

## INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

### Candler School of Theology

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

Guided by our mission *to educate faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world*, **Candler School of Theology** continues to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by developing leaders called by God to serve in Christian ministry. Our distinctive commitment to both *inspiring minds* and *empowering ministry* enables us to develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concern. As one of nine graduate professional schools of Emory University, Candler provides a rich context for learning and formation supported by the extensive resources of a top-tier research university. As a school located in the major metropolitan area of Atlanta, Georgia, Candler offers students a learning laboratory that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. There is no better place for preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

To ensure that our students are prepared for leadership in an increasingly global context, Candler has placed a new emphasis on internationalizing the curriculum. In 2009, we established the Office of International Initiatives, led by Dr. David Jenkins, and received several grants related to international engagement. Through one of these, Candler partnered with International Relief and Development, Inc. to send seven student interns to Mozambique, Indonesia, and the Republic of Georgia in the summer of 2009. Other grants are assisting Candler in initiating a national conversation on best practices for internationalizing theological education. In spring semester of 2010, Dr. Wesley de Souza, Arthur J. Moore associate professor in the practice of evangelism, team-taught a distance education class in real time with a professor and students at a seminary in Sao Paolo, Brazil, the first collaboration of its kind at Candler. The March 2010 visit of Roman Catholic Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, ushered in a yearlong special emphasis on internationalization at Candler.

A hallmark of the Candler MDiv experience, the Contextual Education program continues to shape our students' pastoral identities by interweaving service at ministry sites and churches with academic reflection in the classroom. In any given week, Candler deploys more than 250 ConEd students throughout the region to minister to people in congregations, hospitals, and social service agencies. Last year, Candler's ConEd students provided 1/3 of the service hours responsible for Emory University winning the U.S. government's Presidential Award for General Community Service, the highest federal award a college or university can receive for its commitment to community engagement.

Candler's Teaching Parish Program, directed by Dr. Alice Rogers, continues to expand into more conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, providing United Methodist students with the opportunity to serve churches throughout their seminary

education, earn academic credit for pastoral experience, and complete their MDiv degree in three years. Through the Course of Study regional school at Candler and our five extension schools in the Southeast, we oversaw the educational process of 918 people this past year.

Candler has faced the recent economic challenges with bold initiatives to advance our mission. Although our operating budget essentially will remain flat next year, we are increasing our investment in financial aid each year. Candler's total financial aid commitment in 2009-10 was \$4.7 million. Eighty-six percent of eligible students received Candler-based financial aid, with the average award covering 76 percent of tuition. More than \$2.6 million was provided to 191 United Methodist students. We also established Candler Advantage, a program designed to pay rising third-year MDiv students for summer internships in congregations so they can concentrate fully on honing their pastoral skills. In March, we hosted our second annual Leadership Candler event, an all-expenses-paid discernment experience that draws together top prospective MDiv students to explore the richness of life and study at Candler. Last year, 75 percent of the participants in Leadership Candler joined us as students in the fall. Finally, Candler has raised more than half of our \$60 million capital campaign goal.

During 2009-10, Candler celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Sherman Scholarship Fund. Established by Frank and Helen Sherman of Jacksonville, Florida, the Sherman program has provided financial assistance to 868 students preparing for pastoral ministry in United Methodist churches.

Candler's student body continues to attract younger and more diverse people. Our enrollment stands at 499, with 391 seeking the Master of Divinity, 62 the Master of Theological Studies, 25 the Master of Theology, 14 the Doctor of Theology, and 7 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The total student population is 23% US ethnic minority, 11% international, and 50% women. More than 50 denominations are represented, with 52% of MDiv students being United Methodist. The median age of our entering class of MDiv students is 26, with 57% of total enrollment under thirty.

Our faculty members continually demonstrate their dedication to the church through preaching and teaching engagements, scholarship, and service in local parishes as leaders in their congregations. This year we welcome two new faculty: Dr. Greg Ellison, assistant professor of pastoral care and counseling, who joined us in fall 2009, and a fellow United Methodist, the Rev. Dr. Arun Jones, who joins us in fall 2010 as the Hankey Chair in World Evangelism. Candler also has produced *A Thrill of Hope*, a church resource DVD for Advent that offers a fresh take on the Christmas story, uniting art, scripture, and commentary by members of Candler's faculty. Watch a preview on our website, [www.candler.emory.edu](http://www.candler.emory.edu).

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its vital relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of *educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world* depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you undergird this essential ministry in the life of our denomination.

## **Lydia Patterson Institute Socorro Brito de Anda, President**

It is my pleasure to bring this report to the Bishop and members of your annual conference. I extend to you my deepest appreciation for your support and prayers throughout the years. Lydia Patterson Institute is an institution that touches lives daily and all students whose lives have been changed carry every United Methodist from this conference in a very special place in their hearts. Please receive a warm greeting and word of gratitude from them as well as our faculty and staff.

Like everyone else, this past year has been a real challenge to us. Lydia Patterson is affected by the economic conditions on both sides of the border. On the one hand, the U. S. economy has created a loss of giving potential for our supporters. On the other hand, large numbers of parents have lost their jobs due to the crumbling Mexican economy. Many of our parents were employed in the American manufacturing plants that have had to, either relocate, or close their doors. This current school year, we saw a small drop in our enrollment. Parents are having a very hard time sending their kids to school. We gave out 20% more scholarships to our current students as well as helped as many as possible enroll for the first time. We are very grateful to all our friends and churches of the UMC who are in touch with the challenges that we face and have stepped up to help with one or more scholarships. Without your help, we could not possibly do our work and live to tell all the success stories that come out of this generous gift.

As if poverty and a bad economy were not enough, our students live a much more fearful threat every day; the violence on the streets. You hear it on the news daily. Juarez, Mexico, is the deadliest city in the world at the moment. Ten to 15 deaths occur daily, and our students must live through it. They still have to walk on those deadly streets on their way to school. One student said that once she walked over the bridge and into the U. S., she felt that she could breathe again. CNN, on a news report to the nation named Lydia Patterson Institute a haven to the students who needed refuge from a world of violence. This same report also mentioned the interesting fact that Lydia Patterson was established as a refuge to displaced immigrants fleeing from a Mexican revolution. Almost 100 years, later LPI brings hope and a safe place for students running from the streets of violence. You can still access this report if you go to [CNN.com](http://CNN.com).

In the midst of all, Lydia Patterson is a bright and shiny beacon in the life of the church. Sixty-seven students graduated last year, and 65 are in college today. Once more, the UMC has stepped up to continue our ministry. Twenty-four colleges and universities are providing scholarships for our students so that they can continue their education and escape the threats previously mentioned. Southwestern University called the life of one of our students, "A Cinderella Story". When you take students from a life of very little or no resources and send them to college where they excel, these are story book stories. Saul Bueno is a student at Southwestern University who will graduate in the spring with double majors and a plan to earn a master's degree. Fernando Rivera, on the other hand, is a student at Oklahoma City University planning to go to seminary and to prepare for the ordained ministry. Twenty-three students are serving churches throughout the country while they attend college.

The student lay ministry program is growing. We have 37 in this program being trained to lead churches, youth groups, develop Hispanic ministries, etc. Eight of these students will travel to Germany, in July, to represent the South Central

Jurisdiction in the Global Young Peoples Convocation. They are working tremendously hard to raise the funds to make this possible.

I have no doubt that God blesses those who do His work. Lydia Patterson is blessed with the love, support and prayers of all our friends of this conference and the jurisdiction. I invite you to come home to El Paso and experience the greatness of our ministry. I extend a special invitation to you to come on a mission trip or a work team and be blessed as well. Thank you, again, for being there for us.

## **MOUNT SEQUOYAH**

### **Sheri and John Altland, Executive Directors**

We asked a group of pastors from across the Jurisdiction who were attending a February training event at Mount Sequoyah: "How can we best write a report that will motivate you to read it"? *Their reply: "use humor", "nothing", and tell us more of the*

#### ***"GREAT MINISTRY GOING ON AT THE MOUNTAIN"***

- Your entire **campus** has wireless access; a \$50k challenge grant from the SCJ Mission Council was matched to completely resurface the roadbeds across the campus; \$200,000 was invested through new endowment for Mount Sequoyah; hundreds of volunteers assist each year to continue to upgrade facilities and beautify the grounds.
- ***Small Church Leadership Institute*** is equipping clergy, laity, and conference staff to lead their small church congregation into the future. National known presenters.
- ***Addictions Response by the Church***: gives church staff and care-ministries resources to address the effects of addiction on families, congregational support relationships for intervention, treatment, transitional living and recovery
- ***The Eremos Retreat for Methodist Pastors. Rate of \$30 per night, per room***, for a well deserved personal retreat, or a family, get-away at Mount Sequoyah.
- ***New Church Leadership Institute*** training pastors with knowledge and skills for new church starts across the nation and in other countries
- ***Interim Ministers Training*** a three-phase program to educate and train ministers with general skills for serving churches as an interim minister.
- ***Caring for Creation*** an annual, national faith-based environmental and sustainability conference, with nationally recognized presenters, for faith-based environmental initiatives
- ***UM Course of Study*** annual training and study to educate and spiritually form those entering the United Methodist ministry and those who serve UM congregations.  
***.....Just to name a few of the many events and ministries occurring each year***

**“MORE GREAT THINGS”**

- **A budget balanced for 2009** during in a very difficult economic year for all of us.
- Just fewer than **12,000 individuals** came to Mount Sequoyah. All 15 annual conferences in the South Central Jurisdiction, and several other conferences across the nation, sent laity and clergy for discipleship trainings and meetings; personal reflection and renewal.
- **Twenty two buildings were repaired and 3600 cubic yards of fallen timber removed** following the ice storm in early 2009.
- **New to Mount Sequoyah: guided personal spiritual retreat, spiritual healing and direction with an ordained clergy and spiritual director.**
- **New programs and training initiatives** are in development which will impact the future of our Church and will continue to place Mount Sequoyah as a vital and focused ministry for developing Methodist congregations in witness and in discipleship for Jesus Christ.

Watch our website [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org); Link to our **FACEBOOK**; or even better, place a **phone call, 1-800-760-8126** to ask questions and let us know where to send you a **NEWSLETTER** or bulletin **EMAIL**. Keep informed of the many dynamic training initiatives for leadership development and faithful discipleship

**PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

**William B. Lawrence, Dean  
Professor of American Church History**

On September 11, 2009, students, professors, administrators, alumni/ae, friends, benefactors, and special guests of Perkins School of Theology gathered on the campus of Southern Methodist University to dedicate the new Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall, and to celebrate the completion of renovations to Selecman Hall and Kirby Hall. After almost a century of service, decades of dreaming, and years of noble work, Perkins had accomplished one of the boldest undertakings in its history.

The process of building and renovation has been an overwhelming experience of grace, brought to expression through an immeasurable generosity on the part of those who shared in both the vision and its accomplishment. Beginning in 1911 with the creation by Methodist leaders in the South of two new institutions of higher learning—SMU and Emory—those who have been committed to this school and its mission to serve the church have continued steadfastly to ensure the fulfillment of that purpose. This latest endeavor has been no different.

So many have invested so much in this enormous undertaking that it is impossible to name them all. I would certainly express my deep gratitude to the Kansas West Annual Conference, and the South Central Jurisdiction as a whole, from which have come strong, steady, supportive participation at so many levels—from finances to

prayers, from inviting young adults to consider ordained ministry to partnering with us in training and preparation of those students for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

The Perkins and Prothro families have brought a vision forward across the better part of a century, a vision for the role they could play in shaping society by helping education transform the world. Their legacy exists in physical facilities and philanthropic financial support throughout Southern Methodist University, and certainly at Perkins, but extends much further still. People with great resources and generous hearts give wonderful gifts. But people with vision see beyond what their resources can do, beyond what their generosity can accomplish, beyond what their noblest actions can achieve, to the larger purposes beneath and beyond all of these efforts. The Perkins and Prothro families have possessed such vision, and shared it amply with Perkins. In so doing, they have opened new horizons for the church by establishing a legacy of the sort that leads not backward, but forward, into a new future of theological education.

Highland Park United Methodist Church, led by their senior minister Mark Craig, has contributed more to the success of this venture than anyone could ever imagine receiving from a neighbor. The Texas Methodist Foundation and its president, Tom Locke, have been munificent in their support. Paul and Joanne White of Louisiana were among the earliest donors to this project, and for their generosity we are deeply grateful. Myriad other congregations, institutions, families, and individuals have partnered in this effort, making gifts of all sizes to further the mission of Perkins through these renovation and expansion projects. A series of plaques in the new Prothro Hall names more than 800 entities as having contributed funds—and the list continues to grow.

Members of the faculty and staff at Perkins provided invaluable wisdom, discernment, and guidance throughout this process. In the midst of great disruption, certain persons gave exceptional leadership to keep us on an even keel. Among them were Tracy Anne Allred, director of Student Services; Janelle Hampton, building manager and registrar; Todd Rasberry, director of Development; Roberta Cox, director of Public Affairs; and Jim McMillin, the associate director of Bridwell Library, and chair of our Construction Committee.

With building construction and renovation completed, we are now poised to pursue with even greater focus certain strategic goals that are central to our work in the future. These goals are part of the University's larger objectives related to a \$750 million capital campaign launched in September 2008 in anticipation of the centennial of the school's founding in 1911. *SMU Unbridled: The Second Century Campaign* includes further enhancing the academic quality and reputation of the school through faculty endowments and other means; fostering an open, collaborative, diverse community, beginning with the further development of the Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions; strengthening scholarly research and creative achievement; enhancing student development and quality of life; and broadening global perspectives through continuing development of the center for Global Theological Education.

On a personal note, I continue to serve on our denomination's Judicial Council, and regard this role as both a high honor and profound responsibility. I also continue to serve as liaison between the Church and the University.

The building endeavors of the last several years and strategic goals of the present and future all serve to fulfill a singular missional purpose from which we cannot and

will not waver: to prepare women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry. For your partnership in that mission through this historic season at Perkins, and in the many ways your partnership promises to support these future goals as we work together toward their fulfillment, we are grateful.

## **SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**R. Gerald Turner, President**

As SMU approaches the centennial of its founding in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and its opening in 1915, the University continues to rise in national prominence. The past year has been marked by exciting developments. Highlights follow:

- SMU's total fall 2009 enrollment was 10,891, including 6,228 undergraduates, 3,544 graduate students and 1,119 professional (theology and law) students. The ethnic minority enrollment makes up 21 percent of the student body. The average SAT score of the first-year class has risen nearly 100 points in the past 10 years.
- *SMU Unbridled: The Second Century Campaign* was launched in September 2008. Gifts during the campaign's two-year quiet phase and first public year have exceeded \$416 million toward a goal of \$750 million. The campaign seeks endowment for student quality, faculty and academic excellence, and the campus experience. To date, the campaign has provided funds for 193 new endowed scholarships; 16 new endowed academic positions; 11 new endowed institutes, centers and other academic programs; support for two schools and one academic department; and 12 new or renovated facilities.
- The new Caruth Hall for the Lyle School of Engineering will open this spring. The school recently announced its new Hunter and Stephanie Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity, to address conditions of the global poor. A building to house the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development is under construction and scheduled to open in August. New year-round housing at SMU-in-Taos allowed the addition of fall semester classes in 2009 at the New Mexico campus, which has offered summer courses since 1973.
- Among several outstanding appointments, the Rev. Stephen Rankin, Ph.D. was named SMU's new chaplain and minister to the University. He came to SMU from Southwestern College in Kansas, where he was campus minister and professor of Religious Studies. Rankin is a clergy member of the Kansas West Annual Conference.
- David Meltzer, professor and chair of Anthropology in SMU's Dedman College, was elected a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. Several students have won Fulbright, Truman and other national fellowships.
- Alan C. Lowe was named director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library, to be located at SMU. He previously was executive director of the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. James K. Glassman, undersecretary of state for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs in

2008, was named executive director of the George W. Bush Institute, to be part of the Bush Presidential Center, which is expected to open in 2013.

- The Bush Presidential Library is already making an impact at SMU. Political science and journalism professors have invited former President Bush to speak to their classes, groups of scholarship students have visited the temporary archives, and former First Lady Laura Bush has hosted an exchange between Iraqi women and SMU faculty.

#### News of Perkins School of Theology

- Perkins School of Theology began a significant new chapter in September 2009 when it dedicated the new Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall and renovated Kirby Hall and Selecman Hall. The Perkins and Prothro families and their foundations provided the lead gift for the new building, continuing the tradition of Joe J. and Lois Perkins, for whom the school was named in 1945.
- C. Michael Hawn, professor of Church Music and director of the Master of Sacred Music Program at Perkins School of Theology, was honored as The United Methodist Church's 2008-09 University Scholar/Teacher of the Year.
- Pastors from Latin America traveled to Perkins last summer for theological and ministerial training through *Theology Beyond Borders*. Perkins is one of three United Methodist schools of theology offering the Course of Study School in Spanish. Pastors from Columbia, Argentina and Costa Rica received training supported by a new grant from The United Methodist Church's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.
- Joerg Rieger was appointed to the newly endowed Wendland-Cook Professorship in Constructive Theology. A clergy member of the North Texas Annual Conference, Rieger has taught at Perkins for 15 years. The professorship was established by Barbara and Erroll Wendland and the Joe and Louise Cook Foundation. The Wendlands are from Temple, Texas, and Mrs. Wendland is a member of the Perkins Executive Board.

#### News of SMU Wesley Foundation

- Under the leadership of the Rev. Andy Roberts, a clergy member of the North Georgia Annual Conference, the SMU Wesley Foundation is one of the most active ministries on campus. "The Well," a weekly worship service in Perkins Chapel, features music, teaching, prayer and Holy Communion. Small group Bible studies, the heart of the SMU Wesley Foundation, foster fellowship and spiritual growth.

SMU treasures its Methodist heritage and maintains a particularly close relationship with Highland Park United Methodist Church and its senior minister, the Rev. Mark Craig. I enjoy serving as guest preacher at that church each fall. We ask your continued prayers and support as SMU moves forward in the coming year.

## **SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION REPORT**

### **David Severe, Executive Director**

We are pleased to report to you that the apportionment payout for 2009 was 88% across the Jurisdiction. Given the serious economic times in which we live, we are thankful and grateful for this support.

Soon Annual Conferences will be electing delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences which will be in 2012. The Jurisdictional Conference hosted by the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and the Oklahoma Conference will be July 18-21, 2012.

Again the children of Lydia Patterson Institute, the youth and adults who benefit from Mount Sequoyah, and the students at the Wesley Foundation at SMU are grateful for your financial support. We in the Jurisdiction office thank you also for the dollars you send for our operation, and the reserves they provide to pay the expenses of the Jurisdictional Conference each quadrennium.

### **Saint Paul School of Theology**

Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of the United Methodist Church that educates leaders to make disciples for Jesus Christ, renew the Church, and transform the world. We are one institution with two campuses, a free-standing seminary campus in Kansas City and a university partnership seminary on the campus of Oklahoma City University.

This academic year, 284 students from 41 states and 5 continents were enrolled in degree programs at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. Forty-one students were enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Saint Paul at Oklahoma City University. The Course of Study School at Saint Paul served 290 students from 18 annual conferences.

Over 400 students and alums, current and emeritus faculty, and friends of the seminary gathered in September to celebrate the seminary's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Kansas City. The festivities were a time to celebrate the seminary's tradition and history, reunite in friendship, look toward the seminary's future, and share the seminary's story with the larger Kansas City Community.

The Order of St. Luke constructed a meditative labyrinth on the Kansas City Campus naming it in honor of Dr. Susan Sonnenday Vogel '82 DMin. Susan Sonnenday Vogel is the first woman Doctor of Ministry graduate of Saint Paul and served in a number of roles including Associate Dean for Spiritual & Professional Formation during her 33 year tenure.

Two Doctor of Ministry tracks were established. The Doctor of Ministry track in Children and Poverty will begin June 2010 and a track in Global Health and Wholeness is slated for January 2011. Both tracks relate directly to the United Methodist Council of Bishops initiatives (the "Four Foci") for the Church.

It was the second year for Laity School of Theology. Each Laity School Saturday Session was taught by Saint Paul faculty and presented in an accessible manner for

persons with a variety of educational backgrounds. Participants could attend one session or all six. Topics included worship, Bible, ethics, church history, and theology. Laity School was offered in Kansas City, Missouri and various churches in Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

It was the sixth year for the Saint Paul youTheology program. Lilly Endowment, Inc. renewed a grant for the program developed for Midwest youth to continue to explore their faith through worship, service, study, travel, and a mentoring relationship. The youTheology program culminates with a nine day Pan Methodist Pilgrimage to the East Coast where youTheologians see historic locations fundamental to the roots of Methodism.

Dr. L. Shannon Jung was installed into the Franklin and Louise Cole Chair for Town and Country Ministries in the fall. The chair was a celebration for the seminary and rural ministry. There was special recognition for the team of laity and clergy that worked for several years to establish the fully funded Town and Country Chair.

The trustees, faculty, staff, and students of Saint Paul thank you for your interest, prayers and support.

### **United Methodist Health Ministry Fund Kim Moore, President**

With investments improving in 2009, the Health Ministry Fund was able to award \$2,615,000 in programming funding. Trustees completed work on a new strategic plan for 2010-2012. Strategic areas of emphasis will continue in access to primary care and healthy lifestyles for young children. Eleven years of work in oral health will gradually transition into more attention to behavioral and emotional health issues of young children.

Revisions in the Healthy Congregations program were made effective. Two Kansas West churches received congregational health ministry grants as that program ended: Pretty Prairie (\$4918) and Chapel Hill, Wichita (\$3300). Seven congregations in Kansas West filed reports of their health ministry activities and qualified as Level 1 Healthy Congregations. Another twenty one Kansas West churches formed health ministry teams, participated in trainings and received \$1000 awards to assist their health ministries. The annual Healthy Congregations Retreat was well-attended by Kansas United Methodists interested in health ministry.

Funding in the access to care field of work supported consumer health advocacy through the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition and the Kansas Faith Alliance for Health Reform. The Kingman United Methodist Church assisted in starting -up a health care access program, St. Gianna Health Clinic, and a \$16,220 grant went for that work. GraceMed Health Clinic received \$69,800 to increase enrollment outreach to HealthWave eligible individuals. Healthy lifestyles grants targeted congregational health ministries, clergy health and young children. Support went to pilot a new Clergy Wellness Program (\$20,000) and a campus-wide healthy lifestyles effort at Kansas Wesleyan (\$37,000).

Oral health work continued to encourage development of a geographically accessible safety net system, delivery of oral health prevention services by medical providers,

and advocacy for oral health in Kansas. A \$12,000 grant to St. Mark/E.C. Tyree Health and Dental Center, Wichita, assisted with dental service expansion there as did a \$75,000 grant to the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas in Dodge City. A grant of \$75,000 to Peace Connections in Newton provides start-up funding for initiation of the Circles Initiative, a transformational anti-poverty program engaging the faith community.

E. C. Tyree Health and Dental Center at St. Mark, Wichita, was recognized as the winner of the Janet Sevier Gilbreath Special Project Award for its dental services targeting unserved persons.

A complete list of the 2009 grants and programming expenditures and other information about work of the Health Fund, including supportive congregational health ministries materials, can be obtained at [www.healthfund.org](http://www.healthfund.org).

## **Boston University School of Theology Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean**

We greet you in friendship, thanking God for your leadership of the church's ministry. Many of you have given prayerful support to the Boston University School of Theology (STH) during the past year, and we thank you. You encourage us as partners in mission and in the pioneering work that has marked our particular mission in the past year. Thanks in large part to many of you, we have traveled the country, heard your hopes for the future, and launched many new initiatives.

### **What has happened during this year?**

- Student enrollment increased in 2009-2010 over the previous year. Our dynamic student body has led STH efforts to respond to the people of Haiti, to enhance the School's sustainability work, and to create new forms of theological dialogue among people with diverse perspectives on God and God's creation.
- The Seminary Singers have revived the annual choir tour tradition, singing their way from Northern Virginia to Connecticut.
- Travel seminars have studied in Cuba and Ephesus (modern Turkey).
- Professor Dana Robert is delivering major addresses around the world in 2010 to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference. The School will also celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Truman Collins Chair in World Christianity and Mission, sponsoring special events in Fall 2010 and soaring efforts to raise funds for the Chair, thanks to an anonymous challenge grant of \$420,000.
- Co-directors of Contextual Education, Sam Johnson and Elizabeth Parsons, are expanding STH partnerships with local churches, service agencies, and faith-based communities, helping us extend the breadth and depth of our work in contextualizing theological education.

### **What is coming?**

- The new Master of Divinity curriculum will be launched in September 2010. The focus is "Faith Engaging the World," and the goals are to prepare spiritually-centered, prophetic, intelligent, practical religious leaders who can contribute to renewing and transforming the church and the world.

- Three faculty searches are underway: the Martin Luther King, Jr., Chair in Ethics or Homiletics, and positions in Religious Education and the History of Christianity.
- The STH People's History Project is expanding. This is an ambitious endeavor to record oral histories of alums from all eras, particularly the 1950s and 1960s. Contact the Alumni Office if you are interested in sharing your story with us: (617) 353-2349.
- The School has created a bold strategic plan to guide the coming years. The plan is to strengthen support for students, renovate degree programs that educate future leaders, enhance faculty excellence in teaching and research, and support research and continuing education to strengthen the church.
- The School begins a specialized, one-year Master of Sacred Theology program for military chaplains in Fall 2010, responding to their increasing needs to address issues of ethics, trauma, and conflict transformation.
- We are renovating our physical space: the famous ping pong table is back! Classrooms are becoming "smart" with technology, art displays are multiplying, and the first floor has been remodeled for hospitality and comfort. On the near horizon are plans to renovate the basement into a community center, replace light fixtures and windows for energy-efficiency, and improve the handicap accessibility of our building.
- We are developing partnerships with Africa University and two Korean Universities through student exchange and faculty exchange programs.
- Plans are underway for more work in continuing education, including onsite events and distance education opportunities. Our new work will include efforts to make our new certificate programs more widely available. We presently offer the academic certificate requirements for United Methodist Certification in Evangelism, Spirituality, and Sacred Music.

We celebrate our graduates and friends in your conference and our colleagues in ministry throughout the United Methodist connection. We hope to hear from you in the coming year and to build significant partnerships. Our relationship with you is vital for our learning and for our service in this world of many needs. We pray for you and invite you to pray for us as well!