

Want to Connect with Hood Even More?

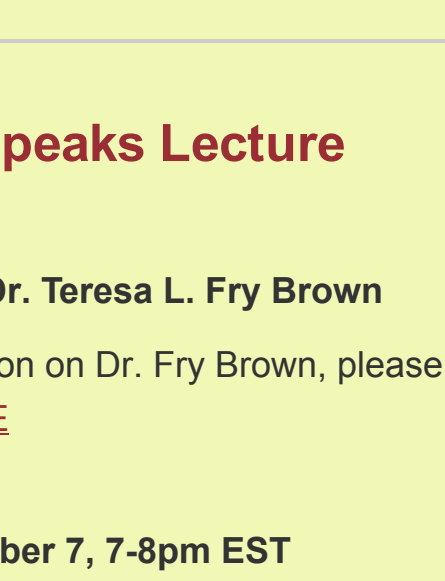
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Virtual Opening Convocation

Friday, September 16, 2022

6:00 - 7:15 p.m.



Speaker: Gregory M. Alcorn, Founder and C.E.O. Global Contact Services (GCS); Co-founder (with his wife, Missie) of ApSeed Early Childhood Education; Author of *The 7 Dumb Things We All Say*

Zoom link to follow.



Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown

Virtual Speaks Lecture Series

Presenter: Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown

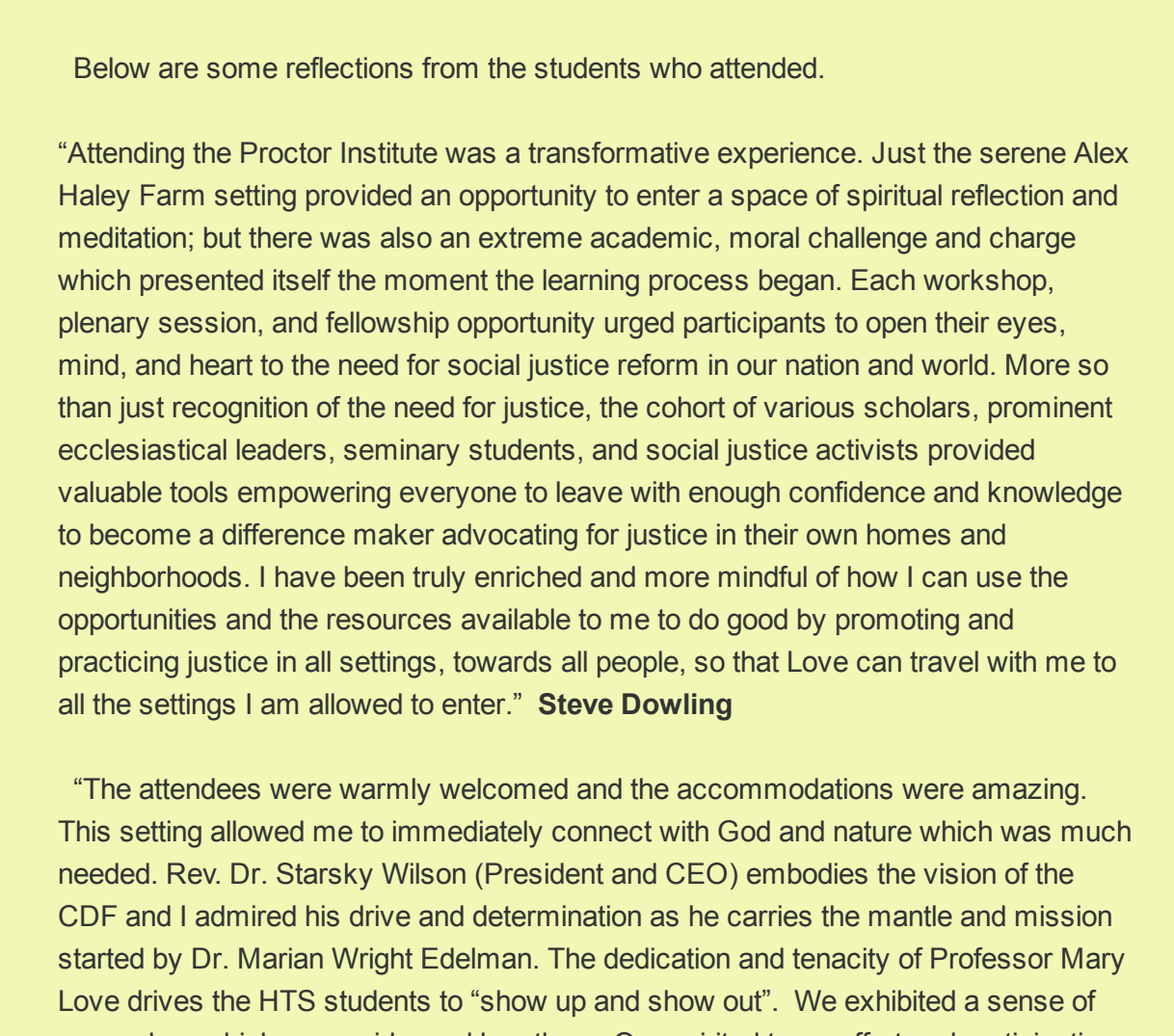
For information on Dr. Fry Brown, please [CLICK HERE](#)

Friday, October 7, 7-8pm EST

Saturday, October 8, 10-11am EST

Zoom link to follow.

Hood Travels



A. M. E. Zion Connectional Council - Concord, NC
Rona Williams, Rev. Dr. Reginald Boyd, Jr., Tyesia Walker

Hood Students Attend DAFS at Alex Haley's Farm

By: Dr. Mary Love

The 2022 Dale Andrews Freedom Seminary (DAFS) at the 28th Samuel D. Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry on the Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, TN was attended by 10 Hood students (Cathy Jones Johnson, Steve Downing, John Campbell, Tammy Wheeler, Jean Callaway, Marnie Hannah, Sharon Robinson, Nolan Williams, Shelly Knight (virtually), graduate Florrie Hopkins, and Professor Love. The theme was "Raising Democracy by Resurrection Hope." This was an opportunity to be introduced to various strategies needed to make a difference in the lives of children and youth, especially those who are vulnerable. It was also a time of renewal and an opportunity to experience a beloved community while exploring policies, justice issues, and the impact of various conditions upon the younger generation. Hood was well represented and was the seminary with the second largest number of students attending.

Below are some reflections from the students who attended.

"Attending the Proctor Institute was a transformative experience. Just the serene Alex Haley Farm setting provided an opportunity to enter a space of spiritual reflection and meditation; but there was also an extreme academic, moral challenge and charge which presented itself the moment the learning process began. Each workshop, plenary session, and fellowship opportunity urged participants to open their eyes, mind, and heart to the need for social justice reform in our nation and world. More so than just recognition of the need for justice, the cohort of various scholars, prominent ecclesiastical leaders, seminary students, and social justice activists provided valuable tools empowering everyone to leave with enough confidence and knowledge to become a difference maker advocating for justice in their own homes and neighborhoods. I have been truly enriched and more mindful of how I can use the opportunities and the resources available to me to do good by promoting and practicing justice in all settings, towards all people, so that Love can travel with me to all the settings I am allowed to enter." **Steve Dowling**

"The attendees were warmly welcomed and the accommodations were amazing. This setting allowed me to immediately connect with God and nature which was much needed. Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson (President and CEO) embodies the vision of the CDF and I admired his drive and determination as he carries the mantle and mission started by Dr. Marian Wright Edelman. The dedication and tenacity of Professor Mary Love drives the HTS students to "show up and show out". We exhibited a sense of comradery which was evidenced by others. Our spirited team effort and participation were noteworthy. We took photographs, experienced a bonding that can only occur during the face-to-face fellowship, and bonded with others in attendance. The experience was both impactful and meaningful as it provided useful information. I specifically enjoyed and received inspiration from Rev. Wilson, Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Rev. Dr. Earle J. Fisher, Rev. Otis Moss, Jr., Rev. Otis Moss, III, and Rev. Dr. Neichelle R. Guidry. **Cathy Jones Johnson**

"My mind and soul were immeasurably blessed by DAFS. It was an exceptional means of grace for me to be immersed in such a tranquil space, anchored by a gracious, witty, and encouraging group of fellow HTS students. The preaching series and workshops were powerful, challenging, and masterfully embodied the institute's theme. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to attend in-person." **John Campbell**

The time spent at the CDF's Alex Haley Farm reflects on Proverbs 27:23 as the calling of the Shephard is for all children to be cared for and guided in education, spiritually, physically, and love to create change for today and bring hope for a better tomorrow. I would describe this event as a soulful historical connection. The Farm was originally built to be a serene place for authors to commune and develop their crafts. Haley wrote "Roots" and other books on the Farm. His legacy is kept alive by the architectural structure of the chapel reminds one of Noah's Ark – a place of safety. The African culture is portrayed throughout the Farm. Also, the classes offered were beneficial and exciting. My hope is to return for another exciting adventure and pass this learning experience forward to others. **Marnie Hannah**

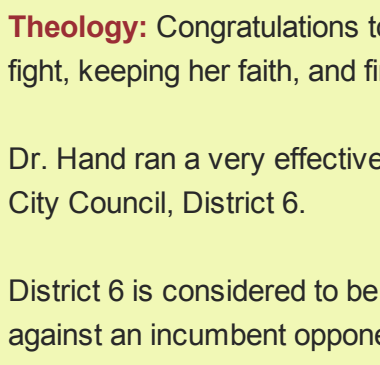
Words cannot express my experience at DAFS. The workshops/classes were based on meeting the needs of deservicing children. Listening to youth who were once in foster care and aged out with no funds to meet their needs until CDF and Freedom Schools stepped in was amazing. Their training taught them how to be youth leaders to help other youth. The "Praying with our feet" workshop reminded me to put my words and return to action to impact and serve the community, especially our young people. We must be the voice to help shed light on the imperfections, mistreatment, and injustices of today. Meeting Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, and hearing her share her book the "Resurrection Hope" plus hearing the words of distress from her son about how police mistreat young Black men was rewarding. I especially enjoyed hearing the great sermons of Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III and purchasing his books. I desire to return in the future for a life-changing experience of putting words into action and becoming more of a service and not just speaking. **Tammy Wheeler**

This trip to Alex Haley Farm for me was spiritual and educational, I made new friends and bonded with my classmates. The speakers were phenomenal, and the music was good. I learned a lot about CDF that I didn't know as I had heard about it because Marian Wright Edelman is from my hometown of Bennettsville, SC. CDF does so much in the fight for the well-being of all children. I would love to have this inspirational experience again. **Nolan Williams**

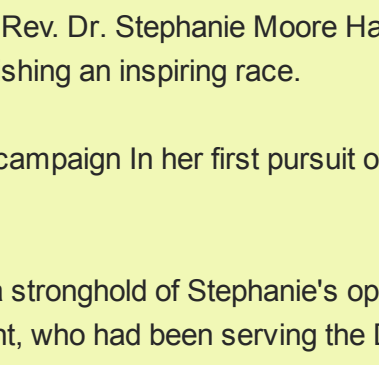
I attended the DAFS virtually and my participation was well-worth the emersion into the worlds of advocates in support of those who are oppressed. We were given glimpses into their cause and their why. I took away one resonating message, "that we are citizens of a country that does not exist. We are a country that still needs to be created simply because we are not there yet." **Shelly Knight**

I truly was blessed at this year's DAFS, the camaraderie with other seminarians, and I was inspired by the Great Preachers' Series. I loved each voice that rang out; however, my favorite was Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. and Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III. They both provided a different approach and message to very familiar texts. Hearing the youth share their experience along the prison pipeline was eye-opening. Meeting Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas and hearing her personal take on Resurrection Hope was another highlight. Her exchange with her son Jordan provided helpful insight. She also noted her choice to seek diagnostic healthcare help from Black doctors as opposed to other ethnicities. I encourage people to attend and hope that I will have an opportunity to participate in this phenomenal academic excursion in the future. To God be the Glory! **Sharon Robinson**

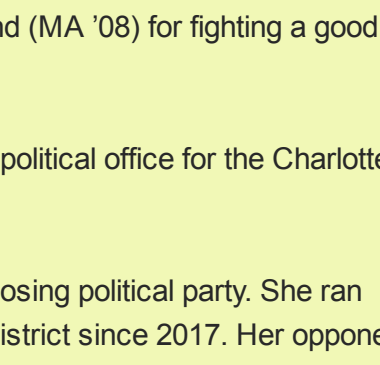
Our trip to Alex Haley Farm was delightful and a great opportunity to get to know my former classmates and Professor Love. I was looking forward with anticipation to our arrival on the farm and was not disappointed. The chapel services each morning prepared me for the workshops. The most impactful workshop was led by young people who had been in foster care. This group founded a program in New York that provides monetary assistance to other young people who are either aging out of foster care at 21 years of age or leaving at 18 years of age. **Florrie Hopkins**



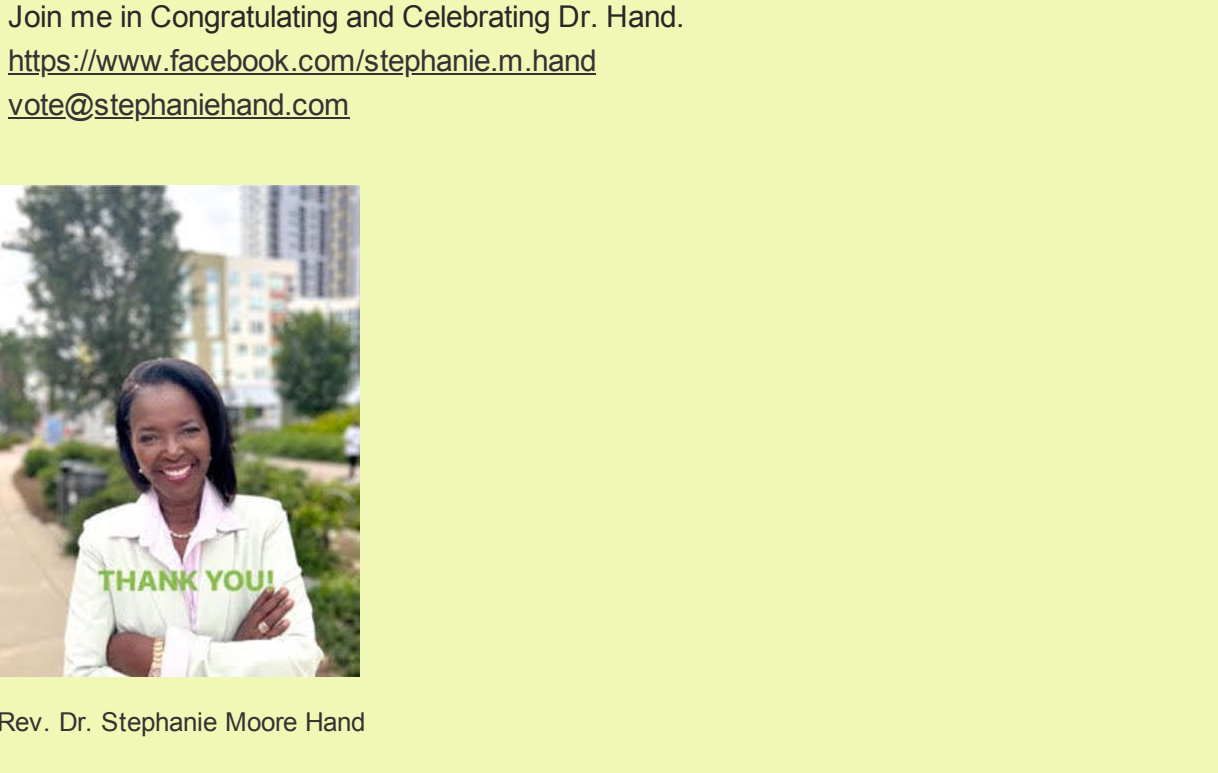
The Hood Gang enjoying fellowship.



HTS Students with Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, III.



HTS Students with Dr. Starsky Wilson, President and CEO of the Children's Defense Fund.



Students with Dr. Kelly Brown-Douglas.

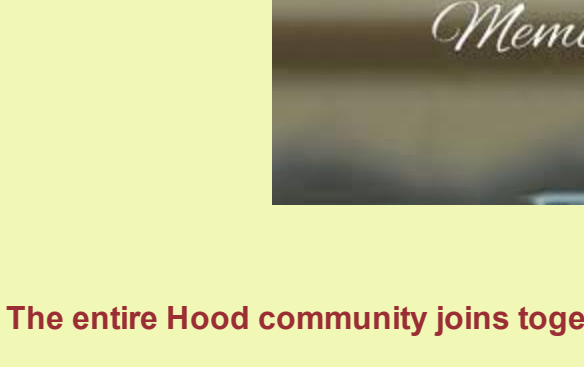
Bishop and Mrs. Dogbe Visit HTS

By: Dr. Mary Love

Bishop Hillard visited, the presiding prelate of the Western West Africa Episcopal District (Ghana, Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, and Togo) of the A. M. E. Zion Church visited Hood's campus on July 21st to see the collections "Art from Zion's Mission Fields." He was accompanied by his wife and Missionary Supervisor, Mrs. Cynthia Dogbe.

His visit helped to improve our understanding of the meaning and cultural interpretations of many of the pieces in the collections given to Hood by Dr. Kermit DeGraffenreid and Rev. and Mrs. Harold Robinson.

The Dogbes provided insight into identifying the country/area of origin of the art pieces, the cultural messages captured in the art, how some items were used, types of wood and the care of the wood. Our thanks to Bishop and Mrs. Dogbe for sharing much valuable wisdom with us as the collections provide insight and understanding into the culture of those of African descent. It also provides vital information to enhance our appreciation for the God embedded gifts of our African ancestors.



Dr. Vergel Lattimore with Bishop and Mrs. Dogbe. This carving represents strength in numbers and the importance of working together to accomplish a task.



Dr. Mary Love served as tour guide and recorded the insights provided by the Dogbes for the seminary's records and for use in the class - Faith and Heritage in Cultural Art.

Faculty and Staff News

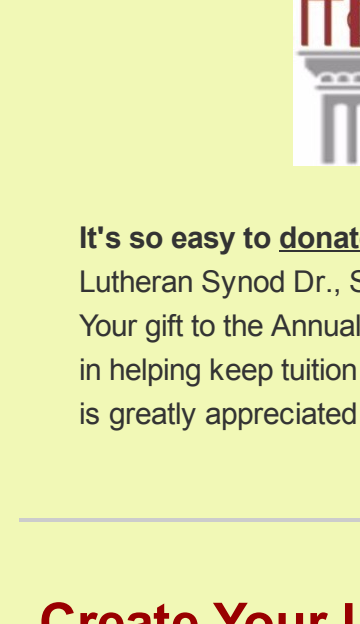
Dr. Vergel Lattimore, President and Professor, will participate in the Celebration of Life Service for a beloved aunt - Mrs. Ethel Mae Baldwin, who was 94 years young. Millers Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church Goldsboro, NC on August 4, 2022. He will participate Steering Committee of Racial Equity Rowan (RER) on August 23, 2022.

Karen L. Owens, D.Min., is the new Director of Spiritual Care at Aldersgate, the 300-acre United Methodist Church life plan retirement community in Charlotte, North Carolina. In this role, she oversees interfaith and interdenominational spiritual care to the residents of Aldersgate, their families, Aldersgate staff members, and the campus multi-disciplinary teams.

From Dr. Otto D. Harris III, M.Div, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology: Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand (MA '08) for fighting a good fight, keeping her faith, and finishing an inspiring race.

Dr. Hand ran a very effective campaign in her first pursuit of political office for the Charlotte City Council, District 6. District 6 is considered to be a stronghold of Stephanie's opposing political party. She ran against an incumbent opponent, who had been serving the District since 2017. Her opponent was supported by a political machine with a financial war chest much larger than what she had. In spite of all of those obstacles, Dr. Hand received only 377 fewer votes than her opponent out of 19,388 votes. What a remarkable accomplishment!

Join me in Congratulating and Celebrating Dr. Hand.
https://www.facebook.com/stephanie_m_hand
vote@stephaniehand.com



Rev. Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand

Helpful COVID-19 and Church Resources

Here are some COVID-19 and Church Resources:

[At-Home Vaccination Hotline: COVID-19 Vaccinations Available for Those Who Cannot Leave Their Home](#)

[The COVID Relief Bill: What Churches Need to Know](#)

[CDC and COVID-19](#)

[Understanding the CARES Act](#)

[How to Help Children Understand COVID-19](#)

[CDC: Public Health Guidance for community-related Exposure](#)

[CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)

Christian Counselor Directory

During this season of uncertainty, the Center For Chaplaincy is providing a Christian Counselor Directory, as a resource when needed for the HTS community and beyond. Click the link below to access the directory.

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The Leader in Reaching the Christian Community
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<https://www.christiancounselordirectory.com>

Go to "Add a Practice" for more Information and Enrollment

Job Opportunities

[White Rock Baptist Church, Danville, VA, Pastor position](#)

The entire Hood community joins together in prayer for and offers sincere condolences to the family and friends of:

Hood Alum George Melvin Coates, M.Div.'11 passed away. His wife Phyllis, and his son George Marcel also graduated from Hood.

Hood Alum Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, M.Div.'98 has passed away: <http://ow.ly/UWz250K1cP4>

Celebration of Life for Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman

Funeral services:
August 2, 2022 at 11am | viewing from 9am - 10:45am
Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church
631 East Florida St. | Greensboro, NC 27406

Services will also be livestreamed at www.serenityfunerations.com

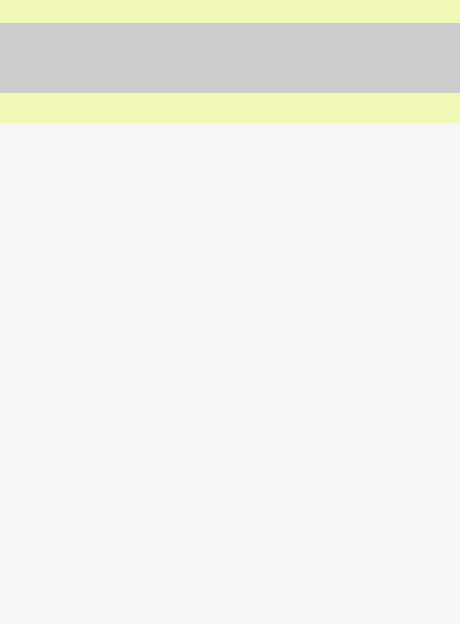
Family visitation:
August 1, 2022 at 7pm
Serenity Funeral Home & Cremations
1024 Homeland Avenue | Greensboro, NC 27405

Entombment:
August 5, 2022 at 10am
Woodlawn Cemetery | Detroit, MI

*In lieu of flowers, contributions can be sent via
Cash App: \$Spearmanmemorialfund
Venmo: @Spearmanmemorialfund
or
P.O. Box 3162 | Farmington Hills, MI 48332

Hood's Herald - Spring 2022 Now Available Online!

Read the latest edition now available online!
This annual publication includes highlights of the past year, articles of interest, and the Honor Roll of Donors for 2021. Click the button below to view.



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

Did you Know?

You can audit a class at HTS! Learning is a lifelong process; continue the journey with us. For clergy, church professionals, and laypersons. All denominations welcome! Read more [here](#).

It's so easy to [donate securely online!](#) Or mail your check to the Seminary at 1810 Lutheran Synod Dr., Salisbury, NC 28144.

Your gift to the Annual Fund is essential in promoting the mission of the Seminary and in helping keep tuition as low as possible for our students. Every gift, small and large, is greatly appreciated and stewarded responsibly.

Create Your Legacy with a Planned Gift

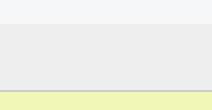
- ~ Do you have an IRA?
- ~ Are you at least 70 1/2 years of age?
- ~ Would you like to help HTS in its mission to prepare women and men for bold and creative leadership for the Christian church for a diverse world?

If you answered "Yes" to all three questions, please consider an IRA Charitable Rollover.

In an IRA Charitable Rollover, the distribution of up to \$100,000 annually made directly from the IRA custodian to a qualifying public charity, such as HTS, is excluded from gross income and counts toward the required minimum distribution.

For more information, contact John Everett at jeverett@hoodseminary.edu or (704) 636-6545, or visit our [Planned Giving](#) website for lots of helpful information.

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