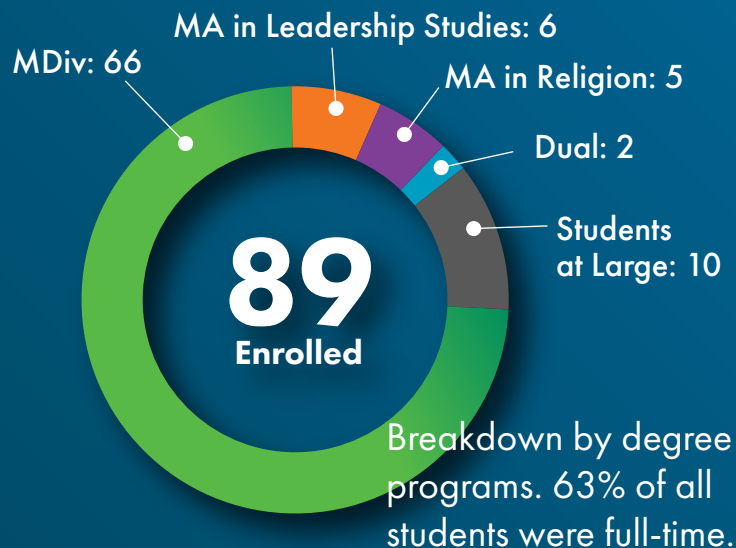
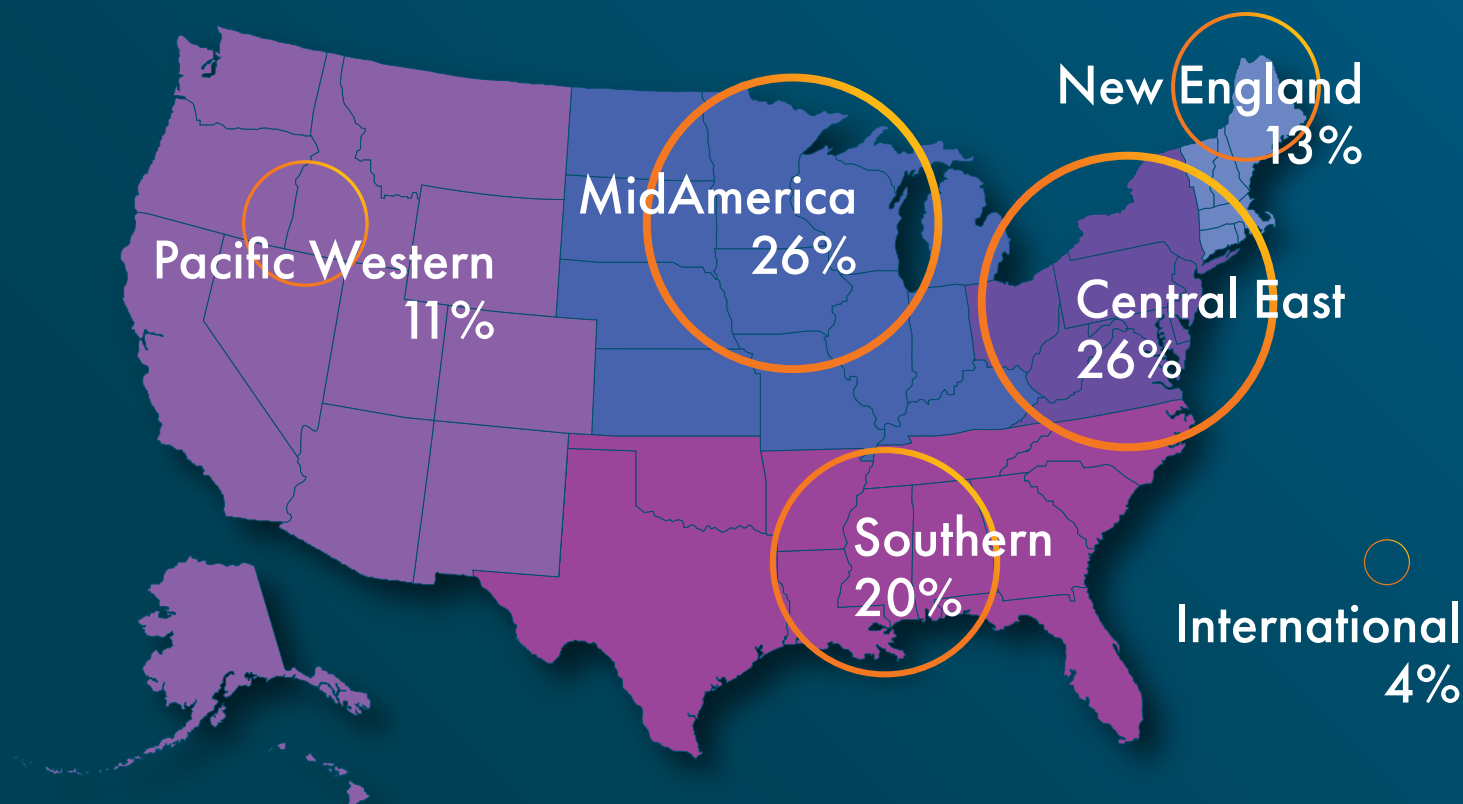


OUR STUDENTS: FALL 2020

Our students come from a variety of vocational paths—lawyers, nonprofit administrators, psychologists, educators, to list a few—and educational and religious backgrounds, bringing a diversity of experience and wisdom.



Which region are they from?



We are an Open and Affirming Institution. Our students express multiple gender identities. 62% of them identified themselves as female last year. About 79% of our student body identified as white, the age range was 24-76, and average age was **45.**

FINANCIAL AID

In 2020/2021, we awarded over **\$561,000** in grants and scholarships to our students.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have awarded **\$118,725** in direct emergency grants to students:
\$108,725 in HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund) grants
and **\$10,000** in MFC emergency funds.



Full Online Learning Experience

After quickly transitioning the Spring 2020 term online as an emergency measure, we planned for online learning in a more deliberate way for Fall and Spring 2020/2021 based on student feedback. The core faculty received instruction that enabled them to deploy current resources and pedagogical practices for the online classroom. Everyone — faculty, staff, and students — contributed to make this model work. We also improved communication processes around course registration and orientation, which has been appreciated by new and continuing students.

STUDENT LIFE

Innovation Leads the Way for Student Life

Navigating a full academic year through the lens of a worldwide pandemic and political upheaval brought challenges as well as opportunities; we chose to lean into the opportunities. Innovation was key in addressing concerns surrounding student's learning and wellbeing this year.

Care envelopes were sent to the entire student body, faculty, and staff twice over the course of the fall and winter. These envelopes contained letters of encouragement, a booklet of spiritual practices from Dr. Ortega, coloring pages, and two contributions from our Director of Communications, Tomo Hillbo, who is also our graphic designer: an MLTS-branded face mask and a "flat chalice" that could be cut out, put together, and displayed. Two monthly online vespers services that brought our community together virtually will continue to connect students and alums as we move into the future.

OUR RECENT GRADUATES

Below are some updates from the Class of 2021.



Monica Kling-Garcia "I am preparing to move out of state for a chaplain residency that will last one year. After that, my ministry is wide open to where the spirit takes me! Meadville helped me understand that my call to ministry is so expansive, as the experiential learning allowed me to experience different types of ministry firsthand."

Charles Loflin "I am extremely fortunate to have been named Executive Director for UU FaithAction NJ (uufaithaction.org) which focuses on legislative advocacy for social justice issues in the state of New Jersey. UUFANJ is a member of the Coalition of UU State Action Networks (CUUSAN.org). Overall, I do feel equipped for this ministry as a result of my studies at MLTS. In particular, the Signature courses (Community Studies and Leadership Studies) were foundational."



Jenny McCready "My vocation is small parish ministry, and I've had the good fortune of being asked to serve as a contract minister at a small church, Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church, near my home for the next year. After many staff and ministry changes recently, the congregation and Board and I are all hopeful that this will be a long-term ministry. I am blessed to be able to serve part time and also in a church that has done a fair amount of racial awareness work in the past few years. Meadville Lombard gave me a solid grounding in doing this work, as well as a good understanding of systems, governance, and administration. Paired with my two-year part-time internship, I was able to learn by doing and then discuss and process my learning with my cohort. I was exposed to many different professors and their methodologies and I was able to

develop collegial relationships, both of which I carry with me into my ministry. I'm very glad I had the opportunity to go to Meadville Lombard for seminary, and I look forward to lifetime relationships with my fellow alumni and professors and staff."

Jen Raffensperger "I started my first-ever ministry this summer at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York, PA. For me, finding Unitarian Universalism felt like finding a home, and the call to ministry felt like being asked to create a home for others—for many—for all that may ask. Community building and spiritual companionship feels like work I will engage in for a lifetime. MLTS engaged my heart, mind, and body with the idea of a deeply complex community during a complex time, and I believe we all engaged in the grace of learning about how we fail together. And then how we build back again and again. I will take those lessons with me into every ministry context."



Email YouBelong@meadville.edu for more information about our programs.