Section VIII

Other Reports

Africa University Report

Report will be added after 2019 AC Session

Boston University School of Theology

Greetings from Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) as we live together as disciples in uncertain times!

Breaking News:

■ Students: We continue to increase and celebrate diversity in our student body, creating remarkable opportunities for in-depth exchanges and fruitful collaboration.

■ Faculty: We welcomed two amazing faculty this year: Shively Smith as Assistant Professor of New Testament, and Nicolette Manglos-Weber as Assistant Professor of Religion and Society.

■ Online Lifelong Learning: We are launching a new Online Lifelong Learning Program at the School, offering webinars, workshops, and reading groups for professional enrichment.

■ Scholarships: We continue our offer of free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry, and we continue to build student scholarships and housing as a central campaign priority. New scholarships include the Korean Student and African Student Scholarships, and leadership fellowships for promising leaders: Raíces Latinas for Latinx leaders, Sacred Worth for leaders in the LGBTQIA+ community, Howard Thurman for African-American leadership, and Indigenous Studies Fellowships.

■ Faith and Ecological Justice Program: This new student program undertakes initiatives to increase ecological awareness, education, and activism in ecological justice.

■ Theology and the Arts Initiatives: Recent exhibits and events include “Moments in Time” and “Transcending Conflict.”

■ Grants: Henry Luce Foundation has awarded a 3-year grant to support the Educating Effective Chaplains Project. The grant supports work with other seminaries to develop models that can better prepare chaplains for effective ministry.

■ Website: After several years of planning, a new School website will launch in Fall semester 2019.

Partnering for Ministry and Transformation: Preparing students for ministry means meaningful partnerships with the local spiritual community.

■ Creative Callings: Our vocational project is an exciting partnership with local churches, seeking to create “a culture of call.” It is sponsored through a grant from the Lilly Endowment.

■ Engagement with the UMC: Many of our students are delegates, project leaders and assistants, and class participants in General Conference 2019.

■ Congregational courses: The Continuing Scholar program offers current BUSTH courses to alums and local clergy as continuing education credit for a small fee per course.

■ Doctor of Ministry: The DMin in Transformational Leadership is soaring 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 and workshops that foster justice and peace-building.

■ Travel seminars: These courses engage students with immersion journeys to the Arizona-Mexican border, Israel and Palestine, Argentina, and other sites of learning and ministry. Attendees from the recent Serbia and Croatia Seminar presented to the 2018 Parliament of the World’s Religions in Toronto, Canada.
Ecumenical partnerships: We continue to build robust Communities of Learning with the Episcopal Church and United Church of Christ, and to develop new communities with the Unitarian Universalist and Baptist Churches.

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 State of Formation cohort of 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 participates actively in the Green Seminary Initiative. It has also been named as one of the “Seminaries that Change the World” for the second consecutive year.

- Internships in global service and peacemaking: We provide internships that support students who engage in ministry with churches and service organizations across the world.

Commitment To Justice: Celebrating differences while joining in action.

- Faculty and students have led and participated in UMCOR; support efforts with victims of hurricanes and fires; protests on behalf of Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida; protests of white supremacist movements; services with immigrants and DACA young people; and ecumenical and interreligious witnesses for justice in the city of Boston.

- Through student-led Town Hall meetings, the community has had deep conversations on issues that divide (including theological differences). We seek to foster respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

Other Notable News:

- 2019 marks the 180th year of the School of Theology, originally founded as the Newbury Bible Institute in 1839.

- Our major development campaign for BUSTH will end in September 2019, and we continue working toward grand success for the future of our School and the vitality of your ministries.

As BUSTH looks to the future, we celebrate transformational leaders of the United Methodist Church, who keep the word of Jesus Christ alive. Your living legacy and faithful witness give us hope and courage for the future.

Mary Elizabeth Moore
Dean, Boston University School of Theology

Candler School of Theology

For more than 100 years, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has prepared real people to make a real difference in the real world. Since our founding in 1914, more than 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is especially important to note amid the current uncertainty 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 from the Special Session of General Conference, we will continue to invite and welcome wholeheartedly those from all expressions of the Wesleyan tradition. Indeed, we will continue to welcome all those who follow Jesus Christ.
Candler is also privileged to be one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University in Atlanta. With the resources of a top-tier research institution and the reach of a global city, our students benefit from a rich academic and hands-on learning environment: The General Board of Global Ministries is in Atlanta, as are numerous public health, international development, and social service organizations. Candler’s intentional involvement with our surrounding community has contributed to our inclusion on a list of “Seminaries that Change the World” for six years running. In short, there is no better place to prepare for ministry that engages our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 16 degrees: 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 and immediately apply to their context what they learn in class. Our Teaching Parish program allows eligible United Methodist students to serve as pastors in local churches while they’re enrolled—they earn a salary as they earn course credit and pastoral experience, plus they are mentored by an experienced United Methodist elder.

Candler’s student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 453, reflecting 51 percent women, 39 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 27 among MDivs. Students represent 44 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and promoting financial literacy. In 2018-2019, we awarded $5.8 million in Candler scholarships, with 100 percent of MDiv students receiving aid. Plus, our comprehensive “Faith & Finance” program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.

Candler draws considerable 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. Visit us in person or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world.

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

Duke Divinity School

In August of 2018, L. Gregory Jones, the Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Distinguished Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry, began serving as dean following Elaine Heath’s departure. Jones, who earned M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Duke, was previously dean of Duke Divinity from 1997-2010. Jones was asked to lead the school in enhancing its ties with church constituencies, strengthening its academic credibility, attending to cultural challenges, and addressing financial challenges. As he assumed the role of dean, Jones noted, “We need to build bridges across various divides in the church, the academy, and across society. Christian faith can play a significant role in this bridge building.” This academic year Duke Divinity School has been working steadily on these tasks.

Admissions: Duke Divinity School welcomed an entering class of approximately 200 new students from 30 different states and several countries, including China, South Korea, the UK, and Zimbabwe. Our Master of Divinity program remains central to our identity, enrolling 112 students. Our Master of Theological Studies and Master of Arts in Christian Practice programs received enrollments of 24 students and 14 students, respectively. The Master of Theology (nine students), Doctor of Ministry (22 students), and Doctor of Theology (four students) all had strong enrollment. Our new Certificate in Theology and Health Care saw enrollment double this year to eight students. The ages of students enrolled in the M.Div. program range from 21 to 69, with a median age of 23, and students from minority
groups comprised more than 22 percent of incoming M.Div. students, with black students making up 15 percent. Across all degree programs at the Divinity School, 32 percent of the incoming class identified as a race/ethnicity other than white (an increase from 26 percent last year). Black students made up 18 percent of all students; Hispanic students, two percent; Asian students, seven percent; and American Indian students, one percent. For the first time, the majority of students entering the Doctor of Ministry program identify as an ethnic group other than white. Female students made up 51 percent of incoming M.Div. students, while males were 49 percent. It was only the second time in school history that the incoming cohort of M.Div. students had a female majority (2005 being the other year). Across the degree programs, 42 percent of students in the incoming class were female, and 58 percent were male. There were 23 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 55 percent affiliated with the United Methodist Church (up from 41 percent last year). Nondenominational students made up 17 percent of the new M.Div. students; Baptists, eight percent; and Anglican-Episcopal, three percent.

**New Faculty:** Several new faculty members joined the Divinity School community in July 2018, demonstrating Duke Divinity School’s ongoing commitment to the church, the academy, and the church’s witness in the world.

- **Christopher Beeley**, the Jack and Barbara Bovender Professor of Theology, Anglican Studies, and Ministry and director of the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies, is an Anglican priest and a founding member of the Episcopal Gathering of Leaders. He has ministered in parishes in Texas, Indiana, Virginia, and Connecticut. Prior to joining the Duke faculty, Beeley taught for 16 years at Yale Divinity School.

- **David Emmanuel Goatley**, research professor of theology and black church studies and director of the Office of Black Church Studies, is ordained in the National Baptist Convention, USA, and serves in leadership capacities with the NAACP, Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society, and the Baptist World Alliance and the World Council of Churches. He was for 23 years the executive director of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

- **Jan Holton**, associate professor of the practice of pastoral theology and care, is an ordained elder in the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Holton most recently served in an extension ministry with Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) in New Haven, Conn., and was a member of the faculty at Yale Divinity School from 2006 to 2015.

- **Patrick T. Smith**, associate research professor of theological ethics and bioethics and a senior fellow at the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University, is also associate faculty with Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities, and the History of Medicine. Smith is licensed and ordained with the National Baptist Convention, USA and comes to Duke from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Harvard Medical School.

**United Methodists:** Professor Kate Bowler’s memoir, *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I’ve Loved*, made *The New York Times*’ hardcover nonfiction bestseller list and received significant national recognition in mainstream and Christian media. The related podcast, “Everything Happens with Kate Bowler,” returns for a second season with new episodes on how people have faced dark times in their lives. Bowler, **Sujin Pak**, and **Edgardo Colon-Emeric**, all United Methodist faculty members, received tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor in recent months. On July 1, 2018, Pak began serving as vice dean of academic affairs and Colon-Emeric started as director of the Center for Reconciliation. **Jeff Conklin-Miller** began serving as director of the Methodist House of Studies at the same time. Beginning February 1, 2019, **Lacey Warner** fills the new role of associate dean for Wesleyan engagement.

**Looking to the Future:** The Divinity School continues to discern fresh strategies to respond faithfully and wisely to the changing dynamics of the church, the academy, and the world. An example of our strategic work is a new focus throughout the school on Thriving Communities. Through this focus we are concentrating on the centrality of healthy congregations and gifted pastors in cultivating thriving communities. This approach offers opportunities to build on Duke Divinity School’s traditional strengths, but in a new key. We look forward to cultivating even stronger synergies among our work with the Clergy.
Health Initiative, Thriving Rural Communities, Hispanic House of Studies, and a revised Field Education program (all generously supported by The Duke Endowment), alongside longstanding commitments to the Office of Black Church Studies, the Anglican/Episcopal and Baptist Houses of Study, and initiatives in Leadership Education; Theology and the Arts; and Theology, Medicine, and Culture.

Duke Divinity School is grateful for the strong ties that bind “the people called Methodist,” and we look forward to serving together as we bear witness to God’s future with hope.

Respectfully submitted
L. Gregory Jones, Dean, Duke Divinity School

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) Report

As the leadership development agency of The United Methodist Church, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) builds capacity for United Methodist lay and clergy leaders to discover, claim and flourish in Christ’s calling in their lives. The agency creates connections and provides resources to aid in recruitment, education, professional development and spiritual formation. Every elder, deacon and licensed local pastor benefits from our training and candidacy programs. Many young adults find help in clarifying God’s call in their lives through our discernment opportunities.

Through its Office of Strategic Leadership, GBHEM refined plans for a center for leadership development and spiritual formation. It is drawing on research to plan the expansion of leadership training offerings to churches and communities through a range of means such as face-to-face training, online conferencing, consulting, and recommending resources and experts.

The Division of Ordained Ministry (DOM), using extensive research on the components of effective ministry, introduced a new formation process, Effective Ministry 360 (EM360), which guides pastors and congregations to plan and execute mission and ministry objectives. EM360 also offers assessment modules for candidacy, district superintendents, eight-year clergy assessment and Course of Study. DOM provides introduction and orientation sessions about the process.

The Division of Higher Education (DHE) has initiated research to inform a “leadership pipeline” process for university leaders on United Methodist campuses. Among the books GBHEM published this year, “Missio Dei and the United States: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness” (book and study guide) exhibits the best of church and academy collaboration. Contributors explore how the church can reengage its Wesleyan heritage as it participates in God’s mission.

The Office of Loans and Scholarships announced an increase in the maximum amount of money United Methodist students can borrow to pursue their education. The annual maximum is $10,000, with a lifetime maximum of $40,000. On average, the agency distributes $5.5 million in scholarships annually.

Partnering with churches and institutions, GBHEM has promoted projects, programs, initiatives, education and leadership development in various cultural contexts within United Methodism and in pan-Methodist relationships. The agency expanded the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development, supported the work of regional networks with the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, and established Regional Hubs for Leadership, Education and Development. In 2018, hubs were active in nations in Africa, Asia, Europe and England, North America and South America.

Memphis Theological Seminary

Report will be added after 2019 AC Session
At Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MLH), our mission is to collaborate with patients and their families to be the leader in providing high quality, cost-effective patient and family-centered care. Services are provided in a manner which supports the health ministries and Social Principles of the United Methodist Church to benefit the communities we serve.

MLH continues to make an impact on the health of the Mid-South, both inside and outside of hospital walls. Leading MLH in that effort is our President and Chief Executive Officer Michael Ugwueke, who is driving the organization to new heights, clinically, financially, and faithfully. As part of that work in 2018, Michael appointed Rev. Dr. Albert Mosley to be the new Senior Vice President of Faith and Health, which oversees all of our clinical chaplaincy work, Volunteer Services, the Employee Assistance Program and Dennis H. Jones Living Well Network, the Clergy Coaching Network, Clinical Pastoral Education, the Center of Excellence in Faith and Health, the Humanitarian Fund, United Methodist Annual Conference connections, and many other initiatives and projects. That body of work is already growing, as Dr. Mosley announced early in 2019 that the Faith and Health Division will be renamed the Office of Mission Integration, and Dr. Mosley will assume the title of Chief Mission Integration Officer. These new emphases for the division and its leadership represent an exciting innovation in all facets of MLH’s work, its clinical excellence, its community engagement, and its faith-based foundations. Mission Integration will offer guidance and direction for the integration of MLH’s mission, vision, values and guiding behaviors, especially from the perspective of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. Additionally, Mission Integration will ensure that the relationship with the United Methodist Church, and relevant social, ethical, and pastoral teachings, are understood and integrated appropriately and consistently across the entire system.

Last year, MLH celebrated its Centennial, having first opened its doors to patients in 1918. We recognized the Centennial in many ways, including with our first ever “MLH Sunday”! In honor of the 100 years since the United Methodist Church started a healthcare organization in Memphis, we joined congregations all throughout the area to worship, pray, and give thanks together, remembering all that God is doing through MLH. We are continuing that practice with MLH Sunday 2019, which we want to celebrate with you on Sunday, June 23, 2019, coinciding with our system’s birthday. We will also be visiting and speaking to congregations on other dates throughout the year. Additionally, our associates also connect with the UMC through connectional boards and agencies, campus ministry work at the UT Health Science Center, and through free health screenings that we offer throughout the year to conferences, congregations, and community events.

We also have pursued several grants to expand our work in the community, partnering with the Urban Child Institute, the Christian Community Foundation, CIGNA, the Tennessee Department of Health, and others. As a result, MLH launched “My Sister’s Keeper” in 2018 as a way of expanding the capacity of identified and designated black women leaders and increasing knowledge of accessible health services that positively impact health outcomes for black women in the Mid-South region. MLH also established a partnership with BookNook Learning in 2018 in order to provide literacy education to 800 at-risk and underserved students in Shelby County, leveraging existing partnerships with local faith communities to implement the literacy program. One of the founding partner congregational sites for that program is Longstreet UMC in south Memphis, also a partner site for Project Transformation Tennessee. Further, understanding the important role of faith leaders in spiritual, mental, and physical health of our communities, MLH recently launched its first community-based Clinical Pastoral Education program for 13 pastors serving congregations in our most low-income communities.

We are deeply appreciative of the support of the three annual conferences who birthed us and continue to be vital partners. The healing ministry of Christ continues to be at our center.

Michael Ugwueke
President and Chief Executive Officer
United Theological Seminary

459 men and women are being equipped as faithful, fruitful pastors and Christian leaders for the Church:  
292 Masters Students  
167 Doctoral Students  
Third largest United Methodist seminary in the United States ii

Founded nearly 150 years ago by Bishop Milton Wright, father of famed aviators Wilbur and Orville Wright, United has continued that spirit of innovation through:

Online degrees:  
98% of master's students have taken one or more course online while studying at United.  
United students live in 39 different states.  
Week-long intensives fulfill UMC residency requirements.  

Live Interactive Virtual Education (LIVE):  
New grant brings the latest technology in virtual education.  
Participate in on-campus courses via webcam and enjoy live lectures and real-time discussion with faculty and peers.  

Doctor of Ministry Degree:  
Become a doctor for the Church, addressing a real problem or challenge in your church or community.  
Study under a mentor who is an expert in their field and learn alongside a small group of dedicated peers.  
3-year program that allows you to complete project as you go, leading to a 78% program graduation rate in 2017 (vs. 54% average among other seminaries) iii

Practical education designed to resource the Church:  
The majority of United faculty have pastored churches.  
91% of entering United students are already serving in ministry, bringing that context to the classroom.  

A focus on Church Renewal:  
165 Course of Study students iv  
42 students in the Hispanic Christian Academy (3-year Spanish online course of ministry program for Hispanic lay pastors and leaders) iv  
Certificates in Church Planting, Disability Ministry, and Supervision

Academic AND Spiritual Growth:  
95% of students say the United community supports both their academic and spiritual growth. v

Diverse Christian Views:  
Over 30 different denominations  
19 international students from 15 different countries  
96% of students feel their views are respected in the classroom/seminary community and say they have been taught to respect the views of others.  
47% of students who reported are African-American, 43% Caucasian and 10% represent other ethnicities

We thank God for the men and women coming to United because God has called them to serve the least and the lost. We pray as the Lord Jesus instructed his disciples saying, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2).  

Dr. Kent Millard, President

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i Data represents Fall 2018 headcount enrollment, unless otherwise specified.  
ii ATS 2017-2018 Annual Data Tables. Data represents Fall 2017 headcount enrollment.  
iii ATS 2017-2018 Strategic Information Report for United Theological Seminary. Graduation rates represent the percentage of students who were able to complete their chosen degree within a specified period of time which approximates two times the normal length of the degree.
Data represents unduplicated headcount enrollment in the 2017-2018 academic year.

United Theological Seminary 2017-2018 Student Satisfaction Survey, in which 30% of students responded.

Wesley Theological Seminary Annual Conference Report
Report will be added after 2019 AC Session

Wood College, Incorporated
Report will be added after 2019 AC Session