



HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

Nuturing Leaders. Changing Lives.

MAKING EVERYDAY IMPACT



Keshira Watson
Philander Smith University

Keshira Watson's aspirations were crystal clear; she had a definite sense of her path since the second grade. Her journey led her to Philander Smith University, one of the 11 United Methodist HBCUs supported by The Black College Fund. Watson has served as chaplain of Philander Smith's Student Association for two years and now serves as a minister in training at Wesley Chapel, located on the campus of Philander Smith University. Watson says this role has taught her, "How to listen to God and put myself in a position to be used by God, when my fellow students need me."



UNITED METHODIST AFFILIATED SCHOOLS

Students who attend a United Methodist college or university receive more than just a world-class education. They find a community that nurtures their mind, body and spirit. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) believes that by enrolling in a Wesleyan higher education institution, students are given a platform to develop into transformative Christian leaders. We are inclusive communities that celebrate intellectual curiosity of religion and spirituality, with a strong history in advocating for equity and equality through education. Methodists were among the first to advocate for greater educational opportunities for all people regardless of race, class or gender.

The University Senate is an elected body of professionals in higher education created by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to determine which schools, colleges, universities and theological schools meet the criteria for listing as institutions affiliated with The United Methodist Church. The purpose is to establish the criteria that must be met by schools, colleges, universities and theological schools to achieve and retain listing as institutions affiliated with The United Methodist Church.



THE BLACK COLLEGE FUND

One of the most significant ways The United Methodist Church helps make quality education accessible to all is through The Black College Fund. The fund supports the 11 historically black colleges and universities related to the church – the largest number of black colleges and universities (HBCUs) receiving funding from any church body in the United States. Many of the students are low-income, first-generation college students and more than 70 percent of all students at HBCUs qualify for Pell Grants as well as federal loans.

UNITED METHODIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRIES

Collegiate Ministries is a network of campus pastors, religious life directors, Wesley foundations, ecumenical and interreligious ministries, and local church outreach. Serving more than 1,300 college and university campuses around the globe, we are the missional presence of The United Methodist Church at those institutions. The campus network provides support, advocacy and resources on behalf of students, fostering the development of future Christian leaders.

We further our resources by partnering with the United Methodist Campus Ministry Association, a network of United Methodist campus ministers with extensive knowledge and expertise in campus ministry.



UNITED METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS

Our 13 United Methodist seminaries in the United States have educated outstanding preachers and teachers, evangelists and missionaries, chaplains and lay leaders who lead the church. Our seminaries are vital parts of the United Methodist connection and provide a clear focus on the practice of ministry, as well as thoughtful theological reflection. If you plan to serve in The United Methodist Church, there is no better place to prepare for your ministry.

GBHEM SCHOLARSHIPS

By providing scholarships and expanding equitable educational access, GBHEM is instrumental in preparing the next generation of critical thinkers and dynamic leaders. Since 2017, GBHEM has awarded over \$29 million to 15,335 students worldwide to help pursue their dreams through higher education. Over 40% of these students are from underrepresented communities.

Financial resources can often be a barrier to receiving a quality education. GBHEM is committed to removing these barriers by providing financial assistance to students of all backgrounds.

GBHEM Scholarships offers financial aid to United Methodist students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. The General Scholarship application opens in December of each year.

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YOUTH INITIATIVES

GBHEM has long recognized the importance of nurturing and developing young adults who show potential to become leaders within the United Methodist community. To this end, we actively engage in various events and programs tailored to empower and equip individuals with the skills, knowledge and spiritual guidance to take on leadership roles. These events include youth and young adult conferences, retreats, leadership training workshops and service projects aimed at instilling a sense of purpose, belonging and responsibility among participants.

At these events, participants are encouraged to explore their faith, ask questions and discern their unique gifts and calling within the church. Through dynamic worship experiences, engaging discussions and mentorship opportunities with seasoned church leaders, young adult participants are inspired to deepen their commitment to Christ and consider how they can contribute meaningfully to the life and mission of the church. By investing in the spiritual formation and leadership development of youth and young adults, The United Methodist Church is not only ensuring its continuity but also fostering a vibrant community rooted in faith, service and love.

EXPLORE YOUR CALL TO MINISTRY

For those who feel drawn to God's call to ministry, it is important to recognize that "ministry" encompasses a broad spectrum beyond traditional ordination. It's about serving others and embodying God's love in various capacities. Whether it's through pastoral work, teaching, counseling, community outreach or other forms of service, each individual's call is unique and significant. GBHEM is committed to nurturing and supporting individuals in their diverse calls to ministry through our Exploration program. Let us help you ...

Listen to what God and others are saying,

Discern the meaning of what you're hearing, and

Respond well with faithful next steps to what you're discovered.

The call God has placed on your life is unique. Your role in the life of the church is vital. Let us help nurture your call.

CANDIDACY & COURSE OF STUDY

Candidacy is a vocational discernment and decision-making process recognized by The United Methodist Church to assist candidates and annual conferences in discerning and affirming an applicant's call to licensed or ordained ministry. GBHEM's Passage UMC, a central registry solution for candidates and clergy, monitors progress toward their vocational goals in The United Methodist Church. The platform increases transparency in the credentialing process, allowing each annual conference to customize the journey for their context.

Course of Study is an accessible theological education program for pastoral leaders who chose not to attend seminary. Students engage in diverse content that includes church history, biblical exegesis, pastoral care, evangelism, UM polity, UM doctrine and more. The core courses are facilitated in ways that help students apply what they learn to the ministry context they serve.

MAKING EVERYDAY IMPACT



CHAPLAINCY, ENDORSED AND EXTENSION MINISTRIES

Not all United Methodist clergy serve in church congregations. Bishops can appoint clergy to specialized ministries beyond the local church. Today, more than 560 United Methodist clergy are endorsed by GBHEM's United Methodist Endorsing Agency (UMEA) and thousands more worldwide are answering God's call and taking their ministry beyond the church doors.

Chaplains, pastoral counselors and other providers of spiritual care are needed in a wide range of settings, and our clergy can be found serving everywhere from military outposts to hospitals, prisons, counseling centers and truck stops.

Institutions which certify and employ chaplains or spiritual care providers often require evidence of endorsement as a condition of employment or certification. Governmental agencies, corporations, professional associations and other institutions look to churches to identify professionally qualified and ecclesiastically authorized clergy to provide ministry in these specialized settings. Endorsed clergy are appointed to serve as chaplains in settings that include military services, healthcare institutions, prisons, retirement communities and children's homes.



Deacon Emilee Ogden
Alabama-West Florida Conference

By partnering with Duke Memorial United Methodist Church to write small group curriculum addressing theological questions regarding gender and sexuality, Deacon Emilee Ogden is helping educate the congregation on the scriptural foundation for a fully inclusive vision for the church and its mission to show love to all of God's children.

Deacons like Emilee connect the congregation's worship to service in the community and participate in acts of servant ministry that best reflect their unique and distinctive call to ministry in the church and the world.



CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

There is a sacred trust that allows pastors into the vulnerable moments of life. Precious few people are invited into struggles with addiction, medical diagnoses, tragedy or spiritual crises. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) offers the most trusted and tried means to develop pastoral care practices that are skilled, self-aware, and refined. Reserved for pastors, ministry candidates and lay persons interested in providing pastoral care, CPE offers creative and flexible programs, including hybrid experiences in a variety of ministry settings throughout the worldwide church.

MAKING EVERYDAY IMPACT



Rev. Mathias Marinyame
Zimbabwe East Annual Conference

After completing his undergraduate degree, a Bachelor of Divinity with honors at Africa University in 2009, the Rev. Mathias Marinyame of the Zimbabwe East Annual Conference longed to pursue a master's degree at a United Methodist institution. Financial challenges, however, blocked his path.

Obtaining theological education in Zimbabwe can be difficult due to the distance between seminaries, cost, a shortage of well-trained professors and the availability of resources in needed languages.

A grant from the Central Conference Theological Education Fund (CCTEF) helped change that for Marinyame.

"I am now a pastor with a different mindset in the area of pastoral care and counseling," he said. "I discovered a gap in the way I used to practice ministry. The lectures and intensive research have managed to fill that gap." Without the grant, Marinyame said, furthering his education would have been out of reach.



CENTRAL CONFERENCE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND

The Central Conference Theological Education Fund (CCTEF) was established by the 2012 General Conference of The United Methodist Church.

The UMC continues to live out Charles Wesley's vision: to "unite the pair so long disjoined – knowledge and vital piety." The commission has awarded over 589 grants, increasing the capacity of leaders in mission fields, developing contextual resources and innovations in education and ministry, and enabled sustainable programs and practices in the Central Conferences in Africa, Europe and the Philippines.

The General Conference adopted the following categories as appropriate uses for the funding:

- Development of theological schools
- Development of Courses of Study
- Development of libraries and contextually developed resources
- Scholarships and faculty development
- Support for associations and networks of faculty and schools
- Support for new and innovative approaches to theological education

The CCTEF helps advance theological education in all Central Conferences by strengthening theological institutions, creating networks among these schools and increasing access to theological education.



INTERNATIONAL GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

Through the International Grants and Scholarship Program (GRASP), GBHEM has established a program to help offset the costs of education for students studying at a Methodist-related institution within a Central Conference. This is a competitive, need-based scholarship for United Methodist students currently enrolled in a college, seminary or university.

Since 2017, GBHEM has awarded over \$250,000 in GRASP Scholarships to more than 1,000 students studying at United Methodist-related colleges and universities in the Central Conferences. Applications for the GRASP Scholarship are open from November to March annually.

GRASP awards scholarships to students pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, helping to bridge gaps in financial resources. GBHEM's investment towards education is supporting student leaders who are making a significant impact within their communities, universities and the world.

THANK YOU REV. GREG BERGQUIST

GBHEM's dedicated general secretary is retiring this year. He has played many roles as a leader, mentor and beacon of faith, enriching the lives of countless individuals within the connection and beyond. The Rev. Greg Bergquist's commitment to spreading the message of love, compassion and inclusivity has left an indelible mark on the hearts of all who have had the privilege of crossing paths with him. Thank you, Rev. Bergquist, for your profound impact and unwavering service to The United Methodist Church.

LEAD HUBS

GBHEM supports the United Methodist connectional system through inter-agency partnerships, ministerial leadership support and equitable funding strategies, working with more than 15 worldwide and regional associations and Regional Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD) Hubs throughout the world.

LEAD Hubs were established as part of GBHEM's strategic plan to decentralize how the agency connects with The United Methodist Church worldwide through collaboration with pan-Methodist and ecumenical leaders. LEAD Hub executive directors support regional and contextual leadership, education and development worldwide.

LEAD Hubs are located in:
Argentina | Brazil | Britain | Côte d'Ivoire |
Germany | Mozambique | Philippines |
South Africa | South Korea | USA

Educating Locally,
Transforming Globally





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**THIS BROCHURE IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN
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