



EMORY | CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

CandlerNEWS



APRIL 2025

Join Us on Campus or Online for the McDonald Lectures!

Candler is delighted to have the **Rev. Dr. Brian K. Blount**, biblical scholar and president emeritus of Union Presbyterian Seminary, as this year's [Alonzo L. McDonald Family Chair on The Life and Teachings of Jesus and Their Impact on Culture](#). In this role, Blount will deliver the 2025 McDonald Lectures on **April 16 and 23**. The lectures are free and will be offered both in person and online. Learn more and register at the links below:

April 16, 11:00 a.m.: ["Before He Was White: Jesus, Mark, and the Politics of Inclusion"](#)

April 23, 4:00 p.m.: ["The Narrative Color of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark"](#)

Foundry Expands Certificate Courses, Launches New Social Justice Option

Candler's public theological education initiative The Candler Foundry is now enrolling summer cohorts for its online certificate program "Foundations in Faith & Leadership," including a new course in social justice and community engagement. Other available tracks cover trauma-informed care and ministry, peacebuilding and conflict transformation, essentials of biblical interpretation, and essentials of youth ministry. All five tracks will be offered this summer, with courses beginning May 5. [Learn more and register for a Foundations track.](#)

Bill Britt Honored with Distinguished Alumni Award

On March 20, Candler presented **Bill Britt IV 83T** with the school's 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement. The award honors Candler graduates whose lifelong service has had a profound impact on their communities, congregations, and the broader church. [Read more about Britt's ministerial career and commitment to Candler.](#)

Candler Alum Elected to UMC Episcopacy in Africa

Candler alumnus **João Sambo 10T** has been elected bishop in the Africa Central Conference of The United Methodist Church and assigned to lead the Mozambique Episcopal Area. [Read more about Sambo's election and leadership.](#)

Davis, Woodworth Honored at 2025 Emory Pride Awards

Two Candler alums, **Susannah Davis 95T** and **Andromeda "Andi" Woodworth 990x 01C 07T**, received special recognition at the 2025 Emory Pride Awards on March 27. Held each spring, this annual event recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to LGBTQ+ advocacy and inclusion at Emory and beyond. [Read more about Davis and Woodworth.](#)

Remembering L. Wesley de Souza

March 17 marked one year since the death of **L. Wesley de Souza**, Arthur J. Moore Professor in the Practice of Evangelism and director of the World Methodist Evangelism Institute. For this anniversary, several of de Souza's Candler colleagues came together to create a tribute video honoring "how he has impacted our lives as friends and colleagues, how he's left a lasting

imprint on Candler School of Theology, and how his work will live on in the U.S. and beyond,” says Associate Professor of Transformative Leadership and Communal Care **Gregory C. Ellison II**. [Watch the tribute video](#).

Emory Day of Giving 2025: Thank You!

Many thanks to Candler alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends who made this year’s Emory Day of Giving another resounding success! Preliminary figures show that you raised \$50,927 from 262 gifts to Candler during Day of Giving. These gifts directly benefit the Theology School Fund for Excellence, the Master of Divinity Scholarship Fund, the Erskine-Smith-Moseley Scholarship, La Mesa Academy, the Youth Theological Initiative, the Dr. Teresa Fry Brown Womanist Discourse Scholarship, and the Student Emergency Fund.

Your gifts allowed Candler to unlock additional funds through leaderboards and challenges. Led by the Senior Class Gift Committee, the Student Emergency Fund received an additional \$2,100 from various challenges throughout the day. Thank you!

Applications for The Sacred Arts Collective Due April 4

Atlanta-area congregations: the deadline to submit applications for The Sacred Arts Collective's upcoming cohort is this Friday, April 4! Funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., The Sacred Arts Collective at Candler focuses on deeply engaging local congregations to imagine how to nurture and grow the faith of children through the integration of the arts in worship. [Apply to The Sacred Arts Collective](#).

Look for Candler at the 2025 Festival of Homiletics

Candler is excited to be a sponsor of the 2025 Festival of Homiletics! This year's festival will be held May 12-15 in our hometown of Atlanta, at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, featuring a wide range of renowned preachers and scholars—including Candler's own **Teresa Fry Brown, Ted Smith, and Khalia Williams**. [Learn more and register to attend in person or online](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note that events are subject to change. Click on the event title to see more details and registration information. [See a full listing of upcoming Candler events here.](#)

April 11: [HBCU Film Festival](#). In person.

April 16: [McDonald Lecture: "Before He Was White: Jesus, Mark, and the Politics of Inclusion."](#) In person or online.

April 23: [McDonald Lecture: "The Narrative Color of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark."](#) In person or online.

April 24: [Honors Day Convocation](#). In person and online.

April 26: [Candler Worship Spring Concert](#). In person.

April 29: [Doctor of Ministry Digital Info Session](#). Online.

May 10: [Candler Graduate Recognition Ceremony](#). In person and online.

May 22-23: [The 2025 Summer Institute for Global Charismatic-Pentecostal Studies](#). In person.

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NOTES

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