

## **METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO**

Danny Russell, Director of Communications

Thank you for this opportunity to bring you news from Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO).

### **With \$1 million grant, MTSO supports existing religious leaders and helps form new ones**

MTSO has received a five-year grant of \$999,665 to establish Connecting Pathways: A Multi-Faceted Approach to Strengthen and Sustain Current and Future Faith Leaders. The project is being funded through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative.

The project utilizes MTSO's distinct strengths in two distinct parts. Part one, Connecting Pathways: Congregations and Other Ministry Partners, supports existing religious leaders, focusing on anti-racism training and resourcing. Working with partner organizations, MTSO helps faith leaders to assess land use and church food programs to assist in building community engagement. Part two, Connecting Pathways: Vocational Exploration Intensive for Young Adults, invites young adults to imagine the possibilities for lifelong faith, offering experiential learning, theological reflection, worship, and relationships with healthy community leaders and vibrant faith communities. It introduces the whys and hows of ministry, connecting participants with faith leaders, including some of those involved in part one of the project.

### **New initiative enhances scientific literacy for seminarians**

MTSO has a longstanding commitment to preparing religious leaders who are conversant in and respectful of science. An important part of that effort is Questioning Science with Good Faith: Shifting the Engagement of Science in Seminaries, a project that integrates science into church history and theological studies curricula while also contributing to the public discourse on intersection of science and religion. The project is made possible by a \$75,000 grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion program. The grant is funded by the John Templeton Foundation. In September 2021, MTSO offered an online, multi-professional conversation, Pastors, Pandemics and Public Health: Building Collaborative Responses to COVID-19.

### **Full-tuition scholarships extended to those pursuing United Methodist candidacy**

MTSO and the school's donors pledged to extend a full-tuition pledge to all prospective students who are pursuing United Methodist elder or deacon candidacy. The MTSO admissions staff is happy to answer questions about this initiative at 800-333-6876 or [admissions@mtso.edu](mailto:admissions@mtso.edu).