



E-Newsletter NOVEMBER 2025

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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](#)

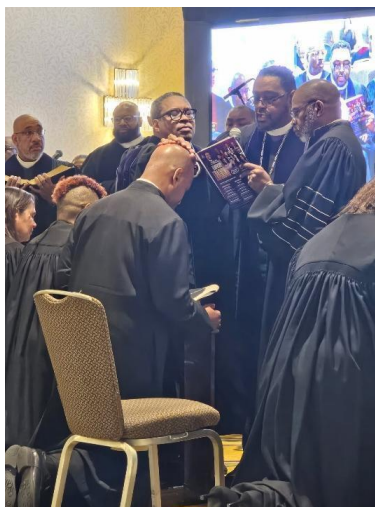
The SistaHood is Now taking Donations

The SistaHood, a collaboration born out of sisterhood in ministry at Hood Theological Seminary, is once again taking donations of gently used clothing. Our partners at Rowan Helping Ministries have advised us that they need men's clothing.

With the shift in temperature, we are asking for gently used warm-weather wear. This includes Coats, hats, scarves and gloves. We will accept other gently used items, especially men's clothing. for drop off information contact: dparker@hoodseminary.edu



Congratulations to our Residence Director, Rev. David Burton!



We joyfully celebrate his ordination as Deacon in the North Eastern Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Zion Church on November 1st! This sacred moment was marked by the laying on of hands by Bishop George Crenshaw and Bishop W. Darin Moore, with his father in ministry, Rev. Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith, also in attendance.

We thank God for your faithful service, your heart for ministry, and your continued commitment to leadership, learning, and love.

Join us in congratulating Rev. Burton on this blessed milestone in his spiritual journey!

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.



Making a Difference

Professor Dora R Mbuwayesango

Prof. Dora Mbuwayesango's essay titled, "The Disavowing and Devaluing of Women's Labor" has been published in Proceedings of the 24th Congress of the Organization for the Study of Old Testament (IOSOT): Vetus Testamentum Supplements Volume 201 as an eBook, October 20, 2025, and hardback, November 6, 2025. This is the product of the congress; she was one of the key speakers at the Zurich 2022 meeting.

Library/Writing Center Director on Medical Leave

Our Director of the Library and Writing Center will be out of the office from **November 12, 2025, through January 2, 2026**, as she recovers from surgery. We are covering her in our thoughts and prayers for a successful procedure and a full recovery.

During her absence, the **Library will remain open and available to assist you** with your research and resource needs. For support, please call **704-636-6840** or email hoodtheolibrary@gmail.com.

Thank you for your understanding and continued prayers.

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.

In Memoriam



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.

Buy Hood Merchandise Today!

NEW MAY MERCH!
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HANDMADE LEATHER EARRINGS

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ENGRAVED WOODEN CUFF LINKS & TIE CLIP

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HTS Hood Theological Seminary

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Faculty/Staff News

Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore



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

This month Dr. Lattimore offered the prayer for the Salisbury Rotary Club luncheon (11/4/2025)

He attended the Endorser Quarterly Meeting of the U.S. Navy Chaplaincy Service (11/4/2025)

Dr. Lattimore attended the gathering of The Gift of Black Theological Education & Black Faith Tradition, Inc., convening at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Inc. in Atlanta, GA (11/5/2025)

He offered the Invocation at the Rotary District 7680 Foundation Dinner, Rowan Community Center (11/8/2025)

Dr. Lattimore was the Veteran's Day Sunday Speaker, Marvin A.M.E. Zion Church, Waxhaw, NC (11/9/2025)

FaithLearnThrive News



EVENT INFORMATION

Free Group Coaching Access Through November 2025

Culture changes. Convictions anchor.

The next Shepherds Collective Group Coaching Experience tackles one of the biggest leadership tensions we face:

Leading Through Cultural Shifts & the Personal Protection of Your Spiritual Convictions.

In this powerful session, we'll explore how to:

Define your church's spiritual DNA

Discern tradition vs. traditionalism

Navigate generational dynamics with grace

Join FREE during our trial period! Then sign up for our Founders Rate of only \$19/mo until Dec. 31st.

Register here → <https://bit.ly/48JO0fX>

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

NEW Learning Community Starts March 2026!

☐ Applications Now Open for the 2026 FaithLearnThrive Learning Community!

Our **newly redesigned Learning Community** launches **March 2026**—and applications are now live!

This 6-month journey is crafted to help your congregation move from inspiration to implementation. Join a cohort of pastors and ministry leaders who are ready to grow, clarify vision, and take strategic next steps toward thriving ministry.

Your Learning Community experience includes:

- ☐ A transformative **Launch Retreat** to set the course.
- ☐ **Congregational Coaching** from highly trained coaches.
- ☐ A **Pastors Coaching Group** for leadership renewal and support.
- ☐ **Implementation Coaching** to turn vision into action.
- ☐ An **Implementation Grant Opportunity** to fund your next step.

Be among the first to apply and start your congregation's journey toward deeper vitality and impact.

☐ **Apply today:** faithlearnthrive.org/learning-community



The Institute for Rural & Small-Town Ministry & Leadership has been busy, and we're excited to share with you what we've been up to.

On October 21st, Joni McPhetridge, from Sowing Seeds Farm and Food Bank, invited the Institute to a Town Hall meeting in Franklinton, NC. The Director and I met some wonderful people who are working together to help the community in many different ways. We were given a tour of the Sowing Seeds Farm and Food Bank, and we had a great time seeing the rewards of their hard work. It was a successful day, and we are thrilled with the contacts we made. We have been invited back to another Town Hall meeting to see how we can help with meeting the needs in the area.

On October 25, Reverend Wilder attended the 2025 Global Methodist Annual Lay Conference in Washington, NC. The conference theme was "Equipped & Empowered to Serve".

On October 28th, we hosted our grant recipients at Hood Theological Seminary to the chapel service followed by lunch in the Aymer Center. The recipients were recognized and given their checks after lunch. We are proud of the projects they have chosen to use the grant money for, and we can't wait to see the results of the projects that they are now going to be able to complete.

Reverend Damita Jo Wilder, Dr. Carrie Graham, and Susan Cooper attended the Ministry in Rural Areas and Small Towns Coordination program in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 3rd – 5th. This gathering was hosted by the Lilly Foundation and attended by Lilly grant recipients from across the United States.

This event was very informative, and we left with new and exciting ideas about how to grow our program in the future.

Reverend Wilder addressed the attendees about our program and its purpose. It was great to see what other Lilly grant recipients are doing and to learn about what has worked for different groups.

We have started accepting applications for coaches for our program. If you are interested in becoming a coach, please visit our website at www.hoodempowers.org to learn more and submit an application.



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

Renewal Retreat

Book study

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.

Alumni News



Governor Reappoints Rev. Dr. Charlrean Batten Mapson, Hood Graduate to the North Carolina Council for Developmental Disabilities

Last month, while attending the 114th Session of the Cape Fear Annual Conference in Wilson, one of our own received exciting news. Governor Josh Stein's office called to announce that she had been **reappointed to serve on the North Carolina Council for Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD)**. This marks approximately her fifth or sixth year of dedicated service to the Council, a role she continues to find deeply rewarding.

This most recent Council meeting was especially meaningful, as it was the first time her son, Jadon, was able to accompany her. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the NCCDD staff, arrangements were made for Jadon's support team to travel with them. The Council, known for its warmth and inclusion, welcomed him with enthusiasm—especially staff member Philip Woodward, who regularly sends thoughtful tokens to Jadon during meetings.

During the session, the Council honored individuals making significant contributions to the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) community. Our representative had the honor of presenting an award to Laura Newell and meeting an Autism father whose heartfelt remarks about his son resonated deeply with her and others in attendance.

As Chair of the **Community Living Committee**, she continues to champion initiatives that improve safety, inclusion, and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities. Under her leadership, the Council allocated funding to train first responders across North Carolina to better handle encounters involving individuals with Autism—an initiative that will reach New Hanover County in December.

Looking ahead, she hopes to focus on **housing solutions for adults with Autism and their families**, continuing her commitment to advocacy, accessibility, and compassionate leadership.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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



Become A Faithful Friend Partner

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

In All things Give Thanks

As we enter this season of gratitude, we invite our community to celebrate Thanksgiving by giving, giving thanks, giving hope, and giving back.

This is the perfect time to share your blessings with others through acts of kindness, generosity, and service. Whether it's donating to those in need, volunteering your time, or simply offering a word of encouragement, every gift makes a difference.

Let's come together in the spirit of love and thankfulness to make this season brighter for someone else.





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:
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Director,
Annual Giving & Donor Relations
704.636.6926
twalker@hoodseminary.edu

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