



PAYNE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Payne Theological Seminary *Financial literacy coaching program to launch in November*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 21, 2015

WILBERFORCE, OHIO —Payne Theological Seminary announced plans to launch a financial literacy-coaching program at a student luncheon on Tuesday, July 21. Tim Brandon, education and marketing coordinator at Grace Works, a consumer credit counseling service, and Sonya Thomas, Payne’s public relations and research manager, explained the free program, which will pair students with coaches to help them reduce debt through financial planning, career guidance and mentoring when it begins in November.

The program is made possible by a \$250,000 grant from [Lilly Endowment Inc.](#) Payne is one of 65 theological schools to receive funding from the grant which believes that pastors are indispensable spiritual leaders, and the quality of pastoral leadership is critical to the health and vitality of congregations.

“We are grateful for Lilly’s support as it helps the Seminary address challenging issues regarding student debt and career-planning,” said Jules Dunham-Howie, the Seminary’s development director. Because financial hardships make it difficult for pastors to lead their congregations effectively, managing student debt can be the first step toward becoming faithful stewardship leaders, Brandon said.

“A healthy understanding about our relationship to money and possessions is essential if we are to realize our full potential as children of God and as leaders in our churches, homes and community,” he added.

All new and returning students are eligible to participate in the new coaching program.

About Payne Theological Seminary: Payne Theological Seminary, founded by the African Methodist Episcopal Church (1894), is dedicated to the preparation of African American and other leaders for ministry in the tradition of liberation, reconciliation, social justice, and the dignity of all humankind. Located in Wilberforce, Ohio, Payne is one of the oldest Black seminaries primarily concerned with the training of men and women for the ministry. Payne is proud to be the first Black Seminary in the United States with an on-line Master of Divinity Program.

For more information, contact or Sonya Thomas, Public Relations Manager at (937) 376-2946, ext. 147 or stthomas@payne.edu.

#####