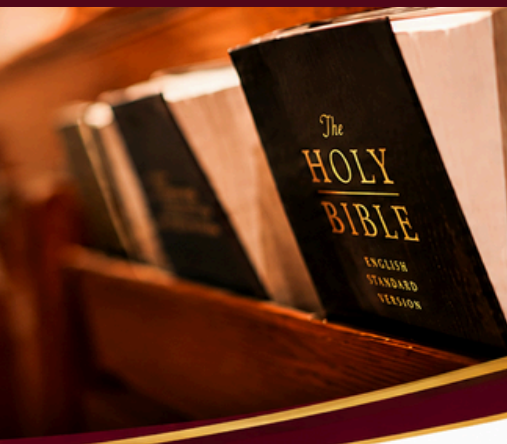




SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

A Milestone in Faith. A Vision for the Future.



A Message from Dean Mark Harden

As we begin a new academic year, Shaw University Divinity School proudly celebrates a historic milestone with the launch of the nation's first HBCU Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Artificial Intelligence and Moral Agency. This groundbreaking program reflects our commitment to preparing ethical, faith-centered leaders who will help shape the future of technology, society, and human dignity. As we welcome our students, alumni, partners, and supporters, we remain steadfast in our mission of developing transformational leaders for ministry and society. Together, we will continue building upon our rich legacy while boldly embracing innovation and preparing leaders who are Rooted in Christ, Empowered to Serve, and Called to Lead.



This issue:

A Message from Dean
Mark Harden

HISTORIC MILESTONE:
Shaw Launches Nation's
First HBCU Doctoral
Program in Artificial
Intelligence and Moral
Agency

**FROM A LEGACY TO A
MILESTONE:**
160 Years of Faith.
Leadership. Innovation.

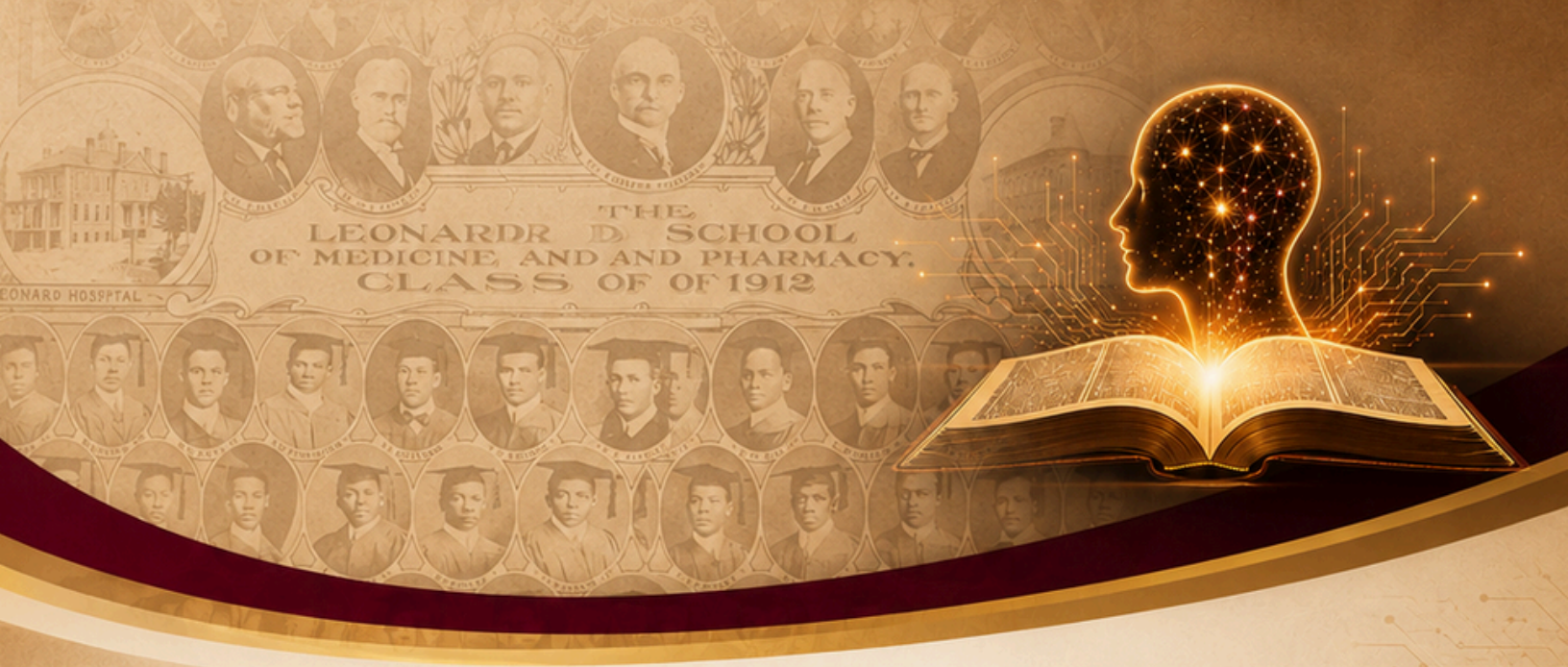
Academic Programs at
Shaw Divinity

Student Spotlight: A New
Year of Opportunity

Looking Forward

Ways You Can Support
Shaw Divinity

As We Begin a New
Academic Year



FROM A LEGACY TO A MILESTONE: 160 Years of Faith. Leadership. Innovation.

Every generation at Shaw University Divinity School has answered the challenges of its time. What began in 1865 as a mission to educate newly emancipated African Americans has grown into a global legacy of preparing leaders for the Church, society, and now the future of artificial intelligence.

A Timeline of Innovation & Leadership

1865

A Legacy Begins

Shaw University is founded in Raleigh, North Carolina, becoming the first Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in the South. From its beginning, the institution was established to educate newly emancipated African Americans and prepare leaders for ministry, education, and public service.



1878

Shaw Divinity School is Established

The Leonard School of Theology—now Shaw University Divinity School—is founded to prepare ministers, pastors, missionaries, and faith leaders committed to serving both the Church and society.



1900s–2000s

Generations of Leadership

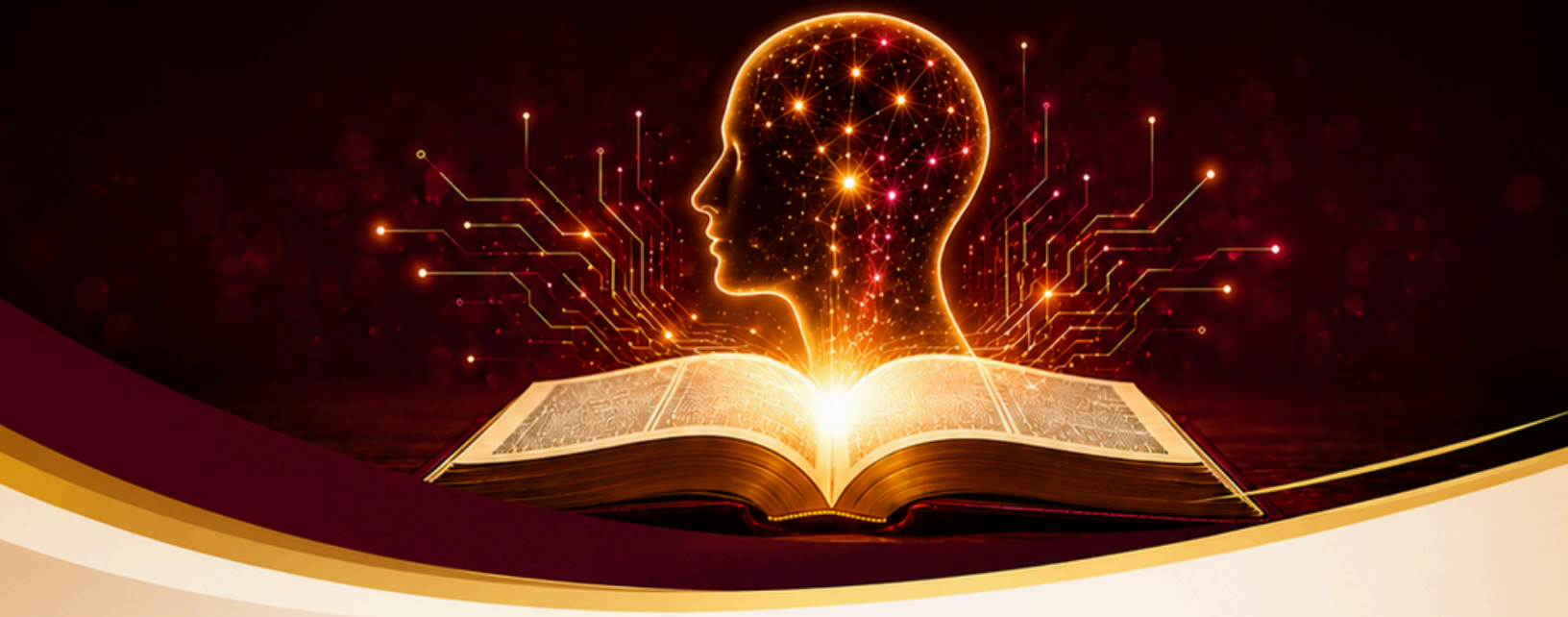
For more than a century, Shaw Divinity graduates have served congregations, communities, schools, nonprofits, hospitals, and public institutions across the nation and around the world.



A Legacy of Justice

Inspired by Shaw University's historic role in the Civil Rights Movement and the founding of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Shaw Divinity has continued its mission of developing leaders committed to justice, faith, and community transformation.

2026 → "History Is Made."



Every generation faces defining questions. Ours begins with artificial intelligence.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

Preparing Leaders for the Challenges of Tomorrow

For more than 160 years, Shaw University Divinity School has prepared leaders to serve the Church and transform communities. Today, that mission continues in a groundbreaking way.

As artificial intelligence reshapes society, tomorrow's leaders must be equipped to address both technological innovation and the ethical questions it brings. Shaw University's new Ed.D. in Artificial Intelligence and Moral Agency prepares leaders to navigate this future with faith, integrity, and purpose.

History Is Made

Shaw University receives approval to offer doctoral degrees and launches the nation's first Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Artificial Intelligence and Moral Agency offered by a Historically Black College or University.

The inaugural cohort will begin in Spring 2027, preparing ethical leaders to address some of the defining questions of our time:

1. How should artificial intelligence be used responsibly?
2. How do we preserve human dignity in an increasingly digital world?
3. What role should faith and moral reasoning play in emerging technologies?

The Next Chapter Begins

Designed for Leaders in:

- Ministry & Church Leadership
- Education & Higher Education
- Healthcare & Human Services
- Government & Public Policy
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Business & Corporate Leadership

From educating ministers after Emancipation to preparing ethical leaders for the age of artificial intelligence, Shaw Divinity continues its mission of equipping servant leaders to transform the Church, communities, and the world.

Witness as The Story continues...

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AT SHAW DIVINITY

At Shaw University Divinity School, we prepare faithful, innovative, and compassionate leaders to serve the Church, strengthen communities, and transform the world. Rooted in a legacy of theological excellence and social justice, our programs provide the academic, spiritual, and practical foundation needed for impactful leadership. Whether you are called to ministry or seeking to integrate faith into your profession, Shaw Divinity offers programs that will help you grow academically, spiritually, and professionally.

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

The Master of Divinity prepares students for pastoral ministry, chaplaincy, church leadership, advocacy, and community transformation through rigorous theological education, spiritual formation, and practical ministry experience.

Certificate & Continuing Education Programs

Our certificate and continuing education programs provide clergy, church leaders, and lifelong learners with accessible opportunities to deepen their theological knowledge, strengthen leadership skills, and expand their impact through outreach and community partnerships.

Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry (MATM)

Designed for bi-vocational and community leaders, the MATM integrates theological education with professional practice. It is ideal for those serving in education, healthcare, nonprofit leadership, social work, public service, and other fields where faith informs leadership.

At Shaw Divinity, we don't just educate leaders—we develop servant leaders who are equipped to make a lasting difference. We are honored to welcome our newest students and look forward to walking with you as you answer God's call.



Student Spotlight:

A NEW YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

A new academic year brings new opportunities to learn, lead, and grow. Whether you're beginning your first semester or continuing your journey, you are part of a legacy of leadership that began in 1865.

As the first HBCU in the South, Shaw University has long been a place where faith, scholarship, and service intersect. At Shaw Divinity, that legacy continues through every student who answers the call to lead with purpose and make a lasting impact.



Make the most of every opportunity this year. Grow in your studies, build meaningful relationships, serve your community, and pursue excellence in both leadership and faith. As you embrace new opportunities, remain grounded in God's purpose for your life.

This Academic Year, We Encourage You To:

- Engage in your classroom and learning experiences.
- Connect with faculty, mentors, and fellow students.
- Serve through ministry and community outreach.
- Pursue excellence in scholarship and leadership.
- Lead with innovation while remaining grounded in faith.

Welcome to a new year of purpose, growth, and possibility. Your journey begins today, and your impact will be felt for generations to come.

LOOKING FORWARD

The 2026–2027 academic year promises to be one of the most transformative seasons in the history of Shaw University Divinity School. Building upon our rich legacy and historic mission, we are excited about new opportunities that will strengthen our impact locally, nationally, and globally.

This year, Shaw Divinity will continue expanding its recruitment and enrollment efforts while preparing for the inaugural Spring 2027 cohort of the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Artificial Intelligence and Moral Agency, the nation's first program of its kind at an HBCU. Interest in this groundbreaking degree continues to grow as leaders from ministry, education, healthcare, government, nonprofit organizations, and the corporate sector seek to engage the ethical challenges of emerging technologies.

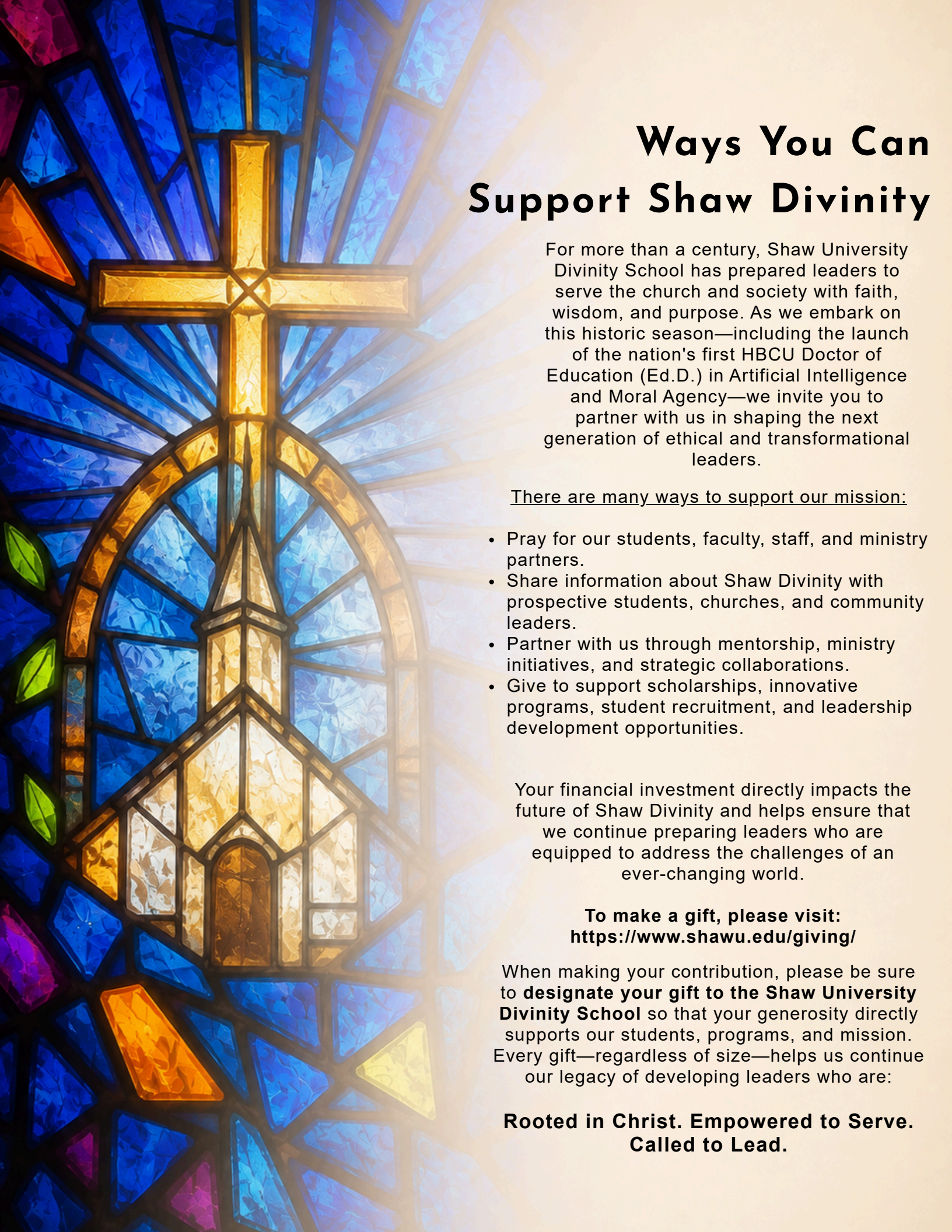
Additionally, we look forward to:

- Expanding partnerships with churches, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and community leaders.
- Increasing alumni engagement and creating new opportunities for alumni to reconnect and support the mission of Shaw Divinity.
- Enhancing student experiences through leadership development opportunities, mentorship initiatives, and ministry engagement.
- Developing innovative marketing and outreach campaigns that further elevate the visibility and impact of Shaw University Divinity School.
- Continuing programs and initiatives that address spiritual formation, social justice, community transformation, and ethical leadership.

As we begin this new academic year, Shaw Divinity continues to equip faithful, visionary leaders to serve the Church, impact communities, and shape the future with purpose.

SHAW
UNIVERSITY
— 1865 —





Ways You Can Support Shaw Divinity

For more than a century, Shaw University Divinity School has prepared leaders to serve the church and society with faith, wisdom, and purpose. As we embark on this historic season—including the launch of the nation's first HBCU Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Artificial Intelligence and Moral Agency—we invite you to partner with us in shaping the next generation of ethical and transformational leaders.

There are many ways to support our mission:

- Pray for our students, faculty, staff, and ministry partners.
- Share information about Shaw Divinity with prospective students, churches, and community leaders.
- Partner with us through mentorship, ministry initiatives, and strategic collaborations.
- Give to support scholarships, innovative programs, student recruitment, and leadership development opportunities.

Your financial investment directly impacts the future of Shaw Divinity and helps ensure that we continue preparing leaders who are equipped to address the challenges of an ever-changing world.

To make a gift, please visit:
<https://www.shawu.edu/giving/>

When making your contribution, please be sure to **designate your gift to the Shaw University Divinity School** so that your generosity directly supports our students, programs, and mission. Every gift—regardless of size—helps us continue our legacy of developing leaders who are:

**Rooted in Christ. Empowered to Serve.
Called to Lead.**

AS WE BEGIN A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

As we embark on another year of learning, leadership, and service, let us remain steadfast in our calling to faithfully serve Christ, our communities, and one another.

Prayer for the Academic Year:

"Heavenly Father, grant us wisdom to learn, courage to lead, and faith to serve. May Shaw University Divinity School continue to be a beacon of hope, justice, and transformational leadership for Christ and humanity. Amen."

Personal message from The Shaw Divinity faculty and staff:

Thank you for being a part of the Shaw University Divinity School family. Together, we continue a proud legacy of preparing faithful leaders who are rooted in Christ, empowered to serve, and called to lead. We look forward to all that God has in store for this academic year. Stay connected with us throughout the year for the latest news, events, academic programs, and opportunities.

Shaw University Divinity School
118 E. South Street • Raleigh, NC
27601

 (800) 214-6683
 divinity.shawu.edu

**Rooted in Christ. Empowered
to Serve. Called to Lead.**

