The Board of Trustees of Gammon Theological Seminary (GTS) announces the search for its 17th President.

Gammon is a founding constituent of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), a consortium of five predominantly African American seminaries in Atlanta, Georgia. The ITC was formed in 1958 and is the largest freestanding African American Theological School in the United States. It has been described as one of the most successful ventures in ecumenism and a major center of progressive theological thought. Members of the consortium are:

- Cammon Theological Seminary
  United Methodist
- Phillips School of Theology
  Christian Methodist Episcopal
- C. H. Mason Theological Seminary
  Church of God in Christ
- Richardson Ecumenical Fellowship
  Nondenominational
- Morehouse School of Religion
  Baptist
- Turner Theological Seminary
  African Methodist Episcopal

Students that are not affiliated with any one of the denominations represented yet desire to matriculate at the ITC are enrolled in the Harry V. and Selma Richardson Ecumenical Fellowship program. They enjoy all the rights and privileges as do all other students.
Gammon Theological Seminary had its beginning as a Department of Religion and Philosophy at Clark University in 1869. This department grew to become Clark Theological Seminary in 1872 enrolling the first class with 26 students. Then in 1883, with the support of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Freedmen’s Aid Society, and a startup gift from Mr. Elijah Gammon, the Seminary became a stand-alone institution. It was Mr. Gammon’s vision to see a school built in the south that would offer sound theological education to all and especially to Negroes. Mr. Gammon’s aspiration for the school was expressed in both thought and action. He wanted it to be the best theological school in the south and he gave of his time and resources to support that idea. Gammon Theological Seminary is included in Mr. Gammon’s will. In 1958 Gammon became a part of the Interdenominational Theological Center, a consortium of six historically African American Theological schools. Its participation is governed and guided by the Tripartite agreement. Gammon/ITC is a co-educational professional graduate school of theology with historic roots in the United Methodist Church.

The faculty engages in rigorous scholarship, academic discipline, and significant research in the service to churches and communities throughout the world. It is a world premier resource center for scholarship and social justice. The consortium offers an ecumenical course of study in an interdisciplinary educational environment. The institution also has a rich history and tradition of ministers as scholars in preparation for preaching, teaching, and leadership in both the church and society. The institution’s curriculum consists of: 1) Biblical Studies and Languages, 2) Philosophy, Theology, Ethics, and Church History, 3) Persons, Society and Culture and 4) The Church and Its Mission.

Degrees offered include:
* Master of Divinity (M.Div)
* Master of Arts in Religion and Education (MARE)
* Master of Arts in Liturgical Arts and Culture (MALC)
* Dual Degree Combinations
  - M.Div + MARE
  - M.Div + MALC
* Doctor of Ministry

Gammon Theological Seminary
Gammon Theological Seminary
EST 1883

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Gammon Theological Seminary, a historically African American institution, in partnership with the Interdenominational Theological Center, is to recruit, support, and educate pastors and leaders for the United Methodist Church.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Gammon Theological Seminary is to educate and equip persons, called by God, to be prophetic leaders for the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

MOTTO

Light, freedom, truth be these ever our own; Light to seek the truth, Freedom to make it known; Our work, God’s work, our will, His will alone.
GAMMON/ITC IS ACCREDITED AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION BY THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS AND AS A THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL BY THE ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES. GAMMON IS A MEMBER OF THE ATLANTA THEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION AND MAINTAINS COURSE REGISTRATION OPTIONS WITH CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY, CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY OF EMMORY UNIVERSITY, COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AND MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE. THE ITC IS A MEMBER OF THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.
STRENGTHS

Gammon is referred to as “the school of the prophets”. Perhaps that is due to both its stellar history and its location. Being located in the south, Gammon’s leadership challenged the city of Atlanta’s formidable segregationist establishment, marked by racial tension, social disparity, and attempts at spiritual brokenness. The seminary continued to identify and train leaders who would speak truth to power while simultaneously serving as a voice for the voiceless. Of particular note is the number of church leaders who have successfully matriculated at Gammon. History records thirteen (13) deceased Methodist Episcopal and United Methodist bishops who received their seminary education at Gammon. They are: A. P. Shaw, Robert E. Jones, Robert N. Brooks, Prince A. Taylor, M. L. Harris, Charles F. Golden, L. Scott Allen, James S. Thomas, Stephen T. Nagbe, William T. Handy, Ernest Newman, Joseph Bethea, and Cornelius L. Henderson. Bishop Nagbe was the first native born Liberian to be elected to the Episcopacy. Also in the number of church leaders having graduated from Gammon are three retired bishops and three active bishops. Retired Bishops are: Melvin G. Talbert, Alfred L. Norris, and James R. King. Bishops currently serving are: L. Jonathan Holston, James Swanson, and Sharma Lewis, the first African American female elected in the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. Alumni also serve as district superintendents, conference leaders, general agency directors, scholars, authors, professors, chaplains, researchers, and other institutional leaders.

The Gammon Center for the Study of Religion and Race supports the seminary in being a premier resource for Black Church scholarship and faith-based solutions to spiritual and socioeconomic challenges confronting local communities and the world. The Center consists of three major structural components which include: Damascus Road Experience, Encounters (retreats) and the Racial Justice Institute.
STRENGTHS

The Atlanta location is a major strength for the seminary and its location in the Atlanta University Center (AUC). The Atlanta University Center is home to Clark Atlanta University, Spelman College, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, and the ITC and it represents perhaps the greatest seat of intellectual and academic pursuits in the diaspora. There are at least twenty-five other institutions of higher learning located in the metropolitan area surrounding Atlanta.

An abundance of historical and cultural centers enhance the Atlanta ethos, including the Woodruff Arts Center, the Woodruff Library, The Jimmy Carter Presidential Center, and the Martin Luther King Center.

Gammon owns and maintains a building on the campus of the ITC. The building houses Gammon's administrative offices and on-campus lodging for students. It also provides office space for the national office of Black Methodists for Church Renewal. The Gammon staff fulfills all the functions associated with student services, property maintenance, and overall administrative functions.

Gammon participates in the Certificate in Theology Program offered through the ITC. It is a program that offers noncredit courses to anyone wanting to increase their knowledge of ministry and to receive tools which will assist them in ministry endeavors. The Certificate Program is offered at multiple sites based on demand and culminates in attendees receiving the Certificate in Theology. It is open to all interested persons and has become a very popular offering for the ITC.

One of Gammon's stellar events is the Annual Founder's Day celebration and Thirkilded-Jones Lectures. This event highlights Gammon's contributions, past and present, to the community through preaching, lectures, and fellowship. Laity and clergy are selected to provide leadership in all facets of the celebration and alumni are invited to return for the occasion.
The relationship between Gammon and the ITC presents contextual opportunities and challenges. Since 1958, Gammon has sustained its mission as an accredited United Methodist institution of theological education. It maintains its status as the only predominately Black seminary among the thirteen seminaries within the denomination. Since 1958, however, Gammon has essentially transferred its operational status to the ITC consortium as an interdependent partner.

The ITC's Dean Council consists of the five president-deans of the constituent institutions. The Council provides curriculum and instructional leadership commensurate with the objectives of the consortium and the requirements of each denomination. Institutional leaders and trustee boards of member seminaries have clarified the duties and responsibilities of each seminary.

Gammon provides housing, financial aid, and recruitment services for its students in addition to pastoral care, attention to student concerns, and provision of student services. The President-Dean of Gammon also manages relationships with United Methodist agencies, churches, and other institutions.

The role of clergy is an organic role and emerging clergy must be prepared to function within, and adapt to, the constant changes. Theological education is also changing as are the opportunities within the United Methodist Church. Cross racial appointments, urban cultural needs, and foci, the experiences of the Black community, all provide opportunities for innovative support programs for Gammon students.

The educational landscape is changing such that traditional models for the teaching-learning process are giving way to new models of instruction. Technology facilitates these changes and is a primary tool used in identifying, recruiting, engaging, and connecting to prospective students. Twenty-first-century communication is an absolute necessity and frequent upgrades are necessary in maintaining a useable system for student life activities and curriculum demands. Students also need a high level of technology in maintaining ability to accomplish basic and advances functions of student life. The next President-Dean of Gammon will be presented with the opportunity to guide the institution in technological advancement and students' capacity development.

Gammon graduates are spread far and wide and one of its many untapped resources is a connection with the alumni that creates an environment conducive to giving and guiding other students in the decision-making task of choosing a seminary in response to God's call to ministry.

The new leader of Gammon will have a role to play in addressing opportunities and challenges while working within the environment of ecumenical diversity on the ITC campus.
ATTRIBUTES AND COMPETENCIES

The search committee will use the following criteria to review and evaluate candidates seeking the position of President-Dean of Gammon Theological Seminary:

- Academic credentials appropriate to lead an institution of higher education with earned degree(s) from accredited institutions.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Demonstrated ability in visionary leadership.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- A record of administrative leadership in church or institutional settings at increasingly higher levels.
- An in-depth understanding of United Methodist Church structure and polity.
- Knowledge of and experiences with United Methodist general board and agencies and other officially recognized entities.
- Understanding Gammon’s unique history and its partnership with the Interdenominational Theological Center.
- Demonstrated ability in student recruitment and engagement.
- Documented experience in fundraising and funds development.
- Demonstrated capacity in employee supervision, financial acumen, and management of physical properties.
- Demonstrated capacity to share Gammon’s story and to engage others in developing an appreciation for the uniqueness it represents.
- Demonstrated experiences in ecumenism.
Persons wishing to apply for the position of President-Dean of Gammon Theological Seminary must electronically submit a cover letter (MS WORD or ADOBE) that addresses the attributes identified by the Search Committee, along with a comprehensive resume, at least three (3) nomination letters, and five (5) references including US mailing addresses, email addresses and phone numbers to gammon.pres@gofa.org. Completed packets must be submitted by September 15, 2020. Additional information is available at www.gammon-itc.edu.

Gammon Theological Seminary is an equal opportunity employer.