

## **UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER CAMPUS MINISTRY**

Dr. Jonathan C. Lewis, DMin, BCC, Chaplain and Campus Minister

Rev. Adam Gordon, Chaplain and Campus Minister

At the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) in Memphis, the United Methodist campus ministry continues to grow and explore new opportunities. In March 2011, Dr. Jonathan C. Lewis started as the campus minister and he continues to serve in that position. Lewis is also the director of Community Partnerships in the Mission Integration Division at Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MLH). Rev. Adam Gordon began serving part time at the campus ministry in 2021.

UTHSC is composed entirely of graduate schools, all of them specializing in some form of health science — from dentistry to medicine to nursing to laboratory science and much more. Lewis and Gordon relate well to UTHSC because of their own immersion in the hospital and healthcare setting, where they minister to patients, families, and medical professionals of all kinds.

The campus ministry student group at UTHSC is called the Faith Health Collaborative (FHC). For more information, visit [www.faithhealthcollaborative.com](http://www.faithhealthcollaborative.com). FHC engages the entire UTHSC community — all colleges and programs, all students, faculty, and staff. FHC connects UTHSC to MLH, including its clinical work, its fruitful partnerships with community organizations and congregations, its missions and service opportunities, and its unique educational initiatives through the Center of Excellence in Faith and Health Equity. Since being officially approved as a campus student group in 2016, FHC has recruited student vice presidents from all six of the colleges that make up UTHSC and maintains an active membership of about 50 students. Specific initiatives for FHC include:

### **Connection to United Methodist Congregations and Programs**

Through FHC, students, faculty, and staff connect to Lewis, Gordon, and The United Methodist Church. Relationships and partnerships with United Methodist congregations and programs are a significant goal of FHC. FHC aims to be an innovative vehicle that increases student exposure to the Church and especially its health ministries.

### **Support and Service**

Lewis is a board certified chaplain, experienced spiritual caregiver, and holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in pastoral counseling. Lewis' engagement at UTHSC enables him to offer support and care to the entire UTHSC community, witnessing to the love of Christ that can work through The United Methodist Church and its people, reflecting the call of the Gospel to love God and love our neighbors. Gordon has recently come on board to serve the UTHSC community through the work of the Faith Health Collaborative. Gordon is an ordained elder in the Mississippi Conference and also a professional chaplain at MLH. Together, they are able to respond to the needs of the UTHSC community and provide care, support, and ministry to all of its students, faculty, and staff.

### **Education**

In partnership with Church Health and UTHSC, Lewis and Gordon continue to help design and facilitate the Serving The Underserved certificate course. Serving The Underserved seeks to create a space for productive dialogue among health science students on the components of healthcare among underserved populations and the ways in which poverty shapes the health lives of people and communities. FHC helps to expand and develop that educational experience, aligning itself with the Wesleyan emphases on health, education, and personal formation. Serving The Underserved has enrolled nearly 1,000 students throughout its history. Lewis was also invited to serve on the board of directors for Cope, a student-led project in the College of Medicine that leads students to form their own practices of resilience, mental wellness, and healthy communication in the midst of the rigors of medical school and clinical practice.