

ABOUT NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

History

In 1891, the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America (now the Evangelical Covenant Church) founded a college and seminary in Minneapolis that was moved to Chicago three years later. The Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) has its roots in historical Christianity as it emerged in the Protestant Reformation, in the biblical instruction of the Lutheran State Church of Sweden, and in the great spiritual awakenings of the 19th century. These three influences have, in large measure, shaped its development and are to be borne in mind when seeking to understand its distinctive spirit. The ECC adheres to the affirmation of the Protestant Reformation regarding the Scriptures as the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct. It has affirmed the historic confessions of the Christian church, particularly the Apostles' Creed, while at the same time it has emphasized the sovereignty of the Word over creedal interpretations. It upholds the pietistic restatement of the doctrine of justification by faith as basic to the dual task of evangelism and Christian nurture, the New Testament emphasis upon personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, the reality of a fellowship of believers that recognizes but transcends theological differences, and the belief in baptism and the Lord's Supper as divinely ordained sacraments of the church. Because of the Covenant's desire that its ministers serve the whole church and honor both believers' baptism and paedobaptist traditions that have characterized its heritage, the denomination requires all of its ministers to set aside personal preferences on this issue. Ministers in the Covenant agree to perform either form of baptism in order to serve the whole church and maintain unity. The ECC is also distinctive among evangelical denominations in affirming the full equality of women and men in all leadership positions within the church. Strongly affirming the denomination's Annual Meeting decision in 1976 to ordain women, the administration and faculty of North Park Theological Seminary wholeheartedly support women in ministry. While for more than 100 years, North Park Theological Seminary has played a crucial role in instructing students in the Covenant tradition and preserving and shaping the values and character of the Covenant church, today, the ecumenical vision of NPTS has made it an institution where students from a wide variety of denominations are welcomed and the diversity of traditions appreciated.

Mission, Core Values, and Distinctive Emphases

North Park Theological Seminary serves the church in its great diversity and reflects the values and commitments of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Mission

North Park Theological Seminary, as the seminary of the Evangelical Covenant Church, participates in the mission of the Triune God by educating whole persons with the whole gospel for the whole world, producing evangelical scholarship, and serving Christ's church.

Core Values

North Park Theological Seminary's distinctive character is reflected in three core values, which summarize our institutional identity and characterize our unique learning environment.

Graciously Evangelical: We embrace the centrality of Scripture, live by God's Word, and offer freedom in its interpretation consistent with unity in Christ. We affirm that the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ brings new life to persons, healing to communities, and hope for creation. We affirm women and men in ministry.

Prophetically Ecclesial: We are committed to the whole mission of the church, emphasizing both the Great Commission to make disciples, and the Great Commandment to love God and neighbor. We passionately hold together head and heart, reflection and practice, worship and service, witness and justice.

Relationally Global: We are a worshiping and learning community that welcomes all disciples, emphasizing spiritual as well as intellectual formation. We nurture love for local communities—urban, suburban, and rural. We nurture vision for a global church, valuing the diversity of all God's people. We foster skills for ministry in contexts of cultural diversity.

NPTS Integrative Emphases

There are six key emphases that integrate our life and learning at NPTS. These flow out of the commitments of the Evangelical Covenant Church and are consistent with those of North Park University. They are reflected across our curricula, woven into our communal life, and together mark our graduates. These distinctive emphases are:

- **Scriptural Engagement:** The Bible is the life-giving word of God. We engage with the Bible because through it God has engaged us in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Throughout our living and learning we approach Scripture with critical rigor, passionate devotion, and obedient faith.
- **Cultural Engagement:** All cultures and peoples are loved by God and both embraced and challenged by the gospel. We live and learn embracing cultural and ethnic diversity. We seek to foster the attitudes and skills essential to hear and express the gospel in diverse cultures and contexts.
- **Forming Thoughtful Minds:** To love God and neighbor with the mind is a vital aspect of Christian obedience. We nurture careful, sustained reflection in all our living and learning as essential to fruitful ministry and faithful discipleship.
- **Forming Godly Hearts:** Spiritual wisdom grows and matures through intentional, obedient practice and is essential to ministry. We nurture its growth through curricular and communal emphasis on spiritual practices, spiritual direction, and effective self-care.
- **Serving Congregations:** Congregations are primary embodiments of the Christian gospel and instruments of the mission of God. Our living and learning are permeated by concern to nurture congregational life through informed and skilled leadership.
- **Being Missional:** We seek to communicate the gospel through proclaiming Christ, pursuing justice and living with compassion. We seek to foster the attitudes and skills essential for the church to exercise transformative ministries.

North Park Theological Seminary and North Park University

North Park Theological Seminary, as a part of North Park University, is governed by the University's Board of Trustees and the University President. The Dean of the Seminary reports to the University President.

Accreditation

North Park Theological Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Schools and Secondary Schools for the degrees of MDiv, MACM, MACF, MATS, and DMin.

The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.

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Alumni

For more than a century, men and women have graduated from NPTS to be servants and disciples of Jesus Christ. Our graduates serve God and the church as pastors, missionaries, Christian educators, youth pastors, chaplains, lay leaders, evangelists, camp directors, administrators, and as leaders in the business and professional community.

City Location

Our address is Chicago, and our neighborhood (Albany Park) is a microcosm of the world. Our zip code is one of the most ethnically diverse zip codes in the United States. Take a five-minute walk from our campus and you're sure to hear an interesting combination of the more than 40 languages spoken in the community we call home. Our location offers a remarkable, true-to-life laboratory for ministry in the real world. It affords our students countless opportunities to encounter human variety and human needs and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Our students serve and worship in local churches with diverse and exciting ministries of outreach and compassion. We've been in this neighborhood for more than 100 years, a span of sweeping change all around us. From the start, we have looked at our location as something more than an accident of history. We have viewed it as a gift to us and to our students, who learn in the classroom and on the nearby streets to explore their callings and to put their faith into practice anywhere on the globe. North Park Theological Seminary is tucked into a residential neighborhood on Chicago's north side, only 10 miles from the architecturally impressive skyline of the city's famous Loop. You will experience a world-class city that boasts a bustling marketplace of ideas, cultures, and people. Some of the world's best art collections are found in our city, including those of the Art Institute of Chicago. Our city is famous for its approach to architecture and year-round cultural and music festivals expose the richness of diverse communities. We also have the Cubs, White Sox, Bulls, Bears, and Blackhawks.

Academic Resources in Chicago

Chicago includes some of the world's richest resources for graduate theological education. It is not without reason that Chicago has been called the theological capital of the world. Collectively, hundreds of students are enrolled in Chicago-area seminaries, and a large number

of cooperative ventures, cluster arrangements, and consortia enrich the opportunities for the individual seminary student. The city's seminaries are joined as the Association of Chicago Theological Schools, offering an unparalleled variety of theological resources and courses. Students at NPTS have access to the resources of this campus, and to the faculty, libraries, research facilities, guest lecturers, and programs of other seminaries in the Chicago area.

Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS)

ACTS was formed in 1984 to provide cooperation in areas of cross-registration, library access and acquisitions, interchange among faculty, and communication among theological schools. Students from the member schools have library privileges at the other member schools. NPTS students may take courses at any of these schools through a simple process of cross-registration. Tuition is paid to and credit is given by NPTS. The catalogue of courses is available at www.actschicago.org.

The Northside Chicago Theological Institute

NCTI is a cooperative venture within ACTS. It was formed in 1971 by five seminaries in the northern part of the Chicago area: North Park Theological Seminary, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, University of St. Mary of the Lake (Mundelein Seminary), and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Each year, NCTI offers two joint seminars where students from a variety of traditions come together and learn about their distinctiveness and common characteristics. These seminars may be taken for academic credit through the individual seminaries.

The Hispanic Summer Program

North Park Theological Seminary is a member-school of the Hispanic Summer Program (HSP), an ecumenical organization that annually offers two-week intensive courses during the summer primarily for Latino/a students. Most of the courses are conducted in Spanish by qualified Latino and Latina instructors and at a different member seminary each summer. Visit www.hispanicsummerprogram.org for a list of schools participating in HSP, the summer courses offered, and the application process for students interested in taking courses through HSP. Students may also consult with the North Park Seminary's liaison with HSP.

El Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos (CHET)

CHET is a theological and pastoral training center for Hispanic church planters, pastors, and lay leaders. It is a subsidiary of North Park University, and is accredited by the State of California Bureau for Private and Postsecondary and Vocational Education as well as AHET, the Association for Hispanic Theological Education. CHET is also approved by the Board of Ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church to provide the training required for Covenant Ordination. Representatives from North Park University and North Park Theological Seminary serve on the executive board. College level theological training and ministerial formation are offered on the main campus in the Los Angeles area, in Chicago (typically on the campus of NPTS) and at various other extension sites.

Symposium, Journal, and Lectureships

North Park Symposium on the Theological Interpretation of Scripture

Each fall, NPTS sponsors the North Park Symposium on the Theological Interpretation of Scripture which brings together selected North

American and international scholars to discuss a subject relevant to the life of the church. The focus of the symposium is on the process of interpretation and the task of biblical theology. The papers presented in the symposium are collected and published in the international journal *ExAuditu*. General attendance at the symposium is by invitation only; but all NPTS students may attend.

The Covenant Quarterly

Published four times a year under the auspices of the Evangelical Covenant Church and edited by a NPTS faculty member, *The Covenant Quarterly* provides a forum for articles of significance for the life of the church. Special attention is given to interpreting and preserving the pietistic heritage from which the Covenant Church emerged.

The David Nyvall Lectureship

This lectureship was inaugurated in 1951 in memory of David Nyvall, the pioneer Swedish-American educator who served the school both as teacher and president. The purpose of this lecture series, held each spring, is to stimulate interest in the interpretation of the Christian message for the contemporary world.

The Nils W. Lund Memorial Lectureship

This lectureship brings to the campus each autumn one or more distinguished scholars in the biblical field. The focus of this lectureship is on current developments in biblical studies and their ministry relationship to the task of preaching today. The Lund Memorial Scholarship was founded by Hugo Anderson in 1960, in memory of Dr. Nils W. Lund, dean and biblical scholar at the Seminary from 1922-1954.

The Carl G. Westerdahl Lectureship

This lectureship in evangelism began in 1964 through the establishment of an endowment fund by the Westerdahl family in memory of the late Reverend Carl G. Westerdahl, noted Covenant preacher and evangelist.

The A. Eldon Palmquist Lectureship in Preaching

This lectureship was established in 1985 by the family of the late Reverend A. Eldon Palmquist, Covenant pastor and conference superintendent, in recognition of his lively, grace-filled preaching, his interest in education, and his loyalty and devotion to the cause of Christ.

International Exchange Program

NPTS has established exchange programs with theological schools in other countries—in particular, Sweden and Finland. The Stockholm School of Theology offers an English language semester each spring in which exchange students may take all of their classes in the English language. NPTS students may study for up to a year at one of these schools. Interested students should contact Seminary Academic Services for details.

Other Professional Affiliations

The Seminary holds membership in the following professional organizations:

- The Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education
- The American Library Association
- The American Theological Library Association
- The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education
- The Association for Theological Field Education
- The Association of Theological Schools
- Chicago Area Theological Library Association

Contact Information for Seminary Admission

<http://www.northpark.edu/Seminary/About-the-Seminary/Contact-Us>

Seminary Website: www.northpark.edu/seminary

Seminary Admission Office

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