

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL



A Message of Gratitude from the Shaw Divinity School Staff

As we reflect on this past year, the entire Shaw Divinity School staff extends our deepest gratitude to all who have supported and walked alongside us in our mission. We are truly thankful for our current students, alumni, friends, families, and partners whose encouragement, prayers, and engagement have helped move SUDS forward in so many meaningful ways. Because of your dedication and faith, we have experienced a year of extraordinary growth and impact, one that has strengthened our community, inspired our students, and reaffirmed the purpose of our work. Your support makes all the difference, and we look forward to continuing this journey together with hope, joy, and anticipation for what lies ahead.

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A Message from the Dean

As I look back on this past year at Shaw University Divinity School, my heart is full of gratitude and joy. It has been an extraordinary season, one that continually reminds me why this community and this work matter so deeply.

I am continually inspired by the dedication of our faculty and staff, the resilience and growth of our students, and the steadfast support of our alumni. From transformative learning experiences to impactful events like our Pre-Minister's Conference Advent Celebration, this year has demonstrated the power of connection, fellowship, and shared faith. Witnessing alumni and current students gather in worship, conversation, and mentorship was a particularly meaningful highlight, affirming the strength of the Shaw Divinity family.

We are deeply grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and partnership, which help sustain our mission and enable us to shape the next generation of faith leaders. The future of Shaw Divinity is bright because of you, and I eagerly look forward to all that God will continue to accomplish through this remarkable community.

*Mark Harden, Dean,
Shaw University Divinity School*



As we celebrate this holy season, may we all be reminded of the hope that Christ brings into the world:
*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

— Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

Pre-Minister's Conference Advent Celebration Recap

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Looking Ahead: The 2026 Minister's Conference

Hosted by Shaw University Divinity School — April 2026

Shaw University Divinity School is thrilled to announce the upcoming 2026 Minister's Conference, taking place in April 2026. This annual gathering continues to be one of the most impactful moments in our ministry calendar, and the upcoming conference is shaping up to be our most dynamic yet.

This year, participants can look forward to:

- **Exceptional Workshop Speakers:** We are preparing a lineup of some of the most insightful and influential voices in ministry and theological education. These speakers will offer practical tools, fresh perspectives, and spiritually rich guidance designed to equip leaders for meaningful and effective ministry.
- **Inspiring Worship Services:** Renowned pastors and gifted preachers will lead us in worship experiences that promise to be both powerful and deeply transformative. Each service is crafted to renew your spirit, strengthen your faith, and call us all into deeper commitment to God's work.
- **Unparalleled Networking Opportunities:** The conference will provide valuable space for connection among alumni, current students, community leaders, and esteemed ministers. These moments of fellowship will allow attendees to exchange ideas, build relationships, and engage with influential leaders whose ministries are shaping communities in profound ways.



The Alexander / Peques Minister's Conference is more than an event—it's a time of reunion, renewal, and recommitment to the mission of ministry. We invite you to join us as we gather for learning, worship, and collaboration, all in the spirit of advancing the work of Christ.

Stay tuned: registration details, speaker announcements, and full conference information will be released in the coming weeks. We cannot wait to welcome you.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another." - Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

2026 Ministers Conference Sponsorship Opportunities

Partner with Shaw University Divinity School and gain meaningful visibility while supporting a conference dedicated to leadership, faith, and community impact.



Why Become a Sponsor?

- Engage directly with pastors, ministry leaders, and faith influencers
- Present and promote your organization, nonprofit, or published work
- Receive booth space and recognition across conference materials and social media platforms



Sponsorship Investment Levels

Booth-Only Exhibitor — \$250

- Table placement in Networking Room
- Recognition listing in conference program

Bronze Partner — \$500

- Exhibitor booth
- Logo placement on signage and in conference program

Silver Partner — \$1,250

- All Bronze benefits
- Five-minute speaking opportunity
- Social media recognition

Gold Partner — \$2,500

- All Silver benefits
- Ten-minute speaking opportunity
- Recognition in conference press release

Presenting Sponsor (Exclusive) — \$5,000+

- All Gold benefits
- Top-tier recognition across all conference platforms
- Verbal acknowledgment during conference programming
- One exclusive sponsorship opportunity available

Interested in Becoming a Sponsor?

For more information or to secure your sponsorship, please contact:

Kevin Bradley

Director of Donor Relations and Strategic Partnerships

✉ kevin.bradley@shawu.edu

Join us in making the 2026 Ministers Conference a powerful experience of connection, visibility, and impact.

Shaw Divinity 2025: A Year of Impact

Shaw Divinity moves forward with purpose—empowering faithful, compassionate leaders for Christ and humanity.

January – We honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a compelling panel on justice reform and racial equity, sparking meaningful dialogue across our community.

February – Nurturing Children and Youth for the Future united leaders, educators, and families to empower the next generation through mentorship and guidance.

April – Our Annual Ministers Conference equipped leaders for ministry and service, while RIMA's service and Awards Day celebrated faith, community, and student achievement.

May – We proudly celebrated our Spring 2025 graduates, recognized Dr. Seth Klayman's five years of transformative leadership. In addition, our workshops tackled critical youth challenges through insightful conversations centered on mental health and mentorship.

July – The Virtual Open House welcomed prospective students to explore life at Shaw Divinity, connecting them with faculty and staff.

September – The academic year began with an inspiring convocation, student engagement at the Career & Internship Fair, and a new partnership with Radio One's The Light 103.9, amplifying our mission in the community.

October – Founders Day highlighted faculty leadership and our enduring commitment to ministry excellence. We also celebrated Rev. Dr. Lafayette Maxwell's 46 years of service, honoring a legacy of faith, scholarship, and mentorship.



Shaw Divinity continues to inspire, educate, and serve—building leaders for Christ and humanity. As we expand our programs, deepen our partnerships, and invest in the next generation of faith leaders, we move forward with renewed purpose and unwavering dedication.



Announcements

1. Lighting the Path: Nurturing Children and Youth Conference

Empower youth! Join workshops on mental health, development, and high school challenges, plus a panel and Dean Harden's talk: "Discerning the Times: Biblical Perspectives on AI."

Free breakfast & lunch included!

Saturday, February 7, 2026 • 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Benton Convention Center • Winston-Salem, NC



2. William G. and Margaret B. Frasier Scholarship

Applications will be accepted starting on **December 11, 2025** and ending on **February 16, 2026**. If you have questions, please call Deanna Nilsson at 864-268-3363 (Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Eastern Time) or send an email to admin@csascholars.org.



3. MLK Pre-Birthday Breakfast & Community Dialogue

This gathering provides an opportunity to reflect on Dr. King's vision in today's age of artificial intelligence, with a focus on:

- Justice & Human Dignity
- Ethical Leadership
- Faith, Technology, and Moral Responsibility

Date & Time: Saturday, January 17, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: The Red Bird Event Space – Residence Inn, Downtown Raleigh
616 S. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

Spaces are limited!

This event is FREE, and breakfast will be provided.

