



# HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## GBHEM GENERAL AGENCY REPORT – 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

GBHEM launched a new mission and vision in August 2017. The updated mission and vision simplify GBHEM's role as the primary leadership development agency for The United Methodist Church.

**Mission:** Build capacity for United Methodist lay and clergy leaders to discover, claim and flourish in Christ's calling in their lives, by creating connections and providing resources to aid in recruitment, education, professional development and spiritual formation.

**Vision:** Generations of thriving, diverse and compassionate Christian leaders for The United Methodist Church and the world.

### OUR WORK THROUGHOUT 2017 AND 2018

The **Office of Discernment and Enlistment** at GBHEM hosted **Exploration**, a biennial event for young adults ages 18-26 to hear, discern, and respond to God's call to ordained ministry as a United Methodist deacon or elder. More than 350 attended the event in Portland, Oregon in November 2017.

The **Young Clergy Initiative (YCI)** funded **34 innovative projects** across the church in 2017 to attract young people to ordained ministry. Since its inception, more than 100 projects have been funded through YCI.

GBHEM works with the **Commission on Central Conference Theological Education (CCTE)** to distribute grants for the theological education of pastoral leaders in the Central Conferences. In 2017, the CCTE awarded **67 grants totaling more than \$1 million** to the seven Central Conferences of The United Methodist Church.

The **Publishing Ministry**, established to engage, nurture, and advocate for the intellectual life of The United Methodist Church, released **13 books in 2017**, reaching more than 10,000 people.

In 2017, GBHEM's Office of **Loans and Scholarships** awarded **2,000+ students with \$4.1 million** in scholarships and **350 students with \$1.4 million in low-interest loans**. More than **\$1.6 million was awarded to 200 recipients of the Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship**, which helps United Methodist clergy avoid excessive educational loan debt, minimize financial stress and build financial acumen.

To aid pastors in their ministry journey, GBHEM's **Candidacy Office** introduced **EM360**. A formation guide to help pastors and congregations meet mission and ministry goals, EM360 is a tool to help clergy leaders **identify and gauge pastoral effectiveness**. In 2017, **1,438 candidates enrolled in UMCARES** to seek certified candidacy for licensed or ordained ministry. A total of **589 candidates were certified**.

The **Black College Fund distributed more than \$9.68 million in 2017** to the Historically Black Colleges and Universities related to The United Methodist Church for faculty development, infrastructure maintenance, academic programs and scholarships.

**Clergy Lifelong Learning** led African-American, United Methodist pastors who lead predominantly white churches in **cross-cultural diversity training** in South Korea in 2017. Continuing education and coaching opportunities are available through the innovative, multilingual platform, UMC Cyber Campus.

In 2017, **Schools, Colleges, and Universities** established the **Siri S. Gadbois Fund** in partnership with the National Association of Schools & Colleges of The United Methodist Church (NASCUMC) for mentoring among institution leaders (kickoff in 2018). The **Cutting-Edge Curriculum Award** was created to recognize 10 exceptional faculty members who are building effective and innovative academic courses (winners announced at the end of 2018 spring semester).

In partnership with Discipleship Ministries, GBHEM provides e-readers to theological schools in remote areas of Africa and Asia, offering access to the latest textbooks and references books. The **E-Reader Project** distributed **667 e-readers in 2017** and nearly **2,500 devices to 22 theological seminaries** since the program inception in 2013.

In 2017, GBHEM and the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools (AUMTS) hosted two **academic theological colloquies**. Initiated in service to the intellectual life of the church, the colloquies are intended to be a resource for the church. The first colloquy (March 2017) focused on **human sexuality and church unity**, the second (November 2017) reflected on the practice of **Missio Dei**. Both events produced a study guide and book.