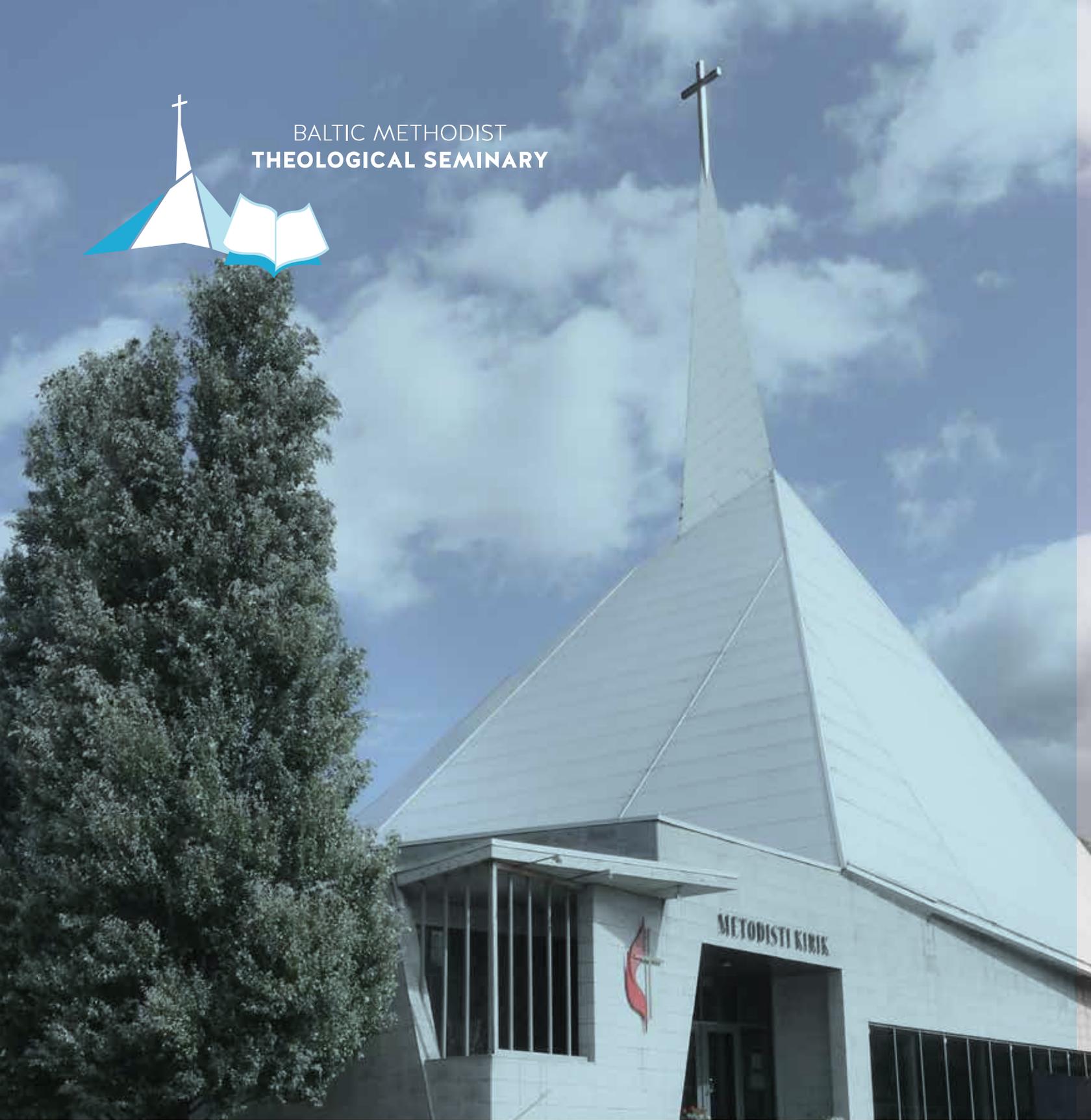




BALTIC METHODIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



2020 CASE STATEMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Motivation and Purpose

The goal of Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary (BMTS) is to prepare clergy and lay leaders for ministry in the church, as well as in Christian and charitable organizations; offering theological higher education in the Wesleyan/Methodist tradition based on needs of the church and society; and to support spiritual formation in the course of study.

» *And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.*

Mark 4:20



BRIEF HISTORY

Our Founders' Vision

In 1994, three short years after Communism fell and freedom came to Estonia, Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary (BMTS) opened its doors in Tallinn, Estonia. The seminary was desperately needed following fifty years of restriction of theological education and the prevalent secular culture resulting from Soviet occupation.

Then Superintendent Olav Pärnamets had the original vision: provide academic scholarship in the evangelical Wesleyan spirit for people hungry for God's Word and eager to proclaim the gospel. Assistance from American and Korean donors, educational support from Asbury Theological Seminary and logistical support from Eddie Fox and World Methodist Evangelism, helped make this dream a reality. The school was initially housed in very limited space in the church office building on Apteegi street. It relocated to a newly constructed Tallinn Methodist Church on Narva Street in January, 1999.

Our founders' vision was to make an affordable government-accredited higher theological education possible for students throughout the Baltic countries and the former Soviet Union.

Today BMTS has prepared over 250 graduates in pastoral ministry, military and prison chaplainship, social work, religious education, and church planting. It facilitates growth of lay leaders within congregations. Thousands of lives have been affected by BMTS alumni in the name Jesus Christ.



Founders: Wes Griffin, Tarmo Lilleoja, Superintendent Olav Pärnamets and the first Rector, Andrus Norak



WHAT WE DO AND WHO WE SERVE

Today we are a government-accredited Methodist school with more than 60 undergraduate students from various Christian backgrounds including Methodists, Pentecostals, Lutherans, Free-Church and more. We offer a three-year (180EAP) Theology and Mission curriculum consisting of Biblical Studies, Theology, Church History and Practical Theology. Spiritual formation and practical ministry skills are emphasized.

BMTS graduates receive a Bachelor's degree, opening chaplaincy careers in military, prisons, and hospitals. **A BMTS diploma also fulfils requirements for ordination** in the United Methodist Church in Estonia.

BMTS reach does not end at the academic door. BMTS faculty and staff preach and teach in churches; offer **continuing education** for Methodist clergy; train Christians in other denominations; and serve the community.

BMTS has an amazing history of delivering quality affordable education to current and future Christian leaders within the Wesleyan tradition. We are excited to partner with fellow Christians to go forth boldly into the future, serving Christ through higher education.



Andrus and Jelena Kask

Graduates Andrus Kask (2006) and Jelena Povilaviciene (2011) found each other at seminary. They have served nine years as missionaries in Lithuania. They lead a home group in Vilnius; visit the elderly; lead services and bible studies, and train leaders for Lithuanian churches. Jelena teaches religion at a local school. Andrus also continues the pioneering missionary work started by the Seminary to unreached ethnic groups in Siberia.



Marjana Luist

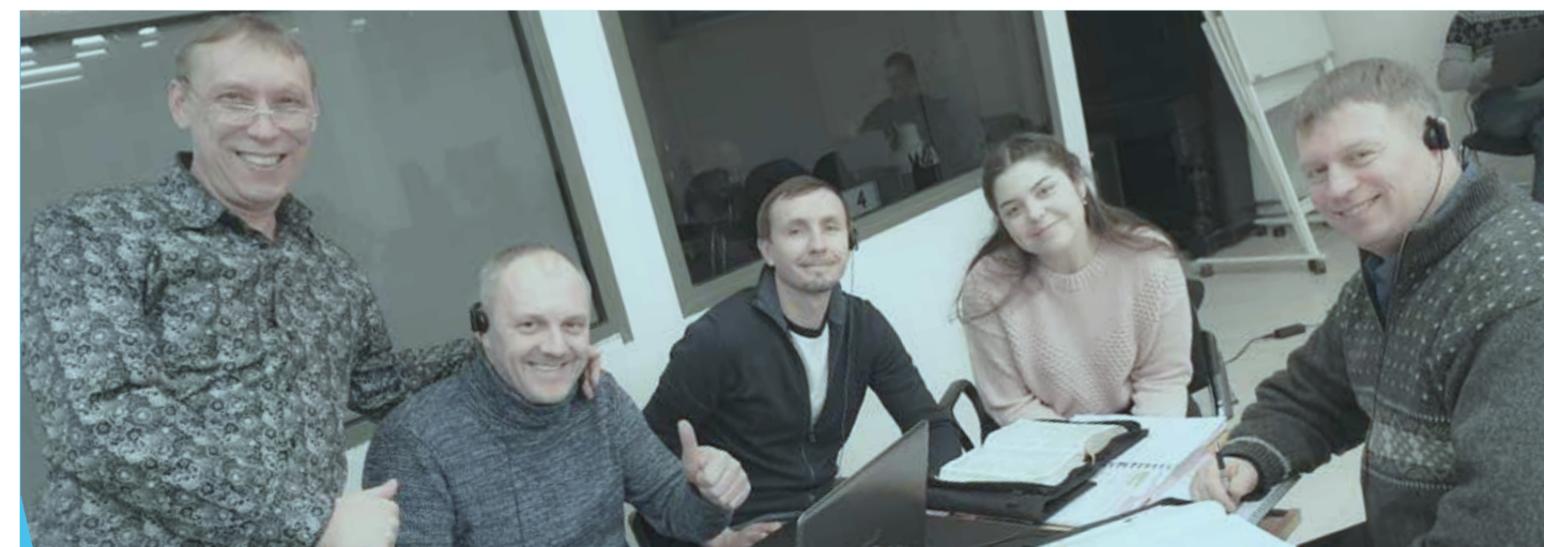
Since her graduation (2002) Marjana has worked as a Youth Minister and Career Counsellor in Saaremaa. She has served as a project manager at *Children's Center Lighthouse* and other NGO-s. Marjana currently works as a lay leader and church developer and administrative assistant to the Superintendent of the Estonian Methodist Church. She serves as Editor of Methodist magazine *Koduteel*.



Ardi Leerima

Ardi (2019 graduate) is an ordained minister. His skills include team building and equipping others for leadership.

"I felt a call from God to serve other people, but I was not sure what is my specific area. During seminary studies I realized that I had a call to become a pastor. Things developed quickly, and in a couple of years I was appointed to serve Methodist church in Pärnu."



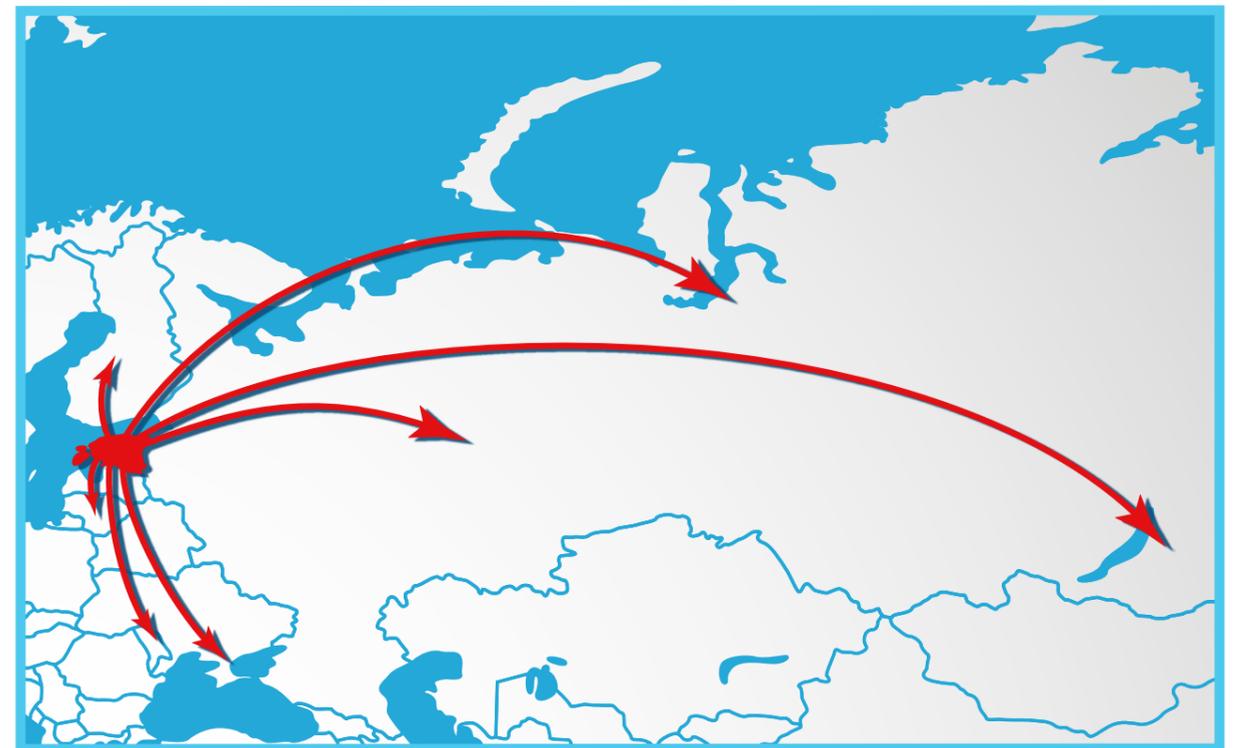
SINGULAR METHODIST SEMINARY IN THE BALTICS

Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary is the only Methodist school in the Baltics. There is no Methodist theological school in the neighboring countries of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania or Finland. Most Estonian Methodist pastors are educated at BMTS, as well as most of the District Superintendents and numerous ministers throughout the Baltic region.

BMTS empowers many churches in the region. Working with the only two accredited seminaries in Estonia. BMTS collaborates with Lutherans and Baptists in the area of faculty training. Other denominations offer informal non-accredited Bible programs. Several regional students complete their studies at BMTS to receive a degree.

From the days of its founding, BMTS has offered opportunity to study in Estonian, Russian and English. We are the only school in Europe where Russian-speaking students can earn a degree in their native language. Travel to Russia is often difficult due to visa issues. BMTS seminary and library resources offers a chance to 1/3 of Estonia's Russian-speaking population to continue to serve their communities during their studies. BMTS English curriculum serves students from Finland and Latvia, as well as missionaries and church planters from the US to further their education.

Eastern Europe represents a missional area with many unreached people groups. Knowing that scriptural salvation saves souls and we have witnessed Wesleyan holiness changing communities. BMTS plays a critical role supporting new initiatives in church planting and discipleship. By equipping students with the knowledge and skills to empower and connect them for mission. BMTS is currently working with Asbury Theological Seminary to develop a joint program focused on Church Planting.



BMTS impact extends beyond Estonia. Our graduates serve as Christian leaders, pastors and missionaries around the world.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Preparing men and women for ministry requires investment. Multi-lingual education requires qualified teachers and translators. Operating an internationally-accredited seminary demands professional organization. Theological education is costly but essential for developing future ministers.

Valuing education and high standards Estonia is recognized among the world's top countries in math and science in 2019. A private institution offering quality instruction must charge tuition.

BMTS is owned by the Estonian Methodist Church. BMTS benefits from a good tithing culture, however the small congregations struggle even to pay a salary to their pastors. BMTS students fulfilling a personal call to ministry often are faced with finding financial aid. Most students work and volunteer in their churches. Barrowing funds to study is not a viable option for students entering ministry due to low salaries. BMTS is committed to assist seminary students achieve little or no debt by keeping tuition affordable and raising funds to support the seminary.

**Full annual
tuition**

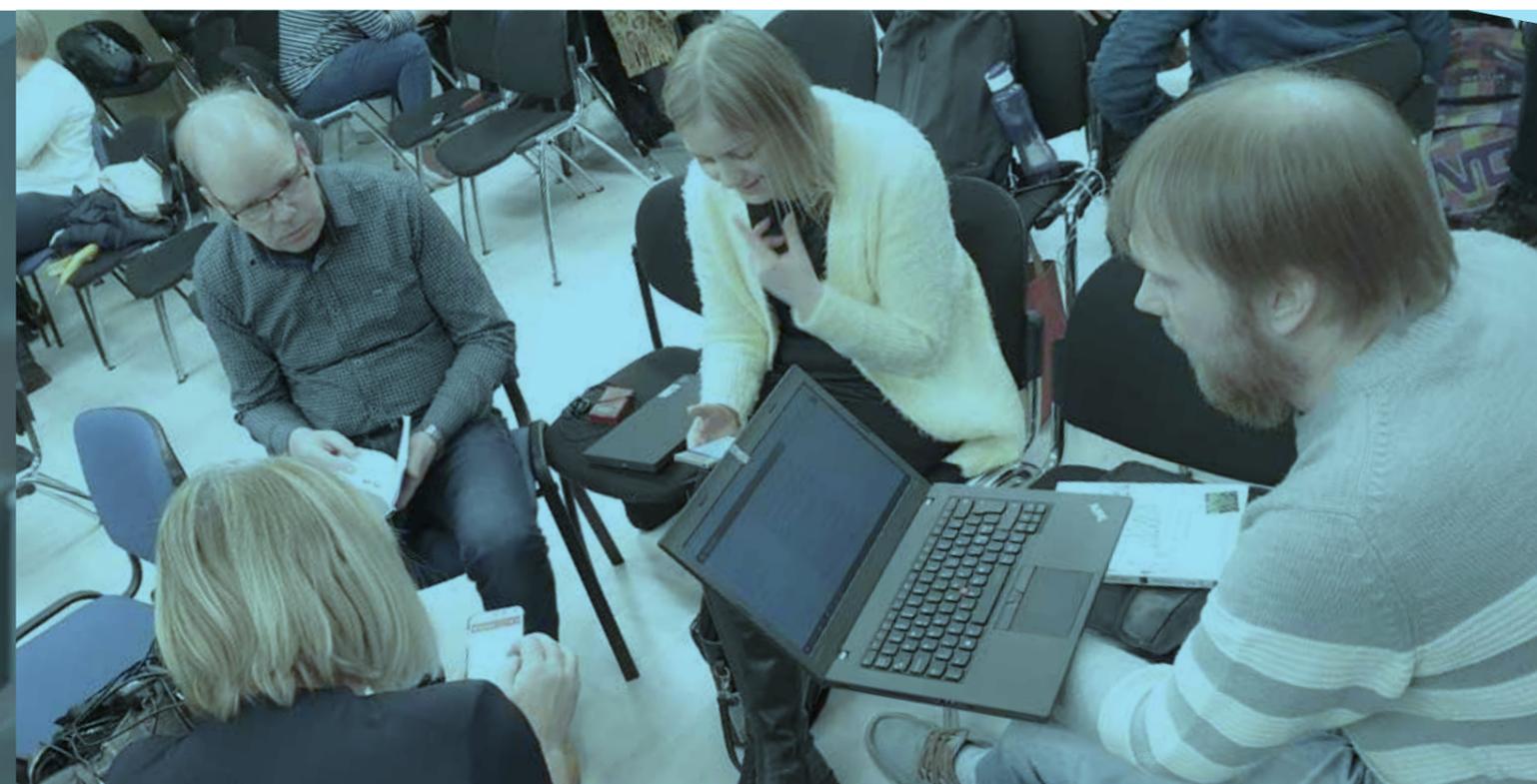
\$2,057

**Methodist
student
tuition -50%**

\$1,028

**Student in
ministry
tuition -30%**

\$1,452



WHY IS FUNDRAISING NECESSARY?

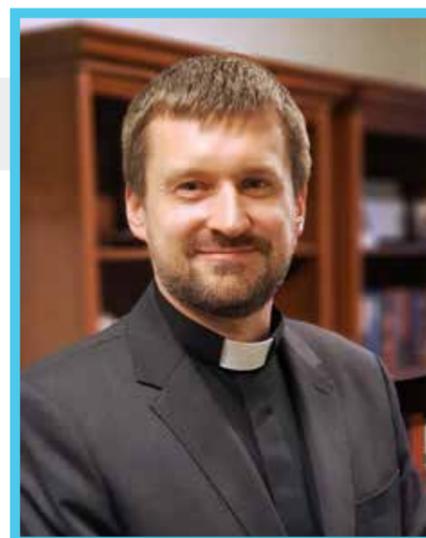
Our Context

Tuition alone can never cover the entire cost of education. All schools require additional support. Currently tuition comprises approximately a quarter of BMTS budget. BMTS relies on grants, special projects and donors like you to maintain tuition affordable for ministerial students.

While cultivating local supporters is a priority, the economic situation in Estonia necessitates looking further afield. Adjusted for cost of living, the average Estonian lives on 40% of the income of an average American. Fifty years of devastation by the Soviet leadership left a void in Christian leadership in the region. Estonians are still working to restore churches and Christian networks.

Robert Tšerenkov, Superintendent

» *I have a vision for bigger, stronger and younger churches in this area.*



UMC Congregations and Membership in 2016

Region	Number of congregations per region	Total membership in congregations
Finland	26	2102
Estonia	25	1590
Ukraine and Moldova	16	550
Latvia	12	841
Lithuania	11	430

FUNDING IS MINISTRY

Our Responsibility

Every donation makes more ministry possible. What we do well now, we can do even better. Hiring office staff for recruitment, development and practicum supervisions. Adding faculty positions to teach and mentor students. We must support our faculty in research and writing. We must translate and publish more textbooks. BMTS already does much with little. We can do so much more.

Proper funding ensures that BMTS will maintain international accreditation standards. We have the ability to reach prospective students with a call for ministry. To set up productive internships with local churches. To empower students and help them experience ministry. To mentor students academically and spiritually as they complete their education and fulfill their call to ministry.

The work that is funded today will make a difference for tomorrow. We are preparing ministers and leaders for the future. BMTS students are going to be the change agents in this region.

There is a critical need for **Methodist pastors, trained lay leaders and church planters in this region.** Christian impact organizations are in need of qualified leadership. BMTS graduates are pursued as chaplains in prison, hospitals, and the military to help develop and lead congregations and influence communities.

Külli Tõniste, Rector

” *I refuse to accept secularism as the future of this region. Our students will change the future.*



HOW WE OPERATE

Budget

Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary's **operating budget** is set by Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church in Estonia. It provides a minimum income needed for BMTS to function at current level.

In 2019, BMTS Board of Trustees formed a Development Committee to help the administration plan for more sustainable future and to grow to meet the challenges of tomorrow. BMTS Development Committee has now proposed a **visionary budget** which provides for infrastructure improvements, such as BMTS library improvement and fundraising to gradually increase faculty salaries to a sustainable level by 2025.

BMTS Visionary Budget	\$279,000
BMTS Operating Budget	\$214,000
BMTS Emergency Stabilization Fund	\$88,000
BMTS Endowment Fund, in USA	\$155,000

BMTS endowment fund generates about \$5000 annually.

FUNDRAISING GOAL

Funding the Vision

SCHOLARSHIPS \$100,000
 (Salaries for faculty and staff, including benefits, are partially paid out of this fund)

- Alexander Kuum Theological Education Fund\$76,500
- 3 Estonian Pastor Full-Ride Scholarships (3x\$4,500) \$13,500
- 2 Latvian/Lithuanian Full-Ride Scholarships (2x\$5,000) \$10,000

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE \$50,000

- Rent \$21,474
- Office expenses and communication \$5,500
- Translation and other technology equipment \$3,300
- Furniture inventory \$2,500
- Other costs (faculty continuing ed, international collaboration, membership fees, marketing, business travel expenses) \$17,226

LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT (50% of 2-year goal of \$70,000) .. \$35,000

- Radio Frequency Identification self-check out technology ...\$22,000
- Furnishings and installation \$5,000
- Lighting, electric, computers etc. \$8,000

EMERGENCY FUND (any unexpected needs).....\$15,000

TOTAL \$200,000

2020 FUNDRAISING GOAL \$200,000

FUNDING PRIORITIES

SCHOLARSHIPS

Support Aleksander Kuum Theological Education Fund

This fund goes toward the cost of training men and women for ministry. Any amount given is deeply appreciated and helps fund seminary operations; and helps us keep theological education affordable for all BMTS students.

Any amount is appreciated. Help us reach the total of \$76,500 for 2020



Aleksander Kuum (1899-1989)

A pastor and Superintendent who refused to close the church under KGB pressure and threats. Kuum was sentenced to a Siberian concentration camp; he returned to continue leading the church.

“Until I was 40 I did not know what hardships and suffering were. I had never been really ill. I was happily married. God gave us seven strong and healthy children. We loved and were loved. But then the time of trouble came, and we learned to appreciate another kind of blessing: God’s presence amidst hardships. First, the notorious night of March 9, 1944, when our church building on Veerenni Street was destroyed by the Red Army in an aerial bombing raid on Tallinn. Along with the church, we lost the parsonage, and all of our personal belongings. It was difficult to accept that I had lost both my church and my home. The next blow was even harder: our 13-year-old son was killed in an accident. I had to carry his lifeless body home from the field. It was the heaviest burden of my life. Last, but not least, there was the third blow: I was sentenced to 25 years in Siberia, which meant I would be separated from my work, family and love. Nevertheless, it is through these hardships I have learned more than in the good days.” — Aleksander Kuum

FUND A FULL-RIDE SCHOLARSHIP

Train an Estonian Pastor

Provide a scholarship to a person in pastoral ministry. The scholarship covers all tuition costs, and includes a stipend for travel and accommodation during study sessions.

Amount: \$4,500 a year. 3 scholarships needed in 2020

Train a Student from Latvia or Lithuania

Provide a scholarship to a person from Latvia or Lithuania to prepare for ministry. The scholarship covers all tuition, and includes a stipend for travel and accommodation during study sessions.

Amount: \$5,000 a year. 2 scholarships needed in 2020

SUPPORT CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Support critical needs: rent, communications, office expenses, WIFI, faculty research and continued education, technology and other.

Any amount is appreciated. Help us reach the total of \$50,000 for 2020

Translate a Course

Every course is simultaneously translated into two languages.

Amount: \$550

Translate 100 pages

All course materials are translated into two languages.

Amount: \$1,200

LIBRARY

SUPPORT LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT

Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary library has 142 m² of space and consists of 21,500 items. The BMTS library includes books, publications and documents needed for Seminary studies, and provides access to an online catalogue. During study sessions librarian is available to assist with research. Library is open to public use.

Although modest in size, BMTS is one of the best theological libraries in the Baltics. The nearest larger Methodist libraries are located in England and Germany. BMTS is an important access point for Methodist students in northern and eastern Europe. We have literature in Estonian, Russian and English. Many BMTS library books are the only copies in the Estonia. Special emphasis has been given to books and materials about Methodism, Wesley studies and mission. With the support of Central Conference Theological Education Fund an initiative has been launched to create a Mission Resource Centre focusing on materials on mission and outreach. The library is growing through purchases and donations.

Library development is a high priority and we wish to get started this year. We plan to install Radio Frequency Identification Technology to improve access, secure our collection and to improve infrastructure. We need an adequate library to further BMTS central mission: to teach and train for ministry and missions. We hope you can support us.

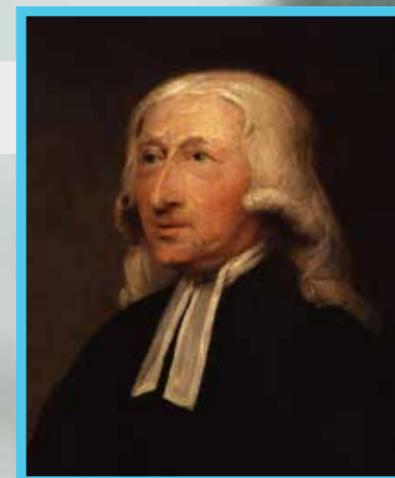
FUNDING NEEDED in 2020*

<i>Radio Frequency Identification Technology</i>	\$22,000
<i>Furnishings, installation</i>	\$5,000
<i>Lighting, electric, computers, etc</i>	\$8,000
Total needs in 2020	\$35,000

*Library infrastructure improvement is a 2-year project.
Projected total cost: \$70,000.

John Wesley

» *Read the most useful books, and that regularly and constantly...*



ENDOWMENT FUND

Assuring a Legacy

Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary Endowment Fund provides an opportunity to secure long-term future of BMTS.

SUPPORT DYNAMIC TEACHING

- **Faculty**

Provide the salary fund for a qualified Seminary teacher.

Amount: \$35,000 year

- **Endow a Faculty Chair**

Give a gift that lasts. Endowment Fund would provide annual income to fund a faculty position every year.

Amount: \$883,500

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

BMTS lives within its means. While we have had better and harder times, we are operating in the black. Our finances are audited by the Estonian UMC Auditing Committee twice annually. Major contributors to the present operating budget include local churches both from Estonia and United States, the Central Conference Theological Education Fund (CCTEF), the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) Advance Project, World Methodist Evangelism (WME) and other donors.

We raise funds throughout the year, but also through special annual campaigns: in Estonia each May through Seminary Giving Sunday and, in the US, through Thanksgiving Campaign. BMTS administration and the Board of Trustees are working very hard to fully equip BMTS and put it on a path of long-term sustainability and growth. Fund Development Committee was created in 2019 to support the Board of Trustees in their efforts.

Christian Alsted, Bishop, UMC Nordic & Baltic area

» *BMTS offers excellent theological training to equip missional leaders and pastors to lead the church in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Bishop of the Northern Europe Central Conference, Board of Trustees Chair

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Senior Pastor, Crieveewood UMC, Nashville TN

- **Dr. Wm. Randall Frye**
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Superintendent, UMC Estonia

- **Taavet Hindrek Taimla**
Faculty, Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary

- **Dr. Gregg A. Okesson**
Representative of Asbury Theological Seminary

- **Dr. Külli Tõniste**
Rector, Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary

HOW TO GIVE?

GIVE ONLINE

Through UMC Global Ministries <https://advance.umcmmission.org>
 Search for project: Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary Scholarships
 Advance Special Number: **15021B**

WRITE A CHECK

Please make check payable to ADVANCE GCFA.
 Write **Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary Scholarships Advance 15021B** on check
 Memo Line. Mail to:

Advance GCFA
 P.O. Box 9068
 New York, NY 10087-9068.

Or, make check payable to WORLD METHODIST EVANGELISM.
 Write **Gift to Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary** on check Memo Line. Mail to:

World Methodist Evangelism
 P.O. Box 8142, Lafayette, IN 47903
 3072 Hamilton St, West Lafayette, IN 47906

DIRECT BANK WIRE

Account Holder: **EESTI METODISTI KIRIK**
 Account Holder's Address: **Narva Mnt. 51, Tallinn 10152, Estonia**
 IBAN: **EE84 2200 2210 1098 0782**
 SWIFT Code: **HABAE2X**
 Bank Name: Swedbank
 Bank Address: Liivalaia 8, Tallinn, 15040, Estonia

GIVE TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND

Through the UM HIGHER EDUCATION FOUNDATION www.umhef.org/give
 Click on the field that currently displays "Where Needed Most". It opens a list with choices.
 Select **Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary Endowment Fund**
 Choose your donation amount, payment mode and confirm. Mail to:

United Methodist Higher Education Foundation
 P.O. Box 340005
 Nashville, TN 37203-0005, USA

Notify recipient about your giving by sending e-mail to kulli.toniste@emkts.ee We will inform you when your gift arrives. Please allow two to three weeks for processing.

Thank you for investing in education of future church leaders!

STAY INFORMED

BMTS publishes **Prayerchain**, monthly newsletter providing updates about prayer needs, progress of development efforts, admissions, and teaching and learning. The newsletter includes information about upcoming events and shares pictures and stories of our faculty, students and alumni. Stay informed and join us in prayer for this important ministry.

Our website **www.emkts.ee** is also in English.

Let Us Pray

Lord, we praise your Holy Name.

*Grant us the courage to do your will.
Help us share your love and the power of the Gospel
with those we serve.
We dedicate this campaign to making disciples of all
who experience
Your grace and creation.*

*Lord, may this project be blessed.
Guide our plans, our steps, our giving and our words
as we face large tasks with high hopes.
Lord, please continue to preside over this ministry.
Bless it and expand it.*

Help us continue to change lives in the name of Jesus Christ.



Subscribe

<http://eepurl.com/gmrLY9>

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Amen.



Christian Alsted

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