



## 2020-2021 Directory of Chief Executive Officers

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Methodist-Affiliated Schools, Colleges,  
Universities, and Theological Schools

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**HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY**

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*Front cover photos: Bennett College (top), Ohio Wesleyan University (bottom)*  
*Back cover photos: University of Puget Sound (top), Hendrix College (bottom)*

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to provide you with the belated 2020- 2021 edition of the Directory of Chief Executive Officers of Methodist-affiliated Schools, Colleges, Universities and Theological Schools. The disruptions from COVID-19 caused a delay in producing the directory, consequently we intentionally produced an overdue 2020-2021 edition to mark the significance of the pandemic, honor the departure of long-term presidents and celebrate the arrival of newly appointed CEOs.

The annual CEO directory functions as a valued informational tool and as a reminder to connect with colleagues who continue to be, as one president noted, “peddlers of hope.”<sup>1</sup> The title seems appropriate, as one considers the cacophony of threats to church-affiliated, liberal arts institutions, perfectly synchronized with a global pandemic CEOs have rebuked. The executive leaders within this directory have risen above the din of fearful voices clamoring to pronounce the death of higher education, and have articulated with prophetic voices, “Where, O death, is your victory; where is your sting?”

Consider the 2020-2021 CEO directory an op-ed, which stands opposite the cultural narrative that wants to build walls of fear, demonize difference, and fancy division over collaboration. The author of I John reminds us, “What we shall be, has not yet been revealed,” yet the presidents in the directory before you have peddled, during an unprecedented time in history, the gospel message rooted and grounded in hope.

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) is honored to be part of the historic tradition of an academy-related denomination. Thank you for your commitment to learning and your desire to help create a more educated, responsible, and empathetic world.



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<sup>1</sup> See Ohio Wesleyan University President, Rock Jones' May 2020 article.  
<https://www.delgazette.com/opinion/columns/83604/peddlers-of-hope>

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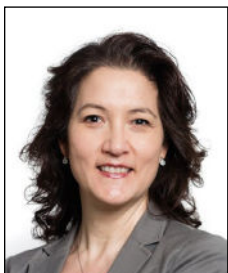
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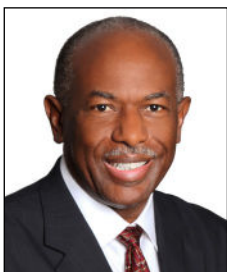
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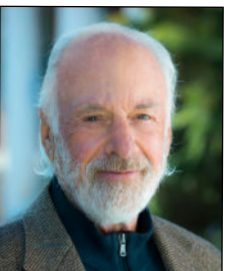
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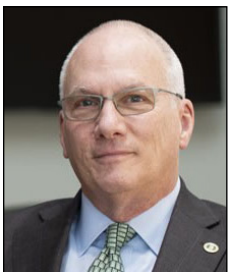
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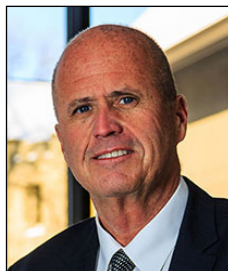
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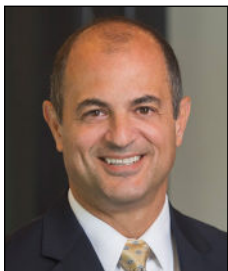
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## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

For more than a century, the University Senate has endeavored to support and advocate for the extensive network of 109 United Methodist-affiliated schools, colleges, and universities across the United States and in Puerto Rico.

The United Methodist Church has more schools, colleges, and universities than any other protestant denomination. The Methodist denomination has always been interested in serving the larger society by engaging in education. Such an interest was true to John Wesley's concern for education and, more specifically, to the commitments of early American Methodism. American Methodism has always sought to serve society, as well as its own members, through a series of complex institutions including colleges, schools, hospitals, orphanages, retirement homes, and publishing operations. The University Senate was established in 1892 as one of the earliest accrediting bodies in the United States. Indeed, the Senate began modeling peer review processes in the U.S. even before the current system of regional accreditation had been established. In that regard, the University Senate was instrumental in giving shape to the current regional accreditation system.

Thus, the Senate was charged with making certain that the schools, colleges, and universities related to the church, aligned with the Methodist denomination, in one way or another. Today, the University Senate continues to review United Methodist-affiliated educational institutions, at least once every ten years. The review process is not about accreditation, however, since this work is done by regional accrediting bodies, but more about the way in which an institution embodies its relationship to The United Methodist Church. Such relationships differ, and this is inevitable. History, geography, finances, governance structure, and current realities differ for each school in varying contexts. Nevertheless, there are seven "marks of church relationship" which should be manifested if an institution is to be related meaningfully to The United Methodist Church. More can be found in the University Senate Guidelines on the GBHEM website: [www.gbhem.org/universitysenate](http://www.gbhem.org/universitysenate)

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NAAMSCU is a voluntary association presidents and CEOs at Methodist-related schools, colleges, and universities committed to the historic and distinctive values of United Methodist-related education. It exists:

- To advance the work of education and scholarship in member institutions;
- To work cooperatively with conferences, boards, and agencies of The United Methodist Church to address issues of mutual concern to the Church and the Academy;
- To work in partnership with the Church to educate students for leadership and service to the global community;
- To foster and encourage the common good of member institutions; and
- To strengthen the collegiality and camaraderie among member presidents, deans, and heads of school.

For more information [click here](#).

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