



E-Newsletter December 2024

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Upcoming Events

Hood will close for the Christmas Break at 5:00pm on December 18, 2024, and reopen on January 2, 2025, 8:00am.



2025 Heritage Lecture Series

The 2025 Bishop Alfred E. and Mrs. Mamie White Endowed Heritage Lecture Series will take place on **Friday, February 7, 2025, at 7:00 pm EST**, and **Saturday, February 8, 2025, at 10:00 am EST**. The lectures will take place virtually via zoom. Please note, there are two Zoom links, one for Friday and one for Saturday.

The speaker will be Bishop Michael A. Frencher. Bishop Michael A. Frencher (retired) is the A.M.E. Zion Bishop-in-Residence at Hood Theological Seminary. For the zoom links and more information on Bishop Michael A. Frencher and this event, please go [HERE](#).

Zoom Links and More Information

2025 BISHOP ALFRED E. AND MRS. MAMIE WHITE ENDOWED HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES



Virtual via Zoom
Feb. 7, 7:00pm EST
Feb. 8, 10:00am EST

Speaker:
Bishop Michael A. Frencher
Retired AME Zion Bishop and
Bishop in Residence at Hood
Theological Seminary



Hood Theological Seminary
Theological Preparation for Effective Ministry in a Diverse Society

In Memoriam



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

Reverend Doctor Michael E. Ellis, MDiv'1979, Hood Theological Seminary Member Emeriti/ae Board Member. Rev. Dr. Ellis' obituary can be found [HERE](#)



Job Opportunities



[FEMA Job Opportunities](#)

The Conservation Fund: [Faith and Food Coordinator](#)

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](#).





HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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





Faculty/Staff News

Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore
President and Professor



Dr. Lattimore attended the Winter Graduation Ceremony at Varick Auditorium, Livingstone College (12/13/24)

He will participate in a meeting of the Gift of Black Theological Education and Black Faith Traditions Collaborative, Inc. in Philadelphia, PA (12/16-12/17/24)

Dr. Dora R. Mbuwayesango



Dr. Dora R. Mbuwayesango's essay titled, "From a Tool of Imperialism to Toll of Patriarchy: The Early African Appropriation of the Bible in Southern Africa" was published in *Biblical Hermeneutics in Context and the Struggle for Meaning: Festschrift in Honor of Gerald O. West*, Pickwick Publications, 2024, edited by Aliou Cisse Niang et al. She also co-presented on "The Beloved Community: The Icon Project at St. Luke's Episcopal Church" at Holy Trinity Episcopal church, Greensboro.

Fatih Learn Thrive News

FLT Launches 3rd Foundations For Thriving Learning Community

FaithLearnThrive successfully launched its 3rd cohort for the Foundations For Thriving Learning Community on Oct. 11th-12th. Our congregations gathered for an inspiring time of hope and healing as we started the journey to thriving together. Focused on our clarity module learning, our congregational teams were challenged to reimagine God's vision for their local church and community. We are excited about the future of these congregations: Stonewall AME Zion Church, Charlotte, NC; St. Luke CME Church, Tryon, NC; Biblical House of God, Cayce, SC; City of God Ministries, Concord, NC & Charleston, SC; and Community Prayer Life Center, Eutawville, SC.

FaithLearnThrive Partners with Elevate 2024 to Empower Christian Leaders

FaithLearnThrive (FLT) is proud to partner as the Learning Experience Sponsor for Elevate 2024, the national Christian Education Conference hosted by the AME Zion Church. Taking place December 26–30, 2024, in Kansas City, MO, this premier event is expected to draw over 1,500 clergy, educators, and lay leaders.

FLT will present a lineup of transformative workshops, including *Overflow: From Emptiness to Empowerment*, *Strategic Planning for Ministry Growth*, and *Small Churches Activating Limitless Potential*. Workshop materials will be accessible via the Elevate 2024 conference app.

This collaboration reflects FLT's mission to educate, empower, and equip church leaders for thriving ministry. Learn more at https://bit.ly/FLT_ELEVATE2024.

Speaking Engagement

Dr. Rona Williams recently served as a featured speaker at the 7th Episcopal District of the CME Church's Women in Ministry & Ministry in Women Conference in Charlotte, NC on November 21st-23rd. She led two impactful sessions, *Women Navigating in Leadership* and *Restoration Through Vulnerability: God's Design for Healing*

Relationships. These sessions inspired empowerment, healing, and transformation for women across all levels of leadership. (Pictured: Dr. Rona Williams, Director of FaithLearnThrive & Dr. Cathy Jones, Conference Host)



Pathways For Tomorrow Initiative - Student Debt Reduction Alumni Ambassadors Cohort (SDRAAC)

Student debt and financial literacy for HTS students is not only a challenge for students personally, but it is also creating challenges in their local ministry and organizational settings. The work of the inaugural HTS SDRAAC cohort concluded June 30, 2024. Each member of the cohort participated in co-curricular financial literacy workshops and didactics that matched the culture and financial realities of the students and the religious cultures that shape them. As a result, HTS now has several Student Debt Reduction Ambassadors who are available to share their knowledge and assist current HTS students and alumni with questions regarding ways to properly manage debt.

In order to connect with a student debt reduction ambassador, please send an email to sdraac@hoodseminary.edu.

An ambassador will respond to your request in a timely manner.

Dr. Kevin Griffin, Administrator, Student Debt Reduction

Dr. Karen L. Owens, Director of Strategic Research



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.



Monthly Giving

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.

[Become A Faithful Friend Partner](#)



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.

Contact:
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