Dear Colleagues and Friends;

We are pleased to provide you with the 2019-2020 edition of the Directory of Chief Executive Officers of Methodist-related Schools, Colleges, Universities and Theological Schools. This important publication serves as both a useful informational resource and a reminder of the breadth of the vital educational network established by pioneering Methodists in the United States.

Today, 112 diverse institutions of higher learning in the U.S. are recognized as part of our denominationally-affiliated network. These range from some of the largest universities in the country to regional residential liberal arts institutions. Within our network are some of the most influential historically black colleges in the country, trail-blazing seminaries and one of the most highly recognized medical schools. These institutions serve nearly 300,000 students each year, providing them with a supportive launching pad for their own professional ambitions.

In addition to our schools, colleges and universities, this directory includes information regarding the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church (NASCUMC), a body that serves to link our institutions through varied programming, and the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges and Universities (IAMSCU), which supports engagements between institutions from across the globe. Further, you will find helpful contact information in this directory for individuals within the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

The footprint of Methodism upon communities across the globe is significant. Yet, it is perhaps in the realm of education where that footprint is most starkly visible.

Thank you for your work in Methodist-related institutions of higher learning.

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National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church (NASCUMC)

NASCUMC is a voluntary association of schools, colleges, and universities committed to the historic and distinctive values of United Methodist-related education. It exists:

• To advance the work of education and scholarship in member institutions;

• To work cooperatively with conferences, boards, and agencies of The United Methodist Church to address issues of mutual concern to the Church and the Academy;

• To work in partnership with the Church to educate students for leadership and service to the global community;

• To foster and encourage the common good of member institutions; and

• To strengthen the collegiality and camaraderie among member presidents, deans, and heads of school.

For more information, visit www.gbhem.org/nascumc

University Senate
Membership • 2017-2020 Quadrennium

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David F. Watson • Academic Dean and Vice President, United Theological Seminary
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About the University Senate

For more than a century, the University Senate has endeavored to support the extensive network of the 112 United Methodist schools, colleges and universities across the country and to provide assurance to students related to the quality of education provided by our partner institutions.

The United Methodist Church has more colleges, universities, theological schools, and preparatory schools related to it than any other non-Roman Catholic denomination. The predecessor bodies of The United Methodist Church were anxious to serve the larger society by engaging in education. In this they were true to John Wesley’s own concern for education and, more specifically, to the institution building commitments of early American Methodism. American Methodism has always sought to serve the general community, as well as its own members, through a series of complex institutions including colleges, schools, hospitals, orphanages, retirement homes, and publishing operations. The University Senate was established in 1892, one of the earliest accrediting bodies in the United States. Indeed, the Senate began modeling peer review processes in the U.S. even before the current system of regional accreditation had been established. In that regard, the University Senate was instrumental in giving shape to
the current regional accreditation system. Thus, the Senate's mission was to be certain that the schools, colleges, and universities related to the church be worthy of bearing the name of The United Methodist Church, in one way or another. And, today, the University Senate continues to be charged with the responsibility of reviewing all United Methodist-related educational institutions, at least once every ten years, to determine their eligibility to remain a part of this important network of educational centers. In recent years the task has become less one of accreditation, in large part because this work is done by regional accrediting bodies, and more one of review of the way in which an institution is in fact related to The United Methodist Church. Such relationships differ, and this is inevitable. History, geography, finances, governance structure, and current realities differ for each school. Nevertheless, there are seven “marks of church relationship” which should be manifested if an institution is to be related meaningfully to The United Methodist Church. Among these are the following:

• A church related institution identifies itself as such in printed materials, official listings, and other statements of self-description.

• A church related institution respects, honors, and provides the teaching of religion and, specifically, appropriate scholarly theological teaching in the Christian tradition within the curriculum. In the case of professional institutions and programs, the curriculum includes opportunity for faculty and student reflection on the ethical dimensions of professional practice.

• A church related institution respects and honors religious practice and, specifically, worship and service for students and faculty that choose to participate in the Christian tradition within the total life of the school.

• A church related institution willingly allows faculty and students to explore the place of religious belief and practice and, specifically, the intellectual dimensions of Christian faith in all academic disciplines and co-curricular activities.

• A church related institution encourages the exploration of the place of religious belief and practice in the larger society and advocates appropriate recognition of the contributions of religion to public life.

• A church related institution recognizes the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church and seeks to create a community of scholarship and learning which facilitates social justice.
A church related institution includes in its faculty, administrative officers, and board of trustees persons who understand and respect the relationship with The United Methodist Church.

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (par. 1415.3) charges the University Senate along with other responsibilities: “To provide an effective review process to ensure that 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.” The University Senate does its work through its commissions and committees that operate in accord with the policies and procedures established by the Senate. The organization, policies, and procedures are revised frequently to enable the Senate to do its work in the rapidly changing field of higher education.

For more information go to: www.gbhem.org/universitysenate

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12/19 — 250