

Wesley Theological Seminary Annual Conference Report

At Wesley Theological Seminary, we are building on 135 years of faithful preparation of church- and world-changing leaders by continuing to innovate and grow. We are excited to partner with you in the ministry to which God has called you now – and wherever you may be called in the future. Keep reading for good news that you can use...

So you can grow as a leader (and share with others)

Wesley's **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** continues to be the internationally respected go-to resource for actionable best practices for clergy and laity. The center's free *Leading Ideas* e-newsletter provides well-researched, discipleship-growing ideas to more than 17,000 people. **Sign up for Leading Ideas at <https://www.churchleadership.com/category/leading-ideas/>.**

The new **Wesley Theological Seminary Lay Academy** offers **11 online courses** covering a variety of topics including Methodist identity, early church history, Christian ethics, interfaith relations, and the intersection of faith and science. Laypeople can earn a certification in Wesleyan Studies by completing six of the courses online, or can choose to take courses individually for personal education and enrichment. **More information about the Wesley Lay Academy and the certification in Wesleyan Studies can be found at <http://www.beadisciple.com/wesley/>.**

Two new certificate programs allow individuals to take specialized classes without pursuing an entire degree. **The Certificate in Faith and Public Life** explores the foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse through graduate courses. **The African American Church Studies certificate** is a non-degree option for local church leaders who want to enrich their ministry in African American communities. For more information, contact admissions@wesleyseminary.edu or visit www.wesleyseminary.edu.

So your congregation can live more fully in God's mission

Wesley has received a grant of \$1.5 million from the Lilly Endowment to help congregations design innovative ministries that support and enrich the religious lives of young adults. Through this grant, **20 local congregations will be selected to work with Wesley as an innovation hub** that brings together church leaders, young adults, experts and practitioners for conversation, education, and exchange of ideas. The ultimate goal will be to help each congregation launch new partnerships with young adults, ages 23 to 29. ***Congregational applications will be open July 1 - October 31, 2017. For more information, contact the Rev. Beth Ludlum at bludlum@wesleyseminary.edu.***

The **Institute for Community Engagement at Wesley Downtown** continues to help the church turn itself inside out. The Institute at Wesley now offers an **innovative online Health Minister Certificate Program** from Heal the Sick, an initiative to prepare congregations for public health work in their parishes. **Some scholarships are available for this program. Please contact Tom**

Pruski at tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

The newest component of the Institute for Community Engagement is Wesley's **Center for Public Theology**. Under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology Mike McCurry, this center is equipping pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. The Center is also providing events, workshops, and resources to help faith leaders lead faithful, prophetic, open dialogue in their communities. **To see upcoming opportunities, visit <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>**

The **Luce Center for Arts and Religion** remains the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The Luce Center invites the public to artist talks with each new exhibit and has regular classes and workshops with visiting artists. **For information on past and upcoming opportunities visit luceartsandreligion.org.**

If you're a current or future seminarian

Wesley's Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years. This format is designed to be more accessible to those with busy ministry, work, and/or family commitments throughout the region.

The new African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization gives contextual preparation for the unique opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the **Public Theology specialization** allows master's degree students to gain skills for community leadership and advocacy.

Wesley continues to offer our 36-hour Master of Arts and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies to **equip those called to ordained deacon ministries or to other ministries beyond the pulpit.**

Talk to someone at (202) 885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu about how Wesley's degree programs equip people to lead others to loving God and neighbor.

If you're a pastor, alumnus, or just want to keep up on the news...

Wesley's Doctor of Ministry program continues to offer **the most practical and spiritually renewing tracks** in theological education. **We are excited to announce the launch of our third track based in Cambridge, England: *Holiness, Effective Ministry and Engagement with the World*, beginning in January 2018.** Other 2018 tracks include Art and Theology, Church Leadership Excellence and Soul Care for Pastors, Chaplains and Clinicians. **Find out more or apply now at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/>**

The **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** moves to an exciting new phase in its 14-year history **with the transition of leadership** from founding director, the Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems Jr., to new

director, Wesley faculty member, the Rev. F. Douglas Powe, Jr., effective July 1, 2017. Dr. Weems will continue to be part of the Lewis Center as part-time Senior Consultant, continuing his ground-breaking work in denominational conference resourcing. Meet Dr. Powe and Dr. Weems in a video discussion at <https://www.churchleadership.com/news/lewis-center-announces-a-new-director/> Please save the date – **September 28-29, 2017** – and join Wesley in celebrating the outstanding academic contribution of founding director the Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems, Jr. **More information to come about this celebration at www.churchleadership.com.**

Wesley faculty members continually develop resources to advance theological scholarship and help Christians grow. This year we have celebrated **new books** by Drs. F. Douglas Powe Jr., Eileen Guenther, Shively Smith, Ryan Danker, Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, and Joseph Bush. In the past year, we have welcomed a **new Professor of Preaching, the Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles, and a new Chapel Elder and Visiting Professor of Worship, the Rev. Gina Campbell, and we are excited to announce the appointment of Dr. Rick Elgendy as Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics and Public Theology.**

Stay in Touch

Ready to join in our mission? Wesley provides **more than \$2 million dollars annually in scholarships** to our students thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations and friends of the seminary. Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/>

We invite you to stay in touch through the year and learn more of the latest developments at Wesley by **signing up for our monthly electronic newsletter, *eCalling*, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.**

Thank you for journeying with us through this update! We look forward to continuing to serve you and your community as we seek to live into God's dream together. Blessings to you on a fruitful and faithful annual conference. We thank you for your service and hold you in prayer as you continue in ministry, wherever that may be.

--The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President