

The Wesley Seminary Campus is deceiving. Although outwardly tranquil and relaxed, it is, in reality, a place of great energy and excitement. Wesley Seminary has not only embraced but taken the lead in the 21st century of theological education. In order to continue this journey from its Spring Valley Campus, Wesley Seminary must use its physical and financial resources to support and foster its educational mission. Most importantly, the Seminary must be able to attract the best and brightest faculty and students to maintain and elevate its place among the top twenty theological schools.

The reason for this development is not for Wesley to survive, rather, to allow us to thrive in place for the next generations. By some reckoning, the most prudent move for Wesley would be to sell this campus and relocate to a less expensive area in the mid-Atlantic region. But we are resolved to remain in Washington because we believe this city is central to our mission and our ability to attract both students and faculty. Wesley greatly values being a part of an academic community committed to liberal higher education with all the vibrancy that entails. Wesley and A.U. have always had some shared programming, but, under A.U. President Sylvia Burwell, those connections are expanding.

We must also be able to thrive in place financially. The size of the new student housing building provides for the number and various types of beds and room configurations necessary to house Wesley students (and their immediate families) and to achieve the financial benefit which is critical to our ability to remain in this neighborhood and be one of the leading seminaries in perpetuity. Wesley is currently one of only 30 seminaries competing nationally and internationally for the best students and faculty. But we are 20th in size of endowment. In a period of winnowing of the number of seminaries nationwide, this project would effectively move us to 10th. The high-end design of this dorm provides our students access to amenities

they do not have now and enhances Wesley's appeal to younger students. In addition to replacing the 90 student housing beds lost in Carroll Hall and Straughn Hall, the New Dorm will provide flexible living options that will accommodate Wesley students requiring family housing or other living arrangements that are not available in the traditional single or double occupancy rooms in the existing 2014 Dorm.

We will devote most of the financial benefit to further subsidize student scholarships, including for on-campus housing which is expected to increase the demand from Seminary students. The fundamental economics of our business are extremely difficult as we strive to ordain ministers who have a graduate-level education similar in length and depth to medical students, but they will earn a fraction of the salary over a lifetime. And so, our ability to discount the cost of this education is determinative of our ability to compete and thrive.

Beyond that, Wesley is a national leader in research and innovation. Our growth edge is in non-degree and certificate education and other programs to support the church nationally and internationally. This growth does not have an impact on our home campus. But we must be able to thrive in place to have a home base of faculty and students in the more traditional mode of education with all Washington has to offer.



A statue of Moses striking the rock adorns the courtyard outside the library.

I. THE SEMINARY AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

A. Overview, Mission and History

Situated on nine acres in Northwest Washington, D.C., positioned between American University and the Spring Valley neighborhood (Site Location, [Exhibit A](#)), the Wesley Theological Seminary of the United Methodist Church (“Wesley Seminary”) is a graduate theological school. The mission of Wesley Theological Seminary is to equip Christians for leadership in the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to provide a prophetic voice in the public square. To pursue that mission, the primary focus is the preparation of exceptional leaders for churches, and human service non-profit leaders. Its rolling Campus offers an academic oasis enhanced by the excitement and cultural diversity of the city.

Wesley Seminary was founded in 1882 as a small seminary at Western Maryland College. Wesley Seminary moved from its Westminster, Maryland location to its current Campus in 1958. The institution flowered in size and stature on the new Campus and its location became the foundation of its identity and success. The original buildings that will remain have all been renovated and the new Residence Hall added in 2014. Over its first sixty-three years, Wesley Seminary grew to fill out its Campus reflecting all the changing patterns of seminary enrollment and trends in theological education.



The statue of John Wesley - here in special attire - was a gift to the seminary on behalf of British Methodists.

B. Accreditation and Institutional Affiliations

Wesley Seminary is fully accredited by The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, the Commission on Higher Education of The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, The University Senate of The United Methodist Church

(Board of Higher Education and Ministry), and the District of Columbia Educational Licensure Commission.

Wesley Seminary is one of the thirteen official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, a ubiquitous denomination with a church in nearly every zip code of the United States and nearly every nation. Degree programs are structured to insure all denominational ordination and consecration requirements will be met, and ordination information and counseling is offered.

At the same time, Wesley Seminary is broadly ecumenical ranging from Unitarian to Pentecostal. Students from over 26 other denominational backgrounds make up 48% of the current student body. Wesley Seminary enjoys a special relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. Students from a variety of Baptist traditions make up one of the larger denominational groups at Wesley Seminary.

Wesley Seminary is a founding member of the Washington Theological Consortium. The Consortium offers Wesley Seminary students a rich array of opportunities through close relationships with other major theological schools in the Washington area. Within minimal guidelines, students have access to the curricular offerings of all these schools and may cross-register for degree credit while paying tuition to their home school.

Wesley Seminary shares a Methodist heritage with its neighbor, American University (A.U.). They are separate institutions, but share several academic programs and, until recently, also shared utilities.

C. Programs

Wesley Seminary provides in-depth study and reflection on the texts and traditions of our faith through the scholarly work of our faculty and the research capability of our library, through our Masters and Doctoral-level degree programs, and through our non-degree programs designed to reach both clergy and laity. The primary focus of the Wesley Seminary is to prepare leaders for the church. Wesley Seminary students are formed for a kind of leadership which draws from the texts and traditions of the faith so they may lead the church in mission and ministry in the world.

The hub of our academic programs is the Master of Divinity (M.Div.), an 81-credit degree which is the normal academic requirement for candidates for ordained pastoral ministry for the Protestants, Roman Catholics, and Eastern Orthodox. This is a longer Masters degree because it is a professional degree, which means that a third of the program covers various aspects of the practice of ministry. Also, a candidate for the M.Div. need not have studied religion or theology in undergraduate school. This means that the seminary curriculum includes both lower-division, lecture hall style, introductory courses in Bible, Theology, Church History, and Ethics and upper-division, seminar style, reading courses. These layers in M.Div. education create special requirements for the design of classroom space.

Wesley Seminary offers two other Master's degrees and a doctoral program. The Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) 60 credit and the Master of Arts (M.A.) 36 -credit degrees. The M.T.S. is taken by students who may be pursuing professional ministry positions not requiring ordination, as a prelude to Ph.D. work, or simply for personal enrichment. The M.A. is for persons working in specialized ministry fields outside of pastoral ministry. The Doctor of

Ministry (D.Min.) 30 credit degree is an in-service, advanced degree for pastors and other church leaders seeking a deeper learning and new skills for ministry.

Night classes, hybrid schedules and online learning and partnering opportunities are designed to accommodate both full-time and part-time students. The Master's degrees are taken on a semester system with the fall semester running late August through mid-December and a spring semester running mid-January through early May and a May-July set of summer school courses. The Doctor of Ministry degree is taken in two-week intensive sessions in early January and May when the full-time students are not on campus.

Wesley Seminary also offers significant non-degree programs which are expanding. The largest is the Course of Study School, held late-June through July, is for those who are serving as bi-vocational part-time pastors of rural churches.

D. Research

The Wesley Seminary library participates in the American Theological Library Association and the Washington Theological Consortium, which allows us to focus our collection of about 135,000 volumes on theological works and a few other special holdings.

Over time, Wesley Seminary has established three centers of specialized work and research to serve both our students and the broader church and society. To be “centered in the seminary” means that it is a resource to all existing degree programs of the seminary. To be “a Center for” means that the Center would help Wesley Seminary fulfill its vision to be a church-based seminary by providing resources beyond the degree programs.

The Henry Luce III Center for Arts and Religion was a first among seminaries to seriously introduce the language and sensibilities of the arts in a theological school. The Center's on-campus facilities include a fine arts studio with an open-door policy for the Seminary community and the Dadian Gallery, which is open to the public throughout the year. The Center sponsors residencies for artists in a wide array of mediums, dialogues between artists and theologians, and regularly scheduled exhibits in the Dadian Gallery.

The G. Douglass Lewis Center for Church Leadership was formally established in July 2003 to be a Center for the church, centered in the seminary. This is the largest of our centers with a staff of seven, offering workshops, seminars, podcasts, consulting and an online constituency of 20,000.

The newest entity is the Community Engagement Institute, which helps students, pastors and congregations engage effectively in the public square, including a leading program in public theology.

Wesley Seminary also specializes in research and programs in congregational vitality. We run more grant-funded research programs than any other seminary, many funded by the Lilly Endowment. One current program bears directly on the future design of seminaries, a quantitative and qualitative study of the “Changing Nature of the Religious Workforce.”

Many seminaries offer some of the kinds of programs listed above. Very few offer this full range and depth of theological education. All of these programs can be explored in more detail on our website: www.wesleyseminary.edu.

E. The Wesley Seminary Community

Preparing an individual for ministry is a formation of the whole person, involving intellectual, emotional and spiritual discipline, and the practical skills and insights necessary for effective leadership. We believe that forming people for ministerial leadership requires a community that embraces both our diversity of culture and our unity in Jesus Christ. Part of the requirement in the Master's program is an "immersion" experience so that students spend a period of time in a culture not their own.

Central to our community is our worship in Oxnam Chapel. Services are at Noon on Tuesday in the chapel. There are other smaller prayer and worship meetings around the campus throughout the week. In addition, students participate in small groups for study and meditation. Space for worship and small group interaction is a critical component in our campus design.

1. Enrollment

(Exhibit B) shows the trends in Wesley's enrollment over a ten-year period broken down by degree program. Fiscal Year 2008 witnessed the peak in overall student enrollment after almost a decade of steady growth. After Fiscal Year 2008, there has been a significant decrease in the number of students, but an increase in the number of course hours taken by each student. The total number of students has fallen to the levels in 2000-2001 because of the decline of the traditional Master of Divinity degree. Yet, the Doctor of Ministry degree has shown substantial increase and the Master of Arts has remained strong, reflecting the changing market for seminary education. Over time the student population will continue to fluctuate upwards and downwards, but the scale of the community will remain self-contained and intimate. Wesley Seminary does not plan to expand beyond the population caps established by its current Campus Plan although

the 2016 Zoning Regulations require a different methodology for determining enrollment without distinction between full or part-time students.

The diversity of the student body is both demographic and programmatic. Demographically, the enrollment trends at Wesley Seminary are in the same direction as the rest of Mainline Protestant. For example, 62% of our Master's candidates are women; 39% of our students are African-American, giving Wesley, an historically "white" institution, one of the highest number of black seminarians in the country. There is also a wide range of ages. Underneath these statistics is the diversity of background and life experiences these percentages represent. This is both a wonderful resource and a great challenge to the task of education and formation. The trends also show an increased diversity of program.

Wesley Seminary's community also includes a number of people involved in non-degree programs. The largest of these is the summer Course of Study, which enrolls approximately 200 students some of whom come for brief programs on weekends (Friday night and Saturday) and summer sessions while others participate virtually or at off-campus locations.

The hidden dynamic in Wesley Seminary's enrollment is the prevalence of the part-time students and the diversity of vocational directions. Wesley, like all seminaries, was designed and acculturated to the young, full-time resident student focused on a lifetime of pastoral ministry. There is a strong feeling within theological education that this monastery-like community is the ideal way to form people for ministry. But Wesley Seminary made a series of decisions over the years to accommodate people at different places in their lives with differing senses of their future ministry. As a result, we expanded the range of programs and the flexibility of schedule.

All this diversity means that Wesley Seminary is a community of communities. One of our greatest challenges is to foster a community that forms all these people for ministry. This is a guiding consideration in the creation of this Campus Master Plan: we are still small enough to be self-contained with the elements of the cloistered life essential to ministerial formation.

2. Faculty

Wesley Seminary's faculty are some of the most well-known and widely published in theological education. All 31 full-time faculty have earned doctoral degrees from accredited institutions of higher learning. Diverse points of view are recognized as a virtue to be appreciated, not an obstacle to be overcome. Their work has been described as "deep center," taking the scriptures seriously, attuned to the challenges of the modern world and committed to a ministry of love and reconciliation, but large enough to offer a broad educational and theological experience to meet the needs of a diverse student body.

Wesley Seminary faculty members are nationally recognized as leaders in each of the theological school disciplines: Bible, theology, ethics, church history, pastoral care, preaching and worship, Christian education, sociology, and anthropology of religion. In addition to being distinguished scholars and teachers, the faculty are some of the most sought-after consultants, teachers, and preachers in the Church. Providing adequate space for the faculty itself to be formed as a community of scholars is an important part of this Campus Master Plan.



One third of the entering class of students is in their twenties.

3. Governance and Management

Wesley Seminary is governed by a 40-member Board of Governors that includes outstanding civic and business leaders whose dedication continues to challenge and guide the Seminary to new heights. Current and former Board members include pastors of significant churches, a retired Marine Corps four-star general, a former D.C. City Administrator, a major real estate developer and a university president, two bio-tech scientists, three Bishops, and other prominent clergy and laypeople. A list of current Governors is included in (Exhibit C).

Board members keep the Seminary faithful to its mission. They develop the Seminary's broad policy framework and they hire and oversee the administration that implements those policies. The Board and its committees meet three times per year, guided by an Executive Committee.

Wesley Seminary's administration is led by a talented and diverse executive team. Wesley's President, The Reverend Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, is entering his twentieth year in

office, having previously spent twenty years in other positions at Wesley Seminary. He is now the longest serving president among the seminaries of North America. The Reverend Dr. Dean Phillip Wingeier-Rayo has been with Wesley since 2018. Prior to coming to Wesley, Dr. Wingeier-Rayo was a professor of evangelism, mission and Methodist studies. The Reverend Dr. Kyunglim Shin-Lee, Vice President for International Relations, is a leader in the Korean community both in the United States, Korea and the Korean diaspora. Reverend Beth Ludlum, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives has been instrumental in bringing many new partnerships to Wesley. She manages multiple research grants and the office of Admissions. Registrar Joe Arnold has a theological degree and works with the Dean and faculty to maintain the academic programs. The Vice President for Finance and Administration, Jeff Straits, is a CPA with extensive experience in both the public and private sectors. The Reverend Antoni Sinkfield is a leader in the African American community and serves as Associate Dean of Community Life.

4. The Financial Picture

As a free-standing school, Wesley Seminary is dependent upon self-generated tuition, gifts and endowment income. The Seminary has seen a decline in student hours and an increasing need for scholarship support of students. These trends have put financial pressure on the Seminary. A full 61 percent of Wesley's \$14 million annual operating budget is devoted directly to the quality of our academic program and our students. An additional 7% is grant-funded research. The Seminary relies on enrollment and tuition for 43% percent of its net revenue. A sign of Wesley Seminary's prestige is the large number of foundations that make grants to the Seminary. We have maintained our physical facilities. Other than the buildings which are to be razed there is no deferred maintenance on buildings and utilities. The principal challenge is the 1960-era student housing, Straughn Hall and Carroll Hall, which are old and

obsolete. These antiquated dormitories put the school at a substantial competitive disadvantage to other seminaries.

F. Wesley's Ministry in the Neighborhood, Washington and the World

Wesley Seminary is known nationally and internationally as a leading theological school, but we are one of the best kept secrets in Washington and an untapped resource in Ward 3.



New members of the Board of Governors are installed during a chapel service.

Wesley Seminary is a multiplier institution. Wesley Seminary graduates serve in all 50 states and in 30 countries around the world. It is estimated that each graduating class significantly touches the lives of 500,000 people. Wesley Seminary graduates are scattered to all parts of the earth as leaders of the church and other service organizations.

It is in the Washington area that Wesley Seminary has its greatest impact. The majority of our students come from the mid-Atlantic region. In this current semester, 37 Masters degree

students are from the District of Columbia, 111 from Maryland, and 72 are from Virginia. As our graduates move into ministry, the predominant number serve this region. They serve not only as pastors but also appear in leadership roles across a broad spectrum of the non-profit community. While still in seminary, our students serve as interns in churches and agencies throughout the city. Spring Valley and other local employers covet Wesley Seminary students for their friendliness and reliability.

Through our students, graduates, and Board members, Wesley Seminary has significant ties to key congregations in Washington, including National Metropolitan Memorial, Asbury and Foundry United Methodist Churches, The Washington National Cathedral, National Presbyterian Church, Shiloh Baptist and Metropolitan Baptist, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal, St. John's Episcopal, and many others. Wesley Seminary serves these and many other congregations through our outreach programs, especially the work of our Center for Arts and Religion, the Center for Church Leadership, and the Community Engagement Institute, all engaging in significant consultations and collaborations with area congregations. Our National Capital Semester Program brings seminary students from around the country to visit and intern in a variety of governmental and non-profit organizations in Washington. Our faculty consults with the National Institute of Health, members of Congress, and the Executive branch on a regular basis.

And we are a good neighbor. Wesley Seminary is a wonderful resource for Washington residents and especially our neighbors in Ward 3. Wesley Seminary is an open campus, and we welcome neighbors to stroll our grounds and partake of the contemplative spirit of our community. Our chapel services, and library are open to the public during the regular semester.

It is also easy for neighbors to audit courses and obtain library privileges. And, we have the best sledding hill in the neighborhood as shown below.



Last September, Wesley sponsored the first Neighborhood Family Movie Night on the sledding hill. Wesley and neighborhood families enjoyed an evening presentation of Disney’s “Moana”. A second Family Movie Night is scheduled for Saturday, September 7, 2022. Once a month free outdoor yoga classes on the sledding hill for the community will begin in June.

Of special note is the Dadian Art Gallery, which is open to the public and features first-class, intimate shows on a continuous basis throughout the year. Often, Wesley Seminary brings to campus noted preachers and lecturers. The public is invited, usually free of charge.

II. SHAPING THE WESLEY SEMINARY CAMPUS OF THE FUTURE

The Thrive in Place Campus Plan (2022-2032) was driven by Wesley Seminary's Strategic Vision of “Ministry 2044,” and the related Goals, Strategies and Planning Principles. Taking the long-term view for the next generation, Wesley Seminary adopted “Ministry 2044” as its guiding force for the future. This plan encompassed three ambitious goals, all of which were achieved:

1. To Prepare Exemplary Teachers, Preachers and Leaders;
2. To Make Effective Use of Wesley Seminary's Location in Washington, D.C.; and
3. To Become a Truly Global Seminary.

Five Considerations went into the vision for the Wesley Seminary Campus:

- Exemplary Learning Environment;
- Quality of Student Life;