COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE: Celebrating differences while joining in action.

• Faculty and students have led and participated in UMCOR; support efforts with victims of hurricanes and fires; protests on behalf of Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida; protests of white supremacist movements; services with immigrants and DACA young people; and ecumenical and interreligious witnesses for justice in the city of Boston.
• Through student-led Town Hall meetings, the community has had deep conversations on issues that divide (including theological differences). We seek to foster respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

OTHER NOTABLE NEWS:

• 2019 marks the 180th year of the School of Theology, originally founded as the Newbury Bible Institute in 1839.
• Our major development campaign for BUSTH will end in September 2019, and we continue working toward grand success for the future of our School and the vitality of your ministries.

As BUSTH looks to the future, we celebrate transformational leaders of The United Methodist Church, who keep the word of Jesus Christ alive. Your living legacy and faithful witness give us hope and courage for the future.

Blessings and gratitude,
Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

REPORT 13C.2 – Candler School of Theology

For more than 100 years, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has prepared real people to make a real difference in the real world. Since our founding in 1914, more than 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is especially important to note amid the current uncertainty in our denomination. It is an honor and a privilege for Candler to be one of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church. Yet true to the Methodist tradition of ecumenical openness, Candler has enthusiastically welcomed the entire Wesleyan family to our community for generations. Faculty, staff, and students from the AME Church, the AMEZ Church, the CME Church, Free Methodists, Nazarenes, and others have worked, worshiped, learned, and prayed alongside United Methodists and have been a vital part of shaping Candler and our mission. This diversity has been a wonderful gift and a rich blessing. As we move forward from the Special Session of General Conference, we will continue to invite and welcome wholeheartedly those from all expressions of the Wesleyan tradition. Indeed, we will continue to welcome all those who follow Jesus Christ.

Candler is also privileged to be one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University in Atlanta. With the resources of a top-tier research institution and the reach of a global city, our students benefit from a rich academic and hands-on learning environment: The General Board of Global Ministries is in Atlanta, as are numerous public health, international development, and social service organizations. Candler’s intentional involvement with our surrounding community has contributed to our inclusion on a list of “Seminaries that Change the World” for six years running. In short, there is no better place to prepare for ministry that engages our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 16 degrees: six single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, and social work. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry and immediately apply to their context what they learn in class. Our Teaching Parish program allows eligible United Methodist students to serve as pastors in local churches while they’re enrolled – they earn a salary as they earn course credit and pastoral experience, plus they are mentored by an experienced United Methodist elder.
Candler’s student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 453, reflecting 51 percent women, 39 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 27 among MDivs. Students represent 44 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and promoting financial literacy. In 2018-2019, we awarded $5.8 million in Candler scholarships, with 100 percent of MDiv students receiving aid. Plus, our comprehensive “Faith & Finance” program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them – and the churches they lead – well into the future.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries throughout the world depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world.

-Jan Love
Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology

REPORT 13C.3 – Duke Divinity School

In August 2018, L. Gregory Jones, the Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Distinguished Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry, began serving as dean following Elaine Heath’s departure. Jones, who earned M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Duke, was previously dean of Duke Divinity from 1997-2010. Jones was asked to lead the school in enhancing its ties with church constituencies, strengthening its academic credibility, attending to cultural challenges, and addressing financial challenges. As he assumed the role of dean, Jones noted, “We need to build bridges across various divides in the church, the academy, and across society. Christian faith can play a significant role in this bridge building.” This academic year Duke Divinity School has been working steadily on these tasks.

Admissions: Duke Divinity School welcomed an entering class of approximately 200 new students from 30 different states and several countries, including China, South Korea, the UK, and Zimbabwe. Our Master of Divinity program remains central to our identity, enrolling 112 students. Our Master of Theological Studies and Master of Arts in Christian Practice programs received enrollments of 24 students and 14 students, respectively. The Master of Theology (nine students), Doctor of Ministry (22 students), and Doctor of Theology (four students) all had strong enrollment. Our new Certificate in Theology and Health Care saw enrollment double this year to eight students. The ages of students enrolled in the M.Div. program range from 21 to 69, with a median age of 23, and students from minority groups comprised more than 22 percent of incoming M.Div. students, with black students making up 15 percent. Across all degree programs at the Divinity School, 32 percent of the incoming class identified as a race/ethnicity other than white (an increase from 26 percent last year). Black students made up 18 percent of all students; Hispanic students, two percent; Asian students, seven percent; and American Indian students, one percent. For the first time, the majority of students entering the Doctor of Ministry program identify as an ethnic group other than white. Female students made up 51 percent of incoming M.Div. students, while males were 49 percent. It was only the second time in school history that the incoming cohort of M.Div. students had a female majority (2005 being the other year). Across the degree programs, 42 percent of students in the incoming class were female, and 58 percent were male. There were 23 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 55 percent affiliated with The United Methodist Church (up from 41 percent last year). Nondenominational students made up 17 percent of the new M.Div. students; Baptists, eight percent; and Anglican-Episcopal, three percent.

New Faculty: Several new faculty members joined the Divinity School community in July 2018, demonstrating Duke Divinity School’s ongoing commitment to the church, the academy, and the church’s witness in the world.

• Christopher Beeley, the Jack and Barbara Bovender Professor of Theology, Anglican Studies, and Ministry and director of the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies, is an Anglican priest and a founding member of the Episcopal Gathering of Leaders. He has ministered in parishes in Texas, Indiana, Virginia, and Connecticut. Prior to joining the Duke faculty, Beeley taught for 16 years at Yale Divinity School.
• David Emmanuel Goatley, research professor of theology and black church studies and director of the Office of Black Church Studies, is ordained in the National Baptist Convention, USA, and serves in leadership capacities with the NAACP, Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society, and the Baptist World Alliance and the World Council of Churches. He was for 23 years the executive director of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

• Jan Holton, associate professor of the practice of pastoral theology and care, is an ordained elder in the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Holton most recently served in an extension ministry with Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) in New Haven, Conn., and was a member of the faculty at Yale Divinity School from 2006 to 2015.

• Patrick T. Smith, associate research professor of theological ethics and bioethics and a senior fellow at the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University, is also associate faculty with Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities, and the History of Medicine. Smith is licensed and ordained with the National Baptist Convention, USA and comes to Duke from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Harvard Medical School.

United Methodists: Professor Kate Bowler's memoir, Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved, made The New York Times' hardcover nonfiction bestseller list and received significant national recognition in mainstream and Christian media. The related podcast, “Everything Happens with Kate Bowler,” returns for a second season with new episodes on how people have faced dark times in their lives. Bowler, Sujin Pak, and Edgardo Colon-Emeric, all United Methodist faculty members, received tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor in recent months. On July 1, 2018, Pak began serving as vice dean of academic affairs and Colon-Emeric started as director of the Center for Reconciliation. Jeff Conklin-Miller began serving as director of the Methodist House of Studies at the same time. Beginning February 1, 2019, Laceye Warner fills the new role of associate dean for Wesleyan engagement.

Looking to the Future: The Divinity School continues to discern fresh strategies to respond faithfully and wisely to the changing dynamics of the church, the academy, and the world. An example of our strategic work is a new focus throughout the school on Thriving Communities. Through this focus we are concentrating on the centrality of healthy congregations and gifted pastors in cultivating thriving communities. This approach offers opportunities to build on Duke Divinity School’s traditional strengths, but in a new key. We look forward to cultivating even stronger synergies among our work with the Clergy Health Initiative, Thriving Rural Communities, Hispanic House of Studies, and a revised Field Education program (all generously supported by The Duke Endowment), alongside longstanding commitments to the Office of Black Church Studies, the Anglican/Episcopal and Baptist Houses of Study, and initiatives in Leadership Education; Theology and the Arts; and Theology, Medicine, and Culture.

Duke Divinity School is grateful for the strong ties that bind “the people called Methodist,” and we look forward to serving together as we bear witness to God’s future with hope.

Respectfully submitted,
L. Gregory Jones, Dean, Duke Divinity School

REPORT 13C.4 – Gammon Theological Seminary

Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, Ga., is the United Methodist constituent member of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), a consortium of historically African-American theological schools. Gammon/ITC is a co-educational, professional graduate school of theology. Its faculty personifies vigorous scholarship, rigorous academic discipline, and significant research in the service of the church and other communities in the world. Gammon/ITC is the world’s premier resource for black church scholarship and faith-based solutions to the spiritual and socio-economic challenges confronting the African-American community and beyond.

Founded in 1883 by the Methodist Episcopal Church and with assistance from the Freedman’s Aid Society, today Gammon Theological Seminary is one of the 13 theological schools of The United Methodist Church. The faculty and administration of Gammon/ITC creates an environment in which critical thinking, investigative reflection, decision making, and responsible action are fostered. Gammon/ITC is a member of the Atlanta University Center
Complex, the world’s largest enterprise of African American higher education. It is also a member of The University Center of Georgia and the Atlanta Theological Association. The school is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Christian Education, and the Doctor of Ministry. Admission is open to qualified men and women of The United Methodist Church.

The support of this Annual Conference helps Gammon/ITC students carry on a proud tradition. They are taught to think independently and communicate effectively. They are also challenged to become involved in finding solutions to problems that affect the human condition and to become active in the community beyond this campus. Additionally, graduates of this institution are encouraged to maintain a lifelong desire for intellectual growth, spiritual development, and the acquisition of skills for the practice of ministry.

Gammon/ITC has had a very exciting and busy year living out its mission, which is to recruit, support and educate pastors and leaders for The United Methodist Church. Gammon Theological Seminary is extremely grateful to this Annual Conference for your support of theological education and for your commitment to ensuring that God’s church will be served by persons who are called and trained to lead us forward.

Grace and peace,
Ken J. Walden, Ph.D.
President-Dean

REPORT 13C.5 – United Theological Seminary

459 men and women are being equipped as faithful, fruitful pastors and Christian leaders for the Church:
292 Masters students
167 Doctoral students
Third largest United Methodist seminary in the United States

Founded nearly 150 years ago by Bishop Milton Wright, father of famed aviators Wilbur and Orville Wright, United has continued that spirit of innovation through:

Online degrees:
98% of masters’ students have taken one or more courses online while studying at United.
United students live in 39 different states.
Week-long intensives fulfill UMC residency requirements.

Live Interactive Virtual Education (LIVE):
New grant brings the latest technology in virtual education.
Participate in on-campus courses via webcam and enjoy live lectures and real-time discussion with faculty and peers.

Doctor of Ministry Degree:
Become a doctor for the Church, addressing a real problem or challenge in your church or community.
Study under a mentor who is an expert in their field and learn alongside a small group of dedicated peers.
Three-year program that allows you to complete project as you go, leading to a 78% program graduation rate in 2017 (vs. 54% average among other seminaries).

Practical education designed to resource the Church:
The majority of United faculty have pastored churches.
91% of entering United students are already serving in ministry, bringing that context to the classroom.

A focus on Church Renewal:
165 Course of Study students
42 students in the Hispanic Christian Academy (three-year Spanish online course of ministry program for Hispanic lay pastors and leaders)
focus their fellowship on Public Theology, Urban Ministry or Missional Church. Meet our current Fellows at https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/community-engagement-fellows/.

Take your ministry to the next level
Wesley is a leader in Doctor of Ministry programs in specialized tracks that can include international study. Our 2020 tracks will include Church Leadership Excellence, offered in conjunction with Wesley’s internationally respected Lewis Center for Church Leadership and Life Together: Spirituality for Transforming Community, and a track designed for military chaplains. Find out more or apply at www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/.

Wesley also offers opportunities for individual study without pursuing a degree. The Certificate in Faith and Public Life explores the foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse through graduate courses. For more information, visit www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/public-life/. A Certificate in Wesleyan Studies is available online via the Wesley Theological Seminary Lay Academy. Topics include United Methodist identity, early church history, Christian ethics, interfaith relations, and the intersection of faith and science. The courses can also be taken for personal education and enrichment. More information can be found at www.beadisciple.com/wesley/.

Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry
The Lewis Center continues to be on the leading edge of research for the local church. The Lewis Center’s Leading Ideas e-newsletter is now the go-to source for more than 20,000 people in ministry each week. From this we’ve launched a new podcast – Leading Ideas Talk. Sign up or listen at www.churchleadership.com/. And look for new practical online courses at lewisonlinelearning.org.

From their new location at The Methodist Building on Capitol Hill, the Center for Public Theology, under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology Mike McCurry, equips pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. In its second year, the Center’s Faith and Public Life Immersion for undergraduates offers a week-long experience of study and encounters with public theologians and those advocating for justice in Washington. For more information, visit www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/.

The Luce Center for Arts and Religion is the only seminar-based program uniting arts and theology. The Luce Center offers regular classes and workshops with visiting artists. For information on past and upcoming opportunities visit www.luceartsandreligion.org.

The innovative online Health Minister Certificate Program prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact Tom Pruski at tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

The African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization gives contextual preparation for the opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the Public Theology specialization allows master’s degree students to gain community leadership and advocacy skills. Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/african-american-church-studies or www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/.

Through the Wesley Innovation Hub, a research project funded by the Lilly Endowment, we are working with 20 local congregations to design innovative ministries as models for ministry by and for young adults. Follow the work and connect with resources at www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/.

Stay connected
Contact us at (202) 885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu about how Wesley’s degree programs can equip you for your next step in ministry. Ready to join in our mission? Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/. Join the Wesley Community online via Wesley’s social media, www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary, on Instagram at wesleyseminary, and on Twitter at WesTheoSem or sign up for our electronic newsletter, eCalling, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.