



# JACKSON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2021-2022 President's Report

**Vision Statement:** Becoming a Global Academy, providing biblical foundations for Christian ministries that *serve, transforms and liberates* communities.



JACKSON  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY

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# Letter from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees

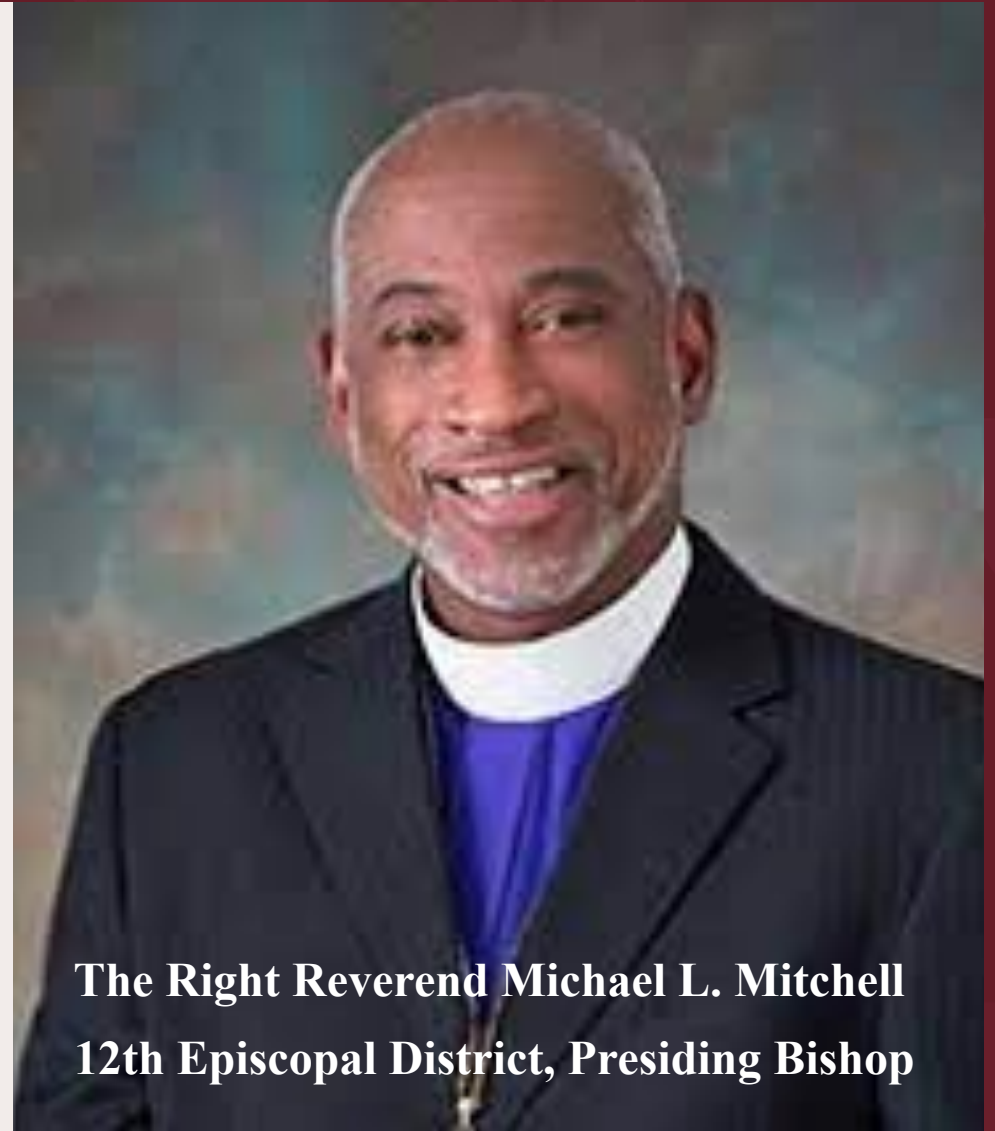
This is an exciting time for the faculty, staff and especially the students of Jackson. We are entering a new era of educational and academic excellence that will prepare our students to render a higher quality of service to the church and the community. Jackson Theological Seminary is committed to values that promote the welfare and positive transformation of individuals, communities and societies. The faculty, administration and staff are committed to producing effective Christian leaders in pastoral and ministerial service.

The Jackson faculty excels in teaching and scholarship, sharing with students their passion for the wisdom and understanding of the Word of God, and it's literal and practical application.

Jackson Theological Seminary is on track to become a preeminent institution of higher learning that will serve the Arkansas region at a national level of quality. Offering a commitment to the needs, interests and goals of our students, we have developed an outstanding curriculum that nurtures and promotes exceptional Christian ministry leadership.

Matriculation at Jackson Theological Seminary also cultivates an atmosphere to challenge us to be all that God intends. A unique balance of ministry preparation, leadership training and spiritual enrichment awaits all who have fully committed to the call and charge of God on their lives.

**Sincerely,  
Bishop Michael L. Mitchell  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees**



**The Right Reverend Michael L. Mitchell  
12th Episcopal District, Presiding Bishop**

# Letter from the President/CEO

**Reverend Cecil Williams, Jr.**

In every generation, inspired people have come forth to meet the challenges of their day. We now face an era that is calling for a new level of Spirit-filled, scholarly leaders. The great Rev. Dr. Benjamin Mays once said that “if religion is to be respectable, challenging and increasingly helpful...we have no other choice than to concern ourselves more in the future with theological education among (our people) than we have in the past.” That future calls to us today, and Jackson Theological Seminary is ready to answer.

With your committed support, I believe we can help develop courageous change-agents for the pulpit and the public square, God being our helper. With a robust student body, thoughtful academic rigor, engaging theological scholarship, and an intentional strategy to build the beloved community, we will make a difference in the lives of people and institutions in local and global theatres. Let us challenge each other to be excellent. As our staff and faculty work together with you to train Kingdom-minded leaders, there is no doubt that the Jackson experience will foster deep spiritual formation, integrity and a hunger to tell the old story of a Jesus and his love.

**Sincerely,  
Rev. Cecil L. Williams, Jr**



# About Jackson Theological Seminary



## Strategic Goals



**Goal 1: To achieve and maintain a student enrollment** that ensures long-term viability and sustainability and substantive student interaction and engagement.

**Goal 2: To deliver academic excellence** through high-quality programs, rich learning opportunities, and effective student support mechanisms.

**Goal 3: To secure membership and recognition with reputable accrediting agencies** to enhance the Seminary's credibility and reputation nationally and regionally.

**Goal 4: To secure and sustain funding sources** to fulfill the vision and mission of the Seminary.

**Goal 5: To establish human resource management best practices** that attract, engage, and retain employees.

# Historical Sketch

Theological Seminary (JTS) had its beginning with Shorter College in 1886 and shared many of Shorter's physical facilities and programs. The Seminary is named for the late Dr. Thomas Henry Jackson who served as President 1895-1900 and Dean of the Theological Department 1904 – 1912. Dr. Jackson is a graduate of Wilberforce University. He entered Wilberforce at the age of 14, graduating with the first class, in 1870. In 1865, he was converted and entered the active ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, thus serving 56 years.

JTS offered Bachelor and Master degrees for students who completed their Associate of Arts degree from Shorter College. While the school was not accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, the administration and faculty modeled the seminary after those that were accredited in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The leadership of JTS was recognized alternately as either the President or Dean of the seminary. Jackson Theological Seminary held classes and taught courses in Theology, Christian education, Pastoral leadership and preaching continuously from 1960 to 2010. In the spring of 2009, JTS entered into an off-campus distance learning partnership with Florida Center for Theological Studies. Jackson discontinued holding classes after the 2011 school year because of a need to focus more attention on Shorter College.

Under the leadership of the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell, and the President Cecil L. Williams, Jr. in June 2018 Jackson Theological Seminary opened its doors to a brand-new facility for the continued purpose of educating and preparing clergy and lay for ministry from a theological perspective. Jackson Theological Seminary is in the process of submitting its application for Accreditation.



**Rev. Dr. T.H. Jackson**

# Financial Report

- **Total Assets:** \$289,554
- **Liabilities:** \$16,256
- **Total Net Assets:** \$273,298
- **FY 2021 Composite Score** from external audit: 3 (a score of 1.5 to 3 means that Jackson is financially responsible and requires no further oversight)



# Significant Accomplishments

**2017** – Under Bishop Michael L. Mitchell completed the 12<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District building, assembled a Board of Trustees, administration, faculty and staff

**2018** – Began first new semester in the Spring, offering a Master of Divinity and Bachelor of Arts Completion degree in Biblical Studies

**2019** – The administration, faculty and staff successfully completed 1 academic year.

**2020** – Conferred the designation of Candidacy by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). Pursued Title IV funds

**2021** – 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Conference of the AME Church in Orlando, Florida, included in the budget for \$100,000 from 2021 – 2024.

**2022** - Completed 3.5 successful academic years in pursuit of our mission and full accreditation, Jackson will go before the TRACS Accreditation Board in August with a decision to be conferred in October.; the pursuit of academic excellence was only equaled by the desire to be the only accredited seminary in the state of Arkansas.