



**E-Newsletter
October 2025**

Stay Connected



www.hoodseminary.edu



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](#)

Also, each course in the Certificate Programs at HTS is \$500 per course. The certificate program courses cannot be applied to any of the master's programs at the Seminary. [Read More](#)

The SistaHood: A New Partnership in Ministry

Eden Moment Ministries and Diva2de Ministries have come together to form *The SistaHood*, a collaboration born out of sisterhood in ministry at Hood Theological Seminary. Rooted in our shared commitment to serve both the church and the community, The SistaHood seeks to embody the spirit of compassion and justice that lies at the heart of our theological training.

Our first initiative, in partnership with several of Hood's Centers, has been to donate clothing to Rowan Helping Ministries. This effort has already begun to make a tangible difference, offering dignity and hope to those in need.

The SistaHood envisions this as just the beginning. With God's guidance and the support of the seminary community, we plan to expand this partnership into other areas of outreach, bringing together faith, service, and sisterhood for the flourishing of all.



Welcome to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees Bishop W. Darrin Moore



The Work of the Pathways For Tomorrow Initiative Continues...

In 2022, HTS received a \$1 million five-year grant from The Lilly Endowment, Inc., to address critical challenges in preparing pastoral leaders for the future.

As the 2025-26 academic year begins, the PFT team remains focused on its four focus areas:

- Expanding academic programs
- Offering didactics on anti-racism and contested issues
- Provide training in personal and organizational finance
- Launch a Student Debt Reduction and Alumni Ambassador Program

The initial grant period concludes in 2027; therefore, HTS is launching two new centers as part of the program's long-term sustainability efforts. The Center for Financial Empowerment, led by Dr. Kevin Griffin, will focus on empowering clergy and churches to thrive through financial literacy education and practical tools. The Center for Justice, Love, and

Belonging, led by Dr. Karen Owens, will serve as a hub for community engagement and pastoral formation around social justice. These Centers, that align with the core values of HTS, will also carry forward the grant's mission and extend its impact well beyond its original timeline. Other members of the HTS PFT team include: Dr. Clay Barrow, Dr. Regina Dancy, and Rev. Thomas Grinter. Dr. John Everett and Dr. Obery Hendricks serve in advisory capacities.

Stay tuned for details regarding opportunities to engage the Center for Financial Empowerment and The Center for Justice, Love, and Belonging.

Job Opportunities

[Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child](#)

[Ohio University: Scripps College of Communication](#)

[Chaplain positions](#) available at Randolph Health, Asheboro, NC.

2025 United Way Campaign



Rowan County United Way

Join Us in Supporting the 2025 United Way Campaign

Hood Theological Seminary is proud to once again support the Rowan County United Way in making a real difference in our community. Your past generosity has helped provide hope and resources to those in need—and we're asking for your support again this year.

The deadline to give is **December 1, 2025**. Donation forms are available in my office, or you can give online at the Rowan County United Way website. Be sure to credit Hood Theological Seminary when donating.

We're also excited to host this year's **Campaign Finale** right here on campus in December!

Thank you for helping us build a stronger Rowan County.

Warmly,

Tyesia Walker

Director, Annual Giving & Donor Relations



1885 Society Annual Dinner Thursday, November 20, 2025

The 1885 Society is pleased to invite you to our Annual Dinner on **Thursday, November 20, 2025**, for an unforgettable evening of fellowship, inspiration, and celebration.

This year's theme, **"The Harlem Renaissance,"** pays tribute to the rich cultural, artistic, and intellectual movement that reshaped American history. Guests will enjoy an atmosphere inspired by this golden era of creativity and resilience, filled with vibrant music, dynamic energy, and a spirit of renewal.

We are honored to welcome

Bishop Daran H. Mitchell as our distinguished speaker. Bishop Mitchell is known for his visionary leadership, powerful preaching, and commitment to uplifting communities. His message will inspire us to carry forward the legacy of excellence and empowerment embodied in the Harlem Renaissance.

Reception begins: 6:00 PM

Dinner begins: 6:30 PM

Ticket Price: \$85

Mark your calendars now and prepare to step into an evening of elegance, reflection, and community. The 1885 Society Annual Dinner is more than an event, it is a celebration of our shared heritage and our collective vision for the future.



Relief Development

Professor Dora R Mbuwayesango attended the Board Meeting of the Episcopal Relief and Development in Denver, CO, October 2-4, 2025. **Episcopal Relief & Development** is the compassionate response of The Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world. Hearing God's call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being, Episcopal Relief & Development serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world. Her attendance was part of board orientation in preparation for a three-year term beginning in January.

Annual CPE Day

CPE Day is a time to gather, learn, and celebrate the sacred work of chaplaincy, where faith meets care and compassion meets calling. Join us October 28, 2025 virtually for our Annual CPE Day with Rev. Dr. Clay Barrow.

☐ **Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025

☐ **Time:** 10:00 AM (Eastern Time)

☐ **Location:** Zoom

Planned Giving



Create your legacy through a planned gift by remembering Hood Theological Seminary in a bequest or will with gifts of stocks and bonds, gifts of real estate or personal property, life insurance, charitable trust, retirement funds/IRA or life income gifts. By making a planned gift, you will become a member of the [Hood Legacy Society](#).

~ 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.

Contact:

John Everett

Director, Institutional Advancement & Enrollment Management

704.636.6545 jeverett@hoodseminary.edu

Visit our [Planned Giving](#) website for lots of helpful information.



Faculty/Staff News

Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore



Dr. Vergel Lattimore, President and Professor, of Hood Theological Seminary

Dr. Lattimore attended the Kannapolis African American Museum & Cultural Center (KAA-MaCC) 12th Anniversary Celebration Kannapolis (10/4/25).

He will offer the Invocation for family Crisis Council Gala Celebration, Catawba College, Salisbury, NC (10/09/25)

Dr. Lattimore will attend the Pastor's Appreciation Banquet of Gideons International, Salisbury, NC (10/16/25)

He will Participate in a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gift of Black Theological Education and Black Faith Traditions Collaborative (aka The Gift Collaborative) (10/20-10/21/2025)



EVENT INFORMATION

Free Group Coaching Access Through November 2025

Pastors, you don't have to lead alone.

[The Shepherds Collective](#) is a coaching community created for pastors and ministry leaders who want real fellowship, fresh tools, and renewed focus for the work ahead.

For a limited time, you can **join group coaching sessions FREE through November 2025!**

Founding Members can lock in the introductory rate of \$19/month through December 31st. After that, membership moves to \$29/month, still including full access to:

Monthly Group Coaching Innovation Lab On-Demand 1-on-1 Coaching Access Discounts to
FLT trainings & conferences

Barna Access+, ChurchFuel, and other exclusive tools

Experience the Collective's rhythm of peer support, spiritual renewal, and practical strategy—no strings attached.

- ☐ **Kickoff Session:** *Break Free from Isolation*
- ☐ **Monday, October 20 • 7:00 PM ET**
- ☐ **Live on Zoom**

☐ [Register Here to Attend Free on Oct 20](#)

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/48JO0fX>

Brochure Link: <https://bit.ly/46UQGVM>

The Institute for Rural & Small-Town Ministry & Leadership is excited to share with you what we've been doing.

We started accepting applications for Micro Grants in September and on September 30th we had a group of five people who are not with the Institute for Rural & Small-Town Ministry & Leadership meet on campus to review the grant applications and give feedback about the applications. This was very helpful to us because it gave us different perspectives on the requests. The reviewers were a good group of people and by the end of the day, they all seemed to be friends with each other. They had the opportunity to learn about our program, and they were impressed with the difference we are making in the community. Out of our five reviewers, two are planning to be coaches.

We were able to choose seventeen very deserving ministries to receive the micro grants. We're really excited to see the difference that these grants will make to the recipients.

We have started accepting applications for coaches for our program. If you would like to consider being a coach, please go to our website www.hoodempowers.org to learn more and fill out an application.

We attended the Hood Theological Seminary symposium. The speakers and the activities were eye-opening and gave us great ideas about ways that we can improve our program. It's always great to hear what works well for other people to get ideas about things that may work for us.

We are thrilled to be making such progress, and we're excited to see what happens next.



Applications for The Center for Bold Leadership's Leadership Development Cohort are now being accepted. The Cohort begins on January 8, 2026, and runs through November.

The Cohort is open to African American female clergy in their 2nd through 9th year in pastoral ministry. This is a wonderful opportunity for early-career clergy to hone their leadership skills and focus on wholeness, wellness, and renewal. Coaches and Spiritual Directors will walk alongside Cohort members to provide guidance and help them build strong, sustainable, and successful ministries.

The Cohort includes:

1:1 Clergy Coaching

Spiritual Direction

Wellness Coaching

Classes & Workshops

If you are interested in applying or know of an early career clergy woman, please click the link to apply:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd144eq_lbuEXeKdhUE5c8aoTCJPT2MJm8JKIpbcdOjSELWA/viewform
or go to <https://boldlead.org/program/early-career-and-senior-clergy-cohort/> for additional information. For questions,
please contact Rev. Kimberly Clarke Turner, CBL Program Director at 704-636-6891.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

To all our OCTOBER Faculty, Staff, Alumni & Donors - A Blessed Birthday with Many More to Come!



In Memoriam



September 2025

HOOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Office of the President

Celebrating the Life of Dr. William Lawrence *New Testament Scholar, Theologian, and Dean*

On behalf of the administration, staff, and faculty of Hood Theological Seminary, we give thanks for the life and legacy of **Dr. William Lawrence**, a profound New Testament scholar, dedicated professor, and former dean whose influence shaped generations of church leaders, scholars, pastors and bishops. His unwavering commitment to theological education and academic excellence will always be remembered with deep gratitude and admiration.

Dr. Lawrence brought to his teaching a rich understanding of the New Testament, equipping students not only with the tools of exegesis but also with an enduring appreciation for how scripture informs preaching and the proclamation of Christ. Through his guidance, countless students—many of whom would go on to become bishops—were challenged to examine their theology deeply and to ground their ministry in thoughtful, faithful interpretation of the Word.

As a professor of both New Testament and systematic theology, Dr. Lawrence left a lasting impression. His classes were spaces where students were not only educated but formed—spiritually, intellectually, and pastorally. He made himself available in ways that extended far beyond the classroom, offering a safe and trusted presence for students navigating the personal and often sensitive realities of ministry.

His legacy lives on in pulpits, classrooms, and communities where former students now serve. His memory is a continued invitation to preach the Gospel with integrity, to teach with clarity, and to live out one's calling with courage.

We honor Dr. William Lawrence with gratitude for a life that has richly blessed the church and the academy. May he rest in the peace of Christ whom he so faithfully served.

Vergel L. Lattimore, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vergel L. Lattimore".

President
Professor of Pastoral Psychology & Counseling
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)



To all those grieving the loss of a loved one, our hearts and hands hold you in prayer. May the peace of God comfort you.

Walking the Walk

Our own **Patricia Commader**, along with members of **Entice & Renew LLC**, spent a beautiful late September Saturday morning embodying the call to serve others. The group shared both **food and prayers** with the unhoused community in the **Greensboro area**, spreading warmth, dignity, and hope.

As part of their outreach, they distributed “**Blessing Bags**” filled with toiletries and other essential items, small tokens of care that make a meaningful impact in the lives of those who often go unseen.

We celebrate Patricia and the team at Entice & Renew for living out their faith in action and reminding us all that ministry happens not only within the walls of the church but wherever love meets need.



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Join the Faithful Friends Partner Recurring Monthly Program!

To become a Faithful Friend Partner, click the link below to donate and become a member for a minimum of \$25 monthly.

Welcome Our Newest Faithful Friend

Rev. Frances Greene



Your gift is essential in promoting the mission of the Seminary. Every gift, small and large, is greatly appreciated and stewarded responsibly!

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

For More Information on Monthly Giving

Contact:

Tyesia Walker

Director,

Annual Giving & Donor Relations

704.636.6926

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