



E-Newsletter June 2025

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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](#)

Also, each course in the Certificate Programs at HTS is \$500 per course. The certificate program courses cannot be

applied to any of the master's programs at the Seminary. [Read More](#)

Hood News

Rev. Dr. Cain was awarded the Distinguished Trustee Service Award, which is given in honor of the late Bishop George Edward Battle, Jr., a distinguished Alumni and Trustee who models selfless leadership and extraordinary service to the mission of the Seminary.



Janet Ward Black, HTS Emeritus Board member, has received the Inaugural Trailblazer Award for Women in the Law - NC Bar Association.



Hood Theological Seminary Celebrates 2025 Commencement

Hood Theological Seminary celebrated its 2025 Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Varick Auditorium on the campus of Livingstone College (701 West Monroe Street, Salisbury, NC, 28144). Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., the senior Bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church and the Presiding Prelate of the Piedmont Episcopal District, was the 2025 Commencement Speaker. Bishop Starnes had three points to make during his speech. He used Psalm 78: 70-72, KJV and 1 Samuel: Chapter.16, verse 13, NLT. He discussed how to be shepherds for God's people. The first point was that "being shepherds for God's people entails feeding them, according to the integrity of our hearts", and

stated that “shepherds must feed the sheep.” The second point was that being shepherds for God’s people entails leading them by the skillfulness of our hands.” The third point was that “being shepherds for God’s people entails tending the sheep by means of the anointing on our heads.”

Several awards were also given. Bishop William O. Gregg received the Teaching Excellence and Service Award, the Administrative Excellence and Service Award was given to Donna Wilson Cuthbertson and Kelly M. Bryant, the President’s Leadership Legacy Award was given to Donald Wayne Clodfelter, and the Distinguished Trustee Award was given to Rev. Dr. Randell A. Cain Jr.

Hood awarded four honorary degrees. Mrs. Nancy Baker received the Doctor of Humane letters, and Bishop Starnes received the Doctor of Divinity as the Commencement speaker. Reverend J. Gentile Everett, Ph.D., Lead Pastor and Media Innovator in the South and Eastern North Carolina Region of the U.S., and Mr. Joseph King Davis, Jr., President of the International Connectional Lay Council of the A.M.E. Zion Church also received the Doctor of Humane Letters.

Hood Theological Seminary graduated twenty students. Nine students received a Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree, nine students graduated with a Master of Divinity degree (MDiv), and two students graduated for the first time with the Master of Arts in Chaplaincy (MAC) degree.

Job Opportunities

[Lake Forest Church Pastor of Discipleship](#)

[Resourceful Communities Program: Faith & Food Coordinator](#)

[Chaplain positions](#) available at Randolph Health, Asheboro, NC.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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



Buy Hood Merchandise Today!

☐ Go and support our ONLINE MERCHANDISE STORE! Lots of new items come out every month! <https://ego-eimi.store/>☐

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Alumni News

Hood Alum C.R. Street, Sr. has released a new book: *The Sacred Tenth: Understanding the Purpose and Power of Tithes*. He is a retired AME Zion Church pastor with over four decades of ministry experience. The book is now available on [Amazon](#). More information can also be found [HERE](#).



In Memoriam



Hood Alum [Rev. Richard Crummy](#), MDiv 2010, AME Pastor, passed away on Saturday May 17, 2025.



Faculty/Staff News

Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore



Dr. Vergel Lattimore, President and Professor, will greet the N.C. Council of Churches meeting in Salisbury, NC (6/3/25).

He will attend the 135th Session of the Western N.C. Conference in Greensboro, NC (6/11 - 6/14/25).

Dr. Lattimore will attend the Board meeting of the Gift of Black Theological Education & Black Faith Traditions Collaborative, Inc., Philadelphia, PA (6/16-6/17/25).

He will attend a Distinguished Pastor's Recognition Dinner, Airport Hotel, Charlotte, NC (6/22/25).

He will present a workshop on "Faith", North Charlotte District 100 Men Empowerment Summit, Rockwell A.M.E. Zion Church (6/27/25).

Dr. Lattimore will preach at the Fifth Sunday Service, Greenville Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church (6/29/25).

FaithLearnThrive News

☐ Ready to Move from Ideas to Impact?

The Community Strategy Lab is your next step! Designed for congregations ready to put vision into action, this dynamic lab will help your church design innovative, practical strategies to serve your community more deeply. Through guided sessions, collaboration with other churches, and expert facilitation, you'll leave with a plan that fits your context—and inspires your people. [LEARN MORE](#)

In this 8-week lab, you will:

□ Learn strategic approaches for community impact

□ Network with like-minded church leaders

⇒ Gain actionable insights to grow your church

□ Enhance your credibility as a community leader

□ Starts June 2nd | Meets weekly for 8-weeks via Zoom

Limited spots available—register today to secure your place!

□ <https://bit.ly/CommLab2025>



Foundations of Christian Leadership Cohort

Dr. Rona Williams (Director, FaithLearnThrive) and Myra Bellinger (Project Coordinator, FaithLearnThrive) were both nominated and chosen to participate in Leadership Education at Duke Divinity's 2025 leadership cohort.

FLT Leadership Attends Executive Certification in Religious Fundraising Training

Dr. Rona Williams and Apostle Myra Bellinger attended the Certification in Religious Fundraising (CRF) training by The Lake Institute of Faith & Giving in Atlanta, GA, hosted at Allen Temple AME Church. The intensive three-day experience brought together faith leaders from across the country to explore spiritual and strategic approaches to fundraising within religious contexts.

Dr. Rona Williams presented "The Fire Still Falls: More Than Members, Making Disciples" during the recent CME 7th Episcopal District's Spring Meeting; providing training to over 200 attendees regarding discipleship strategies.

Center for Bold Leadership News

The Tribe of R.U.T.H. Transformation Retreat for Women

Save the Date: November 6–8, 2025

Sponsored by the Center for Bold Leadership

Navigating the Path of Women of Color in Ministry Transformational Retreat

This transformational retreat is designed for women of all ages and stages who are ready to deepen their faith, ignite their purpose, and connect with a sisterhood of bold, empowered sister-leaders.

Experience:

Dynamic Plenary Sessions led by nationally recognized speakers

Inspiring Workshops on leadership, healing, spiritual growth & resilience

Vendor Market with local businesses

Wellness Suite featuring mindfulness and holistic care

Prayer Room & Reflection Spaces for personal restoration

Special Programming for Men

Worship Experiences with powerful music and message

Location:

Hood Theological Seminary

1810 Lutheran Synod Dr. | Salisbury, NC 28144

Registration Opens July 2025

Limited Spots Available – Don't Miss It!

Leadership Development Cohort for Black Clergy Women in Early Ministry

Save the Date

Join the 2025-2026 Leadership Development Cohort a yearlong program designed to nurture, equip, and uplift Black clergy women in the early stages of their ministerial journey.

In person Retreat: September 11 – 13, 2025

Hood Theological Seminary | Salisbury, NC

This immersive experience will include:

Leadership formation rooted in faith and justice

Peer learning and mentorship

Spiritual renewal and community building

Spiritual Direction and Coaching

Virtual meetings

Applications go live on June 1st

Deadline for application is August 15th



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

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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:
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