



Preparing Leaders for a Vital Worldwide Church

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) invites, equips and supports faithful and effective clergy and lay leaders for congregations and the world. In partnership with other agencies, higher education institutions and church leaders, GBHEM has **shaped a new understanding of how to support emerging leaders discerning God's call** in The United Methodist Church (UMC).

Access to Education

Clergy and lay leaders are formed in the United Methodist (UM) tradition through our network of institutions around the world. In **Africa**, we support hundreds of schools, 16 theological seminaries and 18 institutions of higher education. In **Asia**, our schools, colleges and theological seminaries in Cambodia, Philippines and Vietnam are part of the thriving Asia-Pacific Association of Methodist-related Educational Institutions. In **Europe**, nearly 20 theological seminaries are connected to GBHEM through the Methodist-related Theological Schools in Europe. In **Latin America**, we work closely with the Latin American Association of Methodist Educational Institutions. In the **United States**, there are **13 United Methodist theological schools**. Our **97 UM-related schools, colleges and universities in the U.S. and 520 collegiate ministries** expand the denomination's diversity and prepare the next generation of leaders from and for the worldwide community.

In collaboration with Discipleship Ministries, GBHEM launched the **E-Reader Project** to offer affordable, reliable access to textbooks, reference books, the Bible and Wesleyan resources in English, French and Portuguese to faculty and students of 22 UM-related theological institutions in Africa and Asia and four seminaries in the Philippines. Visit www.umcreader.org.

The **Office of Loans & Scholarships** administers over 90 loan and scholarship programs and awards \$5 million in financial assistance annually to UM

undergraduate and theological students. Since 2013, \$11.5 million (including \$4 million to 1,895 seminarians and \$680,000 to 285 international students) in scholarships has been awarded to 7,622 students enrolled in higher education institutions in the U.S. Overall, **40 percent of scholarships were awarded to students who identified as racial-ethnic.**

The **Ministerial Education Fund (MEF)** supports the 13 UM theological schools in the U.S. and the Course of Study theological education programs for elders, deacons and local pastors. MEF also supports continuing education for clergy, funds Boards of Ordained Ministry in clergy recruitment and education initiatives, and underwrites GBHEM ministry programming.

Creating a "Culture of Call"

Almost every United Methodist—lay and clergy—can name a church member who inspired, influenced and encouraged them at some point in their journey, to consider a particular vocation or to pursue a gift.

Congregational vitality begins in local churches, where faith is formed and nurtured in people of all ages, especially the young.

GBHEM leads a multi-agency collaboration on a new resource—*Called: One Word, Many Ways*—that equips congregations to speak the language of call and move disciples of all ages to discover and nurture vocations. Focused attention to call will contribute to the health and vitality of the individual's faith, community and the Church. Visit www.explorecalling.org/called.

Supporting Clergy Leaders

The **Effective Ministry Assessment** is a new GBHEM resource resulting from over a decade of broad, deep research across the Church. Through covenant-building, the pastor and congregational leaders assess the pastor's performance based on needs of their particular ministry context. This assessment fosters effectiveness, support and accountability for clergy and congregational lay leaders by providing the structure for a healthy, constructive conversation



among the pastor, Staff-Parish Relations Committee and district superintendent.

The **United Methodist Candidate and Record Entry System (UMCARES)** launched in February 2015. UMCARES tracks psychological assessments, reference forms and completed candidacy tasks for each candidate, with more than 5,000 users annually including Boards of Ordained Ministry officers, district superintendents and candidates. UMCARES is instrumental in determining qualifications for scholarships and MEF distribution to UM theological schools.

Pastors who serve in a specialized environment benefit from **Module III Workshops**, a part of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, and other programs. GBHEM supports four U.S. **Ethnic Centers**—Pacific/Asian American, Hispanic/Latino, Multi-Ethnic and Native America—that recruit and prepare ethnic UM men and women for leadership positions in the Church.

The **UMC Cyber Campus** is an online gateway for Wesleyan-based theological and higher education for lay and clergy. The website provides a single entry point to free and affordable high quality church-related leadership resources in a worldwide, multilingual Christian learning space. Visit www.umccybercampus.com.

The **United Methodist Endorsing Agency (UMEA)** validates credentials, advocates for and supports endorsed clergy in ministry beyond church walls. Currently, 1,670 clergy are in relationship with UMEA (1,263 endorsed; 407 ecclesiastically approved). Collaborating with the UMC's ecumenical officer and other church leaders, UMEA has worked to establish new ways to endorse and support the work of chaplains through a covenant established with Pan-Methodist denominations.

Strengthening Higher Education in the UM Tradition

The **Africa University Fund supports the critical mission of Africa University**. Currently, 1,475

students are enrolled full-time at the campus near Mutare, Zimbabwe. With the installation of Prof. Munashe Furusa as the university's fourth vice chancellor in March 2015, the institution is focused on increasing its relevance and impact. **More than 6,000 graduates** are participating in Africa's transformation and serving in significant leadership roles across Africa. Faithful connectional support has built a permanent endowment of more than \$64 million, and the university is currently in a campaign to increase that total by \$50 million.

The **University Senate** is charged "to provide an effective review process to ensure UM-related schools, colleges, universities and theological schools listed by the University Senate and qualifying for Church support have institutional integrity, well-structured programs, sound management and clearly defined Church relationships" (Book of Discipline, ¶1415(3)). The Senate has updated its Guidelines and procedures to more faithfully carry out its consultative, collegial role with institutions by transitioning from a regulatory to a capacity-building agency focused more on church-relatedness and less on areas evaluated by regional accrediting bodies.

The **International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges and Universities (IAMSCU)** develops cooperative and supportive relationships among the approximately 800 educational institutions in the Methodist tradition worldwide so institutions can learn from and strengthen each other while sharing resources (e.g., student and faculty exchange). IAMSCU promotes the development of quality, value-centered education and increases the availability of educational opportunities throughout the world. IAMSCU's 2014 triennial meeting in Hiroshima, Japan, focused on "Peace, Reconciliation and Human Rights" with record attendance from nearly 50 countries.

The **Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development (MGEFLD)** offers technical assistance, scholarships and fundraising training. MGEFLD has established five regional hubs in **Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North**



America to share expertise and assistance. Visit methodistgloaleducation.org.

The **National Association of Schools and Colleges of the UMC**, a 75-year-old network of presidents and deans of Methodist-related educational institutions in the U.S., gathers biannually to strengthen their institutions' UM ties. At the February 2015 meeting, attendees unanimously adopted a resolution to "give leadership on behalf of social justice and human dignity by developing new patterns and practices of communication and by attending to questions of justice within [their] institutions."

The **Black College Fund** supports 11 UM-related historically black colleges and universities and demonstrates the Church's continued commitment to access and empowerment through higher education. Church support allows these institutions to advance research, maintain facilities and create a nurturing environment for over 15,000 students (many, the first in their families to attend college.)

Integration of Sustainable Environmental Practices

GBHEM has implemented e-filing for the Loans and Scholarships, Clergy Lifelong Learning and Candidacy offices. GBHEM has increased the use of online seminars to reduce travel. The agency requires recycling in offices and meeting rooms.

Initiatives Established by General Conference 2012

Find full reports on these initiatives at www.gbhem.org/gc16.

If current trends continue, the UMC will face a shortage of trained ordained elders to serve local congregations by 2032. The \$7 million **Young Clergy Initiative Fund**, administered by GBHEM and designed to "increase the number of young clergy among the jurisdictional conferences," awarded 76 grant recipients and doubled the investment in the 2013-2016 quadrennium by encouraging grant recipients to secure additional funding.

Administered by GBHEM, the **Central Conference Theological Education Fund** is overseen by a commission named by the Council of Bishops. The commission met annually to review grant proposals aimed at bolstering the work of theological education in central conferences and awarded \$1 million each year of the 2013-2016 quadrennium.

The **Seminary Indebtedness Task Force**, charged with creating a denominational plan to reduce and eliminate seminary debt for ordained ministry candidates, presented report to the Council of Bishops and Connectional Table in 2015.