

Partnership between GBHEM and Wesley House to establish a LEaD Hub in Britain

The **Regional Hub for Leadership, Education & Development in Britain (LEaD Hub Britain)** is an initiative of the **General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM)** of **The United Methodist Church (UMC)**, in partnership with **Wesley House Cambridge**, and supported by **The Methodist Church in Britain (MCB)**. This initiative builds on the history of Methodism in the British context, the tradition of academic excellence in Cambridge, the longstanding partnership between The United Methodist Church and The Methodist Church in Britain, established through a Concordat signed in 1968, and GBHEM's innovative program of establishing a decentralized system of Regional Hubs according to contextual needs. Through this initiative, GBHEM and Wesley House Cambridge will celebrate the **50th anniversary of the UMC-MCB Concordat in 2018** and promote activities in education and leadership development with a focus on English-speaking areas that have been connected to Methodism through the work of John Wesley, Thomas Coke, and their heirs on both sides of the Atlantic.

Based at Wesley House, the LEaD Hub in Britain **will complement the already existing Hubs established in Europe** at Reutlingen Theological School in Germany and in the Baltic Area as well as strengthen the work of the **Methodist Theological Schools in Europe (MTSE)**. It will also work closely with theological institutions in other contexts, taking into consideration the global connections of Wesley House and its collaboration with autonomous churches with which it maintains historical links. This will help to formalize a collaborative framework to support our joint work across the continental regions where GBHEM is active – Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America.

The LEaD Hub in Britain will serve as a model in leadership development and spiritual formation. It will provide expert advising and executive support to a series of activities and educational projects. The LEaD Hub will also promote the planning, execution, evaluation, and publicity of joint activities involving GBHEM and Wesley House Cambridge. It will work with individuals, churches, and institutions on academic programs, pastoral training and evaluation, joint conferences, and communication processes. The results of this partnership will highlight **the importance of the Wesleyan and Methodist movement in the 21st century**.

The LEaD Hub will also represent GBHEM in the British context and serve as the British office for the **Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development (MGEFLD)** and other GBHEM programs. Bringing together these projects and programs, the Hub serves as a vehicle to support Wesleyan and Methodist-related education and leadership development in Britain amongst global partners.

The LEaD Hub is to be led by staff located at Wesley House in Cambridge, UK. It will offer training and sabbatical opportunities to theological institutions affiliated with the **Association of United Methodist Theological Schools (AUMTS)** and provide sabbatical opportunities to UMC Clergy, District Superintendents, and Bishops. One of the programmes being established through this initiative is the PhD Program in theology and religious studies offered by Africa University and Wesley House. This project is sponsored by the **Central Conference Theological Education Fund** of The United Methodist Church and the **Innovation Fund** of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM).

In the spirit of the historic Concordat between the MCB and the UMC, Bishop Bill McAlilly (President of the GBHEM Board of Directors) and The Revd Dr Stuart Jordan (Chair of Wesley House Board of Trustees) are signing this agreement during the Concordat celebration program in London, on August 10-12, 2018.

Contact: Amos Nascimento (anascimento@gbhem.org) and Alastair Oatey (aio22@cam.ac.uk)