

# Auburn Theological Seminary

In covenant with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

40 students

Auburn provides Presbyterian students enrolled at Union Theological Seminary in New York City with targeted academic planning for those pursuing ordination, workshops on topics current in the PC(USA), seminary courses in Presbyterian polity and Reformed worship, support in relating to Committees on Preparation for Ministry, and assistance in field placement in New York City-area congregations.

## Degrees Offered

Certificate for Presbyterian students graduating from Union Theological Seminary, New York

Certificates of Completion awarded for certain programs

Continuing education units available

## Joint Degrees Offered

Doctor of Ministry in Multifaith Education, granted by New York Theological Seminary

## Special Programs

Program for Presbyterians at Union  
Research on Theological Education

Clergy Coaching

Media Training for Religious Leaders

Multifaith Education

## Partnerships

Union Theological Seminary, New York

The Riverside Church, The Brick Church, and other congregations that co-sponsor Auburn programs





In its unique urban ministry setting, Auburn works to create a Presbyterian experience for students at Union Theological Seminary, New York, preparing for ministry in the PC(USA). As a non-degree-granting institution, Auburn welcomes several thousand participants each year – educators, clergy and lay leaders, teens and an interested public – who deepen their skills and broaden their vision through educational programs.

“My faith and love of Jesus Christ are at the center of all I do,” says Kellie Anderson-Picallo, who recently completed the Program for Presbyterian Students at Auburn Theological Seminary while graduating with her Master of Divinity from Union Seminary in New York City.

The wife, mother of two young children, and former television producer says the past few years have been a time of tremendous change and spiritual awakening. Suddenly ministry and theology have become her passions! Sensing God’s call to leave a successful career in media to serve the church, Kellie wanted to study theology, grow in her Christian faith, and prepare for leadership in the PC(USA) in an energized, diverse urban setting. “New York is where I’m supposed to be,” says the third-generation Presbyterian who came to Manhattan and seminary from Morningside Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. “I decided to attend Union because of its long-standing tradition of academic excellence and because the support Auburn Seminary provides every Presbyterian student at Union made this my best option for an ecumenical, urban, and Presbyterian seminary experience.”

A candidate for ordination in the PC(USA), Kellie believes that God is calling her to be a pastor serving a local congregation. She’d also like to use her experience in media to challenge and equip her

congregations to relate the good news of the gospel to real personal and societal issues. “There is a dearth of responsible voices in the religious media. Often what we hear is narrow, doesn’t speak for all Christians, and leaves many, many faithful people feeling like they’re on the sidelines. Hopefully, my pastoral skills, my experience as a producer, and my respect for multifaith perspectives can widen this conversation and offer a more balanced perspective to people who want to follow and serve Christ in the world.”

Auburn has partnered with Kellie and her fellow Presbyterians at Union every step on their journey of preparation for ministry. “Seminary isn’t easy. To absorb, battle, deconstruct, and challenge the faith foundation that you thought held you together is exhausting. I’ve had to walk away from everything I believe – the cross, Jesus, and even the sacraments – to have them all come back as my own.” Three things have helped Kellie build a more solid faith foundation as she prepares for service to the Presbyterian Church: Auburn courses on Reformed worship and polity that grounded her in her theological tradition; an advanced Union seminar on John Calvin, which included a deep engagement with the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*; and the ongoing practical support Auburn provides Presbyterian students throughout the ordination process.