



Our Methodist Roots



The Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson '78, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, and a panel of Methodist thought leaders recently explored race and justice during the “Our Methodist Roots — Symposium on Race and Justice.”

Panelists included:

- The Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, general secretary of the General Board of Church & Society (Doctor of Humane Letters, Wofford College 2014).
- The Rev. Ken Nelson, superintendent, Orangeburg District of the UMC.
- Dr. Phillip Stone '94, archivist, South Carolina Conference of the UMC and Wofford College.
- Bishop Will Willimon '68, professor of the practice of Christian ministry, Duke Divinity School.
- The Rev. Lisa Yebuah '99, (above), campus pastor, Southeast Raleigh Table, Edenton Street UMC and spiritual director and advisor for inclusion and equity, North Carolina Conference of the UMC.

The Symposium on Race and Justice was sponsored by the President’s Office at Wofford College and the Tyson Family Lecture Series.

Reminder: JEDI Preliminary Report Town Hall Today

The Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion steering committee will share its preliminary research and report that was presented to the Wofford College Board of Trustees in February today (Thursday, March 11) at 4 p.m. There is still time to **register for the event**.

Johnson Named NACDA Athletic Director of the Year



Wofford's Athletics Director Richard Johnson is one of 28 winners of the Athletic Director of the Year Award (ADOY). The ADOY Award highlights the efforts of athletics directors at all levels for their commitment and positive contributions to student-athletes, campuses and their surrounding communities.

The award spans seven divisions (NCAA FBS, FCS, Division I-AAA, II, III, NAIA/other four-year institutions and junior college/community colleges). Winners will be recognized leading up to and in conjunction with the 2021 NACDA & Affiliates Virtual Convention in July.

Johnson is one of four honorees from the Football Championship Subdivision.

Read more about Johnson's contributions to Wofford over the past 35 years.

JEDI Working Group 5 Update: Policies, Procedures and JEDI Structure



Working Group 5 focuses on policies, procedures and justice, equity, diversity and inclusion structure. We are reviewing polices relevant to hiring, Title IX, bias reporting and the overall structure of the institution's practices pertaining to those areas. We also are looking closely at possible structural needs to ensure Wofford remains committed to issues pertinent to diversity, equity and inclusivity; long after the work of the JEDI committee ceases.

Some guiding questions that aid in both the development and course of action for our work include:

On issues of Title IX and bias reporting, we tried to understand:

- How does the incident reporting process proceed for students, faculty and staff?
- How is disciplinary action considered and carried out in these incidents and who makes such determination?

For hiring practices:

- How does Wofford seek to identify and ensure a diverse talent pool when hiring? Specifically — (i.e., knowing medium used to advertise for hiring opportunities). What
- is the onboarding process like for new faculty and staff hires? This also includes an exploration of the faculty handbook/manual and the staff handbook manual. What
- training opportunities, specifically those with JEDI focus, are present throughout the year for faculty and staff?

During our exploration process of these areas, we have tried to be diligent in understanding the responsibilities of those charged with oversight in these respective areas.

We also are looking closely at peer institutions, speaking directly with individuals working in the areas associated with our work and looking at trends and data related to higher education and these specific areas.

Many of our peer institutions are engaged in work similar to JEDI's. While they are currently at different phases in their diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, we have noticed that many institutions have a senior diversity official in place — both to elevate the importance and visibility of the role as well expand or bolster the institution's current efforts and resources to achieve diversity, equity and inclusion objectives. Our analysis and reviews have led us to recommend the hiring of a senior-level diversity official to help Wofford achieve its objectives.

We've met with the following internal stakeholders: Amanda Estabrook, Title IX and ADA coordinator; Chee Lee, director of human resources; and Mike Sosulski, provost.

The Wofford community is invited to share thoughts with the group's leader Dr. Tasha Smith-Tyus (smithtyusl@wofford.edu). The group's other member is Trustee Greg O'Dell '92.

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