



## CandlerNEWS



*Terrence L. (Kojo) Johnson speaks during an Aug. 3 celebration honoring Candler staff on his first day as dean. Photo: Cord Durden*

AUGUST 2026

### Welcome, Dean Johnson!

This week, Candler officially welcomes Dean **Terrence L. (Kojo) Johnson** to campus. He shared a letter with the Candler community on his first day.

"Leadership begins with listening, learning, and earning trust. During my first months as dean, I will meet with members of the Candler community, listen closely to your experiences and aspirations, and deepen my understanding of the school's strengths, challenges, and aspirations. I welcome your candid counsel and ideas about how we can build upon Candler's distinctive character and mission."

Join us in lifting prayers for Dean Johnson and this exciting new chapter in Candler's story! [Read his full letter.](#)

### **Entrance Exam: A Q&A with Our New Dean**

As Dean Johnson begins to settle in during his first week on campus, the Candler community near and far is also getting to know him. [Read on to learn more](#) about the experiences, values, and vision Johnson brings to his new leadership role—plus some fun facts, too.

### **You're Invited: Dean Installation Events to Center Candler's Intellectual, Prophetic Call**

On August 26 and 27, Candler will celebrate the formal installation of the Rev. Dr. **Terrence L. (Kojo) Johnson** as the school's Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean, marking the beginning of a new chapter in Candler's life and leadership. The schedule includes an opening keynote panel on faith, law, and democracy, the installation ceremony during Candler's fall convocation, and a community lunch. The events are free, with registration required. [Learn more and register to attend.](#)

### **New Faculty Join Candler's Ranks**

As August begins, Candler prepares for its 112th year of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world. Along with a new class of incoming students across six degree programs, the school welcomes new and visiting faculty and celebrates promotions and appointments of current faculty. [Read more about our faculty.](#)

### **Candler to Host 'Brotherhood' Film Screening**

What does it mean to truly love your neighbor? That's the central question of the new film *Brotherhood: A Cinematic Musical*, which addresses current issues around immigration, faith, and

community. Candler will host a screening of the movie followed by a Q&A with members of the cast and creative team on Monday, September 14 from 7:00–9:00 p.m. EDT in Cannon Chapel. An online livestream option will be available. [Learn more and register to attend the \*Brotherhood\* screening.](#)

## **September Events to Explore Queer History, Memory, and the UMC**

Candler will welcome **Ashley Boggan**, general secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church, as well as other distinguished scholars and archivists for a chapel service, panel discussion, and lecture Sept. 22-23. All events are free and will take place in person and online, with advance registration required for the panel and lecture. [Learn more and register to attend.](#)

### **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.](#)*

**August 26, 5:00 p.m.:** [Keynote Panel: "Faith When Democracy Betrays Its Promise: Law, Lament, and the Work of Justice."](#) In person, Cannon Chapel Sanctuary.

**August 27, 11:00 a.m.:** [Fall Convocation and the Installation of Dean Terrence L. \(Kojo\) Johnson.](#) In person at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church and online.

**September 14, 7:00 p.m.:** [Film screening and Q&A: \*Brotherhood: A Cinematic Musical\*.](#) In person and online.

**September 22, 11:05 a.m.:** [Service of Word and Table](#) with **Ashley**

**Boggan**, general secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church. In person and online.

**September 22, 3:00 p.m.:** [Panel Discussion: "Queer and Community Archival Practices."](#) In person and online.

**September 23, 11:00 a.m.:** [Dean's Lecture with \*\*Ashley Boggan\*\*: "Reclaiming the Heart and Method of Methodism."](#) In person and online.

**October 15, 4:30 p.m.:** [Howard Thurman Lecture with \*\*Jason E. Shelton\*\*: "The Black Church Now—What's Changing and Why It Matters."](#) In person and online.

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