

San Francisco Theological Seminary

428 Students
23 Faculty

Degrees Offered

Master of Divinity
Master of Arts in Theological Studies
Doctor of Ministry
D. Min. with emphases in Pastoral
Care and Counseling, Spiritual
Direction, Urban Ministry, and
Spiritual Leadership

Joint Degrees Offered

Master of Arts
Master of Arts/Master of Divinity
Doctor of Philosophy
Doctor of Theology
(All joint degrees are offered in
conjunction with the Graduate
Theological Union.)

Special Programs

Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction
Diploma in Spiritual Formation Studies
Certificate in Ministry Studies (Lay
Pastor Training)
Program in Christian Spirituality
The Lloyd Center for
Pastoral Counseling

Partnerships

Founding member of the Graduate
Theological Union, the largest
partnership of seminaries and graduate
schools in the United States, located in
Berkeley, California





San Francisco Theological Seminary prepares leaders for the church of Jesus Christ sent by the Holy Spirit in God's mission to the world. We are scholars and servants of the church devoted to biblical interpretation and theological education in the Reformed tradition within an ecumenical context. We are committed to the education of students in spiritual formation, critical theological reflection, and the skills and arts of ministry, to serve in congregations, the wider church, the classroom, and the public sphere.

Known as Kobie to friends and classmates, the senior at SFTS' Southern California campus has been profoundly shaped by her childhood experiences.

One reason Kobie's faith is rich is that she grew up poor. One reason she fights for inclusion is that she had to experience apartheid in South Africa.

Despite times when she went to bed hungry, Kobie has always felt God's presence in her life thanks to her grandmother. Kobie learned from her grandmother to pray, to forgive, and to see God in the small things. From an early age, Kobie learned that Christ is revealed to people just like her: the poor, the ostracized, and the outcast. The church was the one place she could feel Christ's love even though her family was from "the wrong side of the tracks."

Yet, she discovered that the church that welcomed her with open arms did not welcome everyone. She was taught that apartheid was good and beneficial for all, but she felt something was not right.

"The realization that I lived in an unjust world came piece by piece," Kobie recalls. "I began to question everything I was taught was real and true. It would shake my very trust in the church and its members."

She remembers riding home from school on a bus, when some children would shout insults to the Africans walking next to the road. "Growing up poor I had also received such hateful insults, so I identified with the people walking down the road. Everything screamed in me that this must be wrong."

Kobie began to feel God's call to ministry while in high school, and she earned a BA in theology and a Master's degree in Greek. But she put God's call on hold, realizing that although the church had opened ordination for women a year earlier, there was no real prospect for a call. Patriarchy, just as segregation, was still very much alive in the Dutch Reformed Church.

Kobie and her husband came to the U.S. in 2001. When her husband received a call to serve Brentwood Presbyterian Church, she enrolled at SFTS so she could answer God's call to ministry at long last. She appreciates the Presbyterian Church's history of women's ordination and social justice work, especially the fight that helped end apartheid in South Africa, and the opportunity to attend SFTS while also working and raising her family.

"What an adventure the SFTS experience has been! Seminary turned out to be more than academic knowledge and ministry skills. Every night students from diverse cultural backgrounds come together to form the unique community that is SFTS. We learn by what is taught in class but also by the dynamic community formed by the diverse student body. One of our professors calls it the 'unintentional curriculum': learning from one another. Reflecting back on my time spent at SFTS, I can joyfully share that it has been a blessed time of learning, discovering, discerning, spiritual growth, and experiencing community uniquely."