



# HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Ordinand Seminary Attendance

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## *Introduction*

This report provides a summary of seminary graduation patterns among deacon and elder ordinands in The United Methodist Church (UMC) in the United States. Specifically, this report summarizes 2013 ordinand graduation from United Methodist theological schools, approved non-United Methodist theological schools, and theological schools that are neither affiliated nor approved. It also examines seminary attendance trends from 1994 to 2013, to understand whether and how seminary attendance patterns among United Methodist ordinands have changed over time.

Seminary attendance data from 1994 to 2010 were submitted directly to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) from each United Methodist annual conference, providing the name, school, and degree of each deacon and elder ordinand in their conference. Data from 2011 to 2013 were gathered from the Business of the Annual Conference (BAC) reports submitted by each annual conference to the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA). The BAC report requires annual conferences to indicate the names of each person ordained that year as a deacon or elder as well as the seminary that awarded each person's degree.

## *2013 Ordinand Seminary Attendance*

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To begin with a more in-depth examination of ordinand seminary attendance, a detailed snapshot of 2013 seminary attendance will consider annual conference and individual institution distributions.

The below findings represent complete 2013 ordinand seminary data for every United Methodist annual conference, with several exceptions. Three annual conferences reported no new ordinands in 2013—Alaska, Oklahoma Indian Missionary, and Yellowstone—and are therefore excluded from all analyses. Mississippi and Western Pennsylvania did not indicate in their BAC reports the awarding seminaries for their collective 26 ordinands in 2013, and subsequently did not respond to requests for information. A manual search yielded seminary information for 12 of these ordinands, and the remaining 14 ordinands are excluded from the below analyses due to lack of available seminary information.

In total, across all annual conferences in 2013 there were 412 ordinands, including 364 (88%) elder ordinands and 48 (12%) deacon ordinands. After the above exclusions, 398 of the 412 total ordinands were used for the below seminary analyses. This final sample includes a gender distribution of 180 (45%) women and 218 (55%) men, and an ordination-type distribution of 351 (88%) elders and 47 (12%) deacons.

### **UNITED METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS**

Out of a total of 398 ordinands in 2013, 231 (56%) were awarded a degree by one of the 13 United Methodist theological schools. Shown in Table 2 below, Duke (40, 10%), Perkins (38, 9%), and Candler (34, 8%) were reported at a significantly greater frequency than other United Methodist schools, with nearly as many ordinands collectively (112) as the other 10 theological schools combined (119).

Also highlighted in Table 1, Asbury Theological Seminary was reported for 64 ordinands, or 16% of the total 413 ordinands, making Asbury the single most frequently reported theological school among United Methodist ordinands. In total, 295 (71%) ordinands were reported as attending either a United Methodist theological school or Asbury.

*Table 1. Ordinands for United Methodist Schools (w/ Asbury)*

School	Ordinands	% of Total
Duke	40	9.69
Perkins	38	9.20
Candler	34	8.23
Garrett	23	5.57
Saint Paul	17	4.12
MTSO	16	3.87
Wesley	16	3.87
United	12	2.91
Drew	11	2.66
Iliff	10	2.42
Boston	6	1.45
Claremont	4	0.97
Gammon	4	0.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>55.93</b>
Asbury	64	15.50
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**APPROVED THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS**

Out of a total of 413 ordinands in 2013, 101 (25%) were awarded a degree by one of nearly 40 non-United Methodist theological schools currently approved by the University Senate. Shown in Table 2 below, several of the most frequently reported approved schools attracted a moderate number of United Methodist ordinands, with Phillips (8), Dubuque (7), Memphis (7), Christian (6), and Hood (6) reported as or more frequently than several United Methodist theological schools.

*Table 2. Approved Theological Schools*

School	Ordinands	% of Total
Phillips	8	2.01
Dubuque Theological	7	1.76
Memphis Theological	7	1.76
Christian Theological	6	1.51
Hood Theological	6	1.51
Ashland	5	1.26
Austin Presbyterian	5	1.26
Palmer	5	1.26
Princeton	5	1.26
Fuller	4	1.01
New York Theological	4	1.01
Sioux Falls	4	1.01
Eden	3	0.75
Pacific SoR	3	0.75
Union Presbyterian	3	0.75
Vanderbilt	3	0.75
Brite	2	0.50
Colgate Rochester Crozer	2	0.50
Lancaster	2	0.50
Louisville Presbyterian	2	0.50
Lutheran Southern	2	0.50
Union	2	0.50
United of Twin Cities	2	0.50
VA Union	2	0.50
Chicago Theological	1	0.25
Eastern Mennonite	1	0.25
Harvard Divinity	1	0.25
Interdenominational TC	1	0.25
Moravian Theological	1	0.25
Pittsburgh Theological	1	0.25
Yale	1	0.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>25.38</b>

**OTHER THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS**

Out of a total of 398 ordinands in 2013, only 17 (4%) were awarded a degree by a theological school that is neither affiliated with nor approved by the UMC. As shown in Table 3, several of these schools were reported by multiple ordinands, including Erskine (5), New Brunswick Theological (3), Sewanee (3), and Gordon-Conwell (2). Single entries for Andrews, Northern Baptist Theological, Southwestern Baptist, and Western Evangelical round out the list of non-affiliated, non-approved theological schools.

*Table 3. Other Theological Schools*

School	Ordinands	% of Total
Erskine	5	1.26
New Brunswick	3	0.75
Sewanee	3	0.75
Gordon-Conwell	2	0.50
Andrews	1	0.25
Northern Baptist	1	0.25
Southwestern Baptist	1	0.25
Western Evangelical	1	0.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4.27</b>