



Candler NEWS



FEBRUARY 2026

\$10 Million Lilly Endowment Grant to Transform Lay Ministerial Education

Emory University has received a grant of \$10 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help transform the education of lay ministers. Based at Candler, the grant will further develop the school's La Mesa Academy for Theological Studies and build a strong, sustainable network of institutions dedicated to the theological education of lay ministers. Candler will collaborate with the Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana (in English, the Association for Hispanic Theological Education, or AETH) and several denominational partners in this work. [Read more about the grant here.](#)

Candler to Host Heritage Week Worship, Annual Heritage Ball

The Candler community will mark Heritage Week 2026 with a special

worship service, an alumni mixer, and the 16th annual Heritage Ball, to be held Friday, February 27, at the Emory University Student Center. Co-sponsored by Candler's Black Student Caucus and the Office of Advancement and Alumni Engagement, proceeds from the Heritage Ball support the Erskine-Smith-Moseley Endowment. The endowment honors three of Candler's first Black faculty and provides students in the school's Black Church Studies Program with scholarships and stipends to support their theological education. [Register to attend the 2026 Heritage Ball.](#)

Smith Co-Edits New Volume on Contemporary Theological Education

Ted A. Smith, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Divinity, has co-edited a new scholarly volume examining the present and future of theological education. *At This Time: Dialogues in Theological Education* (Eerdmans, 2026), edited by Smith and Corwin Malcolm Davis, brings together a range of voices to reflect on how theological learning communities are navigating a period of significant transition. [Read more about *At This Time*.](#)

Anna Julia Cooper Lecture Set for March 5

Candler's Black Church Studies Program will welcome **Stephanie M. Crumpton**, associate professor of practical theology and director of the Trauma Healing Initiative at McCormick Theological Seminary, as this year's distinguished guest speaker for the 2026 Anna Julia Cooper Lecture. Crumpton will present "On Our Terms: Black Women's Resistance & Healing in the Movement (2012-2021)" on March 5 at 4:30 p.m. in person and online. [Learn more and register for the Anna Julia Cooper Lecture.](#)

Cameron Named Aquinas Center Executive Director

The Aquinas Center of Theology at Candler has announced that **Alice Cameron** will serve as its next executive director, effective immediately. A member of The Aquinas Center's staff since 2016, Cameron most recently served for three years as director of operations. She also has twice held the post of interim executive director. The Aquinas Center has served the greater Atlanta community for 39 years with the mission to foster conversations for the common good in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta and beyond, by offering Catholic scholarly programming that invites ecumenical dialogue. [Read more about Cameron's appointment.](#)

YTI Summer Academy 2026: Share the Gift Forward

As a Candler alum, you carry a story of what happens when young people are taken seriously in asking challenging questions about themselves, God, and the world. You know the gift and power of having a loving space to explore theology, justice and calling. The [2026 YTI Summer Academy](#) is now recruiting current 9th–11th graders for that same transformative experience. Who comes to mind? [Nominate a student](#) or encourage them to [apply by March 1](#). For more information, email Jill Weaver at jweaver@emory.edu.

Check Out Candler's New Video Library!

Did you miss a major Candler event or want to revisit a powerful worship service? Our new video library brings it all together in one place. Featuring recordings of past and recent Candler lectures, worship services, and special events, the searchable collection housed on our website provides ongoing access to the ideas, conversations, and preaching that shape our faith and learning. [Explore the video library.](#)

Apply for The Sacred Arts Collective 2026–2027 Cohort

Applications are now open for the final cohort of The Sacred Arts

Collective at Candler School of Theology. TSAC partners with Atlanta-area congregations to explore how drama, dance, music, and visual arts can deepen children's faith and expand their leadership in worship. We invite congregations to join this creative, Spirit-led work as the program enters its concluding year. [Apply by March 2 and learn more about TSAC.](#)

Call for Submissions: Candler Couples

Did your love story begin at Candler? With Valentine's Day approaching, we're inviting alumni to share stories and photos of the relationships that began (or were shaped) during their seminary years. Selected submissions will be featured on Candler's social media channels. Please email cstcommunications@emory.edu with your names and graduation years, a brief story of how you met at Candler, and a photo to share. Submit by next Wednesday, **February 11!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, 6:30 p.m.: [Candler Foundry Course: "Black Theology and Faith,"](#) with Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics **Noel L. Erskine**. Online.

Feb. 25, 11:00 a.m.: ["World Christianity through Middle Eastern Eyes and Experiences."](#) In person and online.

Feb. 26, 11:05 a.m.: [Heritage Week Worship,](#) with distinguished guest preacher **Tisha Dixon-Williams**. In person and online.

Feb. 26, 6:00 p.m.: [Pre-Heritage Ball Alumni/Student Mixer](#). In person.

Feb. 27, 7:00 p.m.: [The 16th Annual Heritage Ball](#). In person.

March 1: [Priority Application Deadline: Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry Degree Programs](#).

March 1: [Application Deadline: Youth Theological Initiative Summer Academy](#).

March 5, 4:30 p.m.: [Anna Julia Cooper Lecture: "On Our Terms: Black Women's Resistance & Healing in the Movement \(2012-2021\)"](#) feat. distinguished guest lecturer **Stephanie M. Crumpton**. In person and online.

March 18, 11:00 a.m.: [Dean's Lecture: "Visioning Solidarity in Theological Education."](#) In person and online.

April 2, 1:00 p.m.: [The Morgan Forum: "That the scripture should come to light': William Tyndale and 500 Years of the English New Testament."](#) In person.

CLASS
NOTES

FACULTY &
STAFF NEWS

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