

ANNUAL REPORT FROM GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

In 2018-2019, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary focused on the following priorities:

- **Responsive and Relevant Theological Education:** Respond to the educational and professional development needs of prospective students, alums, clergy, and laity by providing relevant theological education in a variety of formats and investing in our competent and diverse faculty.
- **Inclusivity in Our Relationships:** Ensure we are equitable, just, and inclusive in our relationships with the variety of diversity we encounter (e.g., racial, cultural, sexual orientation) within both our seminary and local communities.
- **Ensuring a Vibrant Future:** Establish a vibrant future by investing in employees, instituting new policies and procedures, caring for the earth, and generating gifts to sustain the seminary for generations to come.

RESPONSIVE AND RELEVANT THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

New Partnership with North Central College

We are partnering with North Central College to offer students the unique opportunity to take graduate-level courses in religious studies while completing their undergraduate degrees. Beginning in Fall 2019, students will be able to take classes at the seminary's campus, and transfer graduate courses towards undergraduate work. For more information, please visit www.garrett.edu/news.

Creative Course Opportunities

Faith in Place Environmental Justice Course

This past spring, Garrett-Evangelical partnered with Faith in Place to offer a dynamic new course titled "Organizing for Environmental Justice". Faith in Place is a state-wide organization working with over 1,000 houses of worship to protect our common land, air, and water. The class met at various locations around the city. Students increased their awareness as leaders, organizers, managers, and advocates for the care of the earth and environmental justice by reading and discussing literature on these topics and witnessing the work of leaders and organizations committed to these ends during the site visits. They also faced the complex challenges facing individuals and communities suffering from environmental injustices. The seminary continues to develop creative partnerships like this one to better equip our students serve the needs of the church and world.

Connectional Learning

Connectional Learning is the name for Garrett-Evangelical's new take on continuing education. We seek to create education and training suited to your unique professional, vocational, and spiritual needs. Whether you are clergy, laity, or spiritually curious, we welcome you to explore our programs that are designed to be relevant, responsive, and reachable. We are actively preparing our Fall 2019 offerings to announce them at our Annual Conference visits. There are several highly anticipated online course and webinar offerings, including "Thriving Ministry with Young Adults: Holy Yearning, Holy Listening, Holy Partnerships" and "Financial Management for Churches and Nonprofits".

There is a wealth of information and resources on our website, including past webinar recordings and on-campus lecture opportunities. To learn more about our offerings and stay up to date on future programs, please visit: www.garrett.edu/connectional-learning.

INCLUSIVITY IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Since the launch of our strategic plan in 2015, we have been working to pay greater attention to race, diversity, and inclusivity in our community. This work began with a Racial Equity and Diversity Inclusion Audit. We have been working through the results of the audit to inform changes we need to make in our community. Last year we created a community statement that names, celebrates, and affirms the variety of persons we encounter as well as challenges the seminary with specific goals to fulfill its commitment to grow and serve all persons equally and justly. We have secured a staff member to act as Manager of Inclusion and Community Engagement, and we continue to offer training opportunities, lectures, and discussions opportunities on race, diversity, and inclusion.

ENSURING A VIBRANT FUTURE

Hope for Creation and Green Seminary Certification Program

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is committed to addressing the urgent environmental crises facing the world's peoples today and to promoting the just and wise care of God's creation for the flourishing of all. This commitment is rooted in an affirmation of God's love for the world, an embrace of our human vocation to be faithful stewards of the good earth, and an active hope in God's promise to establish justice and righteousness throughout the land.

We are in the midst of integrating sustainable practices and ecological awareness as a participant in the Green Seminary Initiative (GSI) for the Seminary Environmental Certification Program. A three-year program, this certification will assist Garrett-Evangelical as it integrates care for creation into areas of education and spiritual formation; liturgy, ritual, and worship; building and grounds management; community life; and public leadership. We initiated a thriving composting program, enacted a waste audit, and hosted an Interfaith Climate Action Summit in April to engage our local community around responses to climate change.

Thank you for your continued interest in our work. We are grateful to serve The United Methodist Church and the church at large. For more information about Garrett-Evangelical, I encourage you to visit our website, www.garrett.edu, or visit us on campus.

Cordially,

Lallene J. Rector, President

ABOUT US

Garrett-Evangelical is the result of the interweaving of three institutions:

- Garrett Biblical Institute, the first Methodist seminary in the Midwest, was established in 1853 by some of the same church people who founded Northwestern University.
- Chicago Training School, established in 1885, was an important force for women in ministry and for developing service agencies throughout Chicago. Chicago Training School merged with Garrett Biblical Institute in 1934.
- Evangelical Theological Seminary, located in Naperville and founded as a seminary of the Evangelical Church (later the Evangelical United Brethren) in 1873, joined with Garrett Theological Seminary in 1974 to form Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.