As the leadership development agency of The United Methodist Church, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry’s mission is preparing global leaders for a global church and the world. Every elder, deacon and licensed local pastor benefits from our training and candidacy programs. Many young adults find help in clarifying their vocation and God’s call on their lives through our leadership and discernment programs.

PREPARING GLOBAL LEADERS FOR A GLOBAL CHURCH

Take a moment to learn more about how our programs recruit, prepare, nurture, educate and support Christian leaders for the church and the world.
Candidacy
Our agency helps candidates pursuing licensed and ordained ministry to explore the different types of ministry in The United Methodist Church with resources like *The Christian as Minister*, and specifically assists those pursuing the Orders of Elder or Deacon to overcome challenges and barriers sometimes encountered in responding to God’s call.

Young Clergy Initiative
This $7 million initiative is funding innovative projects of all sizes designed to attract young people to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church and support young clergy already serving the denomination. A total of 78 grants equaling $4,784,995 have been awarded supporting all Jurisdictions.

A full list of project descriptions, like those listed below, can be found by annual conference, jurisdiction, and project type at exporecalling.org/yci/projects.

- Go Forth and Fish
- The Exploration Project
- Project Transformation

Exploration
Exploration is a three-day event for young adults age 18-26 to hear, discern, and respond to God’s call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. Participants find sacred space to be in meaningful fellowship, passionate worship, theological reflection and practical workshops.
Specialized Theological Education
Pastors who serve in a specialized environment can benefit from our Module III Workshops, a part of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, and other programs. Our agency supports four U.S. Ethnic Centers—Pacific/Asian American, Hispanic/Latino, Multi-Ethnic and Native American—that recruit and prepare ethnic United Methodist men and women for leadership positions in every level of the church.

Training for Ministry
Our agency continues to train Group Candidacy Mentors, and Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) members, BOM staff, District Committee on Ordained Ministry members and District Superintendents and share best practices for navigating the ordination process with new candidates.

Endorsment & Certification
Within the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the United Methodist Endorsing Agency credentials all pastoral counselors and chaplains in the denomination, while Clergy Life offers professional, undergraduate and paraprofessional certifications in children’s ministry, music ministry and more.

Clergy Lifelong Learning
We offer continuing education opportunities to our clergy leaders, as well as resources for spiritual formation and professional development for effective clergy. A unique platform for ministry, the UMC Cyber Campus provides free video training and lectures, as well as an online listing of continuing education and degree programs for lay and clergy leaders in the church. Go online to umccybercampus.com.
Ministerial Education Fund
Men and women choose ministry because God calls them. The Ministerial Education Fund is our way of helping them answer that divine call by providing student scholarships from annual conferences; funding for our 13 United Methodist seminaries in the U.S.; programs that encourage men and women to respond to the call to ordained ministry; continuing-education opportunities for church leaders; and Course of Study education for local pastors.

Black College Fund
The Black College Fund supports 11 U.S. historically black colleges and universities committed to academic excellence based on the Christian perspective of community service and social responsibility—where students are interacting with academic staffs that serve as strong cultural and spiritual mentors. These United Methodist-related schools have a long history of raising leaders who impact lives and shape communities worldwide.

Africa University Fund
This vital fund supports Africa University, which was founded by the United Methodist Church in 1992 near Mutare, Zimbabwe, and has served students from 31 countries across the continent of Africa. The university provides higher education of excellent quality, enriched with Christian values, for both men and women, developing visionary leaders of tomorrow.
Schools, Colleges and Universities

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry provides general oversight and care for more than 1,200 United Methodist-related schools, colleges, universities and theological schools around the world; the University Senate assesses and qualifies institutions in the U.S. for church relatedness. College students and collegiate ministers attend Imagine What’s NEXT, an event to help students plan how they can be active in God’s dreams for their communities and the world.

Schools of Theology

Our 13 United Methodist theological schools are changing the world, one student at a time. Developing pastors and teachers, evangelists and missionaries, chaplains and lay leaders, however, is an exceptional challenge in today’s economy. Our agency’s Seminary Indebtedness Task Force, a subset of the Young Clergy Initiative, is exploring solutions for financial assistance and seminary debt incurred by certified candidates for ordained ministry.

Methodist Global Education

The Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development has established five regional offices for global education in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America to help develop lay and clergy leadership in each region. These offices build partnerships among smaller associations of United Methodist-related education institutions on each continent and the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges and Universities.
**UM Loans and Scholarships**

Our Loans and Scholarships Office awards about $3 million a year in scholarships and more than $2 million in loans to help United Methodist students and seminarians further their education. With your support for **United Methodist Student Day**, together we make it possible for more students to become leaders and transform the world.

**Central Conference Theological Education Fund**

The Commission on Central Conference Theological Education continues to distribute the $5 million fund for theological education in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. So far, the commission has awarded 192 grants to fund training for local pastors, faculty development, provision of e-readers, curriculum development and libraries at theological schools across at least 22 countries.

**The E-Reader Project**

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and Discipleship Ministries continue to expand the E-Reader Project, a simple, sustainable and cost-effective way for theology schools in remote areas of Africa and Asia to access current textbooks. Through financial support from annual conferences, local churches, universities and individual donors like you, we’re making theological education available to more people in more places than ever before.