



2017-2020 Quadrennial Report of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Preparing Leaders for a Vital Worldwide Church

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) engages, equips and supports faithful and effective lay and clergy leaders to serve congregations, institutions and communities throughout the world. GBHEM embraces the ministry of learning and leadership formation in the Wesleyan and United Methodist tradition, and serves Christian leaders who are shaped by a process of intellectual engagement, spiritual and character formation, and leadership development.

Context of Call

GBHEM cultivates a dynamic context of call and vocational discernment that encourages lay and clergy leaders to discover, claim and flourish in God's ministry and mission for the church, the academy and the world.

Access to Education

Lay and clergy leaders are formed in the Wesleyan and United Methodist (UM) tradition through our network of more than 1,000 institutions in **Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America**. In the **United States**, our **13 UM theological schools, 92 UM-related schools, colleges and universities and 520 collegiate ministries** are diverse, expand educational access and prepare the next generation of leaders for our worldwide connection.

Collaborating with Discipleship Ministries, GBHEM's **E-Reader Project** offers affordable, reliable access to textbooks, reference books, the Bible and Wesleyan resources in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. Faculty and students of 22 UM-related theological and 30 higher education institutions in Africa, Latin America and Asia use these resources.

The **Office of Loans & Scholarships** administers more than 90 programs and awards \$6 million in

assistance annually to UM undergraduate, graduate and theological students. Since 2016, we have awarded \$16.5 million to 8,796 students enrolled in U.S. higher education institutions and seminaries.

Forty percent of recipients identified as racial or ethnic students.

The **Ministerial Education Fund (MEF)** supports the 13 UM theological schools in the U.S. and the Course of Study theological education programs for elders, deacons and local pastors. MEF also funds Boards of Ordained Ministry in clergy recruitment and education and underwrites GBHEM ministry programming.

Resourcing and Supporting Clergy Leaders

GBHEM's ministry nurtures people as they listen, discern and respond to God's call.

Exploration and the Journey Toward Ordained Ministry scholarship guide hundreds of diverse students considering church leadership. **Called** is a no-cost resource available to local church leaders assisting children, youth and young adults in discerning their vocation.

Effective Ministry 360™ (EM360™) is based on in-depth research into the attributes clergy need to be successful and effective in ministry. EM360's formation process supports clergy, congregations and related ministries in meeting the conference's and church's mission and ministry goals. Since 2016, EM360 has expanded from an initial pastoral assessment to include modules for ministry candidates, students enrolled in Course of Study, and district superintendents.

The **Eight-Year Assessment Process (EYA)**, mandated by GC2016, is a partnership between GBHEM, annual conference leaders and Wespath. Using EM360's framework and resources, EYA helps clergy determine formational goals and the steps needed to meet them. The system provides support and accountability as clergy meet and report on those goals to their annual conferences. EYA and EM360



work together to undergird clergy formation throughout ministry.

Addressing emerging needs in innovative ways, the new **Center for Integrative Pastoral Practice (CIPP)** includes an accredited hybrid Clinical Pastoral Education program, **Introduction to Chaplaincy** training in the central conferences, and new methods of reflective supervision.

Providing contextual theological education, GBHEM has developed new partnerships for the **Course of Study**: Missouri Part-Time Ministerial Leaders COS, a new Native American satellite COS, a Portuguese-language COS, and the Burundi Conference COS. GBHEM collaborates with central conferences and mission initiatives to broaden support for Boards of Ordained Ministry and pastoral leaders throughout the connection, offering BOM and leadership training in Eurasia, Africa and Asia.

The **United Methodist Endorsing Agency (UMEA)** validates credentials and advocates for endorsed clergy in ministry beyond church walls. Currently, 1,650 clergy work with UMEA (1,431 endorsed and 392 ecclesiastically approved). UMEA leads the development of an online collaborative application system with members of the Pan-Methodist Commission and chaplaincy training for central conferences.

Strengthening Methodist-Related Higher Education

The **Africa University Fund** sustains the critical mission of Africa University. Currently, around 1,800 students are enrolled full-time at the Zimbabwe campus. More than 9,400 AU graduates are transforming Africa by serving in significant leadership roles. Faithful connectional funding has led to a permanent endowment of more than \$77 million and enabled the university to surpass its goal of \$50 million in a campaign for additional investment in academic and infrastructure development.

The **International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges and Universities (IAMSCU)** fosters

cooperation, exchanges and support among more than 1,000 Methodist-related institutions worldwide. IAMSCU develops quality, value-centered education and increases the availability of educational opportunities. Since 2016, GBHEM has awarded 241 international scholarships to students enrolled in IAMSCU institutions through the Grants and Scholarships Program (GRASP).

The **National Association of Schools and Colleges of the UMC (NASCUMC)** develops programming and strengthens educational ties across the UMC connection in the U.S. NASCUMC institutions serve nearly 300,000 students annually. Recently, NASCUMC partnered with sister institutions in Japan, developed a Leadership Pipeline program to expand the pool of qualified leaders to serve Methodist institutions, and created a joint-funding platform for campus initiatives.

The **Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development (MGEFLD)** offers technical, scholarship and fundraising assistance. MGEFLD has established 11 Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD) Hubs in **Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America** to promote a decentralized model of leadership based on “shared vision, responsibilities and costs.”

The **Black College Fund** supports 11 UM-related historically black colleges and universities and demonstrates the church’s continued commitment to access and empowerment through higher education. These institutions advance research, maintain facilities and create a nurturing environment for more than 15,000 students, many of whom are first-generation college students.

With three imprints and a vast catalog of books, **GBHEM Publishing** helps engage and grow the intellectual life of the UMC. GBHEM Publishing is a member of the Association of University Presses and its titles are regularly recognized with Saddlebag Awards.



“**The Awakened Life:** An 8-Week Guide to Student Well-Being” trains, guides and addresses student health and wholeness through mindfulness practices proven to reduce stress, improve concentration skills, and help build healthy relationships. The simple but profound program, facilitated by campus ministers, chaplains, and student life professionals, helps students struggling with today’s challenges to build resilience, find joy and connect with the world around them.

The **University Senate**, an elected body of higher education professionals, collectively determines which schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools meet the criteria for listing as institutions affiliated with The United Methodist Church. The Senate’s consultative, collegial role focuses on church-relatedness with regard to UM-related institutions. The Senate also promotes a Senate-type review body serving Methodist institutions across Africa.

General Conference Initiatives

Find full reports on these initiatives at www.gbhem.org/GC20.

If current trends continue, the UMC will face a shortage of ordained elders by 2032. The \$7 million **Young Clergy Initiative Fund**, administered by GBHEM and designed to “increase the number of young clergy among the jurisdictional conferences,” awarded 76 grants in 2013-2016 and 72 grants in 2017-2020 and doubled the investment in vocational discernment by encouraging grant recipients to secure additional funding.

Administered by GBHEM, the \$10 million **Central Conference Theological Education Fund** is overseen by a commission named by the Council of Bishops. The commission meets annually to review grant proposals to bolster theological education in central conferences. Since 2016, CCTEF has awarded 232 grants to fund scholarships, faculty development, courses of study and improved libraries and has doubled its investment from the prior quadrennium.

GBHEM, Wespeth Benefits and Investments, and the National Association of United Methodist Foundations partnered to apply for a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to address the financial challenges facing clergy. The **Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship** reduces seminary educational debt and increases financial acumen for ordained ministry candidates.

Higher Education/Superintendency

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Addendum: Quadrennial Report of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) envisions a world where everyone is living fully into God's call on their lives. GBHEM has spent a considerable amount of time carefully defining the direction of our agency and establishing realistic objectives and goals that align with our mission to bring people together to discern, learn, and lead for the church and the academy.

GBHEM has also dedicated significant time to meticulously delineating the key areas of concentration that will steer our team toward communicating effectively with our community members. These areas of focus include worldwide belonging and access, operational excellence, and missional effectiveness in every endeavor we undertake.

The Leadership, Education, and Development Hubs (LEAD Hubs) are located on five continents. LEAD Hubs supports the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU), which collaborates with more than a dozen other Methodist-related regional education associations worldwide. These key partnerships, along with co-creating with other general agencies and ecumenical groups, helped GBHEM strengthen theological education and pastoral formation across the world.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, GBHEM's online platform for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) has become a worldwide leader in Clinical Pastoral Education, allowing clergy to use their own ministry settings as their site for ongoing learning, reflection, and growth in pastoral care. As the agency lives into its strategic plan, GBHEM discontinued **EM360**, allowing financial and staff resources to be dedicated to areas of greater impact more in line with the developing needs of a worldwide church.

Since 2020, GBHEM has awarded an additional \$17.5 million in scholarships and financial aid to 8,581 students enrolled in higher education institutions and seminaries worldwide. Forty-two percent of recipients identified as

being from Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) backgrounds. GBHEM has implemented a strategic plan focused on equity and access that will assist students across the denomination with the funds, mentoring support, and collaborative conversations necessary to sustain their educational and vocational calling.

The Black College Fund was critical in the first months of the 2020-2022 pandemic. Emergency capital funds allowed institutions to quickly pivot into online learning spaces and make brick and mortar adjustments to support quarantines and keep students safe and well. From 2021 to 2023, the Black College Fund has provided the 11 United Methodist-affiliated HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) with over \$19 million in funding.

Administered by GBHEM, the \$10 million Central Conference Theological Education Fund (CCTEF) is overseen by a commission named by the Council of Bishops. Since 2016, the CCTEF has awarded over 640 grants to fund scholarships, faculty development, Courses of Study, and improved libraries. The CCTEF has doubled its investment from the prior quadrennium.

In the first half of the quadrennium, the commission awarded 154 grants that increased the capacity of leaders in mission fields, developed contextual resources, supported innovations in education and ministry, and enabled sustainable programs and practices.

While the 2016 General Conference approved \$10 million for the fund, the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) anticipated the World Service Apportionment Fund to pay out at approximately 90 percent. Therefore, the commission awarded \$2 million to applicants in 2017-2019. However, the available funds for 2020-2022 have decreased to \$1.6 million due to reduced apportionment receipts.