

fundingpresbyterianseminaries

- Q How is theological education funded in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?**
Our seminaries operate on tuition, contributions, grants, endowments, and an annual contribution from the PC(USA)'s Theological Education Fund (TEF).
- Q What is the TEF?**
The TEF is a fund comprised of monies contributed by Presbyterian congregations on an annual basis. It is the only source of denomination-wide funding for PC(USA) seminaries.
- Q How are Presbyterians expected to help fund theological education?**
Each congregation is asked to make a contribution of 1% of its local operating budget (all monies expended for current operations of congregations as reported in the General Assembly Minutes, Statistical Reports, Part II, line 25) to the TEF each year.
- Q Why do we need to fund seminaries on a denomination-wide basis when they already raise funds on their own?**
The monies our seminaries raise are not enough to cover expenses and to offer scholarships. Perhaps more important, our schools should be able to count on denomination-wide support to do the work we Presbyterians are asking of them — educating leaders who can preach, teach, and pray in the Reformed tradition. A 1%-per-year gift to the TEF is considered a congregation's proportionate share of educating church leaders.
- Q Given that our congregation's finances are tight, how can we contribute to the TEF?**
Though 1% is the goal, your session can designate less. Some churches begin with a modest contribution and increase their giving each year until they reach the full 1%.
- Q One percent seems like a nominal amount. Can we give more?**
Absolutely! One percent is not a limit. Feel free to give as much as you can.
- Q How are TEF monies distributed among the Presbyterian seminaries?**
The Committee on Theological Education (COTE) — with thirteen members elected by the General Assembly plus a representative from each seminary — makes the allocations each year according to a formula developed by the COTE. The formula provides each school with a fair share of the funds, based on such factors as number of degrees granted and number of Presbyterian students.
- Q Do all seminaries related to the PC(USA) receive TEF monies each year?**
All of our seminaries, except Auburn, receive funding through the TEF. The TEF is intended to support theological institutions offering degree programs that prepare women and men for professional ministry. Auburn's focus is research and nondegree educational programs.
- Q How does our congregation make a contribution to the TEF?**
Just include the TEF in your congregation and session's annual budget planning process. Your session will then prepare a check and accompanying paperwork, both clearly marked "Theological Education Fund, account #TE999999," and submit them through the regular channel that your church uses when sending funds for General Assembly causes.
- Q How can we get more information about the TEF and other ways to support theological education?**
Visit www.pcusa.org/seminaries.

