

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

In 2019, Africa University's story was one of resourcefulness, steadfast investment and ministry growth.

Thank you, Bishop William McAlilly, the Cabinet and the committed lay and clergy leaders who nurture vitality in the local congregations of the Memphis Conference, for all that you do to affirm the United Methodist connection and global mission. The gracious support of the Memphis Conference resulted in an 80 percent investment of the asking to the Africa University Fund apportionment in 2019. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and gifts.

Your generosity helps Africa University to educate and equip leaders who think for themselves, are contextually relevant and have a passion to serve. Since opening in 1992, Africa University has trained more than 9,000 graduates who lead and serve across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. These young people are responsible and responsive leaders who offer the best of themselves in serving the needs of their communities.

Institutional Update:

- Africa University has an annual student population of around 2,800, with 25-30 African nations represented in the student body each year.
- The university's three colleges operate as centers for teaching, research, innovation, community engagement and enterprise development. Africa University leads as the only university in Zimbabwe currently accredited to offer online degree programs.
- Students, faculty and alumni contribute ground-breaking solutions to Africa's current challenges. These include graduate programs in migrant and refugee protection, articulated by refugee students, as well as doctoral level training for military chaplains in Africa.
- The university is increasing its use of solar power with the support of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. A residence hall for women and a new wing of the student union building—gifted to the university by the Dallas, Texas-based Highland Park United Methodist Church—will be the first solar-powered facilities on the campus.

Africa University affirms its commitment to The United Methodist Church, its Cross and Flame, and the denomination's global mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, in every season and despite a shifting social landscape.

Through its faithfulness, the Memphis Conference invites and encourages new partners to join in the mission and change the world. By giving freely, Memphis United Methodists walk alongside their neighbors and participate in bringing dreams to life.

Memphis Conference, you have heard story after story about how Africa University is nurturing difference-makers. Thank you for responding with love and generosity. Thanks to your stewardship of God's blessings, Africa University has gone beyond what some thought was possible. "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." Luke 18:27 NKJV

Submitted by:

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BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



Boston University School of Theology

Dear Colleagues in Ministry:

I am grateful to have one last opportunity to thank you for your moral, prayerful, and material support of the Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH), and also to highlight the promising future of the School as a new Dean joins our stellar faculty, staff, and students in summer 2020 to carry on the mission of the School in partnership with all of you.

BREAKING NEWS:

- **Students:** We continue to increase and celebrate diversity in our student body, creating opportunities for in-depth exchanges and a rich community life.
- **Faculty:** We welcomed two faculty this year: Filipe Maia as Assistant Professor of Theology, and Luis Menéndez-Antuña as Assistant Professor of New Testament. Both are extraordinary teachers who delight in working with students.
- **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry, and to build student scholarships and housing as key priorities. BUSTH also offers leadership fellowships to support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies: Raíces Latinas, Sacred Worth, Howard Thurman, Indigenous Studies, Korean Studies, Women in Leadership, and African Studies.
- **Two new Programs:** Faith and Ecological Justice (FEJ) and Raíces Latinas Program in Theology, Leadership, and Research (RL). FEJ leads programs to build ecological awareness, theological research, church collaborations, and community activism in ecological justice. RL sponsors programs to expand Latin American and Latinx theological study and research, and to enhance the leadership of students, young people, and leaders in Latino/Latina communities.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** We have launched an exciting new program, offering online mini-courses, workshops, and reading groups for professional and spiritual enrichment.
- **Theology and the Arts Initiatives:** Exhibits highlight sacred spaces in Boston; wilderness photography; a 1619 visual lament of 400+ years of slavery; voices and faces of Colombia; and paintings of a gay man struggling with the church.
- **Campaign:** Our BUSTH development campaign concluded with the raising of \$29.4 million to support students, faculty, and vital programs.
- **Website and Viewbook:** Check out our new BUSTH website (www.bu.edu/sth) and Viewbook.

PARTNERING FOR MINISTRY AND TRANSFORMATION:

- **Creative Callings:** In partnership with local churches, we seek to create “a culture of call.”
- **Engagement with the UMC:** Many of our students are delegates, volunteers, and singers in General Conference 2020.
- **Continuing Scholar Program:** BUSTH courses are open to alums and local clergy for small lifelong learning fees.
- **Doctor of Ministry:** The DMin in Transformational Leadership flourishes with lively student cohorts that are broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and faculty mentoring.
- **Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic:** The Clinic provides internships in local churches and organizations that foster just peacebuilding.
- **Travel seminars:** Immersion journeys open worlds to students in the borderlands of Arizona and Mexico, Cuba, Peru, Israel-Palestine, Civil Rights landmarks, and centers for ecological-spiritual renewal.
- **Ecumenical partnerships:** We now have four denominational Communities of Learning: Wesleyan/Methodist, Episcopal/Anglican, United Church of Christ, and Unitarian Universalist.
- **Partnership with Hebrew College:** Together we are able to enrich interreligious learning through joint courses and public events, and also co-sponsor The Journal of Interreligious Studies and the State of Formation for emerging leaders.

TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:

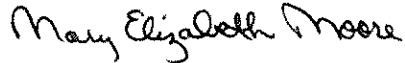
- Campus action: Work to improve accessibility and sustainability. BUSTH is the first certified Green School in BU and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative. We have also been named as one of the “Seminaries that Change the World.”
- Internships in global service and peacemaking: Students participate in apprenticeship ministries across the world.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE:

- Faculty and students have been active in UMCOR efforts to support victims of hurricanes and fires, and in collaborative services to support people suffering the consequences of immigration practices, disability inequities, or racial violence.
- In Town Hall meetings, the community has deep conversations on issues that divide, seeking to develop capacities for relating across difference and to create a community based on the dignity of all.

BUSTH looks to the future. We celebrate transformational leaders of the United Methodist Church, who love with their whole hearts and follow Jesus Christ with their whole lives. Your legacy and witness give us hope and courage for the future.

Blessings and gratitude,



Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

Candler School of Theology—2020 UMC Annual Conference Report

Since our founding in 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated more than 10,000 students, shaping thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders who are dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is especially important to note amid the current shifts in our denomination. It is an honor and a privilege for Candler to be one of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church. Yet true to the Methodist tradition of ecumenical openness, Candler has enthusiastically welcomed the entire Wesleyan family to our community for generations. Faculty, staff, and students from the AME Church, the AMEZ Church, the CME Church, Free Methodists, Nazarenes, and others have worked, worshiped, learned, and prayed alongside United Methodists, and have been a vital part of shaping Candler and our mission. This diversity has been a wonderful gift and a rich blessing. As we move forward, we will continue to invite and welcome those from all expressions of the Wesleyan tradition. Indeed, we will continue to welcome all those who follow Jesus Christ.

This year, Candler has continued to strengthen our deep commitment to alleviating student debt and promoting financial literacy. In 2018-2019, we awarded \$6.3 million in financial aid, with 100 percent of master of divinity (MDiv) students receiving support and financial coaching. In fall 2019, we announced a major expansion of our financial aid program to include full-tuition scholarships for all MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church, and new merit scholarships covering 75% of tuition for qualifying MDiv students who identify as pan-Wesleyan, and those pursuing chaplaincy through Candler's new chaplaincy concentration. In addition, all incoming students in the master of divinity, master of theological studies, and master of religious leadership programs will receive awards covering at least 50% of tuition.

This year also saw the launch of two pilot “formation communities,” off-campus student housing that focuses on intentional living and spiritual formation. Students from multiple degree programs applied to take part in these pilot groups. At the start of the year, the housemates created a “rule of life” to guide their days together, emphasizing prayer, fellowship, and celebration. A house chaplain—a Candler faculty member or church leader—supports them and shares in the journey. The ten students who took part this year describe feeling a richer sense of community and deeper connections to God and one another in the midst of their busy lives. It is clear that this fulfills a need for our seminarians, and we eagerly anticipate the program's growth in the coming years.

Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 470 from 12 countries and 38 states, with 40 percent people of color (U.S.) and a median age of 27 among MDivs. Students represent 42 denominations, with 45% of all students and 50% of MDivs coming from the Methodist family.

We offer six single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, and social work. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry while completing their degrees.

Candler draws strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us in person or online at candler.emory.edu.

—Jan Love

Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology

Duke University Divinity School

L. Gregory Jones, Dean

Dean L. Gregory Jones, Dean of the Divinity School and Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Distinguished Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry, had his term as dean extended for a full five years through 2023.

The Duke Endowment awarded Duke Divinity School a \$12 million grant in support of DDS's three core priorities and traditions: Thriving communities enlivened by healthy congregations and gifted pastors, embodied wisdom through rigorous intellectual vitality, and creative institutions that inspire imaginative and transformative leadership including the Thriving Communities Fellowship program, which will provide 52 new full-tuition scholarships over the next four years.

Duke Divinity School launched the Duke Divinity: Black Pastoral Leadership Collaboration which will draw on original research in Black church traditions and historical examples of effective Black church leadership to train and build networks of effective leaders for the Black church of today and the future. The collaboration will be led by the Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, research professor of theology and Black church studies and director of the Office of Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School.

In 2019, Duke Divinity School welcomed 215 new students from 33 different states and seven other countries, including Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Zimbabwe. The Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) and Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.C.P.) degree programs received record enrollments of 35 students and 22 students respectively. The Master of Theology (Th.M., 14 students), Doctor of Ministry (D.Min., 20 students), and Doctor of Theology (Th.D., 4 students) all had strong enrollment. The D.Min. program was named the top online program by TheBestSchools.org. Duke Divinity's new Certificate in Theology and Health Care will enroll 8 students, all of whom are fellows with the Theology, Medicine, and Culture (T.M.C.) Initiative at the school. The M.T.S. program also includes 8 students who are T.M.C. fellows, for a record year of 16 total fellows. The M.Div. degree program gained 110 new students, with minority students comprising more than 32 percent of the incoming M.Div. class, and Black students comprising 18 percent of the incoming M.Div. class. Female students made up 44 percent of incoming M.Div. students, while males were 56 percent.

Two new faculty members, Brent Strawn and Brett McCarty, joined the DDS faculty in July 2019. Strawn, Professor of Old Testament, is an ordained elder in the North Georgia Conference. Strawn has a secondary appointment as a Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law. Prior to joining the Duke faculty, Strawn taught at Candler School of Theology at Emory University for eighteen years.

McCarty, Assistant Research Professor of Theological Ethics, is a theological ethicist whose work centers on questions of faithful action within health care. He is associate director of the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative at Duke Divinity School, and he holds a joint appointment in the School of Medicine's Department of Population Health Sciences.

Randy Maddox, William Kellon Quick Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies, general editor of the Wesley Works Editorial Project, and elder in the Dakotas Conference, retires at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.

The Hispanic-Latino/a Preaching Initiative is currently in its fifth year of providing high quality theological education to current and aspiring Hispanic-Latino/a ministers. 21 students from multiple denominations are taking courses with us this year.

The Lilly Endowment has also awarded grants to Duke Divinity School to coordinate initiatives on "Thriving in Ministry" and "Thriving Congregations" across the United States.

Duke Divinity School has a partnership with Huntingdon College and Virginia Wesleyan University to create streamlined admissions process and private campus events in order to better equip students from those institutions with a calling to serve the church. In an effort to expand access for quality theological formation to students, pastors, and lay leaders in the Nashville Episcopal Area, DDS is also partnering with the Turner Center at Martin Methodist College to offer theological training for innovative and entrepreneurial ministries.

RUST COLLEGE OF HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI

Dr. David Swinton, Chair
Dr. David L. Beckley, President

Established in 1866 by the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Church on a former slave auction site. Rust is the oldest one of 11 Historically Black Colleges and Universities established after the Civil War by the Methodist Church still in existence today serving more than 1,000 students annually from Mississippi, 22 states and 4 foreign countries. Rust's Mission continues to be in tune with the church's overall philosophy – *doing no harm, doing good and staying in love with Jesus Christ* as we serve the young people who look to Rust as their bridge to a better tomorrow through education.

Rust College Religious Life is a diverse community providing the administration, faculty, staff and students sacred space to be fellow travelers on a journey of faith that leads to transformation of the individual and the world. The Office of the Chaplain oversees religious life activities, coordinates training for student ministers, and provides counseling for administration, faculty, staff, and students.

Informed by Christian tradition, Rust College religious life strives to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ to a diverse higher education community. Grounded in the Wesleyan tradition, religious life is the place where *"Tomorrow's Leaders are Students Today."* Students who will be and do *"all the good they can, by all the means they can, in all the ways they can, in all the places they can, at all the times they can to all the people they can, for as long as they can."*

Highlights for 2018-2019 year include:

- The College ended the 2018-2019 fiscal year with a balanced budget for the 53rd consecutive year.
- Rust College received a \$141,000 Grant from the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation to support needy students seeking financial assistance.
- Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation provided a grant of \$10,000 to the Rust College General Scholarship Fund.
- Rust College received a \$65,000 Grant from the Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation in support of the General Scholarship Fund.
- Rust College's Associate Professor of Education, Dr. Wonso White Hayes, was the recipient of the Higher Education Appreciation Day - Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) Award.
- Rust College received a grant for \$80,000 from the Hearin Foundation to support needy students seeking financial aid.
- Mr. Mark Ridge, Instructor in Humanities, received the Humanities Teacher of the Year award.
- Kasim Burton, Rockford, Illinois native, sophomore majoring in Mathematics was the winning recipient of a \$10,000 scholarship from the Lockheed Martin Corporation.
- Makayela Bouldes, Government Administration major, Columbus, Mississippi native was selected as 2019 White House HBCU Competitive Scholar.
- The Rust College Lady Bearcats Basketball team ranked 24 in the country and was invited to participate in the First National Championship in over 30 years but halted by the Coronavirus outbreak.
- Our frugal fiscal practices continue to keep us financially sound. For the last 50 plus years, Rust College has had a policy of only building "debt-free" non-income producing buildings. As a result of this policy, Rust has long term debts less than \$1.5 million related to residential hall construction and renovations in 1990. We actively recruit foundations, corporations, alumni and friends for scholarship grants to help underwrite the tuition cost of our students who must have financial support to get and stay in school. Our textbook-use-system assists us in keeping our tuition and fees to a minimum. For example, in 2013 tuition, room, board, books and fees totaled \$12,150 annually. In 2018 the total cost is \$14,200 which amounts to an increase of only \$2,050 over a five-year period.

As you, our friends of the United Methodist Church, continue to uphold your promise of educational opportunity established many years ago, we, the members of the Rust College family, will uphold the promise made by our founder, Rev. A. C. McDonald in 1866, "to do not hothouse work" but will work to build men and women morally, spiritually and academically sound. We are thankful to you for your prayers and financial support. Your continued support is essential as we endeavor to build a stronger legacy for this generation and those in years to come who will look to Rust and our great church for higher educational opportunities. The College expresses thanks for the dedication and leadership of the following Trustees from the Memphis Annual Conference: Mr. Gary Shorb, Rev. Dr. Deborah B. Smith, Dr. Cora Norman, Dr. Cynthia Bond Hopson, and Bishop William T. McAlilly.

United Theological Seminary Dayton, OH

For nearly 150 years, United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH, has been preparing faithful, fruitful leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Students

In the Fall 2019 semester, United equipped **459** women and men for leadership in the Church, including **272 masters' students** and **187 doctoral students**. An ecumenical community of many denominations, races and nationalities, United welcomed students from **11 countries, 42 states, and 37 denominations**, with the student body comprised of **49% African American, 42% Caucasian, and 10% ethnic/racial minorities**.¹ The Seminary prepared **165 Course of Study students** and served **36 students** through the Hispanic Christian Academy, a 3-year Spanish online course of ministry program for Hispanic/Latino lay pastors and leaders.² Altogether, approximately 660 students followed God's call through United Theological Seminary.

Alumni/ae

United graduates are making an impact in their communities as they spread the Good News.

- **88%** of alumni/ae are currently employed in or retired from ministry³
- **70%** serve in local parishes⁴
- **Rev. Dr. Brad Kalajainen** (DMin '99) received the 2019 Effective Ministry Award for his transformative leadership of Cornerstone UMC in Grand Rapids, MI.
- **Rev. Dr. James Bushfield** (MDiv '79, DMin '92) received the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award for his leadership and ministry in the Indiana Conference of The UMC.
- **Rev. Dr. Sandra Coley** (DMin '14) received the Outstanding Doctor of Ministry Award for her advocacy of organ donation among African American communities.

New at United

United introduced a 36-hour **Master of Arts (MA)** degree, designed for those who wish to earn a degree while completing the requirements for **Advanced Course of Study** in pursuit of ordination in The United Methodist Church. The MA program is available fully online, on-campus or in a combination.

United continues to offer innovative learning through its **Live Interactive Virtual Education (LIVE) environment** introduced in 2018. In the first year, 59 students participated in LIVE courses, connecting with classmates on campus in Dayton, OH, and across the country by attending classes in real-time via simultaneous webcast.

Becoming Debt-Free

United remains committed to becoming debt-free by the seminary's 150th anniversary on October 11, 2021. Thanks to the support of generous donors, United has received more than \$2.5 million toward its goal of raising \$4 million to "burn the mortgage." Becoming debt-free as an institution will enable United to focus on generating income for scholarships that lighten the load of student debt for seminarians.

In Romans 10:14, St. Paul writes: "How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?" For 150 years, United has been preparing faithful and fruitful Christian preachers and leaders who proclaim the Good News of God's unconditional love which has come to us in Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

Dr. Kent Millard,
President