

Wesley Theological Seminary Annual Conference Report 2022

Some days, it seems that we, and the religious, civic, and educational institutions we love, stand peering into the fog of an unknown future as questions resound: What does our collective future look like, and who will lead it? In the midst of these questions, Wesley remains committed to supporting pastors and churches and to preparing graduates to lead innovative ministries grounded in God's mercy and justice. We stand ready to accompany you on the path to which God is calling you.

Creating new models of education that respond to students' needs

Building on Wesley's strengths and responding to student needs, Wesley is pleased to announce two pathways for master's level students beginning in Fall 2022. For students who reside on or near campus, classes will continue to be offered **each week on campus** during daytime and evening periods. For students needing to remain in their own contexts, Wesley will offer a hybrid pathway that invites students to campus for a **one-week intensive immersion** each semester, with the remaining coursework being held online. Learn more about how you can be part of the Wesley community and the Washington, DC experience through these pathways at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/mdiv/>.

These course pathways also support our FlexMA, a degree program built to provide robust learning and theological formation for busy individuals that integrate faith, life, and professional experience with the flexibility needed to customize content and accommodate hectic schedules. Whether preparing for bi-vocational ministry in congregational and institutional settings, going deeper in one's own spiritual journey, or integrating faith and theology into an existing career or "third career" post-retirement, wherever God is calling, the FlexMA will help you prepare to respond fully. Learn more at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/flexma/>.

Research projects support congregational community engagement and envision future ministry

Four grants from the Lilly Endowment Inc, totaling \$5.25 million, undergird Wesley's research into and support of congregational thriving and innovation.

- A new five-year project through the Wesley Innovation Hub will have two main foci: a one-year Design Fellowship to equip young adult leaders and the Wesley Design Lab, featuring both in-person and online curricula, training, and other resources for congregational innovation. Young adults ages 23-29 years are invited to apply for the Design Fellowship, which will provide an \$8,000 stipend, community formation, spiritual direction, graduate-level courses in design thinking for ministry and hands-on experience leading innovation in congregations. Wesley will also be seeking creative persons of faith to be "Innovators in Residence" at Wesley and partner churches who have interesting challenges or opportunities for young adult ministry. To learn more: <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/>
- A second new grant will undergird Wesley's move toward comprehensive theological education for the whole church. Wesley will strengthen its existing excellent master's and doctoral programs while also expanding a suite of pre-degree, post-degree (continuing education), and non-degree courses to meet the current and emerging needs of spiritual leaders in their context.
- Now in its second year of The Source Collaborative, Wesley continues to work with congregations in adjacent UMC annual conferences to identify markers of thriving and pursue

them. Congregations and coaches interested in joining the 2023 cohort should apply by Sept. 1, 2022 via innovation@wesleyseminary.edu.

- The **Religious Workforce Project**, run by the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, studies religious work in congregations across several denominations to understand current and future needs. Learn about emerging data at <https://religiousworkforce.com/>.

Using research and partnerships to reach and equip the next generation of ministers

Wesley is ready to work with you as we make theological education more accessible and relevant to the realities of ministry today. Wesley offers an 81-hour Master of Divinity, a 36-hour Master of Arts, and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies, any of which can be focused on specializations in public theology, urban ministry, arts and theology, missional church, children and youth ministry and advocacy, or African American church leadership. Courses are available in person, online, and in intensive hybrid formats. Info at www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3.


Wesley provides \$2 million annually in scholarships via regular merit awards, ranging from 25% to 100% tuition with stipends, including **full-tuition scholarships** for qualified applicants recommended by WTS alumni, campus ministers, or Christian service ministries; **Next Call in Ministry scholarships** for students working in a non-ministry setting for at least 10 years; and **Generación Latinx Scholarships** for emerging Latinx leaders for ministries within and beyond the church.

Take your ministry to the next level

The **Certificate for Children and Youth Ministry and Advocacy (CYMA)** is a **non-residential certificate completed in 12 - 15 months** via online classes and up to two residential sessions (www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/cyma-3). The **Certificate in Faith and Public Life** explores the foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse (www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/public-life/).

Wesley's premiere **Doctor of Ministry programs** includes three new 2022 tracks: Ministry in a Digital Age; Justice, Compassion, and Witness in a Turbulent World (Cambridge, UK); and a program focused on Latinx ministry. In 2023, we will again see popular DMin tracks: the Cambridge UK track, Military and CPE Chaplains, Global Church Leadership program, Church Leadership Excellence and a ground-breaking track on Trauma. Visit www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/.

Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry

The **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** conducts leading edge research for the local church. The Lewis Center's **Leading Ideas e-newsletter** and Leading Ideas Talk podcast  is the go-to source for over 20,000 people in ministry each week. Subscribe at www.churchleadership.com.

The **Community Engagement Institute** embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches and faith-based organization engaging their communities. The innovative online **Health Minister Certificate Program** prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact: Dr. Tom Pruski, tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu.

The **Center for Public Theology** equips pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. Visit <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>.

The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion works with students, religious communities, artists, and scholars exploring the intersection of the arts and theology. Visit www.luceartsandreligion.org.

Stay connected

Contact us at (202) 885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu and join the Wesley Community online via www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary, on Instagram @wesleyseminary, on Twitter @WesTheoSem , or sign up for our electronic newsletter.

The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson

President, Wesley Theological Seminary