

OUR PURPOSE

To strengthen theological education in the Central Conferences of The United Methodist Church and prepare principled Christian leaders, rooted in a Wesleyan mindset of joining knowledge and vital piety.

- Theological education of local pastors
- Theological education of candidates for ordained ministry
- Continuing theological education of clergy
- Scholarships for theological education (on all levels including postgraduate studies)
- Development of infrastructure for theological education (literature and other resource material, libraries, networking among institutions, exchange of professors)
- Support and promotion of new promising avenues in theological education

FIRST FRUITS: THE ENDOWMENT FUND APPROVES FIRST GRANT TO THE COMMISSION ON CENTRAL CONFERENCE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

The Endowment Fund is set up to provide a sustainable, long-term source of funding for theological education, to be disbursed by the Commission. At the December Endowment Fund board meeting, a unanimous decision was taken to begin disbursements from the permanent endowment. Grants will begin in 2021 and be focused on the area of new avenues in theological education.

ENDOWMENT FUND CAMPAIGN:

The minimum need for the Endowment Fund is \$25,000,000. At least \$1,000,000 will be granted annually once this goal has been met.

COMMUNICATING IMPACT

Powerful stories illuminate not only the need for the Endowment Fund, but also the possible future impact. In 2021, video testimonials that explain the need from voices around the world will be updated on our website. In the spring and summer of 2021, we're delighted partner with GBHEM to profile a series of individuals who have received funding from the Central Conference Theological Education Fund—and the impact it has made in their ministry—as examples of the possible future impact of the Endowment Fund.

Please note our new web address: www.umctheologyeducation.org

METHODIST THEOLOGICAL E-LEARNING

A highlight of 2020

In a year of challenges and adaptations as we encountered in 2020, each positive moment, and every step forward, are cause for celebration. The highlight of the year is the progress toward networks of Methodist Theological e-Learning. Collaboration continues with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Perkins School of Theology, Cliff College, and – a new addition – the British Methodist Church.

Together we are building up a worldwide network for virtual forms of theological education, the need for which has been further illuminated by the global pandemic. Each partner has graciously donated expertise and time to this exciting project, enabling new forms of blended learning, on-site and online. The Endowment Fund has the unique chance to support and strengthen this transformative work.



At the end of November, an online meeting was arranged with representatives from three of the four United Methodist Theological educational institutions in Mozambique.

ENDOWMENT FUND CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

Campaign total to date: \$3,403,342 in pledges, gifts and grants, including \$480,000+ from donors in the central conferences and \$166,100 from 22 bishops. Funds received toward term endowment during 2020: \$32,566 and permanent: \$207,268.

The Stead Challenge: The Stead Challenge is a giving initiative in which gifts of \$100,000 or more unlock funding, up to \$1,000,000, from the Stead family. A giving circle program was established to provide supporters an opportunity to give as a group in order to meet the minimum giving level to qualify.