

United Theological Seminary
Dr. Kent Millard, President

United Theological Seminary celebrated rising enrollment in the 2022-2023 academic year. In the previous year, 464 students were enrolled at United; in 2022-2023, the seminary is serving 541 students, a 17 percent increase. A diverse community of many denominations, races, and nationalities, United welcomed students from 36 states, 21 countries, and 43 denominations, with 42 percent of students identifying as United Methodist.* The seminary prepared 103 Course of Study students** and served 10 students through the Hispanic Christian Academy, a three-year online course of ministry program for Hispanic/Latino lay pastors and leaders serving United Methodist congregations.

Houses of Study

In large part, this enrollment growth is a result of the seminary's House of Study initiative, which is supported by a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. As of 2022-2023, the seminary has established five Houses of Study that are equipping master's students for the unique ministry needs of the communities, movements, and denominations in which they serve:

- Fresh Expressions, directed by Dr. Michael Beck;
- Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship, directed by Bishop Lisa Weah;
- Global Methodist, directed by Rev. Gregory Stover;
- Global Pentecostal, directed by Dr. Cheryl Bridges Johns;
- and Hispanic, directed by Dr. Jorge Ochoa.

The largest of these communities is the Hispanic House of Study (Casa de Estudios Hispana), which is meeting a need for Hispanic/Latino pastors and church leaders ready to pursue a Master of Divinity in their native language. Nearly 50 students from across the United States and Latin America, including students from Mexico, Cuba, Columbia, and Peru, started in the online program in the 2022-2023 academic year.

As United continues to expand its offerings to support church leaders, it is preparing to launch three new Houses of Study in the 2023-2024 academic year: a Korean House of Study, taught 100 percent in Korean for Korean-speaking students, led by Dr. Seok Jae Jeon; an African Methodist Episcopal Zion House of Study led by Bishop Eric Leake; and a Global Lutheran House of Study led by Dr. Richard Blue, Dr. Tom Thorstad, and Dr. Dan Landin.

Doctor of Ministry

The seminary is also seeing growth in its Doctor of Ministry program. In 2022-2023, the Doctor of Ministry program has grown to 250 students, an increase of 32 percent over the past five years.* Doctoral students at United are actively engaged in ministry and seeking to become more effective leaders for the church through a Doctor of Ministry degree. Students identify a need within their congregations or communities and, with the support of a peer group, mentor, and United faculty, they develop a model of ministry to address the challenge.

Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center

Launched in Fall 2021, the Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center, directed by Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, is connecting with pastors, ministry leaders, and congregational members hungry to bring God's renewal to their faith communities. In the past year alone, the Innovation Center has engaged more than 1,000 participants through more than 40 live webinars, training events, and courses. The Innovation Center has also partnered with The Center for Spiritual Formation, a connectional ministry of the Susquehanna Conference of The United Methodist Church, to offer a two-year online training course for those called to the ministry of spiritual direction. In addition, the center is partnering with two United Methodist conferences to provide its Breakthrough Prayer Initiative training for all clergy in these conferences. Through these and other new opportunities, the Innovation Center seeks to set the stage for the increased vitality of leaders and congregations everywhere.

** Student data represent 2022-2023 headcount enrollment, as of March 1, 2023. Denominational figures represent those who responded.*

*** Course of Study figures represent the most recent four terms.*