



**E-Newsletter  
March 2025**

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[www.hoodseminary.edu](http://www.hoodseminary.edu)



**Upcoming Events**

**Doctor of Ministry Service of Candidacy**



The HTS DMin Service of Candidacy will be held on **Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 10:00 am ET.**

This important step in the Doctor of Ministry program comes when the student has completed the required class work, and they are ready to begin work on their professional project.

**The service will be held on the campus of Hood Theological Seminary, Aymer Center, 1810 Lutheran Synod Dr., Salisbury, NC 28144.**

**This event will be in person with a virtual option to attend via Zoom.**

**The student list for the Service of Candidacy are as follows:**

Vena McCrimmon (lives in Maryland)

Sheila Wall-Hill (lives in NC)

Fondella Leigh

Chanetta Lytello-Farmer

Andrea Solomon

Carolyn McGee (lives in Maryland)

[More Information](#)

## Attend the Preaching & Worship Institute



Hood Theological Seminary and Livingstone College cordially invites you to attend the Preaching and Worship Institute, happening April 2-4, 2025.

This year's theme is Lift Every Voice: The Transformative Power of Preaching and Praise, embracing the call to preach with power, worship with passion, and lead with purpose.

Each session will be a divine encounter, a time of renewal, revelation, and revival. Expect to be poured into through powerful preaching, transformative workshops, and spirit-filled worship that will equip and empower you for the work of ministry.

We are believing God for a life-changing gathering, and we want YOU to be in the number! Don't miss this opportunity to learn, worship, and fellowship with some of the most anointed voices in the Kingdom.

**Make plans to join us register today!**

[More Information and Registration](#)

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## Save the Date: 2025 Commencement

The 2025 Hood Theological Seminary commencement will take place **Saturday 17th May 2025 at 10:30 a.m. on the campus of Livingstone College (Varick Auditorium) at 701 W Monroe St, Salisbury, NC 28144.** The speaker will be **Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr.**

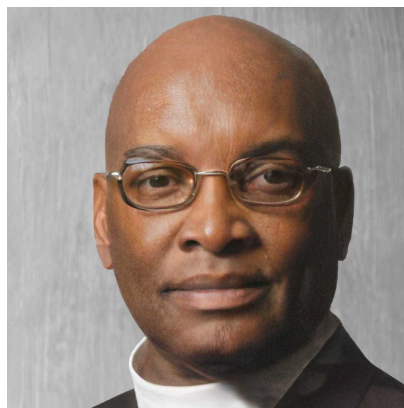


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## In Memoriam



**Bishop George Edward Battle, Jr.**, 84th Bishop in the line of succession, in the A.M.E. Zion Church, and retired Senior Bishop transitioned on March 9th, 2025. He was a graduate of HTS, Emeritus Board of Trustee, Former Chair of the Finance Committee and created the first endowed Chair of Old Testament Studies at HTS.





**First lady Mrs. C. Brenda Jones** passed away February 27, 2025



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Former HTS Board Member and loyal local friend of HTS, **Tony Almeida**, passed away on March 24, 2025. He also served a term as Chair of the Financial Policies Committee of the Board of Trustees.

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## New Faculty and Staff



**Rev. Damita Jo Wilder** is the Director for the new Institute for Rural and Small-Town Ministry and Leadership.

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**Dr Carrie Graham** is the Program Coordinator for the new Institute for Rural and Small Town Ministry & Leadership. She brings 25+ years of training development experiences to The Institute of Rural and Small-Town Ministry and Leadership. Her PhD in adult learning and workplace learning will be used as the foundation of The Insitute's programming. In her words *"Your organization's success demands more than just training—it requires learning solutions*

*precisely aligned with your strategic objectives. But misaligned programs waste resources and dilute your vision".* Dr Graham is excited to support North Carolina's rural and smalltown churches and communities.

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**Susan Cooper** is the other Program Coordinator for the Institute for Rural & Small-Town Ministry & Leadership. She has been working in advertising and marketing since 1995 and has owned her own Promotional Advertising and Marketing business since 2003. Susan is looking forward to working with the Institute for Rural & Small-Town Ministry & Leadership and is excited to be involved in a new endeavor that will make a positive impact on the community.

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**Rev. Dr. Tom Mabry**, senior pastor at Shady Grove GM Church in Winston Salem, has joined the Hood faculty in the newly created position of Director of Global Methodist Studies. Mabry will lead Hood in seeking Recommended Seminary Status from the Global Methodist Church, assist in recruiting both students and teaching faculty, provide counsel to the seminary as programs are finalized for Global Methodist students, and represent Hood in the Global Methodist community. "I'm excited about the commitment Hood is making to the Global Methodist Church," Mabry said, "And I'm looking forward to helping Hood serve the denomination in our conference and beyond. I'd welcome a conversation with any prospective students. The best way to reach me is via email at [tmabry@hoodseminary.edu](mailto:tmabry@hoodseminary.edu)." Mabry also chairs the Conference Leadership Team of the NC Conference of the Global Methodist Church, formerly the conference episcopacy committee.

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## Student News

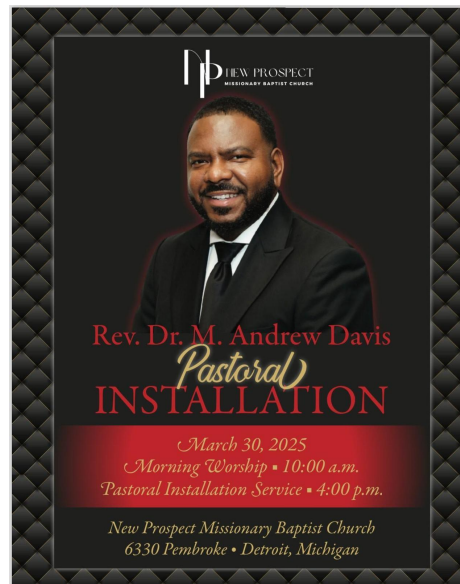
We are thrilled to announce that **Samuel Allen**, one of our dedicated work-study students, received the **USS Dorchester Civitan Scholarship** on **March 6, 2025**. Please join us in congratulating Samuel on this well-deserved achievement!



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## Alumni News

**Congratulations to Hood Alum Rev. Dr. M. Andrew Davis, MDiv'12**, who is the newly appointed pastor at New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan, <https://ow.ly/3aHc50VlJeq>



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**Congratulations to Hood Alum Deanca Crouch. MDiv'22**, on becoming a provisionally board-certified chaplain.



## 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](#).



## Faculty/Staff News

### Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore



Dr. Lattimore, president and professor, offered the luncheon prayer at the Salisbury Rotary (3/11/25).

He attended 50th Anniversary in Ministry Celebration for HTS alumni and Emeritus Board of Trustee member Dr. Curtis Walker (Akron, Ohio, 3/22/25).





## Dr. Dora R. Mbuwayesango

George E. and Iris Battle Professor of Old Testament and Languages, Professor Dora R. Mbuwayesango's essay, "From Tool of Imperialism to Tool of Patriarchy: The Early African Appropriation of the Bible in Southern Africa" was published in *Biblical Hermeneutics in Context and Struggle for Meaning: A Festschrift in Honor of Gerald O West*, eds., Aliou Cisse Niang et al, Pickwick Publications, 2024. Her updated essay, "Zephaniah" was published in the *Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scripture from Africa and the Diaspora, Second Edition*, ed. Hugh Page et al (Fortress Press, 2024). Professor Mbuwayesango was part of the St. Luke's Episcopal Church delegation to The Bishop Huntington Memorial Cathedral, Mumias Kenya, its global companion, March 9-20, 2025. She continues to serve as co-chair of the Chartered Committee for Global Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and on the St. Luke's Church Foundation.

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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



### Hood Travels



**Hood at Johnson C. Smith Health and Career Fair**

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**Hood at Johnson C. Smith University**





## FaithLearnThrive News



FaithLearnThrive hosted "Thrive Together: Leadership Development Experience" on March 8, 2025, with over 50 church leaders in attendance (see pictures above). New Hope AMEZ Church won a free registration to our upcoming

Community Strategy Lab which begins June 1, 2025. Register your church today! <https://bit.ly/CommLab2025>

Dr. Rona Williams & Myra Bellinger attended Lake Institute's Executive Certification in Religious Fundraising training event hosted by the Oikos Institute February 26th-28th.

□ Exciting news! Our first #ChurchTalk2025 podcast episode is coming soon! We're tackling Mission-Focused Budgets: Balancing Costs & Stewarding Resources". Join our guests Dr. Kevin Griffin & Dr. Anthony Riley for an exciting new look at church finances and best practices for stewarding organizational finances. Register at <https://bit.ly/CTBudgets>

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**IT IS SO!!!!**

## **The Institute for Rural and Small-Town Ministry and Leadership**

**Rev. Damita Jo Wilder**

The Lilly Endowment invited Hood Theological Seminary, along with other Seminaries and charitable organizations to submit a request for a grant to help develop new and strengthen existing programs/ministries in rural and small-town churches. The Lilly Endowment understood that congregations in rural and small town have long contributed to the rich religious and cultural heritage of the United States.

Under the supervision of Mr. John Everett- Director of Institutional Advancement and Enrollment Management (COO), Rev, Kimerly Clark-Turner-Director for Bold Leadership and I began to hold Town-Hall meetings and interview Pastors and Ministers. As a result of the data we collected, Hood Theological Seminary was one of the recipients of a million dollar grant to enhance ministries in rural and small towns through Lilly Endowment.

An amazing professional team under the supervision of Mr. John Everett has now been organized to fulfill the goals and purposes of the grant. Dr. Vergel Lattimore, we are thrilled to join the team at Hood Theological Seminary. We are looking forward to making a positive impact and to contribute to the ongoing success of Hood Theological Seminary through this Institute.

### **MEET THE TEAM:**

**Rev. Damita Jo Wilder-Director:** Rev. Damita Jo Wilder is the Director for the new Institute for Rural and Small-Town Ministry and Leadership. She is an Ordained Elder in the AME Zion Church. Her first appointment was to a rural Church (Sylva, NC). She graduated from Hood theological Seminary in 2024 with a Master of Divinity. Rev. Wilder has also been the Director of the 21st Century Program (DPI) Jackson County, NC, Teen Coordinator for Asheville City Schools, and President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance-Asheville, NC.

**Dr. Carrie Graham Program Coordinator:** Dr. Graham PhD brings over 25 years of experience in adult learning and development. Dr. Graham is excited to support and learn, as she brings her expertise to the Rural and Small-Towns and their communities

**Ms. Susan Cooper Program Coordinator:** A native of Rowan County and a business owner, Ms. Cooper has been in advertising and marketing since 1995. She has been the owner of Promotional Advertising and Marketing since 2003.

### **LOGO:**

**The Rock- Represents Jesus the Church's Foundation**

**The Church- Represents who the Grant was designed to help.**

**The Lily- Represents Lilly Endowment**



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## Job Opportunities

**Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church** seeks a dedicated and visionary Senior Pastor to lead our congregation in ministry, service, and community outreach. Our ideal pastor loves God, and loves the people of God, and is committed to kingdom-building.

**About Us:** We are a historic and faith-filled congregation that has served the community since 1871. While located in Durham, NC, we are within Orange County. We are surrounded by parts of Duke Forest, and long-standing as well as new communities. Over the years, we've grown, expanded, and thrived with the support of our dedicated pastors, members, and community.

We are actively involved in the New Hope Association of the General Baptist State Convention. From humble beginnings, Mt. Sinai continues to stand as a beacon of faith, service, and love. Come be a part of our faith journey!

### How to Apply:

Please contact Deacon Sharon W. Williams for more information at (919) 219-8389 or [pastoralsearch@mtsinaidurham.org](mailto:pastoralsearch@mtsinaidurham.org).

You can also submit a cover letter and resume to Deacon Williams at: [pastoralsearch@mtsinaidurham.org](mailto:pastoralsearch@mtsinaidurham.org)

**We hope to begin review of applications on March 31, 2025.** However, applications will be received until the position is filled. We are prayerful that our pastor will be in place in the year of our Lord 2025.

Join us as we continue to grow in faith, serve our community, and share God's love with the world!

**More information @** [www.mtsinaidurham.org](http://www.mtsinaidurham.org)

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**Apply for a Chaplain Resident - Moses Cone/Greensboro job** with Cone Health at 1121 N Church Street, Greensboro, North Carolina, 27401. Corporate Professions at Cone...

Chaplain Resident - Moses Cone/Greensboro at 1121 N Church Street, Greensboro, North Carolina, 27401 Corporate Professions at Cone Health

[Apply Now](#)



## 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](mailto: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:**

Tyesia Walker

**Director,**

**Annual Giving & Donor Relations**

704.636.6926

[twalker@hoodseminary.edu](mailto:twalker@hoodseminary.edu)



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