

# **Academic Catalog 2025-2026**



## **Johnnie Colemon Theological Seminary, Inc. ("JCTS")**

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## Welcome from the President



Dear Friend,

Welcome to the Johnnie Coleman Theological Seminary---a place where 'thinking on these things' is encouraged. Whatever your perspective of theology, whatever your spiritual path may be, and even if you have labeled yourself a 'non-believer' in things spiritual, know that you are welcome to study with us.

If you are ready to re-think long held beliefs, concepts and ideologies; if you have yearned to ask questions pertaining to God and spirituality that others dare not ask; if you are a seeker of truth, or you simply want to know why spirituality and religion matter, come and study with us. I look forward to seeing you in class.

You are welcome here.

**The Reverend Dr. Sheila R. McKeithen**  
President



## History

The Johnnie Coleman Theological Seminary (JCTS) is the academic arm of the Universal Foundation for Better Living (UFBL). It emerged as a part of the vision cast by the Reverend Dr. Johnnie Coleman in 1974. It was in that year that she founded the UFBL. Her purpose was to create an equitable platform for all people to learn and express the principles for better living; principles that she had proved in her own life.

The UFBL was founded on the principles of healing. In 1952, Dr. Coleman was diagnosed with a terminal disease and given only six months to live. In pain, she literally stumbled upon a copy of a Unity periodical that included a poem by Hannah Moore Kohaus. There she read the words: ***“God is my health, I can’t be sick.”***

Incredulous words to someone in pain! Confused as to how anyone could make such a statement, she began to question her mother, Mrs. Lula Parker, who subscribed to the magazine. Her mother encouraged her to find out for herself, so she began to attend Unity School to study the spiritual laws that govern healing. As she studied and applied the teachings, she received her healing.

Dr. Coleman completed her ministerial training and became an ordained Unity minister in 1956. She founded Christ Unity Temple (later called Christ Universal Temple) in Chicago, Illinois, and served in many capacities in Unity before withdrawing in 1974 to establish the UFBL.



In 1976, Dr. Coleman established the Johnnie Coleman Institute (JCI) as the educational component of the UFBL. JCI has educated laypersons, licensed teachers, counselors, and ministers to assume the responsibilities of New Thought ministry.



The growth of the UFBL as a leader in the New Thought Christian movement prompted Dr. Coleman to recognize that the UFBL must take the initiative in taking the movement to the next level. Thus, the Seminary was born.

On June 6, 2001, the UFBL Board, under the leadership of the then President, the Rev. Dr. Mary Tumpkin, voted to approve the development of the Seminary in Miami Gardens, Florida. A Project Director was identified and a Steering Committee was formed to lead the UFBL Board through the process of establishing the new school. The Seminary would open officially in the Fall of 2003.

In August 2010, the JCTS became the academic arm of the UFBL. The Seminary currently offers the following programs:

- \*Masters of Divinity Program**
- \*Ministerial Training Program**
- \*Teacher Training Academy**
- \*Master Certificate/Master Plus Programs**

In November 2018, the JCTS became incorporated in the State of Florida as a non-profit organization for religious education.

Currently, the Seminary continues to train, develop, and empower people from all over. People representing the academic community and various faith traditions have come together to discuss the needs of religious and cultural communities and to identify potential resources to meet them. The JCTS is committed to continuous growth and to being an inclusive and responsive option for Seekers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*The Johnnie Coleman Theological Seminary, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax-deductible. Please contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for more information.*



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“Where there is no vision,  
the people perish.”

– Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the Johnnie Coleman Theological Seminary is to offer comprehensive spiritual education and training programs that qualify students for the degree or certification of their choice. We aim to empower those seeking spiritual nourishment and personal growth and development.

## **Mission Statement**

It is the mission of the Johnnie Coleman Theological Seminary to awaken the Divinity (*the Christ*) within all people and to develop the next-generation of spiritual leaders to carry out this mission.

## **Vision Statement**

It is the vision of the Johnnie Coleman Theological Seminary to nurture a rich and inclusive community of effective and progressive thinkers.

The purpose of this vision is for Seekers everywhere to have a safe space to gather and to study the liberating Principles of Practical Christianity and to share them throughout the world.



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## **Denominational Affiliation**

New Thought Christianity, as espoused by the Universal Foundation for Better Living. “New Thought” is inter/nondenominational.

## **Goals & Objectives**

1. Train spiritual leaders to serve effectively in the 21st century.
2. Introduce a practical approach to the Bible through the study of allegorical, metaphysical, and scholarly interpretations.
3. Advance understanding of the New Thought movement and philosophy.
4. Offer educational programs and opportunities that help students discover their unique spiritual gifts and calling.
5. Foster an inclusive environment where Seekers are free to ask questions and to think critically for themselves.
6. Support efforts that promote peace and justice.
7. Share the Universal Spiritual Principles that govern healthy, happy, and prosperous living.





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## Core Values

The following are core values that the Seminary espouses, including several Bible verses that *we believe* align with or give direction toward the fulfillment of each value:

**1. We value the teachings of New Thought as espoused by the Universal Foundation for Better Living and as taught by the Master Teacher, Jesus the Christ.**

- a) “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.” (Matthew 4:23, NIV)
- b) “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”  
(Matthew 5:17, NIV)
- c) “Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”” (John 8:31-32, NLT)
- d) “He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.’” (Mark 16:15, NIV)
- e) “But he said to them, ‘I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose.’” (Luke 4:43, NRSV)
- f) “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners.” (Isaiah 61:1, NRSV)

“Bondage or Liberty, Which?”

– H. Emilie Cady (*Lessons in Truth*, 1894)



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## **2. We value the Divinity within all people.**

- a) "So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them..." (Genesis 1:27, NLT)
- b) "I say, 'You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you..." (Psalms 82:6, NRSV)
- c) "The Father has loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are his children..." (1 John 3:1, NCV)
- d) "'For in him we live and move and have our being... We are his offspring.'" (Acts 17:28, NIV)
- e) "To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27, NRSV)

## **3. We value the training and development of spiritual leaders.**

- a) "The word is faithful: if any one aspires to exercise oversight, he desires a good work." (1 Timothy 3:1, DARBY)
- b) "But choose some capable men from among the people – men who respect God, who can be trusted, and who will not change their decisions for money." (Exodus 18:21, NCV)
- c) "He cared for them with a true heart and led them with skillful hands." (Psalm 78:72, NLT)
- d) "Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers." (Proverbs 11:14, NLT)

## **4. We value Wisdom, science, and new ideas.**

- a) "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2, NRSV)
- b) "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: And with all thy getting get understanding." (Proverbs 4:7, KJV)
- c) "Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge." (Proverbs 18:15, NLT)
- d) "Put all things to the test: keep what is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:21, GNT)



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## **5. We value freedom of thought and expression.**

- a) "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (2 Corinthians 3:17, NRSV)
- b) "For freedom did Christ set us free: stand fast therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage." (Galatians 5:1, ASV)
- c) "You were indeed called to be free, brothers and sisters. Don't turn this freedom into an excuse for your corrupt nature to express itself. Rather, serve each other through love." (Galatians 5:13, GW)

## **6. We value justice and integrity.**

- a) "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5:24, NIV)
- b) "...learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression..." (Isaiah 1:17, ESV)
- c) "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity..." (Titus 2:7, ESV)
- d) "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out." (Proverbs 10:9, NIV)
- e) "So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin." (James 4:17, ESV) [*\*sin = "missing the mark"*]

## **7. We value the Universal Truth that health, happiness and prosperity is God's will for every individual.**

- a) "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11; NRSV)
- b) "Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul." (3 John 1:2, NRSV)
- c) "My God will richly fill your every need in a glorious way through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19, GW)
- d) "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32; NRSV)

\*Cited from "*The Revealing Word*" (1959) by Charles Fillmore.



We recognize the Universal Foundation for Better Living (UFBL) as our parent organization and as a pioneer in the New Thought movement. As the academic arm of the UFBL, we remain steadfast in the principles and beliefs espoused by the Foundation.

## UFBL 5 Basic Principles

### 1. The Omnipresence of God

Everything that exists, or ever will exist is pressed out of the body of God (God-Substance) in different forms of manifestation. Since the nature of God is absolute good, and everything is God- Substance, there can be no evil in reality.

*“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.”* Psalm 139: 7-8 (KJV)

### 2. The Divinity of Humankind

Humankind is made in the image-likeness of God.

**SPIRITUAL “MAN”** - *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”* Genesis 1:26 (KJV)

**MANIFEST “MAN”** - *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”* Genesis 2:7 (KJV)



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### 3. The Value and Power of Thought

It is through thinking that humankind forms that which we have in our lives.

*“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he ....”* Proverbs 23:7 (KJV)

### 4. Practicing the Presence

Living in the presence of God through Prayer: communication with God, Meditation: conscious thought on aspects of God, and Silence: listening to God.

*“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”* Philippians 4:8 (KJV)

### 5. The Law of Demonstration

The Law of Mind Action: Like begets like. Humankind's responsibility as Children of God:

- Right Thinking
- Right Words
- Right Feelings
- Right Actions
- Right Reactions

*“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”* Luke 12:32 (KJV)



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## **UFBL Statement of Faith: “What We Believe”**

**By: Don Nedd**

**WE BELIEVE** that it is God’s will that every individual on the face of this earth should live a healthy, happy and prosperous life.

**WE BELIEVE** that such a life is within the reach of each one of us and the way to its attainment begins with the realization that the Kingdom of God is within us, waiting for us to bring it into expression.

**WE BELIEVE** that we can bring this Kingdom forth by practicing the universal spiritual principles handed down through the ages and taught by our Way-Shower, Jesus Christ.

**WE BELIEVE** with Jesus that our experiences are the reflections of our beliefs and therefore the key to happy and successful living is right thinking followed by right action.

**WE BELIEVE** with Jesus that the basis for right thinking is LOVE - love of God and all that is good in our fellowman and ourselves.

**WE BELIEVE** that learning to listen to the whispering of the “still small voice” within us will ensure that we are guided into right action.

**WE BELIEVE** that rather than devoting our primary efforts to providing for the needy of the world, the time has come to make available to all people everywhere a teaching that will enable them to provide for themselves by learning to release the divine potential within them.

**WE BELIEVE** that the Universal Foundation for Better Living is a vehicle for the spreading of such a teaching.



**WE BELIEVE** that a mighty new wind is blowing. People everywhere are hungry for practical techniques that will show them how to fulfill the good desires of their hearts. We in the U.F.B.L. believe that we have these techniques and we offer them to everyone without distinction, confident that with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can teach all who are willing to learn how to overcome whatever would keep them from their highest good.

**WE BELIEVE IN GOD!  
WE BELIEVE IN HUMANITY!  
WE BELIEVE IN THE UNIVERSAL FOUNDATION  
FOR BETTER LIVING!**

## **Our Commitment to the Legacy & Founders**

All individuals associated with the JCTS community are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that positively reflects the name and legacy of our Founders, the Reverend Dr. Johnnie Coleman & the Reverend Dr. Mary Tumpkin, and our parent organization, the Universal Foundation for Better Living.

It is our individual and collective responsibility to ensure that all JCTS representation, events, interactions, publications, and policies comply with this commitment.



***“It is up to us to live up to the legacy that was left for us, and to leave a legacy that is worthy of our children and of future generations.”***

– Christine Gregoire



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## Board of Trustees

An inaugural Board of Trustees was sworn in on Saturday, April 30, 2022. Please visit our website for the most updated list of Trustees.

## Administration

### **The Reverend Dr. Sheila McKeithen**

*President*

\*B.S., Florida State University

\*M.S., Florida International University

\*J.D., Nova Law School

### **The Reverend Evelyn Hill Coleman**

*Interim Provost, Associate Provost &  
Dean, Credentials & Certification Department*

\*B.A., Chicago State University

\*M.Div., Johnnie Colemon Theological Seminary

### **The Reverend Mitchell Walthour Jr.**

*Assistant to the Provost & Registrar*

\*B.A., Florida International University

\*M.Ed., Post University

### **The Reverend Alberta Ware**

*Dean, Ministerial Training Program*

\*B. Msc., University of Metaphysics

### **The Reverend Lameteria Hall**

*Dean, Teacher Training Academy*

\*B.S., Calumet College of St. Joseph





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We acknowledge the following individuals for their support:

- ❖ Ms. Darnetia Parrott, the UFBL Business Manager
- ❖ Mrs. Dawn Smith, the Records Clerk
- ❖ Our volunteers, for their sacred service to our organization
- ❖ The UFBL Ministers and Teachers who aid in our educational and training programs online and at their center/campus

We acknowledge the service of former Administration:

- ❖ Dr. Anna Price – the 1<sup>st</sup> and former Provost (2003-2025)
- ❖ Dr. Penny Saffold – the 1<sup>st</sup> and former Associate Provost (2010-2016)

## **Faculty**

### **The Reverend Dr. Daniel “Danny” Medina**

\*B.Sc., Florida International University

\*M.Ed., University of Oklahoma

\*M.Div., St. Thomas University

\*D.Min., St. Thomas University

### **The Reverend Dr. Derrick Wells**

\*M.A., Governors State University

\*Ed.D., Olivet Nazarene University

### **The Reverend Tawnicia Ferguson-Rowan**

\*B.A., Spelman College

\*M.A., Vanderbilt University

\*M.Div., Interdenominational Theological Center

### **The Reverend Evelyn Hill Coleman**

\*B.A., Chicago State University

\*M.Div., Johnnie Coleman Theological Seminary



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**Dr. Edward Eady**

\*B.A., Florida Memorial College

\*M.A., University of Phoenix

\*D.M., University of Phoenix

**The Reverend Dr. Will Coleman**

\*B.A., Rhodes College

\*M.Div., Columbia Theological Seminary

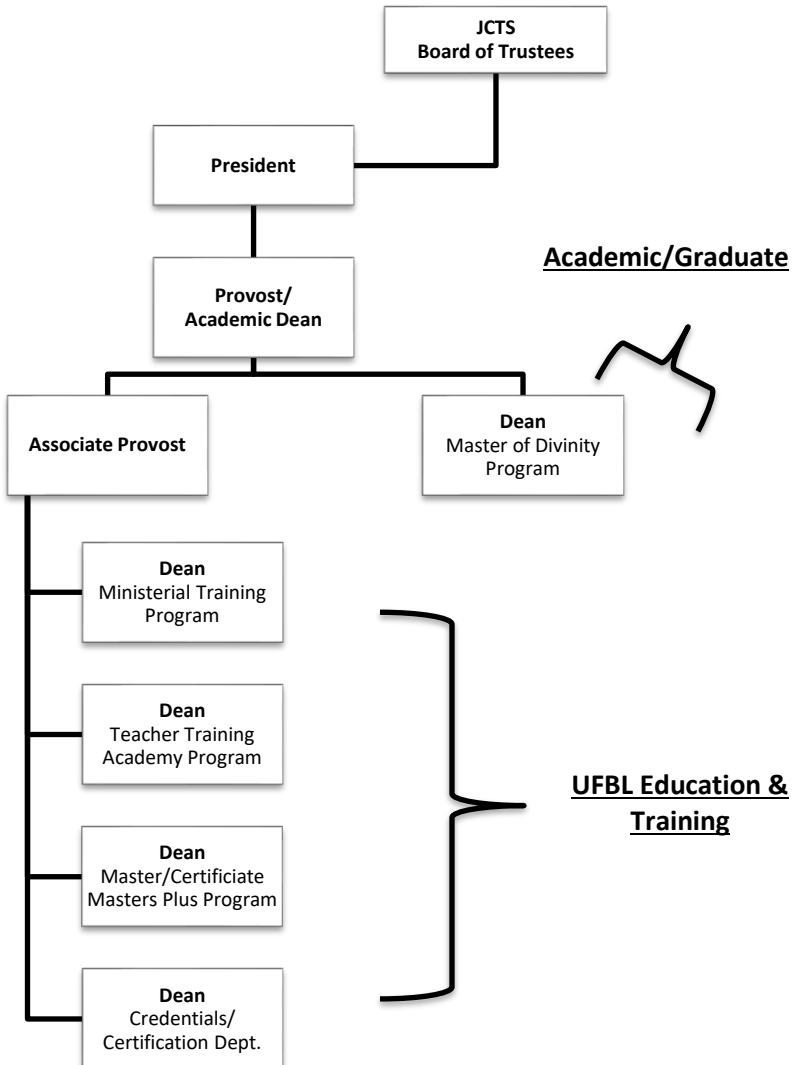
\*Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union

Note: Every UFBL Minister and Teacher in good standing is a faculty member of the Johnnie Coleman Theological Seminary.



## Organizational Chart

The Johnnie Coleman Theological Seminary is the **Academic Arm** of the Universal Foundation for Better Living, Inc.





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## **Seminary Policies**

### **Statement of Non-Discrimination**

The Johnnie Coleman Theological Seminary welcomes qualified students representing all diverse expressions of the Creator. Admission is granted without regard to race, ethnicity, color, gender, national origin, or sexual orientation, ensuring equal access to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities made available to the student body.

### **Statement on Code of Ethics**

As an online institution where communication and instruction are primarily accomplished through technology, the Johnnie Coleman Theological Seminary still commits to adhering to and enforcing the highest standards of moral and ethical conduct for all persons affiliated with the Seminary.

The Seminary has no tolerance for the following offenses:

- dishonesty, slander, libel, cheating, and plagiarism;
- bullying, hazing, battery, assault, and verbal/physical/sexual harassment, violence or abuse;
- theft, robbery, burglary, trespassing, and vandalism;
- the unlawful use, possession, or distribution of drugs, alcohol, or any illegal substances, including weapons and firearms;
- threats of harm, violence, and domestic and international terrorism; and
- any illegal or demoralizing activity that threatens the life, body, safety, privacy, or rights of any individual, regardless of their affiliation to our Seminary.



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Such standards also apply to virtual engagement. Violent or threatening language, whether verbal or written, explicit graphics, abuse of technology (not limited to sending viruses, spam, phishing, hacking, etc.), and other offenses go against the image, mission, and integrity of our institution and will not be tolerated.

Additionally, as a non-denominational Seminary with a high enrollment of individuals who are often not embraced in traditional religious settings, we have **no tolerance** for anyone being harassed or penalized for their beliefs, appearance, or lifestyle. We vow to promote an environment where all persons and perspectives are welcomed. *While it is acceptable for viewpoints to be challenged within the classroom, we aim to ensure that all discourse remains tactful and productive.*

Any of the offenses described in this statement will result in reasonable and lawful consequences, not limited to suspension or termination from our institution or involving applicable local, state, or federal authorities.

If such acts have been perpetrated on a student, he/she is encouraged to report this to the Administration immediately. We encourage all persons to report any suspected wrongdoing, as this will help us maintain the integrity of the institution and the trust of the community.

## **Statement on Artificial Intelligence (A.I. Policy)**

As a community grounded in faith, scholarship, and integrity, JCTS acknowledges the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in academic, ministerial, and personal contexts. While we recognize the potential of AI to enhance learning, research, and spiritual formation, we are equally committed to maintaining academic honesty, theological discernment, and learner-centered engagement.



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### **Permissible Uses**

Students may use AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, translation software) for the following purposes:

- Grammar and spelling correction
- Language translation
- Brainstorming or outlining ideas
- Research assistance (with proper evaluation and citation)

### **Prohibited Uses**

Use of AI is not permitted for:

- Generating full or partial assignments without attribution
- Submitting AI-generated sermons, theological reflections, or writings as one's own
- Bypassing personal engagement with course texts, scripture, or spiritual practices

### **Academic Integrity**

All work submitted must reflect the student's original thought, theological reflection, and academic effort. If AI tools are used in any form, their use must be appropriately disclosed (e.g., in footnotes, bibliography, or including a statement of methodology in your assignment). Misuse of AI, failing to cite AI, or taking credit for AI-generated content is not only unethical and potentially harmful but is considered a violation of the Seminary's academic integrity policy.

As spiritual leaders in training or in practice, students are called to model transparency, discernment, and ethical creativity in all domains of life, including technology.

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Some personal freedoms and rights of students include, but are not limited to:



1. A right to pursue an education free from discrimination based upon sex, race, color, cultural background, national origin, religion, political creed, marital status, veteran status, actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, disability, or age.
2. A right to fair and impartial academic evaluation.
3. A right to be free from involuntary disclosure of private information that professors or administrators acquire in the course of their work as advisors; examples include information regarding their gender identity, sexual orientation, health information, personal views, beliefs, and political associations.
4. A right to have the Seminary maintain and protect the private status of all educational records except as directed by appropriate legal authority.
5. Students, through student representatives, may have a right to participate in formulating and evaluating institutional policies and making recommendations.
6. A right to organize and join associations to promote interests held in common with others.
7. The right to peaceful protest, including through electronic platforms such as Zoom, provided that such actions do not block access to or from facilities, unreasonably disrupt educational activities or technology systems, or result in damage to property.
8. A right to an environment conducive to intellectual freedom characterized by safety and order.



9. A right to submit a grievance without fear of retaliation.

Some of the **responsibilities** of the student include, but are not limited to:

1. Acting in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights or property of others.
2. Maintaining an atmosphere that promotes respect for learning and human dignity.
3. Knowing and complying with the Code of Ethics, other Seminary policies, and applicable laws.
4. Actively supporting the learning environment by attending scheduled classes, completing assignments, coming prepared, and maintaining open communication.
5. Recognizing that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved as well as upon the Seminary community.
6. Recognizing the Seminary's obligation to provide an environment conducive to learning and academic inquiry.
7. Upholding and maintaining academic and professional honesty and integrity and adhering to the academic requirements determined by individual instructors.
8. Serving as a responsive bystander, reporting safety concerns and violations of the Academic Catalog and Code of Ethics.

## **Grievance Procedure**

JCTS affirms its commitment to addressing students' reasonable concerns and requests with responsiveness and integrity. To ensure





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thoughtful and effective service, the Seminary adheres to ethical and orderly procedures for resolving student complaints. Grievances are generally categorized into the following four (4) areas:

1. **Academic** - concerns related to program or course requirements, policies, grades, course content, or Faculty conduct. (Program or classroom related.)
2. **Administrative** - concerns related to Seminary operations, policies, services, or an administrator/staff member's conduct. (Non-program or classroom related.)
3. **Financial** - concerns related to tuition, fees, billing, payment plans, collections, or any issues concerning financial matters.
4. **Peer** - concerns related to another student's conduct that directly and adversely affect the student. (For circumstances where students are not directly and adversely affected, they may reach out to their Program Dean.)

Students are initially encouraged to address concerns directly with the individual involved. If the matter remains unresolved, they should consult their assigned Advisor or Program Dean for further support. Should the issue persist, the student may submit a formal written grievance to the Provost's Office. In cases of significant concern, the Seminary's Board of Trustees or General Counsel may be engaged.

Petitions must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the alleged incident and should include thorough, detailed documentation. Students are encouraged to provide all information in writing, either by U.S. mail or electronic mail. When submitting via email, students should ensure that only the appropriate, authorized recipient is included and that the correct email address is used. The Seminary bears no responsibility for misdirected communications sent to unintended recipients.



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Upon receipt of a grievance, the Seminary will open a formal case and notify the student accordingly. The investigation process may involve interviews, mediation, or other appropriate measures to reach an equitable resolution. Throughout the process, the dignity and privacy of all individuals will be honored. All parties are expected to adhere to the outlined procedures and conduct themselves respectfully.

The Seminary assures students that they will not face retaliation for filing a grievance. However, should any information submitted be proven false, or if the student discloses confidential details of the investigation—including personally identifiable information of those involved—to the public, the Seminary reserves the right to dismiss the grievance and suspend the student indefinitely.

Graduates who are found to have knowingly submitted false information may have their degree, license, or certification suspended, rescinded, or revoked. In such cases, any outstanding financial obligations to the Seminary remain the student's responsibility, and no refunds will be issued.

## **Academic Regulations**

The Registrar's Office is responsible for maintaining all official academic records for students and applicants for admission to programs. The Seminary is committed to maintaining the confidentiality of educational records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 as amended.

All students have the right to review their academic records to determine their content and accuracy. Documents submitted by other students as part of the admission requirements may not be reviewed by students, nor may they be released to third parties. A student wishing to review his or her academic record should make an appointment with his/her Advisor.



Official transcripts may be requested by contacting the Registrar's Office. There is a fee for official transcripts that must be paid before the transcript is processed and sent to the desired recipient. Only the student may request their transcripts.

An official transcript bears the signature of the Registrar or applicable Seminary representative along with the official JCTS seal or stamp.

## **Language of Instruction**

All courses are conducted in English. Students who need translators for courses in English are expected to provide them at their own expense.

## **Copyright Compliance**

All members of the JCTS community are individually accountable for complying with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976 and its provisions concerning intellectual property. Reproduction of copyrighted material without the copyright holder's permission is permitted only under specific, limited conditions. The Seminary upholds and follows the "fair use" guidelines as defined by U.S. copyright law.

## **Writing Standards**

Students and faculty are expected to use language that is bias-free regarding gender, race, handicap, or any other category. This means that language should be inclusive rather than exclusive, avoiding terms that seem to demean or exclude others.

The Seminary accepts the American Psychological Association (APA) and Chicago/Turabian writing styles for papers, reports, and projects submitted as coursework or as JCTS publications. Each faculty may establish which style of writing is required for their course.



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The Seminary upholds a firm commitment to academic integrity and ethical conduct. Students are expected to embody the highest standards in all scholarly activities. Prohibited actions include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, collusion, data falsification, breaches of professional ethics, and misrepresentation of research. By submitting work for evaluation, presentation, or publication, students affirm that it aligns with these principles.

## **Change of Name and/or Demographics**

Students may update their name, address, email, or telephone number through the Seminary's *myJCTS* online platform. Timely updates are encouraged to ensure accurate records and uninterrupted communication regarding coursework, deadlines, and administrative matters. The Seminary is not liable for any issues resulting from a student's failure to report demographic changes promptly.



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## Colloquiums

The Seminary hosts colloquiums in Miami Gardens and online. We provide a venue where leaders, scholars, and students can present papers and arguments before the JCTS community, and engage in discourse on relevant topics. Our symposiums have explored the following themes:

- ❖ 2024: Who Was Jesus?
- ❖ 2022: Reparations: What Does the Bible Say?
- ❖ 2019: Straight, White, Christian & Male: Are These the Requirements to Power & Privilege?
- ❖ 2018: The Incredible Shrinking Church 2.0: Where Are the Millennials?
- ❖ 2017: The Politics of Jesus
- ❖ 2016: Christianity, Racism & White Privilege
- ❖ 2015: The Prosperity Gospel
- ❖ 2014: The God Particle
- ❖ 2013: The Spiritual Awakening
- ❖ 2012: Is Hell Real?
- ❖ 2011: Miracles
- ❖ 2010: Metaphysical Bible 2.0: Scholarship Meets Allegory
- ❖ 2009: The Incredible Shrinking Church
- ❖ 2008: The Evolution of Creation
- ❖ 2007: The Biblical Foundation of the New Thought Movement
- ❖ 2006: A Traveler's Guide to Heaven
- ❖ 2005: Contemporary Spirituality: The Role of Organized Religion in Meeting the Spiritual Needs of Contemporary Life
- ❖ 2004: Christianity: Jesus or Paul?

Note: Due to COVID-19, the 2020 and 2021 colloquiums were postponed.



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## Program Policies

The following policies apply to all JCTS programs unless noted otherwise. If a program has a separate and/or specific policy, then such policy will take precedence for students in that program.

### Academic Calendar

The **Master of Divinity (M.Div.)** Program operates on a Quarter system: Fall, Winter, Spring and optional Summer terms. Courses taught in the Fall, Winter and Spring are 10 weeks. Courses taught in the Summer are up to five (5) weeks but will still meet for up to 10 class sessions total.

The **Ministerial Training Program** is approximately two years of coursework, followed by 12 to 36 months of Independent Study.

The **Teacher Training Academy (TTA)** is approximately two years of coursework.

The **Master Certificate/Master Plus Program** operates on a Quarter system with optional Summer terms. Core courses in this program are 10 weeks or 20 hours in total. (Master Plus courses are up to 12 weeks.)

### General Admission Requirements

All those seeking admission into the M.Div. program must submit a completed application packet, which includes the following:

- The completed application;
- Official transcripts of all college work
- Application fee of \$100.00 (USD); and
- Three letters of recommendation



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All applicants must hold at least a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). A degree conferred outside of the United States will be evaluated by the Office of the Academic Dean.

Completed application packets are due 90 days before the start of the first Fall session. Applications received after this date will be considered for the subsequent Fall session. While applications are accepted on a continual basis, a student's start date is contingent upon this 90-day deadline. (Note: M.Div. sessions launch in the Fall of even years.)

The application can be submitted online or mailed. If mailed, payment must be in the form of a check or money order and should be paid to the order of "Johnnie Colemon Theological Seminary" or "JCTS".

M.Div. applicants may be required to undergo psychological and career testing as part of admission in addition to drug testing and a background check. Entrance interviews may also be required.

All students may also be required to sign a Covenant Agreement with the Seminary as part of the application package. In this agreement, the Seminary pledges to provide quality instruction and other support services as needed. The student agrees to uphold ethical, personal, academic and fiscal conduct.

The Seminary further reserves the right to require a student to withdraw at any time under appropriate procedures. It also reserves the right to impose probation on any student whose conduct is unsatisfactory.

Any admission on the basis of false statements or documents is void when the fraud is discovered, and the student is not entitled to any credit for work which the student may have done at the Seminary. When a student is dismissed or suspended from the Seminary for cause,



there will be no refund of tuition and fees paid. If a dismissed student has paid only a part of his/her tuition and fees, the balance due the Seminary will be considered a receivable and will be collected.

*Admission Requirements for the Ministerial Training, Teacher Training Academy, and the Master Certificate/Master Plus Programs can be found on their respective pages.*

## **Transfer Credit**

**Academic Transfer:** Transfer credits from an accredited college, university, or seminary may be applied toward the M.Div. degree up to 9 credit hours. A passing grade of “C” is required for acceptance of credit. Courses must be graduate-level (Masters or higher). The Dean’s office will determine the acceptability of any course. Such transfer can only be processed during the application/admissions process.

**Work Experience Transfer:** M.Div. applicants who have professional ministry/church experience may request to have at least two (2) of the Ministry and Church Development courses waived. This request will be considered under one of three conditions:

1. The applicant has served as a Senior, Executive or Assistant Minister, or any similar position, for at least five (5) years;
2. The student has at least seven (7) years professional experience as a Licensed or Ordained Minister; or
3. The student has at least seven (7) years leadership or administration experience in a church or spiritual organization.

Such transfer can only be processed during the application/admissions process. Experience gained while in the program cannot be considered.

Experience should be with legally-recognized religious organizations, i.e., a church or spiritual center. Documentation may be requested.





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***Course Transfer/Equivalency within JCTS:*** Courses in the JCTS M.Div. program may satisfy course requirements in the JCTS Ministerial Training and Teacher Training Academy. Interested persons should contact the respective Dean for further information and/or approval.

Note: Course transfer is not guaranteed. All requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, the Field Education, Capstone Project, and UFBL (Denominational) courses must be completed at JCTS.

## **Transient Student**

Students currently enrolled in the JCTS M.Div. program may take up to two (2) M.Div. courses at another approved accredited college, university or seminary simultaneously to satisfy requirements in the JCTS M.Div. program.

Requests must be submitted to and approved by the Dean before the course can be taken at the institution. Courses taken without prior authorization will not be accepted as a transient or transfer credit.

To receive credit, the course must be equivalent to the required JCTS course. Students must also receive a grade of “C” or higher and submit the official transcript to the Dean for review. The Dean will forward the transcript to the Registrar for processing.

The student is responsible for costs. Audit credits will not be accepted.

Note: The Field Education, Capstone Project, and UFBL (Denominational) courses must be completed at JCTS.

## **Course Registration & Add/Drop**

Students must register for courses online. Course registration is required for each new term. The required fees must be paid or arrangements made with the Program Dean at that time. Failure to pay the required fees may result in dismissal or late charges.



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Students are permitted to add or drop classes up to the date specified in the academic calendar, which is typically *before the start of the second class session or on the final day of enrollment for the course*. Courses dropped during this period will not appear on a student's transcript. This policy and deadline also applies to changes from audit to credit or from credit to audit.

With the exception of certain electives, students should consider that all courses are required and are only offered once every few years. Thus dropping courses may extend their time in their program. Students are encouraged to speak with their Advisor before dropping any course.

Note: Students are responsible to ensure prerequisites are satisfied before registering for courses. Additionally, the ability to register for a course does not automatically indicate acceptance into the program.

*Due to shorter class sessions, the Ministerial Training and Teacher Training Academy programs maintain a separate course registration and Add/Drop process.*

## **Withdrawal**

Requests to Withdraw from the Seminary, a program or a course (after the Add/Drop period) must be submitted in writing to the Program Dean. The Dean will notify the Registrar. Students will receive "W's" for courses from which they are withdrawn. This will not affect the student's GPA. (Note: Students not officially admitted into a program should contact the Dean or Admissions to withdraw their application.)

Students must submit their withdrawal request by 5:00pm E.S.T. on the Friday of the fourth week of the term. Students who do not officially withdraw from courses or who are No Shows will be assigned F's for those courses. The date of withdrawal is that in which the student



notifies the Dean or the date of receipt of a letter requesting withdrawal. No withdrawal is official until the Registrar has approved.

Students who withdraw from courses *after* the Add/Drop period will not receive a refund for tuition charged. If a student withdraws *before* the Add/Drop period ends, then the student will receive a full or partial refund for tuition charged for that term.

Students should speak with their Advisor before withdrawing.

*Due to shorter class sessions, the Ministerial Training and Teacher Training Academy may maintain a separate withdrawal deadlines.*

## **Tuition & Refunds**

Please see the respective program pages for tuition and fee schedules.

### **General Seminary Refund Policy:**

- a) Application fees are non-refundable.
- b) A full or partial refund (up to 50%) is due to the student if he/she drops a course or withdraws during Add/Drop period.
- c) A full refund is due to the student should a course be cancelled.
- d) No refund is due to the student in the following cases:
  - administrative dismissals or withdrawals;
  - student not receiving a passing or desired grade;
  - student paid tuition for courses where admission requirements or course prerequisites were not met;
  - student switches into a new program or track;
  - student paid for a course that was not required; and
  - registration or processing issue due to student's error.



- e) There will be no refund of tuition, fees, charges or any other payments made to the Seminary in the event the operation of the Seminary is suspended at any time as a result of any reason beyond the control of the Seminary.

## **Student Classification**

A degree-seeking student is one who has been admitted as a candidate for the M.Div. program. All students are admitted on a full-time basis, which includes completing two (2) courses per term, excluding Summer.

Part-time students complete one (1) course per term. Such classification must be approved by the Dean.

A student who is not officially admitted into the program or is taking courses for no grade or credit is an Auditor.

*The Ministerial Training, Teacher Training Academy and Master Certificate/Master Plus programs may define a full-time and part-time student differently.*

## **Auditors**

Any person who wishes to participate in a class without receiving credit is an Auditor.

Furthermore, any person who has enrolled in a course without being admitted into the program or satisfying all prerequisites will receive an audited status for the course. No refund is due in such cases.

The status of a student cannot be changed from audit to credit or credit to audit after the Add/Drop period.

No letter grade is provided to Auditors.



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## Attendance

Students are responsible for communicating with their instructor if they intend or are unintentionally absent or tardy. Instructors can allow make-up assignments at their discretion.

Unexcused absences may result in up to a 10-point/percentage reduction from the student's final grade for every unexcused absence.

As a Seminary, we understand that life happens. Thus we will take into consideration the death of a loved one, medical or legal matters, natural disasters, ministerial related responsibilities and other emergency situations beyond a student's control. However, documentation may be required if attendance becomes a recurring issue.

Students in the Master Certificate/Master Plus Program are allowed two (2) unexcused absences. Three (3) or more will disqualify the student from receiving credit for the course, and the student must retake.

*Due to shorter class sessions, the Ministerial Training and Teacher Training Academy programs maintain a separate attendance policy. However, students are still responsible for communicating with their Instructor or appropriate JCTS Representative.*

## Leave of Absence

A student may be granted a leave of absence (LOA) for a reasonable amount of time as determined by the Dean. A request for LOA must be in writing and the date of expected return must be specified. If a LOA extends over a year, then the student may be subject to our Readmission policy.

During this time, the student's status will become "Inactive." Any outstanding balance must still be paid to the Seminary.



## Grades

GRADE	DESCRIPTION	QUALITY POINTS	NUMERICAL VALUE
A	Excellent accomplishment	4.0	93-100%
A-		3.7	90-92
B+		3.3	87-89
B	Good accomplishment	3.0	83-86
B-		2.7	80-82
C+		2.3	77-79
C	Average	2.0	73-76
C-	Poor - Not acceptable for credit	1.7	70-72
D+		1.3	67-69
D		1.0	63-66
D-	Failing	0.7	60-62
F		0.0	59 or less
W	Withdrawn / Course dropped		
I	Incomplete		
NG	No grade submitted by the instructor		
AU	Audit - Course completed but not taken for credit		

The following honors might apply:

- *Cum Laude* (With Great Praise) = 3.5 GPA
- *Magna Cum Laude* (With Great Distinction) = 3.6 - 3.9 GPA
- *Suma Cum Laude* (With Highest Distinction) = 4.0 GPA

*The grading chart applies to the Master of Divinity, Ministerial Training and Teacher Training Academy programs.*

*The Master Certificate program uses a Pass/Fail scale based on attendance. The Master Plus program uses a Pass/Fail scale based on both attendance and coursework.*

*On a Pass/Fail scale, a "C" or higher is passing.*



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## **Readmission**

A student who has cancelled, withdrawn, did not return from an approved leave of absence or has been terminated and wishes to re-enter their program of study must notify the Program Dean and follow the required admission procedures.

## **Academic Probation**

A student will be placed on academic probation if his/her cumulative grade point average drops below 2.0. A student may also be placed on probation if he/she earns two or more grades of C- or lower in two consecutive terms, or owes an outstanding balance (in tuition or any college fees) for three consecutive terms.

If a student fails to bring their grade point average up to a 2.0 or higher within three consecutive terms or pay an outstanding balance in full within one (1) calendar year, then they will be administratively withdrawn from the Seminary.

The student will not be able to complete any field education, internship or practicum, or submit any capstone or final project if their grade point average drops below 2.0.

## **Incompletes**

Incompletes are given to designate incomplete work for a course. The "I" should be changed to a letter grade within four (4) weeks after it is given, unless the Dean approves extended time. If the "I" is not changed within four weeks, a grade of "F" will automatically be issued. The student must retake the course to replace the "F".

The Instructor must communicate any new grade with the Dean. The Dean will then notify the Registrar's Office for processing.



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## **Orientations**

A “New Student Orientation” will be conducted for all new students before the start of their first Fall session; and a “Final Year Orientation” will be conducted before the start of the student’s final Fall session. Both orientations will be online. While these are non-credit, M.Div. students are required to attend both.

*Orientations for the Ministerial Training and Teacher Training Academy programs may be found on their respective pages.*

## **Time Limits on Completion of Degree/Certificate**

The time limit for graduation is seven years. Students failing to complete their program within this timeframe will be required to show why they should not be dropped from the program/candidacy.

*The Master Certificate/Master Plus program is excluded from this requirement.*

## **Graduation**

Specific graduation dates are to be announced. However, the following requirements must be met by applicable deadlines if the student expects to graduate:

- Payment of the graduation fee
- Payment in full of any moneys owed the Seminary
- Completion of all applicable residential requirements
- Return of all outstanding Library material
- Satisfactory completion of all courses and projects required for the degree, including hanging of all “Incompletes” to letter grades.





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# Master of Divinity Program

## General Information



The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) is a professional graduate degree in theological education. The program is designed to prepare men and women for a full-time professional ministry. The program is also suited for individuals whose calling may be to develop 21st century platforms, publications or services that promote spiritual formation, education and empowerment.

Those who enter this program must have a Bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university. However, others are welcomed to take courses for professional development as a non-degree seeking student or auditor.

The program offers academic support for persons seeking credentials within their religious community. It also offers an introduction of the New Thought Christian tradition to those that are seeking new approaches for spiritual growth. The M.Div. program is an advanced and socially relevant academic experience open to seekers of all walks. The program offers two tracks:

1. The **General Track**, for those seeking spiritual or theological knowledge for advancement within their current or desired field -- not necessarily for certification, licensing or ordination.
2. The **UFBL Track**, for persons interested in becoming an Ordained Universal Foundation for Better Living (UFBL) Minister. This track encompasses the *General Track*, but it requires the completion of additional courses



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(UFBL/Denominational) and Workshops/Intensives mandated by the Universal Foundation for Better Living.

Note: Successful completion of the UFBL Track qualifies students to become candidates to be interviewed by the Licensing & Ordination (L&O) Committee. Candidates who have successfully completed the L&O process will be recommended to the UFBL Board of Directors for Licensing or Ordination.

The program of instruction seeks to assist students in developing the following:

- ❖ Proficiency in identifying the biblical, theological, and historical traditions which form the basis of ministry.
- ❖ Proficiency in scriptural interpretation and application.
- ❖ Personal spiritual growth and formation.
- ❖ Knowledge of the various trends and challenges facing the faith community, and becoming proactive in addressing those challenges.
- ❖ Awareness of the role that spiritual leaders and faith-communities have in matters of social advocacy.

*Disclaimer: While a M.Div. is the academic standard for licensing, certification or ordination within many religious organizations, it is the student's responsibility to confirm whether the M.Div. offered through the Johnnie Colemon Theological Seminary will satisfy their organization's licensing, certification or ordination requirements, in addition to any business or legal requirements to establish a ministry or private business.*



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## Tuition & Fees

The following list of charges is effective for the Master of Divinity Program. *(All charges are subject to revision at any time.)*

**Application fee:** \$100.00 (non-refundable)

**Tuition:** \$75.00 per credit hour

**Audit fee:** \$50.00 per credit hour

Note: A *late fee* per course may apply if the student or auditor registers for a course after the start time of the first class. An *administrative fee* may apply per term, which includes but is not limited to costs associated with enrollment processing, technology and other services.

## Curriculum

The M.Div. degree is designed to be completed in approximately three years: in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Summer courses, workshops or intensives may be required for those on the UFBL Track.

The curriculum emerges from the Seminary's identity as one founded in the New Thought Christian community of the Universal Foundation for Better Living. It aims to lead students to a new understanding of the place of New Thought Christianity as the mystical tradition of Christianity and its relationship to the teachings of Jesus.

The curriculum is designed to foster in the student a deeper personal and spiritual understanding. It also offers an opportunity for field placements and internships.

*Note: Requirements for UFBL Ministerial Ordination for M.Div. UFBL Track students are subject to change. However, such changes will not affect a student's progress towards completing the M.Div. degree.*



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The curriculum is broken into three years:

### ***First Year - The Foundation***

The first year curriculum provides a foundation for students to build upon. It is expected that students will begin the process of theological reflection and development.

Emphasis is placed on the exploration of the Bible and the complicated history highlighting the origins and politics surrounding the sacred text.

#### First Year Courses:

- Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)
- History of Judaism
- Christian Scriptures (New Testament)
- History of Christianity
- Language (Greek or Hebrew)

### ***Second Year - The Formation***

This second year will help students identify specific theological or professional areas of interests, and form plans and expectations to explore in their final year of study.

#### Second Year Courses:

- Allegorical/Metaphysical Interpretation
- Theological Studies (*varies*)
- Social Justice
- Christian Ethics



### ***Third Year - The Application***

The third year of study will be directed to provide hands-on experience and exposure in actually doing ministry. Field work will be required, concluding with a final project that will remedy a real world church/religious/theological-based problem.

#### **Third Year Courses:**

- Role and Life of the Minister
- Homiletics
- Administration
- Field Education
- Capstone Project





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## Required Course Areas

*Program Credit Hours: General Track: 75 | UFBL Track: 89*

### A. Scriptural Studies - 18 credits

- ❖ Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) - 6 credits
- ❖ Christian Scriptures (New Testament) - 6 credits
- ❖ \*Allegorical/Metaphysical Interpretation - 6 credits

### B. Language - 6 credits (choose one)

- ❖ Essentials of Greek - 6 credits
- ❖ Hebrew Language - 6 credits

### C. Theological Studies - 8 credits (*certain electives can satisfy*)

### D. Historical Studies - 8 credits

- ❖ History of Judaism - 4 credits
- ❖ History of Christianity - 4 credits

### E. \*Ministry and Church Development - 10 credits

- ❖ Role and Life of the Minister - 4 credits
- ❖ Homiletics - 3 credits
- ❖ Administration - 3 credits

### F. Justice and Ethics - 6 credits

- ❖ Social Justice - 3 credits
- ❖ Christian Ethics - 3 credits

### G. \*Field Education - 6 credits

### H. Capstone Project - 4 credits

### I. Electives - 9 credits



**J. \*UFBL (Denominational) - 14 credits**

- ❖ Introduction to the UFBL – 4 credits
- ❖ History of New Thought - 3 credits
- ❖ Spiritual Healing – 3 credits
- ❖ \*\*Fillmorian Theology - 4 credits

**K. Non-Credit Requirements**

- ❖ New Student Orientation
- ❖ Final Year Orientation
- ❖ \*Intensives or Workshops (*UFBL Track Students only*)

\* = This course and/or course area are required by the UFBL for individuals seeking recommendation for Ministerial Licensing/Ordination.

\*\* = Fillmorian Theology may concurrently satisfy the Theological Studies course area requirements for students on both tracks.

Note: UFBL (Denominational) courses may concurrently satisfy Elective requirements for students on both tracks.



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## Other Programs & Department

### Ministerial Training

**Dean of Ministerial Training:**  
**The Rev. Alberta Ware**

The Ministerial Training Program integrates principles, theory, and practice that focus on cultivated peak performance, leadership, and success in the church. Students are given the tools to build a strong biblical, historical, theological, and ethical basis for ministry.



The program consists of one year of coursework followed by 12 to 36 months of Independent Study. Satisfactory completion of this program qualifies the student to become a candidate for Ordination with the Universal Foundation for Better Living (UFBL).

The Ministerial Training Program offers two pathways for admission:

- ❖ Previously Ordained Clergy (POC)
- ❖ Licensed UFBL Teachers

**Tuition:** \$1,000.00 per term

*Note: Tuition does not include Independent Study fees; and tuition and prices are subject to change*

**Application Fee:** \$100.00 (non-refundable)

**Location:** Online and may include an on-site component.

**Note:** The JCTS Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Program is also a pathway for UFBL Ordination. *See M.Div. Program details and tuition in the catalog.*





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## **A. Previously Ordained Clergy (POC) Pathway**

This pathway is designed for individuals that were Licensed or Ordained in another religious organization.

### **Admission Requirements for the POC Pathway:**

1. Must provide an official letter or certificate from ordaining body indicating proof of License or Ordination
2. Must provide proof of at least three years of active experience as a Licensed or Ordained Minister
3. Must have recommendation from the UFBL President
4. Must complete JCTS Intensive courses
5. Complete and submit an application packet

## **B. Licensed UFBL Teacher Pathway**

This pathway is designed for Licensed UFBL Teachers.

### **Admission Requirements for UFBL Teachers Pathway:**

1. Active UFBL Teacher's License
2. Complete and submit an application packet

After completion of the coursework, the student becomes eligible to be interviewed by the Licensing & Ordination (L&O) Committee for approval of their Ministerial Project Proposal and to complete their Oral Interview. Note that the Interview will not be scheduled until the Proposal is approved.

Upon passing the Oral Interview, a UFBL Ministerial License will be issued for up to three years. During this period, the Candidate may begin their Independent Study (implement their Project, and complete their Practicum and any required workshops.) After completing the entire Independent Study, the Candidate becomes eligible to be interviewed for UFBL Ordination.

*Note: Admission requirements for both pathways are subject to change.*



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## Teacher Training Academy

Dean of the Teacher Training Academy:  
**The Rev. Lameteria Hall**

The Teacher Training Academy (TTA) is a 24-month training program (divided into terms) designed to prepare all people who aspire to become or demonstrate the potential to become teachers within the Universal Foundation Better Living (UFBL).



Academy students will undergo rigorous training in subjects as espoused by the UFBL, such as Foundational Principles, Bible, The History of New Thought, the works of Dr. Johnnie Colemon, Fillmorian Theology, Spiritual Healing, Effective Teaching, and more.

While students will gain a deeper understanding of the UFBL's teachings, the curriculum is geared towards teaching students **HOW TO TEACH** the basics. Students will receive guidance and tools to grow into skilled, compassionate and effective New Thought Teachers.

After completion of all coursework, students become eligible to be interviewed by the Licensing & Ordination (L&O) Committee for a UFBL Teacher's License.

**Tuition:** \$900.00 per term

*Note: Tuition and prices are subject to change*

**Application Fee:** \$100.00 (non-refundable)

**Location:** The program is online and may include an on-site component.



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### **Admission Requirements to the Teacher Training Academy:**

1. A JCTS Master Certificate is desired

Note: If a candidate has not completed a Master Certificate but has demonstrated understanding of UFBL Foundational Principles and Allegorical/Metaphysical Bible, then their UFBL Minister must attest to this in their Recommendation Letter.

2. Attendance at JCTS Intensive courses is highly recommended
3. Completion and submission of the application packet

Note: *Admission requirements are subject to change.*

### **Master Certificate & Master Plus Certificate**

The Master Certificate Program is a systematic study of New Thought Christian/metaphysical teachings espoused by the Universal Foundation for Better Living (UFBL).

There are two tracks, the Master Certificate Track, and Master Plus Track. Both tracks are non-degree Spiritual Adult Education opportunities.

**Registration Fees (MC & MPC):** Varies at Church/Center and Online

**Location:** Onsite at Church/Centers and Online



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### **A. Master Certificate**

This program is open to all seekers, no matter their background, affiliation, or denomination.

1. A total of 45 credits must be earned:  
*Core Credits: 39 Elective Credits: 6*
2. The attendance requirement must be met in all courses to receive credit; not to exceed 2 absences.
3. All required courses must meet prerequisites to receive credit.

Note: A course will be considered as “audited” if the prerequisite for the course is not satisfied. In such case, no credits will be issued.

4. There are no prerequisites for Elective courses.

### **B. Master Plus Certificate**

The Master Plus Certificate is for students who desire to further their spiritual journey beyond the Master Certificate courses.

#### **Requirements to earn a Master Plus Certificate**

1. Prerequisite: JCTS Master Certificate
2. Complete three semesters of classwork and one semester researching and writing an assigned paper.



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## Required Courses:

### Master Certificate

1. Basic Truth Principles I	3 credits
2. Basic Truth Principles II	3 credits
3. Bible I: Introduction to the Bible –	3 credits
4. Bible II: Developing Metaphysical Eyes	3 credits
5. Bible III: Old Testament I (Metaphysical)	3 credits
6. Bible IV: Old Testament II (Metaphysical)	3 credits
7. Bible V: New Testament I (Metaphysical)	3 credits
8. Bible VI: New Testament II (Metaphysical)	3 credits
9. Self-Discovery: It Works If You Work It	3 credits
10. Discover the Power Within	3 credits
11. Principles of Prayer	3 credits
12. Principles of Healing	3 credits
13. Advanced course (select one)	3 credits
14. Electives (3 courses required)	2 credits per course

Note: All required courses are 10-weeks (20 hours) each.

### Master Plus Certificate

Students must complete three sessions (terms) of intensive study on the works of Charles Fillmore or H. Emilie Cady, followed by a final term to complete a Final Paper.



## **Credentials & Certification Department**

**Dean of Credentials & Certification**  
**The Rev. Evelyn Hill Coleman**

The Credentials and Certification Department (C & CD) maintains a system of Examination, Licensing, Ordination, and Certification for religious professionals seeking to become UFBL License Teachers and Ordained Ministers.

The C & CD consists of two components; Licensing and Ordination and Continuing Education.



### **A. Licensing and Ordination (L and O)**

The C & CD is responsible for convening a Licensing and Ordination Committee at least once a year to interview potential candidates in three categories:

- a. Teacher's License
- b. 3-year Minister's License
- c. Ordination

Candidates must pass the L & O interview, drug test, criminal background check, and (where applicable) credit check. Upon successful completion, candidate names are submitted to the UFBL Board of Directors for approval.

### **B. Continuing Education (CE)**

Continuing Education is responsible for the administration and tracking of continuing education units (CEUs).

All UFBL Licensed Teachers are required to earn a minimum of 25



CEUs within two years. The C & CD is responsible for identifying, developing, and approving areas from which units may be earned.

## Course Descriptions

### Master of Divinity Program

#### **ADM501: Church Administration**

**3 credits**

This area of study introduces students to the requirements of developing a church and the tools necessary to sustain and grow it. Topics studied include: Incorporation, accounting procedures, specific areas of ministry, job descriptions, legal/law, working with a Board of Directors, etc. (Formerly CDA502)

#### **ALL501: Allegorical/Metaphysical Interpretation**

**6 credits**

This is an overview of the study of religious texts as metaphorical. The course will provide the student a foundational understanding of the Jewish roots and Christian branches of this approach of interpreting scripture.

#### **CAP600: Capstone Project**

**4 credits**

The student is expected apply knowledge learned in the program to address a real world church, religious or theological related issue. Student should thoroughly demonstrate a relationship between the topic and either New Thought philosophy or biblical principles, and should demonstrate benefits to humanity.

#### **CHE501: Christian Ethics**

**3 credits**

This is an introduction to the various doctrines and methodologies of moral theology. A Christian Ethics course provides hermeneutics useful for pastoral care, spiritual direction, Christian education, social justice, and interfaith work.



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**CHS501: Christian Scriptures (New Testament) 6 credits**

This course introduces the New Testament along with its background, history, and origins. This course aims to give students the skills necessary to interpret these texts responsibly with methodologies proven useful for contemporary audiences. This course provides a comprehensive breadth of perspective and coverage for students.

**FED600: Field Education 6 credits**

Students will be guided through supervised practical experiences in “doing ministry” in an approved church/center or organization.

**FMT501: Fillmorean Theology 4 credits**

Charles Fillmore wrote on metaphysics and theology for almost 60 years, developing a new perspective for the New Thought movement. This course will present the foundational teaching of Fillmore.

**GRK501: Essentials of Greek 6 credits**

This course is the beginner’s course in the study of Koine Greek; the language of the New Testament. Generally offered during the summer term, this course gives students a fundamental tool in Bible exegesis.

**HBL501: Hebrew Language 6 credits**

This course is an introduction to Hebrew grammar, syntax, and vocabulary with exercises in reading and writing. This course is introductory and is designed to be a first step toward competency in this biblical language.

**HEB501: Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) 6 credits**

Comprehending the formation and development of the Hebrew Scriptures – as well as the key theological constructs found within the texts – will inform how Judaism developed, as well as, how Christianity and Islam were also influenced as later world religions.





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**HEM501: Hermeneutics****3 credits**

An introduction to methodology for determining the original meaning of biblical texts and applying their modern significance. Attention is given to historical development, principles of interpretation, and relationship to key biblical themes.

**HOC501: History of Christianity****4 credits**

Many events and people contributed to the formation of the Christian church. This course will explore the complete history of struggle, growth, controversy, faith, and commitment as it sought to understand to give expression to its understanding of the teaching of Jesus.

**HOJ501: History of Judaism****4 credits**

The history of Judaism covers the incomparable and unique story of the Jewish people. From its tribal commencement to the establishment of the Messianic lineage and its ultimate entry into the state of Diaspora, the course intends to provide historical, cultural, theological, and socioeconomic perspectives to this complex story.

**HOM501: Homiletics: The Art of Preaching****3 credits**

This course is designed to empower students with skills and introduce resources to assist them in the preparation and presentation of lesson sermons that are based on the needs of the hearers.

**HNT501: History of New Thought****3 credits**

This course examines the various philosophical, biblical, theological, therapeutic and pragmatic antecedents that came together to create the modern New Thought Christian Movement. Attention will be given to the modern thinkers who have formulated systems and built institutions that carry on the work of the movement today, including analysis of the cornerstone practice of *Spiritual Healing*.

**HSJ501: The Historical Jesus****3 credits**

A study of the life, character and views of Jesus of Nazareth, the man, compared to views of him as Christ. Students will explore recent and



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early attempts to identify the historical Jesus and his messages as debated by scholars and theologians.

**LED501: Church Leadership**

**3 credits**

This area of study introduces students to an in-depth and practical exploration of the various leadership styles and approaches necessary to influence ministry formation, growth and prosperity. (Formerly CDA501)

**MDG501: Modern Gospels**

**3 credits**

Review of several modern gospels, some of which claim to be rediscovered ancient texts, others admittedly modern works of fiction.

**MYS501: Mysticism and Spirituality**

**3 credits**

Analysis of the theology of mysticism and spirituality. Comparison of the lives of major mystics: the Kabbalah, Sufi, Buddhist, Hindu, New Thought Christian and others.

**PNV501: Peace and Nonviolence Theology**

**4 credits**

Studies related to the various efforts on the part of major religious leaders to promote and affect peace and reconciliation (e.g. the history of pacifism), including aspects of race relations and the nature of other social conflicts (e.g. nonviolent peace strategies.)

**POR501: Philosophy of Religion**

**3 credits**

Advanced approaches to how philosophical inquiry impacts religious issues. The nature of the divine, the problem of evil, the gods of the philosophers compared to the gods or God of the theologians.

**ROM501: Role and Life of the Minister**

**4 credits**

This area of study leads the student through an in-depth exploration of their “calling” and a review of ministerial responsibilities. Course topics include, but are not limited to, leadership, pastoral care, designing a prayer life, tithing, ministerial ethics, and worship/special services.



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**SPH501: Spiritual Healing****3 credits**

Spiritual healing is the cornerstone of the New Thought Christian movement. This area of study follows this practice from antiquity to modern history. It focuses on the methods of healing practiced by Jesus and taught/implemented by New Thought teachers: specific emphasis given to Phineas Quimby and the Rev. Dr. Johnnie Colemon.

**UFB501: Introduction to the UFBL****4 credits**

This course explores the Universal Foundation for Better Living's history and teachings. Topics will include *UFBL Foundational Principles*, *Christian Metaphysics*, and an *analysis of the life and works of its Founder*, the Reverend Dr. Johnnie M. Colemon.

***Theological Studies*** courses are surveys and introductions to the various approaches to practicing and understanding Christianity.

## **Teacher Training Academy Program**

**BHS300: Critical and Historical Approach of the Bible    4 credits**

This course will introduce students to the Bible as a collection of materials from ancient Jewish and Christian traditions and how it can be understood in our culture and our world. Emphasis of studies will be placed on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament).

**BCS300: The Fundamentals of the Bible****4 credits**

This course will introduce students to the Bible as a collection of materials from ancient Jewish and Christian traditions and how it can be understood in our culture and our world. Emphasis of studies will be placed on the gospels and Christian Scriptures (New Testament).

**FMT300: Fillmorean Theology****3 credits**

Mr. Fillmore's approach to Christian Theology focuses on the ability to make it practical and demonstrable. He accepts the traditional Christian terminology, but he goes deeper than their surface meaning and reveals



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how this deeper interpretation enables the student to come into a better understanding of him or herself. From his theology we get a clear picture of what it means to be a New Thought Christian.

**HPM300: Spiritual Healing, Prayer and Meditation      3 credits**

Myrtle and Charles Fillmore were the founders of the Unity Movement. Much can be credited to Myrtle for her dedication to prayer and healing which was the basis of the original students. Students will study how Mrs. Fillmore used the principles of prayer and healing to reach people around the world.

**HNC300: History of New Thought Christianity      3 credits**

New Thought Christianity is a product of America. Its history reveals that from America it has spread into the world to offer people another perception of what it can mean to practice ones Faith. This course will allow the student to follow the growth of this movement practically in the 19th and 20th centuries and the leaders who were prominent in the movement.

**JCS300: Johnnie Colemon: Her Story and Her Work      3 credits**

Johnnie Colemon migrated from the American south to the city of Chicago in the middle of twentieth century. There she was introduced to a practical way of life that empowered people to be their best. She not only built a local ministry that attracted thousands but also an international organization with global impact.

**LIT300: Lessons in Truth      3 credits**

We are embarking on an exciting adventure to explore Truth, with Dr. H. Emilie Cady. Dr. Cady was a physician and metaphysician, and her teachings helped form the beginnings of the New Thought movement. The chapters that form Lessons in Truth are some of the very first metaphysical discussions ever published. The purpose of this course is to help students become familiar with metaphysics, as understood in New Thought, and to translate these teachings into our contemporary society, understanding her writings through a 21st century lens.



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Students will discover and implement new spiritual tools to express their spiritual freedom.

**TWC300: Effective Teaching (Teaching with Compassion) 3 credits**

While previous models focused on teacher outcomes, this course places focus on student learning outcomes, offering strategies teachers can use to help students grasp the information and skills transferred through their instruction. It will cover the elements of three overarching categories of teaching, which define what must happen to optimize student learning: students must receive feedback, get meaningful content instruction, and have their basic psychological needs met as they experience spiritual growth.

**UFB300: UFBL Foundational Principles**

**3 credits**

Students will be introduced to their spiritual identity, purpose, and nature as well as being shown methods on how they can claim mastery and authority over themselves and avoid the mental bondage that has limited them in the past. This course includes a deeper study of our Basic Truth Principles through a completion of ten (10) correspondence assignments as well.

## **Master Certificate/Master Plus Program**

**ASM110: Atom Smashing Power (Advanced Course) 3 credits**

The serious student of spirituality must consider scientific discoveries and achievements to gain a more solid foundation about spiritual matters. *Prerequisite:* Bible VI

**BIB101: Bible I: Introduction to the Bible**

**3 credits**

The student gains an understanding of the entire Bible from a historical perspective and examines what the Bible really says in comparison to frequently heard contradictions. The student shall explore the First Testament (Hebrew Scriptures), the Apocrypha, and the Second Testament (Christian Scriptures). *Prerequisite:* Basic Truth Principles II



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**BIB102: Bible II: Developing Metaphysical Eyes** **3 credits**

The student gains knowledge of the Bible through the hidden and metaphysical meanings of proper names, keywords, and the significance of numbers and symbols. *Prerequisite:* Bible I

**BIB103: Bible III: Old Testament I (Metaphysical)** **3 credits**

The student gains metaphysical knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures from Genesis to II Chronicles. *Prerequisite:* Bible II

**BIB104: Bible IV: Old Testament II (Metaphysical)** **3 credits**

Continuation of the study of the Hebrew Scriptures started in Bible III. *Prerequisite:* Bible III

**BIB105: Bible V: New Testament I (Metaphysical)** **3 credits**

The student engages in an in-depth study of Jesus from his birth, to his Resurrection and to his Ascension while engaging in metaphysical study and interpretation. *Prerequisite:* Bible IV

**BIB106: Bible VI: New Testament II (Metaphysical)** **3 credits**

The student engages in metaphysical study and interpretation of the New Testament from Acts to Revelation. *Prerequisite:* Bible V

**BTP101: Basic Truth Principles I** **3 credits**

Learn about new approaches to traditional Christian beliefs and obtain an understanding of New Thought and its fundamental aspects. Gain new concepts of God, Prayer, Jesus, and much, much more.

*Prerequisite:* None

**BTP102: Basic Truth Principles II** **3 credits**

This class continues the studies that began in Basic Truth I by engaging the student in a broad study of important life questions such as, "Why do we suffer? Is there a remedy for suffering?" These and other such questions will be answered. *Prerequisite:* Basic Truth Principles I



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**DPW100: Discover the Power Within****3 credits**

Rediscover the divine dimensions within you and recommit to living according to your divinity through the teachings of Jesus.

*Prerequisite:* Basic Truth Principles II

**MPC201: Session I: Prosperity****4 credits**

This is the first of three classes designed to expand consciousness beyond the metaphysical to the mystical. Learn Charles Fillmore's 12 mystical lessons to transforming the mind to experience prosperity.

*Prerequisite:* JCTS Master Certificate

**MPC202: Session II: The Mysteries of John****4 credits**

Explore the Gospel of John from the metaphysical to the mystical in understanding the unity of God, humanity, and creation. Gain greater awareness on how to express your spiritual identity and how to live an extraordinary, spirit-filled life.

*Prerequisite:* Session I

**MPC203: Session III: Dynamics for Living****4 credits**

This is the last of three classes. In this course, students will explore the concept of "Practical Christianity" and learn how to develop their own personal methods.

*Prerequisite:* Session II

**POH100: Principles of Healing****3 credits**

Learn the spiritual realizations to study and to apply to your mind and body in the process of healing yourself and healing others.

*Prerequisite:* Basic Truth Principles II

**POP100: Principles of Prayer****3 credits**

Students learn how to use prayer and meditation as practices to peace of mind, to clarify of oneness with God and in helping others.

*Prerequisite:* Basic Truth Principles II

**SDY100: Self-Discovery: "It Works If You Work It"****3 credits**

Gain proof of the healing presence through spiritual principles found in the Holy Bible and from the discovery and application by the UFBL



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founder, the Rev. Dr. Johnnie Coleman. Use the proof in your life to discover and claim your divine inheritance.

*Prerequisite:* Basic Truth Principles II

**TOT110: Talks on Truth (Advanced Course)**

**3 credits**

The advance student of spirituality will explore 14 enlightening talks by Unity co-founder, Charles Fillmore, to enhance their understanding of the metaphysical aspects of Christianity as a guide to spiritual living.

*Prerequisite:* Bible VI

**TWP110: Twelve Powers (Advanced Course)**

**3 credits**

Learn the 12 powers to live a healthy, happy, and prosperous life.

*Prerequisite:* Bible VI

*Note: As we continue to improve upon our course offerings, be aware that course names, descriptions, credit hour, and course/section numbers in all programs are subject to change. Students will not be penalized in such cases.*





In the consciousness of:

**THE REVEREND DR. JOHNNIE COLEMON**

Founder & 1<sup>st</sup> President of the UFBL, Co-Founder of the JCTS

**THE REVEREND DR. MARY TUMPKIN**

Co-Founder & 1<sup>st</sup> President of the JCTS, 2<sup>nd</sup> President of the UFBL

**THE REVEREND DR. HELEN WARD CARRY**

*“The Teacher of Teachers”* in the UFBL

**THE REVEREND DR. JESSELYN (PENNY) SAFFOLD**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Associate Provost of the JCTS

**THE REVEREND DR. ANNA PRICE**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Provost/Academic Dean of the JCTS

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*For any questions, comments, or concerns regarding policy matters not addressed in this catalog, please contact the Seminary’s Provost.*