

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Gammon Theological Seminary is the Interdenominational Theological Center's United Methodist constituent member in Atlanta, Georgia. The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) is a Christian Africentric ecumenical consortium of seminaries and fellowships that educate students to commit to practicing justice and peace through a liberating and transforming spirituality to become leaders in the church and local/global communities. Gammon was founded in 1883, bearing the name of the Rev. Elijah H. Gammon, a generous clergyman, businessman, and philanthropist. Rev. Elijah H. Gammon invested and endowed the founding of Gammon Seminary in partnership with Bishop Henry Warren and the Freedman's Aid Society.

Gammon has educated Black Clergy for almost 140 years, with graduates serving every level of the church, including Bishops, Superintendents, General church leaders, Conference staff, and Clergy in every jurisdiction. Today, Gammon Theological Seminary is the only predominately Black Seminary of the thirteen approved United Methodist-related Theological Institutions. The ITC's accreditation is with the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religion and Education, and the Doctor of Ministry. The support given to The United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund by United Methodist Conferences continues to enable Gammon students to be grounded in the Wesleyan tradition of theological education. Our 17th President/Dean, Rev. Dr. Candace M Lewis, is the first woman to lead the Seminary in our 139-year history. Dr. Lewis and the Gammon staff team continue to lead innovatively in chartering a "Brand New Day" for Gammon's recruitment, retention, research and resources, fund development, and scholarship endowments in her first two years of service.

Our new initiatives and celebrations this year, 2022-2023, at Gammon include:

- **We established The Rev. Walter H. McKelvey Endowed Scholarship Fund with the South Carolina Methodist Foundation.** Dr. McKelvey was Gammon's 14th President/Dean, serving from 1997-2010. Under Dr. McKelvey's leadership, Gammon's enrollment and graduation rate increased, and buildings were renovated. Our initial goal is to raise \$100,000.00. We have already received a matching fund pledge of \$50,000.00 from Dr. Loretta F. McKelvey (wife of the late Rev. McKelvey).
- **Spring 2023 – International Student travel.** Gammon students traveled to Belfast, Ireland, with the North Georgia Conference as a part of the Rethinking Conflict experience. Gammon students also traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa, on the Doctor of Ministry Immersion experience.
- **Commissioned two National Research Projects,** the first one related to the Impact of COVID on UMC BIPOC Clergy in partnership with Wespeth Benefits and Investments – CFWI – Clergy Financial Wellbeing Initiative. The second research project is "Perspectives" The Future of Blacks in the United Methodist Church—public release of research reports of the Gammon Research Institute scheduled for Summer 2023.

The greatest challenge facing Gammon Seminary is the rising cost of theological education and the significant debt our students incur as they answer their call to full-time ministry. Therefore, Gammon is committed to raising a million dollars in the next two years to offer full-tuition scholarships to students called and committed to full-time ministry in the United Methodist Church. We are grateful to this Annual Conference for your support of theological education and your commitment to ensuring pastoral leadership is theologically trained to lead us forward in the Wesleyan tradition.

Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis, President-Dean