

Seminario Evangelico de Puerto Rico

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

188 Students
8 Full-Time Faculty
15 Part-Time Faculty

Degrees Offered

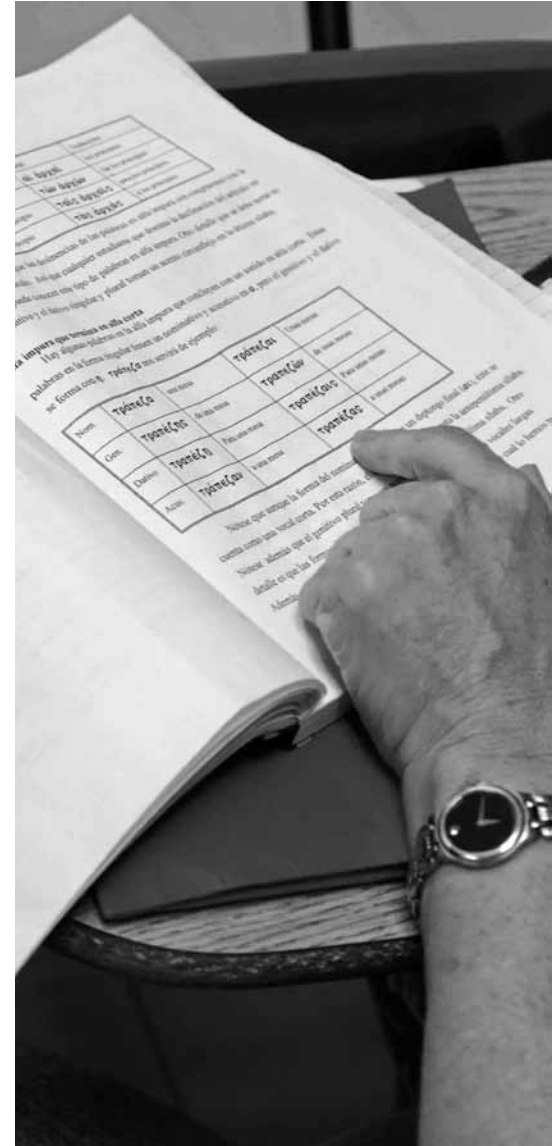
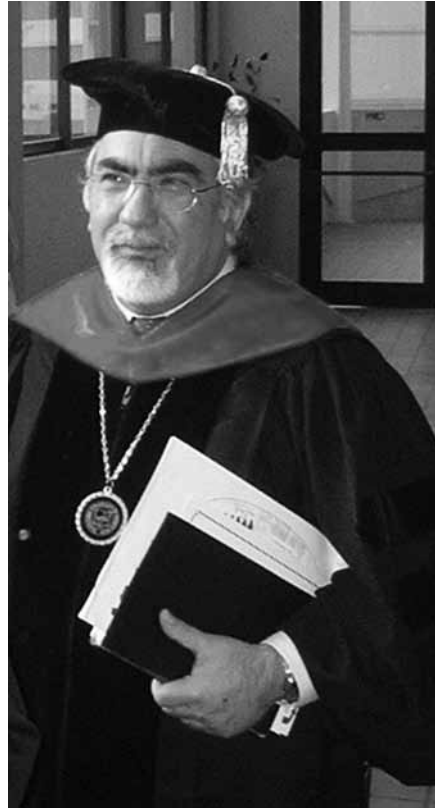
Master of Divinity
Master of Arts in Religion
Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care
for Families
Certificate in Theology

Special Programs

Certificate Program in Theology
for church lay leaders, with
specializations in Missions
and Christian Education
Continuing Education

Partnerships

United Methodist Church
of Puerto Rico
Christian Church, Disciples of Christ
Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico
United Evangelical Church
of Puerto Rico
Lutheran Evangelical Church
of Puerto Rico





The Seminario Evangelico de Puerto Rico's primary purpose is the training of pastoral and lay leaders for service in the ministry and the mission of God's people in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the United States of America. As an ecumenical center for theological education, it represents five Protestant denominations, including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), by covenant agreement. This relationship retains a margin of autonomy essential to creative theological work, faithfulness to biblical revelation, and a relevance to the contemporary world.

Sitting under a lamppost in a dusty street in the Indian province of Punjab, 10-year-old Megh Goyal imagined a world beyond the poverty, hunger, and violence surrounding him. Trying to imitate the beauty of the masterful poetry at hand, he wrote:

Lord, have I had wings
I would fly away . . .
In order to teach others

Twenty-three years later, Megh began putting his dream into action when he flew to Puerto Rico, after doing graduate work in the United States, to teach others as a young scholar in the field of agricultural engineering. An avid and curious learner, Megh found a Christian community and enrolled in a course for lay pastors offered by the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico. The course opened his mind to new vistas of how Christian ministry can be empowered by creative, critical, and careful biblical interpretation. Through this class, Megh understood that there was a space for him at the seminary. "In the faculty that taught these courses, I could not only see people who were well-versed in their respective disciplines, but also people who modeled a way of living that was a faithful expression of their call to ministry," Megh said. With this conviction, he entered the Master of Divinity program even as he was learning to pronounce and understand the Spanish language.

Like Megh, many others have joined this community of learners where the Christian call is discerned and where dreams of what is possible within the world are forged. Whether they are second-career professionals like Megh or recent college graduates, students come,

as one said, "with the heart placed in the church and the heartbeat in the streets." The seminary stresses the contextualization of traditional disciplines to attend to both the needs of local churches and to the social reality that churches are called to engage in order to transform. The curriculum includes courses such as Ministry with Disabled Persons, Legal Aspects of Pastoral Ministry, Human Sexuality and the Church, and The Church's Response to Addictions. The study of Bible, theology, and Christian history is enhanced by the deliberate inclusion of global voices, with an emphasis on the contributions of Latin American, Caribbean, and Hispanic scholars.

As the first Spanish-language theological institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada and the only Protestant Spanish-language institution to have that accreditation, the seminary attracts students from around the world. The seminary is preparing to graduate a group of commissioned lay pastors who are forming new congregations among Asian, African, Pakistani, and Latin American immigrant communities in the United States.

As an engineering professor, Megh teaches ways to improve the effectiveness of cultivation because he is convinced this effort will ultimately alleviate starvation. He also pastors a congregation using the tools he learned at the seminary, convinced, as he once said, that "the field is ready for the harvest." Megh is realizing the daydream of his poem. "In my Christian teaching," he said, "the force of my reason follows the yearnings of my heart."