

1 Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this  
2 issue. In 2015-2016, we awarded nearly \$5.5 million in Candler scholarships, with 92 percent of MDiv students  
3 and 84 percent of all students receiving support. And our comprehensive financial literacy program teaches money  
4 management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they serve—  
5 well into the future.

6  
7 At the end of the 2015-2016 academic year, Candler says goodbye and Godspeed to a handful of noted faculty as  
8 they retire: Barbara Day Miller, Luke Timothy Johnson, Steve Tipton, and Bishop Woodie White. Yet even as these  
9 legends take their leave after distinguished careers of scholarship and service, we look forward to welcoming a  
10 new crop of scholar-leaders who will join us in the coming months and grow with us in the coming years. We are  
11 especially pleased to welcome Bishop Larry Goodpaster, who will join the faculty as bishop-in-residence in the fall  
12 of 2016.

13  
14 Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our  
15 ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world  
16 depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry  
17 in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at [candler.emory.edu](http://candler.emory.edu) to see firsthand how  
18 Candler prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world.

19  
20 Jan Love  
21 Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics  
22 Candler School of Theology

## Report

### [The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society Report](#)

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27 The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society was established by charter granted in 1857. In 2000 the  
28 charter was amended to rename the corporation The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society of the  
29 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The purpose of the Fund is to  
30 provide maximum income, consistent with the preservation of principal, for the support of retired clergy  
31 and surviving spouses and dependent children of deceased clergy who have served in the Greater New  
32 Jersey Annual Conference.

33 Since inception the Fund has received in excess of \$6 million in donations, and from the earnings on these  
34 donations has provided grants to pastors and their families who have requested aid, loans to assist retired  
35 pastors obtain housing in Methodist Homes, and during the period 2004 through 2015 contributed more  
36 than \$5 million toward the funding of retiree healthcare. The Fund Balance as of the end of November  
37 2015 was \$11,055,302 and the Distribution Base (amount that can be distributed without invading the  
38 principal) was \$4,822,708, before deducting the 2015 contribution of \$539,271 toward retiree healthcare.

39 To continue support for retired clergy and their families at the current level of a half million dollars per year  
40 for retiree healthcare, donations are needed from pastors and churches. Reverend Douglas Miller is the  
41 Centenary Fund's Outreach Director and is working to increase our Donation Base. The Fund's Finance  
42 Committee Chair is Keith Helsby. Other members of the Fund Board are Charles Bender Jr, Valerie Garron,  
43 Grace Pak, Steve Poloff, Jack Scharf, and David Wiley. We hope you will help us build up the Centenary  
44 Fund with your tax-free donations so that The Centenary Fund and Preachers Aid Society will be able to  
45 continue to make the substantial contributions needed in the future to fund retiree healthcare and to  
46 provide aid to retired clergy and their dependents. Thank you for your support to date.

47 Respectfully Submitted, Eleanor Hartley, Chair

1 The Centenary Fund and Preachers' Aid Society

2 **Report**

3 Conference Board of Church and Society

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5 The Board continues to look at three major issues: Immigration, Prison Reform and Poverty Reduction. In the next  
6 phase of our work, we will see beyond mercy ministries and work toward including justice ministries. We also look  
7 at issues related to Affordable Housing, Peace and the Environment as well as other issues that are presented to  
8 us.

9 As we look to the future, we will continue to support sending two young clergy to the Young Clergy Forum  
10 sponsored by GBCS each year.

11 At the 2015 Annual Conference, we had a Dessert Time. This was co-sponsored by Religion and Race, Christian  
12 Unity and Interfaith Relationships and Church and Society. This is a way to share how conference agencies work  
13 together on issues. This type of collaboration will continue with these and other entities.

14 **Immigration** Began to look at ways to work with Justice for your Neighbors (JFoN) to get our churches to work  
15 with immigrants that need legal assistance.

16 **Prison Reform** As we move toward justice ministries, we look at supporting legislation such as the Redeem Act.

17 **Poverty** The Board became members of the New Jersey Anti-Poverty Network. Through this entity, we are able  
18 to inform our churches about resources and training opportunities.

19 With the approval of the Poverty Reduction Resolution, the Board is beginning to organize District Reduction  
20 Poverty Committees.

21 **Peace with Justice** We were able to give one grant to Tansboro Trinity UMC to work with children.

22 **Affordable Housing** One of the new issues we are going to work on is affordable housing. This would relate to  
23 working with the homeless to those that are of need of affordable housing.

24 Cynthia Ann Kent, Chair  
25 Conference Board of Church and Society

26  
27  
28 **Report**

29 Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns

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31 *In John 17:20-21, Jesus prays, not only for his disciples, but also for those, who are (literally) "trusting **into** me,*  
32 *through their word". His petition is inclusive of both, "so that they **all** may be one" and also reveals that this*  
33 *desired unity of faith is based on and reflective of Jesus and God's own oneness: "You are in me and I am in you; I*  
34 *pray that they may also be one in us." Moreover, this unity is said to validate Jesus and his mission before the*  
35 *world, "so that the world may trust that You sent me."*

36  
37 At least, since the Edinburgh Missionary Conference in 1910, Jesus' prayer for unity has been central to that great  
38 "Movement" of the Holy Spirit, called "Ecumenical" (meaning "world-wide"). It has opened the eyes of Christians  
39 everywhere, to see Christ present and at work in each other, in the various churches, and in the many peoples  
40 and persons with whom they minister. As most of our commission completes their second quadrennium of  
41 service, we rejoice to bear witness to the ongoing power of this prayer, which speaks of a unity that for us as  
42 United Methodists "is not an option", but "a gift to be received and expressed" (Discipline, 2012, #105, p. 88).