

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a black graduation gown, is smiling and holding a baby. The baby is wearing a white christening gown with a ruffled collar. The woman is gently touching the baby's forehead. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting.

SUPPORT FUTURE MINISTERS



Theological
EDUCATION FUND
Presbyterian Foundation



Jesus said to them, *“The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers.”* – Luke 10:2



ABOUT THE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND

The Theological Education Fund is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s best hope of ensuring the Church of Christ is prepared to serve long into the future.

The fund is housed at the Presbyterian Foundation and is the sole source of denomination-wide funding for PC(USA) seminaries.

We rely on donations from individuals, congregations, Presbyteries and Synods to continue our legacy of support. Gifts to this fund help congregations like yours have a seminary-trained pastor.

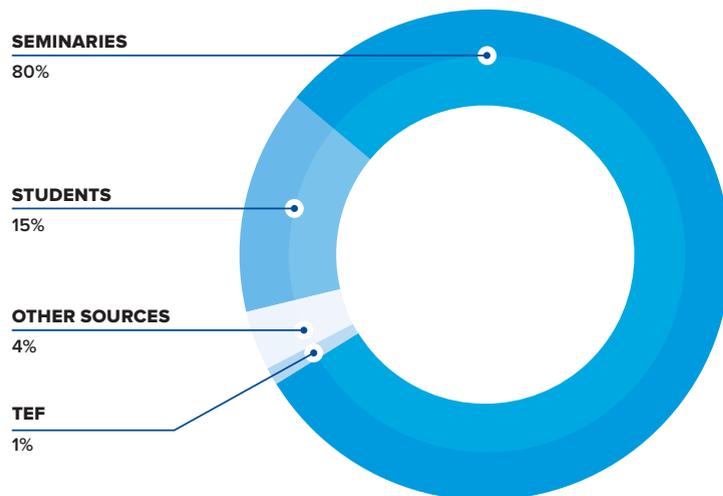
The next generation of seminarians is energized, enthusiastic and ready to serve. The Theological Education Fund makes seminary affordable for all. Together, we invest in the future of the Church through support of these future ministers.

PC(USA) SEMINARIES ARE GOOD STEWARDS OF FUNDS PROVIDED

Presbyterian seminaries cover 80% of the cost of education for their students (on average). Students are responsible for most of the rest. While this doesn't sound like a lot, seven in 10 seniors (68%) who graduated from public and nonprofit colleges in 2015 had an average of \$30,000 in student loan debt, according to information provided by the Institute for College Access and Success in 2015.

Reducing the cost of theological education helps relieve students of the burden of added debt on top of loans they received for their undergraduate education. Less debt gives them more flexibility in accepting calls.

EDUCATIONAL COSTS COVERED (ON AVERAGE)





“Ministry is a concoction of training, experience, instinct, and the ability to trust. Austin Seminary didn’t teach me ‘what to say and when to say it.’ They gave me language, a voice, and the courage to use it no matter the cost. Talk is cheap. The Gospel is not.”

Rev. Kaci Clark-Porter, *associate pastor*
First & Central Presbyterian Church in
Wilmington, Delaware



“As a mid-career MDiv student at Union Presbyterian Seminary-Charlotte, I was deeply grounded in God’s self-revelation in Christ, so that I could share it as a gift of grace throughout a congregation’s trials and triumphs.

As a DMin student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, I broadened my perspective far beyond my own lived experience, more deeply encountering the “other,” so that I could bear public witness more boldly to Christ’s call for peace, justice and inclusion.

Invaluably, theological education continues to shape (and reshape) me as I seek the Lord’s call and work –
in the congregation and in the world.”

Rev. John Cleghorn, *pastor*
Caldwell Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina



THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IS CRITICAL FOR PASTORS

Presbyterians have a long history of supporting and valuing education. This is especially true of those who serve in our pulpits. Presbyterians deeply value the context and depth theologically educated pastors bring to weekly worship services, to community service and every other aspect of their work. Pastors sit with us in the best and worst times of our lives and provide the loving hand of God and the voice of Christ, shepherding us through joys and sorrows. Theological education and the training that comes with it ensures that our pastors will know what to say and when to say it – and who needs to hear it.



“I sought out Johnson C. Smith Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia for the primary purpose of learning how to do ministry in an ecumenical setting based in the African-American community. I certainly learned that, and much more. Seminary also jumpstarted me to ‘fast-track maturity.’ I was much younger than the people I was going to serve, so I had to grow up quickly in seminary to be relevant or current to them. Seminary matured me faith-wise as well as emotionally and academically. The most valuable thing I’ve carried forward with me is the relationships I formed: relationships with God, relationships with people, relationships to the Church. That has helped undergird ministries I’m involved with here.”

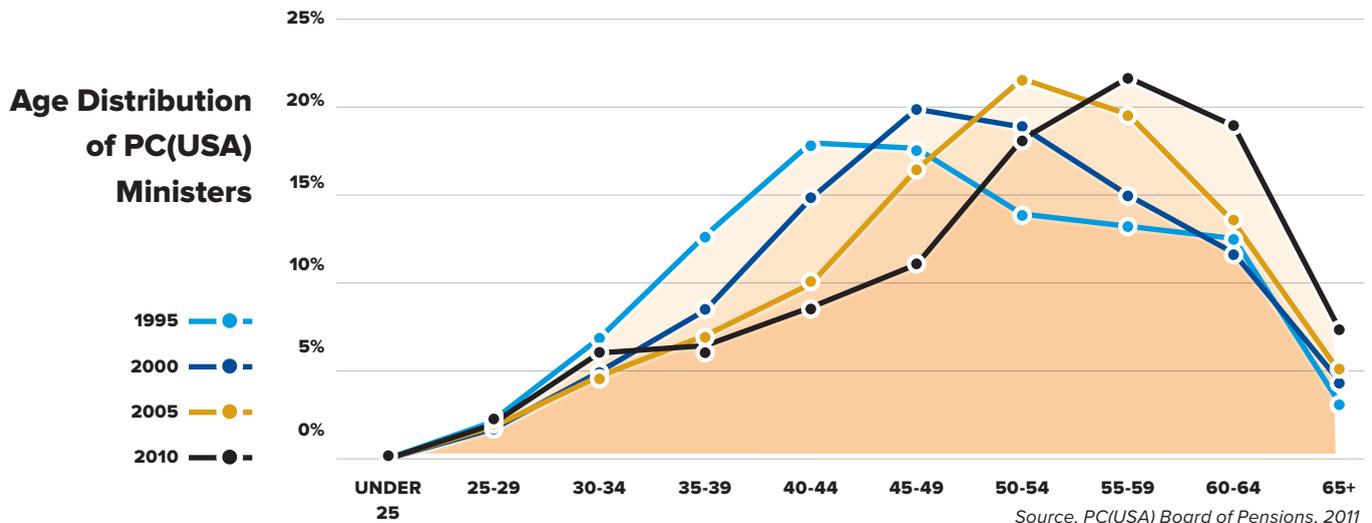
Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Cannon, *pastor*
C.N. Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church in
Charlotte, North Carolina

MORE THAN 75% OF CURRENT, ACTIVE TEACHING ELDERS IN THE PC(USA) ARE ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE IN THE NEXT DECADE

We need seminarians to graduate and pursue a calling to a congregation to keep our congregations thriving. Our congregations, ministries and communities need ministers now.

WHY SUPPORT THE TEF?

More than 75% of the currently active teaching elders will likely retire in the next decade and 60-80% of candidates and ministers are students or alums of PC(USA) Seminaries.





“As a young adult, I had a difficult time sorting through decisions about career and relationships. My theological education at McCormick Seminary gave me language to construct a vision of vocation that had vitality and hope. The people there invited me into a theologically-formed community that modeled integrity and grace. In ministry with young adults, who are facing similar challenges, I find theologically grounded perspectives can be vital supports for their personal journeys. I get to share these things with them in conversations over coffee at the local cafe or on life-changing trips to places like Belfast, where we learn together about the things that can make for peace.”

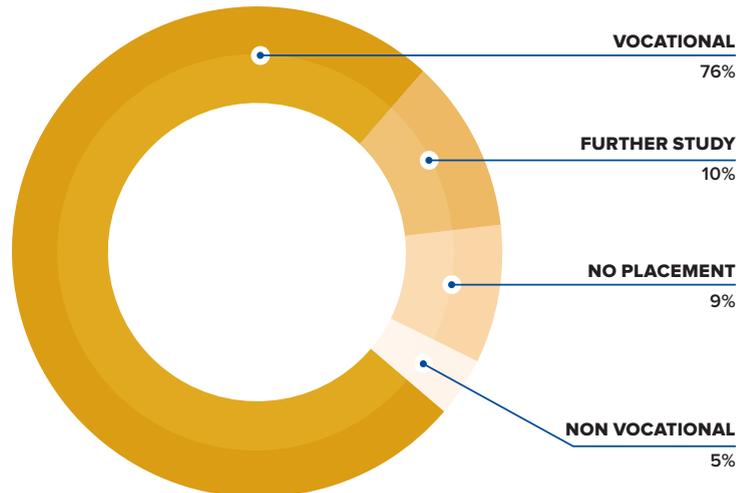
Rev. Hardy Kim, *pastor*

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church in Sunnyvale,
California

PC(USA) SEMINARY GRADUATES GET JOBS

Not every person who graduates from seminary is seeking a call to serve as a pastor – but the majority certainly are, according to a report prepared by the Association of Theological Schools in 2016. Information from our seminaries shows that an overwhelming majority are prepared, willing, and ready to serve in their vocation – and there are positions for them in the Church. We need more students to see a clear path to seminary to help fulfill all of the needs of the Church of the future.

PC(USA) SEMINARIES STUDENT PLACEMENT WITHIN ONE YEAR OF GRADUATION



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) NEEDS TO RENEW ITS COMMITMENT TO THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Currently, the PC(USA) funds only 1 percent of the operating costs of its seminaries. This drastic decline has occurred slowly during the past five decades. In 1968, the denomination supplied 47% of the cost of seminary operations.

The more we can dedicate to funding seminaries at the denominational level, through the Theological Education Fund, the less seminarians will be forced to take on for themselves. Our hope is to create an experience for those who are called that is free of financial hurdles.

Beyond financial support, we encourage all lay leaders and pastors in the PC(USA) to mentor today's youth and young adults who have gifts for ministry. We hope that you will join with us encouraging them to consider discernment opportunities and seminary enrollment, and walk alongside them as they answer a call to ministry and prepare for that sacred service. The Church of Christ needs them now.

It is time for us all to step up and do more – which we can, with your help.



“The experience at the Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico (Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico) sowed in me the passion to continue learning and remain open to discover new insights and rediscover old truths with new lenses. Theological Education has been a bedrock for my ministry as pastor and parish theologian. It has provided me with tools to dig out the treasures of Scripture and share them relevantly with the world of the 21st century.”

Rev. José Manuel Capella-Pratts, *pastor*
First Spanish Presbyterian Church in Miami, Florida

THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRY IS DECREASING

In 1987, the Presbyterian Church ordained about 500 ministers. Thirty years later, that number has decreased to about 200. While some churches have closed, there are also new churches opening. With a huge wave of retirements coming in the Presbyterian Church, we need more candidates for ministry. Financial concerns, including debt, are keeping some away from following the call of Christ to seminary.



“All of life is training for ministry, but at seminary it gets more specific. At San Francisco Theological Seminary, I received training in what it takes to build a community. It takes honest conversations, even arguments, that lead to resolution and forgiveness. It takes setting aside competition and falling and rising together. It takes grace, and joy, and hard work.”

Rev. Beth Merrill Neel, *co-pastor*
Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon



THE FUTURE OF YOUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Journey with us from now to 2030 – when projections indicate that 75 percent of the currently active pastors in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are eligible to retire.

Who is in the pulpit on Sunday morning?

Who is baptizing the next generation of Christ's followers?

Who is connecting your church to the community?

Will there be enough ministers?

We believe there is a solution – and it involves you.

We believe that if enough committed, passionate Presbyterians support future ministers through the Theological Education Fund, we can continue to offset the costs of seminary education, fund critical seminary programs and sustain the educational needs of the Church.

But we need your gifts to meet this challenge.

While our seminaries are affordable, many students leave undergraduate education with debt. Seminaries are doing their part. What more can we do? Debt often delays or deters gifted leaders from answering the call to attend seminary, or keeps them from accepting jobs in smaller congregations that don't have the resources to pay higher salaries.

Let's meet this challenge. Together.



Khayla Johnson,
M.Div. seminary student

SUPPORT THE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND



Theological
EDUCATION FUND
Presbyterian Foundation

Your tax-deductible donations are deeply appreciated. You may mail a check to:

**Theological Education Fund
Presbyterian Foundation
200 E 12th St
Jeffersonville, IN 47130**

If you'd like to include the TEF in your estate plan or would like to discuss a non-cash gift, please call us! We'll be happy to talk to you. You can reach us during normal business hours (Eastern Time Zone) at 800-858-6127.

You may also donate conveniently online at www.presbyterianfoundation.org/tef.