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church has chosen MTSO as the new academic home of the Center for Integrative Pastoral Practice, its Clinical Pastoral Education program. The CIPP program, which GBHEM had operated since 2018, is a vital component in the preparation of future chaplains, spiritual care providers and pastoral counselors, integrating theological knowledge with practical clinical training.

CIPP@MTSO (mtso.edu/cipp) uses students' existing ministry settings for the clinical assignments required for CPE certification. It serves students who are forging ministry pathways in both traditional and non-traditional contexts.

With a Lilly Endowment grant, MTSO will help strengthen children's worship

Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded MTSO a \$1.25 million grant to establish "Kids Incorporated: Incorporating the Next Generation into the Full Life of Congregational Worship." The program is funded through Lilly Endowment's Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative.

The program will empower partner congregations to better serve children and their families by enhancing children's spiritual development and increasing understanding, accessibility and engagement opportunities for children within worship settings. With a focus on children ages 4-12, MTSO is addressing developmental differences across various age groups and promoting intergenerational worship experiences.

New technology enhances the blending of in-person and online learning

Five MTSO classrooms have received significant technology upgrades, making the school's blended learning experience even better. The new tech in these "Zoom Rooms" includes 360-degree cameras and microphones for more seamless classroom discussions, along with an updated platform that records and transcribes lectures.

With MTSO's HyFlex (short for "hybrid-flexible") education, students can attend classes in person, remotely or some of both. No matter how they participate, they're engaged in an immersive real-time experience.

Respectfully submitted,
Danny Russell, director of communications

**PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY – SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
DEAN’S REPORT TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2025-2026**

Enrollment Update

Enrollment at Perkins for the 2025–2026 academic year totaled 274 students. Of the 73 incoming students, 44 enrolled in the hybrid/online degree program, representing 27 states.

Leadership & Faculty Updates

In October 2025, Dr. Bryan P. Stone was formally installed as the Leighton K. Farrell Endowed Dean of Perkins School of Theology. Dean Stone is an elder in full connection in the New England Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, further strengthening Perkins’ leadership connection and service to the denomination.

Perkins announced several faculty appointments and promotions supporting academic leadership, ministerial formation, and program development. Rev. Dr. Pamela White was appointed Director of the Intern Program and Assistant Dean for Contextual Education. Rev. Dr. Emily Nelms Chastain was promoted to assistant professor of Christian History and Methodist Studies. Dr. James K. Lee was promoted to Professor of Early Christianity, and Dr. Marcell Silva Steuernagel to Associate Professor of Church Music. Dr. Ashley Boggan was appointed Affiliate Assistant Research Professor of Methodist Studies.

In addition, Rev. Dr. Kate Hanch was appointed Director of the Baptist House of Studies, and Dr. Rebekah Miles was named to the Albert C. Outler Chair of Wesley Studies, reflecting Perkins’ continued investment in academic and ecclesial leadership in the Methodist-Wesleyan tradition.

Faculty Awards & Recognition

During 2025, Perkins faculty received national and international recognition for their scholarship, leadership, and service to the church. At the American Theological Society—one of the oldest and most selective theological societies in North America—faculty were recognized through elected membership, scholarly presentations, and leadership roles. Dr. Frederick Aquino was elected to membership in the Society, Dr. Karen Baker-Fletcher presented scholarly research, and Dr. Ruben L. F. Habito delivered the Society’s Presidential Address.

Perkins faculty also received competitive research grants and distinguished honors. Rev. Dr. Jaime Clark-Soles received a Louisville Institute Grant for Researchers, Dr. Jack Levison received a grant renewal from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and Rev. Dr. Alyce McKenzie was honored with the Academy of Homiletics’ 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Perkins faculty also contributed to public theological discourse through national media and artistic recognition. Dean Bryan P. Stone was featured in national and regional media reflecting on faith, fear, and the theology of horror cinema, drawing on his recent scholarship exploring the intersections of theology, culture, and film. Rev. Dr. Harold Recinos, Professor of Church and Society, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry for the third time, recognizing his ongoing contributions to faith-informed literary and theological work.

Growth & Opportunities

Perkins entered a new partnership with Methodist Theological University in Seoul, Korea, effective August 2025, to advance global theological education through academic collaboration and exchange. An accelerated degree program was established with McMurry University in December 2025, expanding pathways for students pursuing theological education. A teach-out agreement with Memphis Theological Seminary became effective January 31, 2026, ensuring continuity, academic integrity, and support for students affected by the seminary’s closure.

The 2025 Fall Convocation, held November 10–11, convened clergy, laity, scholars, and students for theological reflection and continuing education. The school also hosted the 39th Annual Perkins School of Youth and Children’s Ministry, continuing its longstanding commitment to equipping leaders for ministry with children, youth, and families. Looking ahead, on March 20–21, 2026, Perkins will host the Perkins Summit for Faith and Learning at McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church in Norman, Oklahoma, offering clergy, lay leaders, and community members accessible, in-person opportunities for continuing theological education.

Grants, Funding, or Resource Development

In October 2025, renovations to Kirby Parlor, now “Kirby Commons,” enhanced shared learning, gathering, and community spaces at Perkins, supporting the school’s academic and programmatic life.

The Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation awarded \$1.8 million in funding to support the Perkins Baptist House of Studies, strengthening scholarships and program sustainability and continuing Perkins’ commitment to ecumenical theological education.

Gifts totaling \$3 million were donated by the Permanent Endowment Fund of Galveston Moody Memorial UMC and the Houston Methodist Hospital and Foundation to endow a new “The Reverend Charles R. Millikan, D.Min. Endowed Chair in Spiritual Care” to advance Perkins’ ability to train healthcare chaplains throughout the region. The faculty will undertake a search for this new professor in the coming year.

Retirements & Legacy Contributions

In 2026, Perkins will celebrate the retirements of five members of the Perkins community whose contributions have left a lasting impact. Dr. Bruce Marshall, Lehman Professor of Christian Doctrine; Rev. Dr. Alyce McKenzie, Professor of Homiletics; Christopher S. Anderson, Associate Professor of Sacred Music; Pam Goolsby, Building and Events Manager; and Dr. John Martin, Director of Development, will retire after years of dedicated service to teaching, scholarship, and the life of the Perkins community.

Perkins School of Theology remains grateful for the partnership of the South Carolina Annual Conference and for the shared work of forming leaders who serve the church and world with faith, wisdom, and love. We thank the Conference for its continued support, collaboration, and commitment to theological education.

Grace and peace,

Bryan P. Stone

Leighton K. Farrell Endowed Dean
Perkins School of Theology

Saint Paul School of Theology

What does God require of us? To act justly, love mercifully, and walk humbly with God. At Saint Paul School of Theology, this call from Micah 6:8 shapes everything we do—from preparing pastors to serve rural communities to fostering a beloved community where all belong. Centered in Christ and rooted in the Wesleyan tradition, we are committed to forming innovative leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

A Year of Growth and Vitality

2025 has been marked by remarkable momentum. Our Course of Study School educated 248 students—a 6% increase—with 628 course registrations, representing a 14% growth. These servant leaders are making a tangible difference: 42% serve rural communities with populations under 2,500, and 22 students serve as pastors of three or more churches. We celebrated 21 students completing the 20-course program, equipping them for licensed ministry.

Seminary enrollment grew by 9%, with a 33% increase in new students for Fall 2025. Our commitment to diversity is bearing fruit, with 29% racial diversity among students and almost even gender distribution. Students from 31 states and 220 cities connect with us through flexible online and hybrid learning options, while 16 graduates of the Course of Study School have transitioned into our degree programs.

Living Our Strategic Vision

Our Board of Trustees has recently endorsed a strategic plan that reflects our values and responds to the changing contexts of the church and the world. We are striving to become a beloved community that embodies belonging, justice, equity, and inclusion. Our new Doctor of Ministry track in Spirituality, Innovation, and Adaptive Leadership exemplifies this vision, developing change agents grounded in contemplative spirituality and equipped with emotional intelligence and intercultural competence. These same principles permeate our Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Ministry programs.

Saint Paul remains financially healthy, operating with a balanced budget, no debt, and an endowment ten times our annual expenses. This sustainability, rooted in community donations, enables us to invest in scholarships, technology, and evolving academic programs that serve our students and the church.

Looking Ahead

In 2026, we are strengthening our foundation and expanding our horizons by cultivating a vibrant alum network—a lifelong professional and spiritual home. Through mentorship, resource sharing, and collaborative ministry, we are building a dynamic ecosystem that empowers graduates from their first day of classes through retirement and beyond.

Saint Paul School of Theology invites you to join us in this journey of formation, innovation, and transformation. Together, we are preparing leaders who embody justice, mercy, and humility as they serve Christ and His church.

spst.edu

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President

As I complete my tenure as president of Wesley Theological Seminary, I am confident in handing the leadership to Dr. Carla Works, the 11th President of our school. Dr. Works, Dean and Woodrow and Mildred Miller Professor of Biblical Theology at Wesley DC, is a distinguished New Testament scholar, educator, and church-centered theologian.

Wesley Theological Seminary (Wesley DC) remains steadfast in its mission to equip persons for Christian ministry and leadership in the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to model a prophetic voice in the public square. In a season marked by institutional change, civic uncertainty, and renewed hope for the United Methodist Church, Wesley DC actively forms leaders who are spiritually grounded, intellectually rigorous, and engaged with the world God loves through the following programs.

Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Master of Theological Studies Degrees: Wesley DC offers Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Master of Theological Studies degrees through residential, hybrid, and fully online formats. Our programs serve a diverse student body representing a wide range of denominations, cultural contexts, and vocational callings. Across all modalities, Wesley DC emphasizes ministerial formation that integrates theological depth, spiritual practice, and contextual engagement.

<https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/study/>

Doctor of Ministry Degree: Wesley DC remains one of the largest Doctor of Ministry programs in the United States and serves experienced ministerial leaders from across the world. In May 2025, ten chaplains from southern Africa graduated through a landmark partnership with Africa University, reflecting Wesley DC's growing global reach. Our DMin tracks for military chaplains continue to grow, including through a renewed partnership with the U.S. Army Institute for Religious Leadership. New tracks in Church Leadership Excellence, Soul Care, Global Church Leadership, and others begin in 2027. Learn more about how you can grow in wisdom and leadership at:

<https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/program/>

Course of Study: As the regional Course of Study school for the Northeast Jurisdiction, Wesley DC delivers the full Course of Study curriculum online. Scholar-practitioners teach these courses, equipping Local Pastors across the denomination with flexible, high-quality preparation for ministry.

<https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/degree-programs/course-of-study/>

Ministry Certificates and Lifelong Learning: Wesley Pathways for Ministry offers online courses and certificates to help you discover your passion for ministry and strengthen your leadership skills, whether you are a layperson or a pastor. Courses and certificates help people gain ministry and leadership skills for church, community, and specialized ministry settings. Many courses/certificates are stackable for master's or doctoral credit and/or can be taken for CEUs. <https://www.wesleypathways.com/>

Office of Admissions: Are you ready to explore your next faithful step? The Admissions Office regularly holds in-person and online open houses for potential master's and DMin students, and admissions officers are available to answer your questions and help you discern.

<https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/explorewesley/>

The Hub for (Re)imagining Ministry: Is your church ready to engage new generations or journey toward thriving in new ways? The Hub is currently accepting applications for its [Engaging Young Adults](#) nationwide, virtual cohort for congregations beginning August 2026, and will be recruiting new cohorts of

congregations for [Bringing Church Home](#) (helping churches better accompany and support parents/caregivers in sharing their faith) and [Children of Faith](#) (helping churches center children in worship and formation) in fall 2026. The Hub is also entering into partnerships with UMC districts and annual conferences, equipping leaders to experiment, learn, and adapt faithfully in their local contexts. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/>

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership: The Lewis Center welcomed Rev. Dr. Jonathan Page as its new Director in 2025. Dr. Page brings deep experience in leadership development across ecclesial and secular contexts and is guiding the Center into its next chapter of service to the Church. Through its widely read *Leading Ideas* newsletter and the *Leading Ideas Talks* podcast, the Lewis Center reaches thousands of leaders across the denomination. <https://www.churchleadership.com/>

The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion: The Luce Center welcomed Rev. Timothy Chon, MDiv, MFA as its new Director in 2025. Since Spring 2025, the Luce Center, which serves as a vital intersection of theology, creativity, and public imagination, has presented four exhibitions in the Dadian Gallery. In 2025, the Luce Center completed a major studio renovation that expanded capacity to support multiple artists-in-residence simultaneously. The Center welcomed professional Artist-in-Residence Khaleelah Harris alongside new Student Artists-in-Residence, strengthening its commitment to nurturing artists at every stage of practice. <https://www.luceartsandreligion.org/>

Center for Public Theology (CPT): CPT builds on its nearly fifty-year legacy by equipping faith leaders for thoughtful, courageous public witness. In collaboration with the Florida Annual Conference and with support from Trinity Wall Street, CPT leads a Public Theology Fellowship addressing immigration and public witness in politically diverse congregations. CPT continues to offer its flagship course, *Faith and Politics in the Public Square*, which remains open to seminarians nationwide. The course brings participants to Washington, DC for sustained engagement with policymakers, journalists, scholars, and activists. This year's cohort engaged leaders including Senator Chris Coons, NPR's Michel Martin, Judge Thomas Griffith, and Tope Folarin of the Institute for Policy Studies—preparing leaders to serve faithfully amid rapidly shifting public realities. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>

Community Engagement Institute): CEI forms leaders for justice-centered, community-rooted ministry. In March 2025, CEI hosted *Fostering Urban Vitality and a Heart for the City*, a two-day urban ministry conference in Baltimore, with support from City Seminary of New York and the Lilly Endowment. CEI offers traditional courses and immersive travel seminars open to all master's-level students. With grants from the General Board of Global Ministries, CEI continues to offer the *Heal the Sick* Health Minister's Certificate. Since its inception, the program has trained more than 500 health ministers across 38 states and seven countries. In Spring 2026, CEI will offer *Trauma-Informed Congregations*, equipping leaders to address trauma with theological, cultural, and communal wisdom. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/about-us/overview-2/>

Wesley Theological Seminary remains deeply committed to the United Methodist Church and to the formation of leaders who serve with humility, imagination, and courage. As the Church continues to discern its future, Wesley stands ready—faithful to its mission, responsive to the moment, and hopeful in God's ongoing work. For the Church. For the world. For such a time as this.

Call us: (202) 885-8659 Email us: admissions@wesleyseminary.edu

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Submitted by Lyvonne Briggs, Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing

United Theological Seminary
Dr. Kent Millard, President

Since 1871, United Theological Seminary has prepared faithful and fruitful Christian leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the seminary served 642 graduate students, 275 doctoral and 375 masters,* reflecting approximately 30 percent enrollment growth since 2021 and placing United among the largest United Methodist seminaries in the United States.

A diverse community of many denominations, races and nationalities, United welcomed students from 38 states, 24 nations, and 54 denominations, with United Methodists representing the largest denominational group within the student body.

Academics

United's academic programs remain grounded in the historic Christian faith, scriptural holiness, and a commitment to the renewal of the church, preparing graduates to serve with wisdom, integrity, and hope.

United introduced a Doctor of Theology in 2024 to support pastor-scholars called to ministry at the intersection of the church and academy. The new degree program welcomed 13 students in its first year.

The seminary's Doctor of Ministry program continues to attract experienced ministry leaders seeking advanced professional education focused on faithful leadership. In the 2024-25 school year, 262 students participated in the mentor-led program.

Master's programs include eight houses of study, serving nearly 200 students in the United States and around the world, with programs offered in English, Spanish and Korean. In July 2025, 11 students attended the first Contextual Ministry Retreat for the African House of Study, held at the Kenya Methodist Conference Center in Nairobi. The Hispanic House of Study will celebrate its first class of graduates in May 2026, with candidates from across the United States, Mexico, Colombia, and Peru.

Through rigorous scholarship, intentional mentoring, worship, and community life, as well as practical engagement with the church's needs, academic life at United advances the seminary's vision of *Spirit-led leaders, a Christ-like Church, and a transformed world*.

Finances

United continues to focus on reducing the educational debt of its students. The Fresh Wind Campaign to raise \$10 million for the endowment is expanding scholarship opportunities for current and future students. The campaign has raised more than \$9 million toward this goal, by the grace of God and through the generosity of alumni/ae, churches, and friends of the seminary.

Looking Ahead

United enters the coming years with gratitude for God's faithfulness and confidence in God's future. Several senior leaders have answered new calls, and President Dr. Kent Millard has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2026, concluding ten years of service marked by encouragement, vision, and stability. A Presidential Search Committee is at work to identify United's next president, who will begin service on July 1, 2026.

Trusting God's promise spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "I am about to do a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19), United remains committed to preparing Christian leaders who boldly proclaim the gospel and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

**12-month unduplicated headcount enrollment for the 2024-25 fiscal year from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.*