

Lilly Endowment awards \$10 million grant to The Association of Theological Schools

Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded a grant of \$10 million to The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) to create the New Century Fund.



The New Century Fund will establish an endowment and support ATS programmatic initiatives designed to help seminaries prepare leaders who will meet the changing needs of Christian churches. It will be formed from the \$10 million Lilly Endowment grant and \$15 million

that ATS currently has invested as its reserve fund for educational programs.

The Lilly Endowment grant includes a \$5 million gift to the ATS endowment fund and an additional \$5 million that will enable ATS to operate its programmatic initiatives during the next five years without drawing resources from its program support fund.

ATS estimates that, beginning in 2021, it will have \$30 million in its New Century endowment funds to support a range of programming to help theological schools.

“Theological education remains at the heart of Lilly Endowment’s commitment to enrich the vitality of Christian congregations and strengthen the quality of pastoral leadership,” said Christopher Coble, vice president for religion at the Endowment. “This grant will help ATS engage in research and provide educational opportunities on a sustained basis to help theological schools prepare seminarians to lead Christian congregations effectively.”

ATS currently offers a broad range of programs and services to enhance theological schools. These include leadership education for faculty and administrators, research, focused initiatives, and resources for institutional assessment. The New Century grant will enable ATS to expand its programming even further in the years to come.

ATS Executive Director Daniel Aleshire added, “Time and again, Lilly Endowment has stepped up to partner with ATS in determining and addressing the pressing needs of our member schools. The New Century Fund will position ATS to serve in a high-impact role in guiding the future of theological education to benefit communities of faith and the broader public. The Association could not be more grateful for Lilly Endowment’s vision and generosity in making this extraordinary gift.”