

E-Newsletter
September 2025

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www.hoodseminary.edu



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



Faculty/Staff News

Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore

applied to any of the master's programs at the Seminary. **Read More**

HoodEmpowers



Dr. Vergel Lattimore, President and Professor, of Hood Theological Seminary

Dr. Lattimore will attend the Night of Celebrating and Networking sponsored by Ward Black Law Firm, Greensboro, NC (9/9/2025)

He will be preaching for Christian Education Sunday at Trinity A.M.E. Zion, Greensboro, NC (9/14/2025)

Dr. Lattimore will provide the keynote speech - "Rules of Encouragement and Engagement for Veterans 2025" at the Regional Veteran Claims Clinic and Financial Mobilization Boot Camp, Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church, Charlotte, NC (9/27/25)

FaithLearnThrive News



EVENT INFORMATION

The Institute for Rural & Small-Town Ministry & Leadership is excited to share what we've been doing.

We held our second quarterly workshop on August 21st, in the Aymer Center. John Drye, VP of Central Carolina Insurance presented about church insurance.

Rev. Dr. J. Ruth Davis did a presentation on Grants: Language and Process.

Both presentations were very informative and were received well by the attendees.

We would like to shout out to Rev. Anthony Taylor, MDIV, for being our Narrator, to Patricia Commander for all of her tech help and to Chef Brown and his team for the wonderful breakfast and lunch.

It's exciting to get to know the different people who are attending our programs and it's fun to watch them socializing with each other.

The other exciting news is that on Friday, September 5th, we started accepting applicationsfor our first grants. The grant applications will be accepted through September 15th at 11:58 pm., when we will have a group assemble to review the grants and decide upon the recipients.

On September 5th, we also started accepting applications for people who would like to be coaches for HoodEmpowers. If anyone would like to consider becoming a coach, give us a call or email us at hoodempowers@hoodseminary.edu. The coach applications are on our website: www.hoodempowers.org. We are thrilled that both of these programs are underway, as it means that we are moving in the direction of growth and making a lasting impact.



🎯 **Date**: September 20
📍 **Hood Theological Seminary | Aymer Center**
💻 **Visit our Conference Page & View All Labs**
🎟️ **Register here**: https://bit.ly/StrongerCHS2025

This is why we do Stronger Churches. 💛

👉 **Join us September 20th at Hood Theological Seminary** for a one-day experience that could help *you* reset, refocus, and reimagine.

Whether you're thinking about the next 5 years or 25 years, this session offers practical tools and conversations to guide your church's legacy.

Don't wait until transition becomes a crisis. Come get equipped.

🎟️ Register here: https://bit.ly/StrongerCHS2025

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

Welcome to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees Bishop W. Darrin Moore



The Work of the Pathways For Tomorrow Initiative Continues…

In 2022, HTS received a $1 million five-year grant from The Lilly Endowment, Inc., to address critical challenges in preparing pastoral leaders for the future.

As the 2025-26 academic year begins, the PFT team remains focused on its four focus areas:

· Expanding academic programs

· Offering didactics on anti-racism and contested issues

· Provide training in personal and organizational finance

· Launch a Student Debt Reduction and Alumni Ambassador Program

The initial grant period concludes in 2027; therefore, HTS is launching two new centers as part of the program's long-term sustainability efforts. The Center for Financial Empowerment, led by Dr. Kevin Griffin, will focus on empowering clergy and churches to thrive through financial literacy education and practical tools. The Center for Justice, Love, and

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

Belonging, led by Dr. Karen Owens, will serve as a hub for community engagement and pastoral formation around social justice. These Centers, that align with the core values of HTS, will also carry forward the grant's mission and extend its impact well beyond its original timeline. Other members of the HTS PFT team include: Dr. Clay Barrow, Dr. Regina Dancy, and Rev. Thomas Grinter. Dr. John Everett and Dr. Obery Hendricks serve in advisory capacities.

Stay tuned for details regarding opportunities to engage the Center for Financial Empowerment and The Center for Justice, Love, and Belonging.

Job Opportunities

Lake Forest Church Pastor of Discipleship

Resourceful Communities Program: Faith & Food Coordinator

Chaplain positions available at Randolph Health, Asheboro, NC.

Alumni News



Rev. Angellica S. Sweat– Carrying Hood's Legacy Forward

Limited Spots Available – Don't Miss It!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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



In Memoriam



To those grieving the loss of a loved one, our hearts and hands hold you in prayer. May the peace of God comfort you.

Hood Theological Seminary
Theological Preparation for Effective Ministry in a Diverse Society

Buy Hood Merchandise Today!

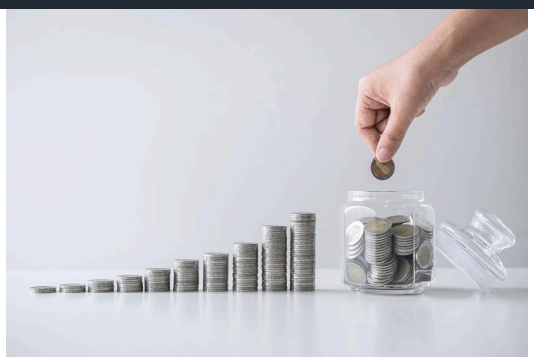
At Hood Theological Seminary, we love to celebrate the ways our graduates are making a difference in the world. This month, we shine the spotlight on **Rev. Angellica S. Sweat (MDiv ’20)**, whose ministry, scholarship, and service reflect the heart of Hood’s mission.

During her time at Hood, Rev. Sweat distinguished herself not only as a dedicated student but also as a leader among her peers. She was awarded the **President’s Award**, the highest honor given to a graduating student, and was recognized with several scholarships for her outstanding commitment to ministry and learning. Since graduating, Rev. Sweat’s journey has taken her far and wide. She earned a **Master of Theology** with concentrations in **Homiletics** from Duke Divinity School and is now pursuing her **Doctor of Ministry focused in first Womanist Discourse Cohort** at Emory University Candler School of Theology. Along the way, she has been honored with fellowships and recognitions across the country, including induction into the **World Methodist Council’s Order of the Flame** and selection as a **Preaching Exemplar** with Christian Theological Seminary’s Compelling Preaching Initiative. Today, Rev. Sweat serves as **Program Coordinator for the Institute for Youth Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary**, where she leads a $1.25 million initiative to equip Christian ministry leaders for faithful and transformative ministry alongside young people. Her research and ministry focus on trauma, healing, and sacred proclamation, womanist traditions of liberation, and restorative liturgy for all people.

We celebrate Rev. Angellica Sweat not only for her impressive accomplishments, but also for the way she carries the spirit of Hood with her into every space she enters. She reminds us that the seeds planted here continue to bear fruit in communities near and far.



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



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:

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.

Welcome Our Newest Faithful Friend
Rev. Frances Greene

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

John Everett
Director, Institutional Advancement & Enrollment Management
704.636.6545
jeverett@hoodseminary.edu

Visit our Planned Giving website for lots of helpful information.

at 1810 Lutheran Synod Dr., Salisbury, NC 28144.

Contact:
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