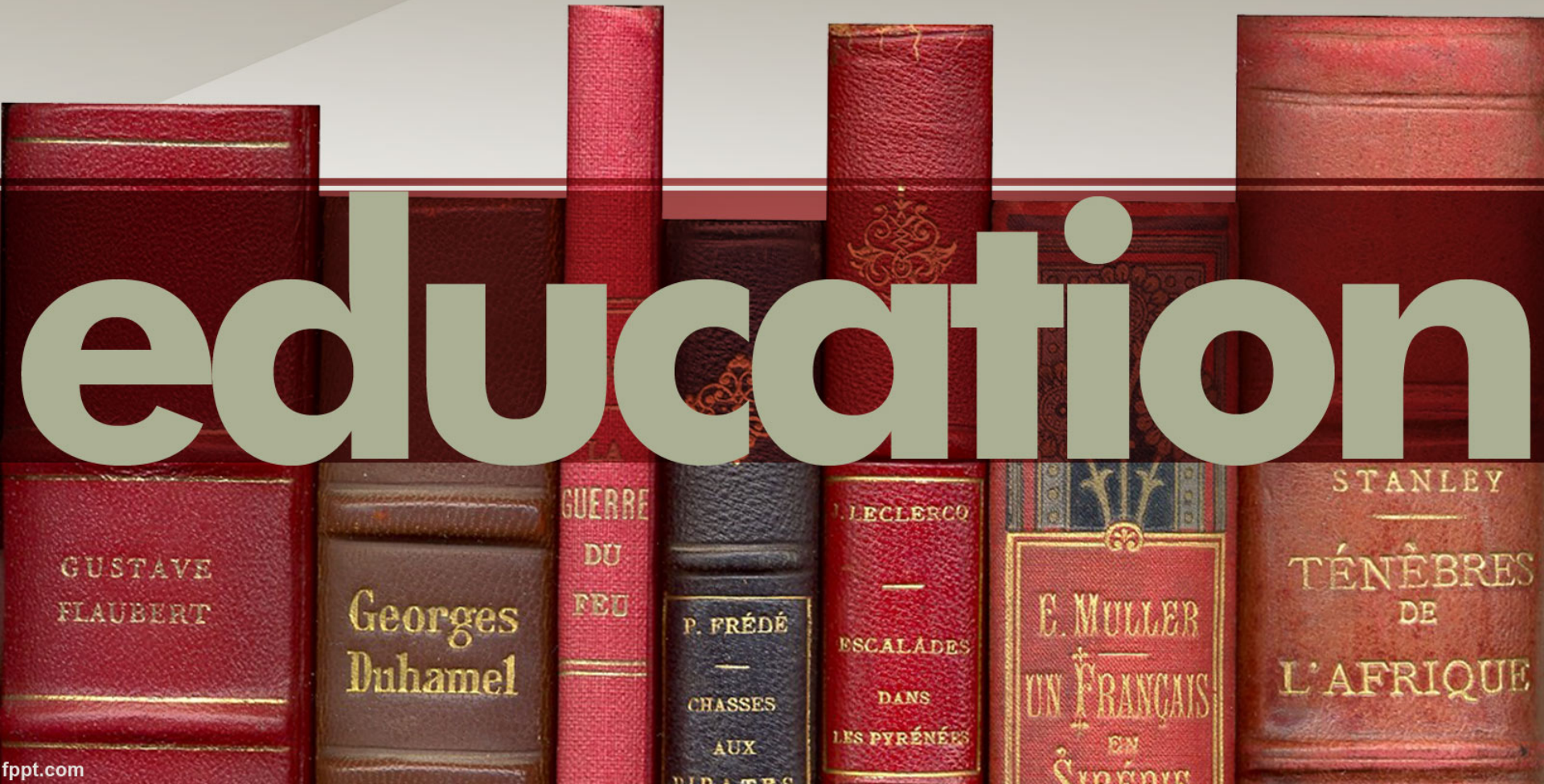


URBAN DIVINITY SCHOOL

RE-IMAGING THEOLOGICAL DISCOURSE FOR URBAN CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES! CREATING A FRESH EDUCATIONAL NARRATIVE...



education



OUR HISTORY

Urban Divinity School (UDS) is a more than 20-year vision of the Reverend Dr. U. A. Thompson, Sr. a Greenville Native, who envisioned a theological institution that educates, eradicates, establishes and liberates both sapiens and systems. Born from a concern to give a voice to the silenced and a desire to address the ills of society, including poverty, inequality, systemic racism, and oppression. Recognizing the absence of concentrated theological focus and reflection on urban renewal, social action and social justice within the church and community of this modern era, UDS seeks to equip unequipped leaders with the ability to express the claims of Jesus through the principles set forth in his social gospel message. To accomplish this task, we need properly trained leaders of the church and community, who maintain conscious awareness of and presence in the many layers of social constructs, systems and scenarios present in Urban communities. To this end, UDS embodies the spirit of liberation, transformation and renewal as proclaimed by Christ' good news (the gospel) for those living within life's margins.



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Christian Philosophy of Education

Urban Divinity School is committed to a pedagogy of formation that not only trains students to think theologically about God, life, and the world around them, but also guides them in their spiritual development from faith to action. At UDS, education is not reduced to a simple exchange of information between professors and students, but, instead, fosters a way of life that emphasizes ecumenicism, multiculturalism, and critical thinking in implementing a vision of social justice that pursues, through urban renewal, economic revitalization, and institutional reform, liberation for the oppressed, marginalized, and disenfranchised of society.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Urban Divinity School exists to prepare students for positions in ecclesial, social, and academic leadership and service by equipping them with both the practical and critical skills necessary to affect change in their churches and communities as well as their academic and professional institutions. Essential to carrying out this mission is creating an integrated educational atmosphere through strategic partnerships with churches, non-profit organizations, such as Urban Divinity Center, and the formation of divinity jr. (a youth initiative), which will provide UDS students with opportunities to participate directly in urban renewal and to learn concrete ways of embodying their theological education for the revitalization of their church, community, and society.



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OUR VISION

Urban Divinity School is committed to becoming a premier educational institution for theological and spiritual formation, transformation, and a leader in social justice.

- *Thinking theologically for urban renewal and social justice.*
- *Thinking Socially.*
- *Living Theologically.*
- *Seeking Transformation.*



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OUR FOCUS

- The focus of the School/Center is to train leaders of every kind to impact/transform urban and other communities for the better. To create excitement through practical and theological based education, GED training, financial literacy, entrepreneurial training, specialty licensing (real estate agent, insurance agent, general contractor, barber/beauty, adult/child Care, medical billing and coding, etc.) along with theological based certificates and degrees in Social Justice, Prophetic Preaching, Kingian Studies of Nonviolence (Building the Beloved Community) and others.
- We believe that our approach yields a highly impactful individual of goodwill and intent, who will transform their personal lives, families, community, church and culture, while becoming independent, self-sufficient and self-sustaining. We have also developed a program for those in prison, so that they too can be empowered to take charge of their lives and future, with a the cooperation of South Carolina Department of Corrections, we enroll inmates into theological and specialty licensing classes, so that when they are released they will have an occupation whereby they can improve the caliber and quality of their lives and families.
- We participate in the educational community through uniquely accredited training tracts and partnerships for maximum impact.



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OUR FACULTY

Rev. U. A. Thompson, Sr., Th.D, PhD,

Rev. Curtis Johnson, MDiv

Rev. Vadry Freeman, DMin

Mr. Benjamin DeSpain, PhD

Rev. Leroy Williams, DMin

Mrs. Mildred Williams, PhD

Rev. Phillip Baldwin, DMin

Rev. Ankoma Anderson, PhD

Rev. Adrian Wideman, DMin

Rev. James Nesbitt, M.T.S

Mrs. Sonja Irvin Cummings, M.A.H.R., M.H.S.

Rev. Antwain Yowe, DMin

Rev. Paris L. Smith, DMin - Adjunct

Rev. Reginald Dawkins, DMin - Adjunct



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OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. David Bost - Retired Furman Professor

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Traci Fant – Business Owner/Community Activist

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Dr. Vadry Freeman – Pastor

Mr. Terrell Becaman – Business Owner

Mrs. Helen Pendarvis - Paralegal



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WE NEED YOUR HELP

- Urban Divinity School and the Urban Divinity Center, is a not for profit school and center whose aim is educating within the urban context for empowerment. Through our unique approach individuals realize their full potential and become self- sufficiency and self- sustaining which prompts and promotes urban renewal and revitalization.
- We serve the poor and needy as well as others involved in or concerned with leading the charge of aiding these persons and communities in returning or becoming viable to society.
- We have built this school and center in the backward areas so that education will be available to everyone and thus the literacy ratio will increase. We have many plans to be fulfilled in the near future.
- We are currently offering classes in theology, real estate agent licensing, insurance agent licensing, GED, financial literacy classes and entrepreneurial training. We believe these tracks are motivating and reinvigorating the Urban communities' interest in renewing and revitalizing itself towards productive, contributory ends.
- Our college and students are actively engaged in the participation of social concerns and events within our communities.
- We offer payment assistance to any who are in need.



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WE NEED YOUR HELP...

- We hope that you will be apart of this broad vision and offer your unconditional support and continuous financial contributions towards our endeavors.
- Any amount is greatly appreciated.
- There are scholarship programs available to be named after you or your designee, as well as ongoing support for students who are unable to pay themselves for this upward mobilizing educational endeavor.
- We enlist funds of all kinds and amounts as we build this school, we will provide you with complete details on who your funds benefited and how your funds are used on an on-going basis.
- Please help us in the Friend-raising campaign.
- Checks can be made to Urban Divinity School and mailed to 242 S. Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, South Carolina 29607 or secure giving on our website under donations tab, www.uds.education.



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**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR TIME,
CONSIDERATION AND
ANY TAX DEDUCTIBLE
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