



The Association of Theological Schools
The Commission on Accrediting

10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1110
T: 412-788-6505 • F: 412-788-6510 • www.ats.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 29, 2018

Contact:

Eliza Smith Brown
Director, Communications and External Relations
The Association of Theological Schools
brown@ats.edu
412-977-3939

Henry Luce Foundation awards \$600,000 to ATS to study future possibilities for theological scholarship

Pittsburgh, PA . . . The Henry Luce Foundation recently announced a three-year grant of \$600,000 to The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) to study the future of theological scholarship. The three-year program will address two purposes: (1) to celebrate the Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology program and assess its impact, and (2) to explore needs and possibilities for theological scholarship in the future and test pilot models of pursuing that scholarship.

The project follows completion of the successful 24-year Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology program, which has funded research and scholarship for 160 Fellows since its inception in 1994. The final class of six Fellows is completing its work in 2018.

To celebrate the accomplishments of the 24 years of the Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology program, the Association plans to gather the Luce Fellows for an afternoon conference and celebration dinner prior to the 2019 meeting of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature in San Diego, California.

The Association will also assess the impact of the Fellows program as part of an exploration of future possibilities for theological research by faculty of ATS schools. During the next three years, a Council on Theological Scholarship and Research will engage issues related to the future of theological scholarship and advise and consult with ATS staff on the current character and possible futures of theological scholarship by theological school faculty.

In addition, a seminar on theological research will gather scholars from the schools along with representatives of various constituencies and media experts to discuss and design pilot projects to address particular topics needing research by theological scholars.

Finally, grant funds will support small groups of researchers to pursue the pilot projects and disseminate their findings. Each group will explore both novel approaches to collaborative theological scholarship and innovative ways to disseminate the findings of that scholarship to a broad range of publics.

According to Stephen Graham, ATS senior director of programs and services, who will oversee the project, “Dramatic changes across the globe, particularly in the area of technology, have affected theological scholarship, including how research is done, emerging new topics to be studied, and unanticipated ways to communicate findings to various publics.” He added, “These changes are made even more influential by the rapid demographic shifts taking place in North America and the changes in adherence and practice experienced by communities of faith. In response, the missions of many schools have broadened to include a wider range of vocations. Consequently, it becomes evident that theological scholars face the need for significant adaptation in their work.”

The award to ATS is [among a total of \\$10,103,000 in grants by the Henry Luce Foundation](#) to 36 organizations. The Theology program awarded three grants to support scholarship, ministry, and public engagement, while nine additional grants through the Luce Fund for Theological Education will support innovation at institutions of theological education, all ATS member schools or affiliates.

###

The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) is a membership organization of more than 270 graduate schools across North America. The Association provides a host of programs, services, research, and other resources to support the work of administrators and faculty at member schools. The Commission on Accrediting of ATS accredits institutions and approves degree programs offered by accredited schools.