

August 2011

## The Boston Theological Institute Annual Report, 2010-2011 [Executive Summary]

### 2010-2011 – An Innovative Year

- > **2010 Boston conference**, “The Changing Contours of World Mission and Christianity,” adds academic leadership to sister conferences in Tokyo, Edinburgh and Cape Town challenging mission perspectives and assumptions.
- > **Hebrew College** joins BTI adding rich inter-religious programming.
- > The BTI schools re-affiliate with the **Hispanic Summer Program** marking deep interest in Hispanic studies.
- > Leadership given to the **World Council of Churches**, Decade to Overcome Violence, at its Jamaica gathering.

### BTI Schools – Unique in Religious Leadership

*Each school in this consortium offers basic programming for ministerial preparation and 21<sup>st</sup> century religious leadership. Yet, apart from one another a truly quality education would diminish. Each school has a distinctive role to fulfill in the preparation of the kind of religious leadership required for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

**Andover Newton Theological School**, in its special relation to Hebrew College, is forging vital relationships for interfaith ministries. The **Boston College Department of Theology** is outstanding – and its programs in social ethics and historical theology highly emulated; closely related **BC School of Theology and Ministry** is world-renowned for *formation and spirituality*. **Boston University School of Theology** re-owns its mantle as a “school of the prophets.” **Episcopal Divinity School**, yoked with Lesley University offers its traditional opportunities in Anglican Studies augmented by programming in experiential learning. **Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary** fosters a unique urban education connected to cross-cultural and global mission. **Harvard Divinity School**, together with other BTI schools, maintains the “gold standard” in theological education and research. **Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology**, leading Orthodox educational institution in North and South America, offers the BTI community a *Patristics Institute* and two new Institutes, one for *Orthodox Mission* and a second in *Byzantine Studies*. **Saint John’s Seminary**, closely related to the Boston Archdiocese offers solid leadership in pastoral and priestly care and in lay Church leadership. Newest member of the consortium, **Hebrew College**, adds an inter-religious dimension through its innovative leadership in Jewish studies and rabbinical preparation.

### Cost-Cutting Benefits

*Quality education can be obtained with cost-cutting realities through consortium participation.*

- 1) Students have access to over 2000 courses and over 425 faculty.
- 2) Almost 60% savings on school library costs in e-subscriptions.
- 3) Expanded Field Education opportunities without added costs to individual schools.

### Programmatic Leadership

*Few regions in the United States or throughout the world match the quality of religious leadership evident in this consortium.*

- 1) Faculty share knowledge through colloquia, joint programs and shared degrees and influence.
- 2) Consortium opportunities consistently make possible first-class programming with grants from major foundations enhancing the research and work of the faculties of the schools.

### Conclusion

*By way of their cooperation, the schools of the Boston Theological Institute model good religious and institutional practices toward positive community ends.*