



GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

Where religion meets the world

MEMBER SCHOOLS

American Baptist
Seminary of the West

Church Divinity
School of the Pacific

Dominican School of
Philosophy and Theology

Franciscan School
of Theology

Jesuit School of
Theology at Berkeley

Pacific Lutheran
Theological Seminary

Pacific School
of Religion

San Francisco
Theological Seminary

Starr King School
for the Ministry

ACADEMIC CENTERS

Center for Islamic Studies

Center for the Study
of Religion and Culture

Richard S. Dinner Center
for Jewish Studies

AFFILIATES AND INSTITUTES

Center for the Arts,
Religion, and Education

Center for Theology and
the Natural Sciences

Institute of
Buddhist Studies

New College Berkeley

Patriarch Athenagoras
Orthodox Institute

School of
Applied Theology

WHO WE ARE

Founded by ecumenical pioneers in 1962, the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) in Berkeley, California, is the largest and most diverse partnership of seminaries and graduate schools in the United States. Our interfaith approach attracts leading theologians, scholars of religion, and students from around the world who are pursuing new models for interreligious collaboration in teaching, research, ministry, and service.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Graduate Theological Union is to:

- Educate women and men for vocations of ministry and scholarship
- Equip leaders for a future of diverse religions and cultures
- Teach patterns of faith which nurture justice and peace
- Serve as an educational and theological resource for local communities, the nation, and the world.

HISTORY

The optimism of the early 1960s, ecumenism of the Council on Church Union, and significant changes of the Second Vatican Council contributed to the environment for the Graduate Theological Union's original consortium to take hold. In 1962, the American Baptist Seminary of the West, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Church Divinity School of the Pacific (Episcopalian), and San Francisco Theological Seminary (Presbyterian) collaborated to develop a groundbreaking program for doctoral studies in theology. Within a decade, five additional schools joined the partnership. The GTU created the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies in 1967 to serve as a resource for the teaching of Judaism. In 1969, the member schools contributed their collections to form the Graduate Theological Union Library, one of the most comprehensive theological libraries in the world. In 2007, the GTU founded the Center for Islamic Studies (CIS) to build an academic base to help scholars and students of many faiths understand Islam as a living world religion.

Today, the Graduate Theological Union consortium consists of nine Catholic, Protestant, and Unitarian seminaries, and ten academic centers, programs, and affiliates.

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THE GTU TODAY

Rooted in the study of sacred texts, spiritual and intellectual disciplines, and pastoral formation, the Graduate Theological Union is a unique educational environment where students and faculty from many religious backgrounds learn and work together. It works collaboratively with the University of California, Berkeley through joint doctoral programs, shared library resources, and cross-registration. The GTU's Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, together with its branch at the San Francisco Theological Seminary, is a global village serving current and future parish ministers, seminary educators, scholars, and community leaders.

LEADERSHIP IN A COMPLEX WORLD

The Graduate Theological Union produces scholars and religious leaders of distinction in the United States and around the world. Equipped for a future of diverse religions and cultures, graduates teach and do research in leading universities and theological seminaries; they hold posts and ministries in churches, synagogues, and temples; they write books, direct films, and create works of art; they lead organizations such as the International Association for Religious Freedom in Frankfurt, Germany; the Museum of Contemporary Religious Art in St. Louis, Missouri, and the United Nations World Food Program in Lima, Peru. GTU Alumni serve as university presidents and experts on topics ranging from stem-cell research to capital punishment to conflict in the Middle East. They all are rigorous thinkers and passionate doers dedicated to making a tangible difference in a world of differences.