

McCormick Theological Seminary

273 Students
21 Faculty

Degrees Offered

Master of Divinity
Doctor of Ministry
Master of Theological Studies

Joint Degrees Offered

Master of Divinity/Master of Social Work with the University of Chicago and with Loyola University
Ecumenical Doctor of Ministry with Catholic Theological Union and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
ACTS Doctor of Ministry in Preaching

Special Programs

Urban Ministry

Partnerships

Association of Chicago Theological Schools, a consortium of Chicago seminaries permitting cross-registration
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
Chicago Center for Global Ministries





Actively engaged in a diverse world, McCormick Theological Seminary is a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that educates women and men for service in Christian ministry and faithful leadership in God's world. McCormick offers a program of study that builds on and contributes to the Reformed tradition and engages students in commitment to God and renewal of the global church. The seminary desires to create a community where academic excellence, critical reflection, and faithful witness are commonly valued and actively pursued. It provides settings where persons and communities are transformed in faithfulness to God and biblical tradition. It shapes visions for ministries in urban locations and integrates cross-cultural and ecumenical learning into classrooms and communities. In all it does, McCormick Theological Seminary supports congregations and governing bodies in developing Christian ministry in a changing, broken, and fearful world.

Incoming students often cite a desire to be pushed outside of their comfort zones as the primary reason for choosing McCormick for their theological education. That's what brought Anna Kendig, a Minneapolis native raised in a large, predominantly white congregation, to the seminary's campus on the South Side of Chicago.

"I knew that my context, though it was nurturing and affirming, is not everyone's context," Anna said. "Seeing the deeper needs and realities of the church required a degree of growth and personal encounter with the world outside of my own limited experiences."

The crux of Anna's spiritual formation at McCormick was her work in a course entitled "Racial Identity and White Privilege." The course was developed as both a natural extension of the seminary's missional commitments and as a response to the PC(USA)'s charge to integrate anti-racism training into seminary curricula.

For Anna, the course provided a framework for understanding her own identity as a multiracial person and gave her the ability to find in other people threads of commonality across profoundly different theologies, social locations, and cultural backgrounds. She was able to develop a vocabulary with which she

could help others both explore the intricacies of racial identity and think critically about the multilayered contexts in which they live.

Perhaps even more important was a model for what she calls "a riskier, more authentic way to be church."

"The class was an experience of opening up an issue in a very deep and personal way with a diverse group of colleagues and ultimately recognizing how critical it is to be able to do that in our own places of ministry."

As Anna considers life after McCormick, she is excited about the prospect of working in the area of church revitalization, applying the pastoral skills she has honed in the classroom, in her field site work, and in a seminary community living and worshipping together.

"Nobody wants to be uncomfortable, but we all want community. That's a contradiction we all face, and at its best I see church as a model for how people can love one another through the tension and discomfort of our differences. But that kind of love and that kind of church don't just happen with good intentions. It's deeper than that and requires intentionality and negotiation across our differences. It's hard work, but it's the work to which God has called me."