



E-Newsletter SEPTEMBER 2026

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Faculty/Staff News

Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore



Shalom Is Coming to Charlotte: Love, Justice, and Belonging in Action

Hood Theological Seminary's Center for Love, Justice, and Belonging invites you to join us for the inaugural Shalom Teaching Institute: Striving for Love, Justice, and Belonging, October 15-16, 2026, at the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church Conference Center, 3400 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216.

The Shalom Teaching Institute is more than another conference. It is an invitation to gather, reflect, wrestle with difficult questions, and consider what our faith requires of us in a world urgently in need of love, justice, belonging, healing, and hope.

At the heart of the Institute is the biblical vision of shalom - a vision that extends beyond the absence of conflict to encompass wholeness, justice, right relationships, human dignity, peace, and the flourishing of all people. During a time when our churches, communities, nation, and world are confronting deep division, injustice, uncertainty, and questions about who belongs, The Shalom Teaching Institute asks us to consider: What does God require of us,



Dr. Vergel Lattimore, President and Professor of Hood Theological Seminary, will engage with the community in the following activities:

He will participate in a meeting of the Board of The Gift of Black Theological Education and Black Faith Traditions, Inc.(Gift Collaborative), Philadelphia, PA (9/4/26).

Dr. Lattimore will attend the Check-up meeting of the Western N.C. Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church, Goler Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, Winston-Salem, NC (9/19/26).

He will attend the Pathways for Tomorrow Program Gathering and participate in a CEO Panel Discussion sponsored by the Lilly Endowment, Indianapolis, IN (9/23/26).

Let us keep Dr. Lattimore in prayer as he continues to represent Hood Theological seminary with honor and grace.

and what is our role in putting “boots on the ground” to advance love, justice, and belonging?

Over these two days, participants will have the opportunity to hear from and engage an outstanding group of theologians, pastors, scholars, authors, practitioners, and leaders, including:

Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Bishop of the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District at AME Zion Church
Bishop Gregory Palmer, Retired, United Methodist Church Council of Bishops - North Central Jurisdiction
Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President at United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, Assistant Director for Partnership and Fellowships and Lecturer at Yale Center for Public Theology and Public Policy
Rev. Dr. Melanie Jones-Quarles, Assistant Professor of Ethics, Theology and Culture & Director of The Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership, at Union Presbyterian Seminary
Rev. Dr. Quincy James Rineheart, Historian of Black Religious Thought
Bishop Leah Daughtry, National Presiding Prelate at The House of the Lord Churches
Rev. Dr. Stephanie Crumpton, Professor of Practical Theology at McCormick Theological Seminary
Rev. Dr. Hanna Broome, National Director of Religious Affairs at Repairers of the Breach
Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler, Jr., Professor of Bible, Director of the Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation, Faculty Representative to the Board
Rev. Dr. Vergel Lattimore, President, Hood Theological Seminary, Professor of pastoral Psychology & Counseling, Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.), Endorser, A.M.E. Zion Chaplaincy Commission

Together, these nationally visible voices will engage all who attend in thoughtful dialogue around the urgent themes of love, justice, and belonging and will move intentionally from biblical and theological foundations to practical action and explore what Scripture and

Catawba College Clergy Network
invites you to

Defining Neighbors, Granting Forgiveness, and Judging Others
Life Lessons from Jesus
featuring
Dr. Amy Jill Levine

September 17 | 6:00 PM | Keppel Auditorium
Robertson College - Community Center
open to the public



Amy Jill Levine (AJ) is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies Emerita, Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies Emerita, and Professor of New Testament Studies Emerita, Vanderbilt (Jewish Studies and Divinity School). Since retiring from Vanderbilt, she is Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace.

Holding a B.A. from Smith College, M.A. and Ph.D. from Duke University, and honorary doctorates from the University of Richmond, the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, the University of South Carolina-Upstate, Drury University, Christian Theological Seminary, and Franklin College, Professor Levine has been awarded grants from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies. She has held office in the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Biblical Association, and the Association for Jewish Studies. She served as Alexander Robertson Fellow (University of Glasgow), and the Catholic Biblical Association Scholar to the Philippines. At Vanderbilt, she chaired the faculty Senate.

The first Jew to teach New Testament at Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute, an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of Academia Europaea, and the first winner of the Seelisberg Prize for Jewish-Christian Relations, AJ describes herself as an unorthodox member of an Orthodox synagogue and a Yankee Jewish feminist who works to counter biblical interpretations that exclude and oppress.

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FaithLearnThrive News



HOOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

STRONGER CHURCHES CONFERENCE 2026

BUILT TO LAST

POWERFUL EXPERIENCE. LASTING IMPACT

OCTOBER 23RD & 24TH

FAITHLEARNTHRIVE
HOOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BUILT TO LAST: Meet the Leadership Voices Shaping the Conversation

Stronger Churches Conference | October 23–24, 2026 Hood Theological Seminary | Salisbury, NC

Strong churches don't happen by accident. They are built—through faithful leadership, wise strategy, healthy stewardship, meaningful community engagement, and a commitment to preparing for what comes next.

This October, the Stronger Churches Conference: BUILT TO LAST will bring

theological traditions teach us about these sacred principles while considering practical ways to embody them in our churches, homes, institutions, communities, and public life. We will address: What does love demand when our communities are divided? What does biblical justice require beyond words and good intentions? What does it mean to create genuine belonging where human dignity is honored, every voice matters, and people know they are valued? And perhaps most importantly: What are we prepared to do when we return home?

Whether you are serving in ministry, leading within your community, preparing for service, working in education or the nonprofit sector, or simply seeking to deepen your understanding of God's call, The Shalom Teaching Institute is designed for you, and scholarships are available.

Come join us at The Shalom Teaching Institute as we convene in Charlotte, NC, October 15-16, 2026, as we strive together toward God's vision of shalom and ask how each of us can help make love, justice, and belonging not simply ideals we proclaim, but realities we help create.

The registration link is below; however, if you are interested in a scholarship, contact, Rev. Dr. Karen Owens, at: kowens@hoodseminary.edu

REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.accelevents.com/e/the-shalom-teaching-institute>

Prepared for Ministry in a Diverse World

pastors, ministry leaders, emerging leaders, and congregational teams together for two days of practical conversation, connection, and strategy designed to help churches build for lasting impact.

And some powerful leadership voices are joining the conversation.

FEATURED LEADERSHIP VOICES

Bishop Dr. Daran Mitchell | AMEZ Presiding Prelate of the Midwest Episcopal District; HTS ALUMNI & FACULTY; President of the College of Bishops

Bringing the perspective of a pastor, bishop, and organizational leader, Bishop Mitchell will help us engage the realities facing today's church and what leaders must consider as they build ministries prepared for the future.

Dr. Lamont Johnson | Pastor, West Durham Baptist Church, The Gift Collaborative, General Board and Executive Committee of the General Baptist State Convention of NC; professor for Black Church Studies and Practical Ministry Shaw University Divinity School

Dr. Johnson brings a thoughtful and practical leadership voice to conversations about ministry, congregational health, and navigating the changing landscape of church leadership.

Dr. Tracy Ross | Howard School of Divinity; Director of the Compelling Preaching Initiative & Black Congregations Resource Center

With experience at the intersection of leadership, ministry, and organizational development, Dr. Ross will contribute insight for leaders seeking to strengthen both the people and systems that make sustainable ministry possible.

Dr. Boris Henderson

Dr. Henderson brings a practical perspective on one of the church's most significant—and often underutilized—



September invites us to think about more than the beginning of a new academic year. It reminds us that preparation for ministry is about more than earning a degree—it is about becoming women and men equipped to serve God and community in a world that is increasingly diverse, complex, and connected.

As Hood Theological Seminary prepares for another year of theological education and formation, four September observances offer meaningful reminders of what impactful ministry requires: **International Day of Charity, Opening Convocation, International Day of Peace, and National Voter Registration Day.**

International Day of Charity reminds us that ministry begins with service. Effective ministry requires more than knowing what to preach; it requires knowing how to meet people where they are, recognize their needs, and respond with compassion. Charity challenges us to put faith into action and to see service not as an occasional activity, but as a way of life.

Opening Convocation marks a new beginning for the Hood community. It reminds us why we gather as a theological institution: to prepare women and men for faithful, thoughtful, and effective ministry. Our preparation must equip us not only to serve within our congregations, but also to engage a world filled with different cultures, experiences, perspectives, and expressions of faith.

International Day of Peace reminds us that ministry also carries a responsibility to build bridges. In a world where differences can easily become divisions,

assets: its property. He will help leaders think differently about church real estate, building usage, and creative ways congregations can open their doors to serve their communities, expand impact, and steward their physical resources for the future.

And additional pastors, practitioners, facilitators, and ministry leaders will join us throughout the weekend.

FRIDAY: CHURCHTALK LIVE

We begin Friday evening with ChurchTalk Live, our leadership and networking experience designed to create the kinds of conversations that don't always happen from a conference stage.

Expect featured leadership conversations, moderated discussions, audience interaction, a VIP networking reception, and opportunities to connect with ministry leaders, organizations, sponsors, and community partners.

This isn't just a night to listen. It's a room to connect, think, ask questions, and build relationships.

SATURDAY: PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR STRONGER CHURCHES

Saturday moves from conversation to application.

Through practical labs, panels, networking, worship, and next-step activation, leaders will wrestle with some of the most important questions facing congregations right now:

☀️ What does faithfulness look like when attendance patterns have changed?

☀️ How do we develop the next generation of leaders?

☀️ How do we build generosity beyond the offering moment?

BRING YOUR TEAM

Stronger Churches is designed not only for senior pastors, but for the people helping them build: executive and

ministers are called to model reconciliation, listen across boundaries, speak truth with grace, and help communities discover what can unite them.

Finally, **National Voter Registration Day** reminds us that ministry does not stop at the church door. Faithful leadership includes understanding the communities we serve and encouraging responsible civic engagement. Remaining informed, participating in our communities, and helping others understand their rights and responsibilities are ways ministry can contribute to the common good.

Together, these observances offer a powerful September message: **Impactful ministry requires prepared people.** It requires women and men who are spiritually grounded, academically equipped, socially aware, compassionate in service, committed to peace, and prepared to minister across differences.

Your Ministry Matters. Your Preparation Matters.

To our **current students**, may this new academic year remind you that every class, conversation, assignment, and experience is part of your preparation for the ministry God has entrusted to you. Keep learning. Keep growing. Keep asking the difficult questions. The communities you will serve deserve leaders who are prepared to meet the challenges of their time.

To those **considering theological education**, perhaps this is your season to move from wondering to preparing. If you feel called to serve, lead, teach, preach, counsel, organize, advocate, or strengthen your community, Hood Theological Seminary invites you to explore how theological education can help you turn that calling into impactful ministry.

The world needs ministers who are prepared—not simply to lead churches, but to engage communities, bridge differences, serve with compassion,

associate leaders, ministry leaders, lay leaders, volunteers, and emerging leaders.

Bring the people who need to be part of the conversation about what your church is becoming.

OCTOBER 23–24, 2026

Hood Theological Seminary | Salisbury, NC

Friday: ChurchTalk Live Leadership & Networking Experience

Saturday: Stronger Churches Conference

Theme: BUILT TO LAST

Because churches that last are intentionally built—with clarity, stewardship, strong leadership, and meaningful engagement with the communities God has called them to serve.

REGISTER TODAY

→ https://bit.ly/SCC2026_BT

INVITATIONS

Dr. Rona Williams and Apostle Myra Bellinger are invited to serve as guest lab facilitators at the upcoming Fishing Differently Conference hosted by Oikos Institute (under the direction of Dr. Sydney Williams & Dr. Reginald Blount), September 9th–11th in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Rona Williams will serve as a plenary leadership voice during the upcoming Trustees and Stewards Training for Trinity AME Zion Church on Saturday, October 3rd.

SHEPHERDS COLLECTIVE: YOU SHOULDN'T CARRY THIS ALONE

Pastoral leadership can sometimes feel like carrying everything—vision, people, programs, problems, and the day-to-day work of ministry. But healthy churches are built by healthy teams, not exhausted pastors.

This September, **The Shepherds Collective**, an initiative of FaithLearnThrive at Hood Theological

pursue peace, and make a meaningful difference.

Are you prepared to answer the call?

Hood Theological Seminary is preparing women and men for ministry in a diverse world. Your journey can begin here.



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Seminary, will focus on **Building Strong Teams with Limited Resources: You Shouldn't Carry This Alone.**

We'll explore practical ways to identify emerging leaders, recognize their gifts and strengths, develop volunteers, delegate effectively, and maximize the people God has already entrusted to our churches. Participants will also receive access to a free leadership and team assessment to help them better understand how they are wired to lead and work with others.

Our goal is simple: to help pastors move from carrying ministry alone to intentionally **seeing, developing, and releasing others to serve and lead.**

Join us **Monday, September 21, 2026, at 7:00 PM** for this timely conversation.

You were never meant to carry the vision alone.

Use the link below to register:

<https://bit.ly/3Us7twM>

The Shepherds Collective |
FaithLearnThrive at Hood Theological Seminary

FaithLearnThrive | Congregational Faith & Learning Center

Theological Education in Action: Dr. Hanna R. Broome and the Work of Public Witness



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

To all our Faculty, Staff, Alumni & Donors , we wish you an AWESOME August Birthday with many more to come!



Building Momentum – Driving Participation – Sustaining the Foundation

The Institute for Rural & Small-Town Ministry & Leadership has had a lot going on!

We participated in the College night out at the Bell Tower Green on August 27th. It was a lot of fun, and we met lots of people that we were able to share information about our program and about Hood Theological Seminary.

On September 18th, we are having our coaches meeting here on the Hood Theological Seminary campus. We're excited to get the coaches matched up with the 2026 grant recipients. It's always great to hear from the churches and the coaches about how the grants are helping them to achieve their goals.

On September 29th, we are having a virtual workshop at 6:00 pm. The information is as follows. If you would like to attend, please register here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5vjW7DOtMTBOlTHOwEr6bbgUwoX-ZQH0vjIKySG1mNp486A/viewform>

Buy Hood Merchandise Today!

For Rev. Dr. Hanna R. Broome, theological education is not confined to the classroom or the pulpit. It can become a foundation for engaging communities, interpreting the moral dimensions of public life, and participating in movements that seek to address issues affecting vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Dr. Broome is an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and serves as National Director of Religious Affairs for Repairers of the Breach. She earned her Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew Theological Seminary, following earlier degrees from the University of South Carolina–Upstate and Columbia International Seminary. Her professional and academic formation has been accompanied by extensive work in ministry, leadership, civic engagement, and social justice.

That connection between theological education and public engagement is particularly visible in Dr. Broome's work with Moral Monday DC and the Moral Monday Public Pulpit. In 2026, Repairers of the Breach has organized recurring public actions in Washington, D.C., bringing faith leaders and moral activists into the public square. The organization describes these gatherings as an effort to build a “public pulpit and prophetic witness,” connecting faith, moral reflection, and public concerns. Dr. Broome has been among the faith leaders participating in this work.

Her activism has also extended into civic engagement and voter education. In August 2026, Broome participated in a Washington, D.C., press conference launching a 100-day voter-education and mobilization effort connected to the Moral Monday Public Pulpit coalition. The initiative includes educational activities and planned marches to the polls across the country.

For theological educators and students, work such as Dr. Broome's raises an important question: What is theological education for?



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The answer is not limited to preparing people to preach sermons or lead congregations. Theological education also develops the capacity to interpret Scripture and tradition, engage ethical questions, understand communities and their histories, and respond thoughtfully to the conditions in which people live. When theological formation enters the public square, it can provide a framework for asking difficult questions about justice, human dignity, poverty, democracy, and the responsibilities of communities of faith.

Dr. Broome's ministry illustrates this movement from theological formation to public witness. Her work demonstrates how religious leaders can draw upon theological knowledge while participating in civic life and organized activism. Her presence in the Moral Monday Public Pulpit places theological reflection in conversation with contemporary social concerns and with people working to address them.

For institutions such as Hood Theological Seminary, examples of public-facing ministry underscore the continuing importance of theological education. The work of ministry does not end when students leave the classroom. Their education travels with them into congregations, communities, nonprofit organizations, classrooms, hospitals, public institutions, and movements for social change.

Theological education prepares leaders to think deeply, engage faithfully, and serve wherever their calling takes them. Dr. Hanna R. Broome's work offers one example of what that engagement can look like when theological formation meets public witness.

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Contact:

John Everett

**Director, Institutional
Advancement & Enrollment
Management**

704.636.6545

jeverett@hoodseminary.edu

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Seasonal Employment Opportunity

In Memoriam



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To those among us who are grieving, please remember that you do not have to rush through your grief or carry it alone. Some days may feel heavier than others, and that is okay. Give yourself permission to remember, to cry, to rest, and even to smile when a joyful memory finds its way through the sorrow. May you find comfort in God's presence, strength in community, and grace for each day. In this season, may you be reminded that love does not end when a life ends—it continues to live in the memories we cherish and the lives we carry forward.



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