

*The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.* Living out this mission is not possible without the tens of thousands of clergy who have dedicated their lives to our Church. Despite the complex nature of the work done by pastors, access to theological education varies greatly across our connection. In the central conferences, which include Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, obtaining a theological education can be very difficult because seminaries are too far away or too expensive, seminaries struggle to find well trained professors and to offer library resources in needed languages, Courses of Study for initial and continuing education need to be developed, and scholarships are needed for initial and post-graduate studies.

**The Endowment Fund for Theological Education in the Central Conferences** was created by the Council of Bishops for efficient, sustainable support towards these challenges. The Endowment Fund will focus on the four key program areas described below to ensure an education, rooted in the Wesleyan tradition, is accessible to all who seek to lead our Church.

### **New Avenues in Theological Education**

In the central conferences, we have a unique opportunity to innovate our approach to theological education. Partially out of necessity due to financial, geographic and language barriers, and partially because new technologies exist, new models can be designed and implemented to offer solutions in regions where gaining a theological education currently is a major hardship.

Funding for New Avenues in Theological Education will promote new and innovative avenues of theological education, including the use of digital technology for resource materials, programs and for building human capacity. Much like the highly successful Methodist e-Academy for all Methodist churches in Europe, opportunities exist to build upon current strengths to network among seminaries, provide rich e-learning possibilities, further develop Wesleyan resources on the Global Digital Library, and use e-readers in remote areas.

**Impact:** each year, \$350,000 or more will be available for new innovations.

To meet this need, a minimum of \$7,000,000 will be raised through the Endowment Fund Campaign.

### **Scholarships**

Whether attending on-site or through online programs, financial support is often the deciding factor for enabling churches in the central conferences to send gifted candidates for theological studies. Through the Endowment Fund, scholarships will be provided for on-site and online training for all levels of theological education including basic, graduate and post-graduate theological education. Preference will be given to persons in courses of study for local pastors, persons training for ordained ministry and persons in post-graduate studies.

**Impact:** each year, \$600,000 or more will be available for scholarships, equivalent to e.g.:

- 150 on-site or online scholarships at \$4,000 each, or
- 300 continuing education scholarships at \$2,000 each, or
- 600 travel scholarships to attend block seminars at \$1,000 each.

To meet this need, a minimum of \$12,000,000 will be raised through the Endowment Fund Campaign. Opportunities to name a scholarship in honor or memory of someone are available.

### **Human Capacity**

Identifying, training, supporting and providing continuing education for our faculty are critical activities in our effort to enhance theological education in the central conferences.

Through the Endowment Fund, funding will be available to build human capacity to deliver theological education, including faculty development, exchange of faculty, and associations of theological schools.

Programs will facilitate sharing of best practices among faculty across the globe, and may include fellowship programs, speakers' series and other opportunities to bring faculty together for continuing education and sharing of ideas.

**Impact:** each year, \$150,000 or more will be available for human capacity.

To meet this need, a minimum of \$3,000,000 will be raised through the Endowment Fund Campaign.

### **Resource Material**

Resource material, translated to the appropriate language, is a critical need in the central conferences.

Students in the central conferences often must travel to a different country and learn a new language in order to receive a United Methodist theological education. Seminaries struggle to equip their libraries with the necessary texts, and often need resource material in additional languages in order to serve their student population.

Funds will be available for:

- Development of literature and other resource material
- Translation of literature and other resource material
- Libraries
- Continuing education resources

**Impact:** each year, \$150,000 or more will be available for resource materials.

To meet this need, a minimum of \$3,000,000 will be raised through the Endowment Fund Campaign.

Improvement in these four key program areas will help ensure that our leaders and future leaders are equipped for the complex nature of their roles, and will result in more opportunities in support of our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

*The Endowment Fund for Theological Education in the Central Conferences – in cooperation with the Commission on Central Conference Theological Education (see BOD 2012 ¶ 817) – is proud to enable sustainable support for theological education in central conferences through the four key program areas above.*

**For more information, please visit [www.endowftecc.org](http://www.endowftecc.org) or email: [umctheologicaled@endowftecc.org](mailto:umctheologicaled@endowftecc.org).**

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