

Make History

Boston University School of Theology

**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

We cherish the past.

Theological education was not new in 1839. Combining the study of religion with the practice of faith and social justice most certainly was. In the 180 years since, Boston University School of Theology (STH) has established itself as a school where history is made, and where people who want to make it prepare to do so.

But we don't live there.



Breaking new ground.

STH began as the first methodist seminary. We graduated women before they gained the right to vote. We welcomed East Asians when they were excluded from US citizenship. We trained generations of African Americans—including some of this country's greatest civil rights leaders—when no one else would admit them. And STH was the first theological school in the nation to appoint non-Christians to its faculty.

History is never over.

The past is a springboard to the future. If you believe religion can be a force for good in the world, and have the courage to effect it, maybe the next great STH story will be yours.



WELCOME

Dear Beloved Community,

I welcome you into the history-making spirit of Boston University School of Theology! We are seekers, innovators, knowledge-builders, and leaders dedicated to serving our beautiful, hurting world. We draw from deep wells of tradition and bold visions for God's creation.

Spirit of our people. STH has one of the leading theological faculties in North America. Our faculty are outstanding teachers and mentors, field-shaping researchers, and leaders in academic and community life, near and far. STH students are passionate, smart, and committed to justice and compassion for our aching planet. And STH staff support the community at every turn. The spirit of making good history is alive in our people!

Spirit of our prophetic legacy. As the founding school of Boston University, STH values are built on faith and expressed in rigorous scholarship and prophetic visions. The founders of STH and BU were church and social leaders, abolitionists and change agents, who built strong education that was open to all people. Grounded in Methodism, they immediately embraced other Wesleyan traditions and the ecumenical richness of global Christianity, and they also pioneered in the study of diverse religious traditions with diverse faculty. That past lives on in our United Methodist theological school with deep ecumenical commitments, global reach, and interreligious richness. Our graduates have made their mark around the globe for more than 180 years, and we continue to make history.

Spirit of our programs. Students value STH's academic rigor and active engagement with lived realities. This viewbook reveals the richness of our degree programs; worship, music, and spiritual life; and internships and professional growth opportunities. From these riches, students prepare for a wide range of vocations through core courses and concentrations offered in specialized tracks and certificate programs. STH also offers rich co-curricular opportunities: Our centers and programs are hubs of innovation for special events, research, and community outreach. Our denominational communities of learning and Methodist/Wesleyan programs contribute to formation, church relationships, and community enrichment. And student groups create heart-warming, mind-stretching, life-challenging gatherings. We are blessed!

STH is a history-making school. I hope you see sparks of light as you read this viewbook. It is filled with real people who are grounded in streams of faith, existential questions, and academic inquiry, and are committed to the flourishing of the human family and the whole of Creation. We welcome you into this spirit!

With gratitude,

Mary Elizabeth Moore
Dean, and Professor of Theology and Education

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Changing the world is a cliché only to those who don't.

History made.

From historic firsts

to groundbreaking alumni, take a look back at a school that is always looking forward.

1839



**Newbury Biblical Institute
Newbury, Vermont**

The US's first Methodist seminary is formed, dedicated to learning and progressive abolitionist principles.

1869



Boston University's Founding School

Now relocated, STH becomes the first professional school of Boston University.

1876



**Anna Howard Shaw
Second Woman Graduate**

Shaw begins study and later becomes the first woman ordained in the Methodist Church.

1877



**Helen Magill White
First Woman PhD**

Earning a doctorate in Greek, White becomes the first woman to receive a PhD in the US.

1902



**Edgar Helms
and the School
of Prophets**

Helms and other STH graduates shape forms of urban outreach, earning STH the nickname "School of Prophets."

Early 20th Century



**Borden Parker Bowne
and Boston Personalism**

Bowne becomes the father of Boston Personalism, a philosophy emphasizing the dignity of every person.

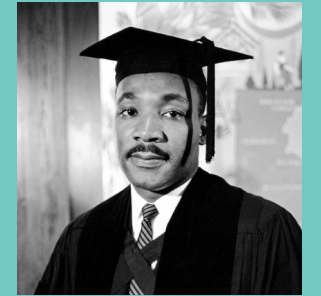
1953



**Howard Thurman
Dean of Marsh Chapel**

Thurman becomes the first black Dean of Chapel at a majority-white college or university in the US.

1955



**Martin Luther King, Jr.
Earns Doctorate**

Influenced by Boston Personalism, King earns his doctorate at STH in Systematic Theology.

1965



STH Leaders Join Protests

Seventy-plus students and faculty join the historic march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery on "Bloody Sunday."

1978



Anna Howard Shaw Center

The center is established to empower women and honor sexual and gender diversity in religious life and ministry.

2004



Massachusetts Fight for Marriage Equality

Many students and faculty become involved in the ultimately successful push to legalize same-sex marriage.

2008



**Mary Elizabeth Moore
First Female Dean**

Moore is appointed dean. Her work in religious education and eco-feminism points the way for the school's next decade.

2013



The STH Community Center

The STH Community Center is built and achieves elite "LEED Gold" certification, providing space for expanded community life offerings.

2018



Faith and Ecological Justice Program

The program provides coursework and sustainability programming to build strength in ecological justice training.

2019



**Raices Latinas Program
in Theology, Leadership & Research**

Drawing on the strength of Hispanic/LatinX faculty at STH, program is launched focusing on LatinX history, theology, and leadership.

Now



Add your history-making story!

Learn and Lead.

At BU STH, you'll find a world-class faculty paired with the unparalleled curricular resources of a university-based seminary. It's a unique learning experience that develops the leadership of the exceptional students who pass under our arches year after year.



Boston University School of Theology is a place for people who want to dig deeply into religious traditions as well as to challenge and rethink the ideas, institutions, symbols, and practices that make up those traditions.

It is a place for people who want to make a difference in the world, and who are concerned, to build bridges between faith communities and the academy in approaching that task. Members of our faculty are experts in a wide range of fields and come to us with diverse backgrounds in the church, the academy, faith-based nonprofits, and other areas of religious leadership. Our students are already accomplished people from around the world, some of whom possess incredible experience in research and scholarly writing, pastoral and chaplaincy roles, nonprofit and urban ministry, conflict transformation and peace-making, and advocacy for prisoners, the poor, persons with disabilities, and care for the ecosphere. The result is a rare community of learners both inside and outside of the classroom.

The prophetic spirit infuses the School of Theology's classrooms and research centers as we seek to think creatively both locally and globally about real-world problems. Our curriculum is rich with options that span from classic study of biblical and historical texts, to travel seminars in Cuba, India, Israel/Palestine, or the Arizona-Mexico border (to name only a few), to training in mediation, community organizing, the writing of life-cycle rituals, conflict transformation, and much, much more. Students can also earn certificates in specialized areas while they work on their degree programs.

I invite you to catch a glimpse of the amazing people, groundbreaking research, prophetic vision, and exciting academic programs that constitute this remarkable institution.

Bryan P. Stone
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

ACADEMICS

Diverse callings, united in learning.

Academics aren't the only preparation available to you at STH but they are the foundation. And chances are we have a program suited to your own very personal, very individual calling. If you're unsure which path is right for you, we invite you to use our discernment tool at bu.edu/sth/discern or call our Admissions Office.

Areas of Study

Biblical & Historical Studies.

Church History; Mission Studies; New Testament; Hebrew Scripture

Philosophy, Theology & Ethics.

Social & Theological Ethics; Philosophy & Systematic Theology; Science, Philosophy & Religion

Religion, Culture & Personality.

Sociology of Religion; Pastoral Psychology & Psychology of Religion

Ministry in Church & Society.

Practical Theology; Religious Education; Sacred Music & the Arts; Homiletics (Preaching); Liturgical Studies (Worship); Spirituality; Evangelism and Mission; Leadership

Other Resources

Interdisciplinary Study.

Master's students can take one-third of their programs outside of STH, choosing from BU's 17 schools and colleges. Most popular cross-registrations at STH: Social Work, African Studies, Global Studies, Law, Public Health, Education, Fine Arts, Communications, and Hospitality Administration.

Certificate Programs.

STH offers several certificates that can further customize your curriculum toward your vocational goals. Certificates include: Religion & Conflict Transformation; Faith & Ecological

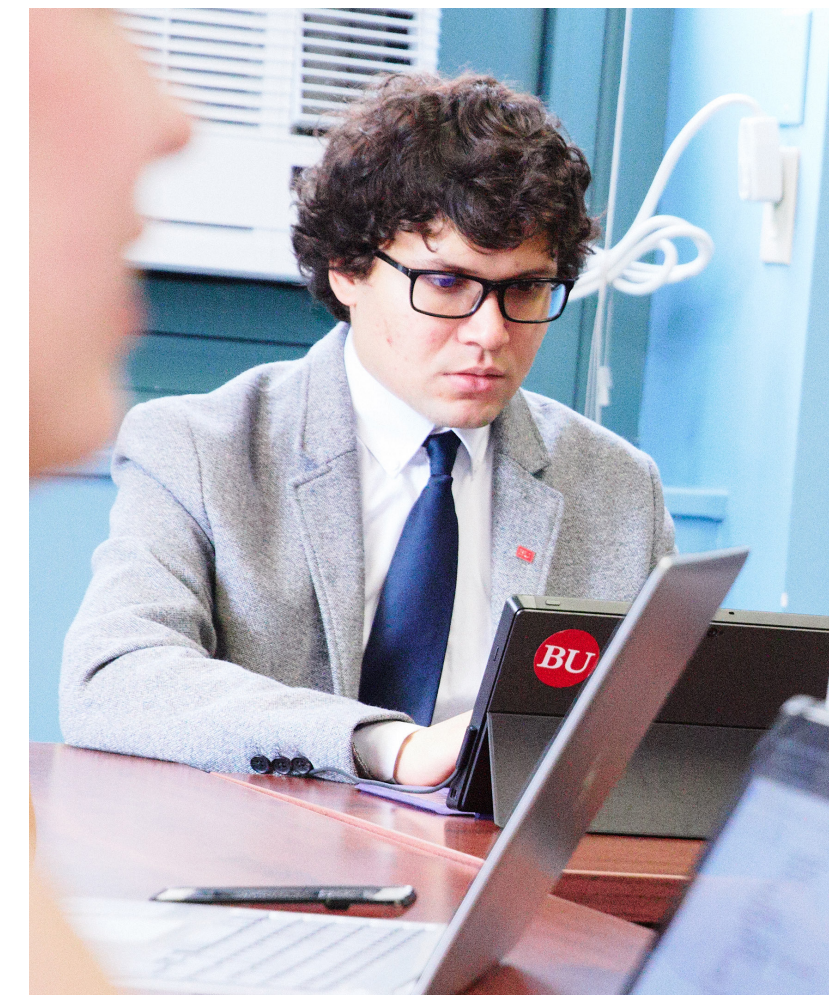
Justice; Theology & Latinx Studies; International Mission & Ecumenism; Spiritual Formation; Sacred Music; Fundraising Management; Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies; Evangelism; Arts Management; and Urban Policy & Planning.

Contextual Education.

Internships can be tailored to your goals in churches or community agencies throughout New England, whether you want to work with a traditional parish, an innovative para-church ministry, a non-profit community organization, or in chaplaincy.

Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium (BTI).

The theological schools in the BTI represent a wide range of faith traditions. Once enrolled in one (such as STH), you gain access to the courses, faculty, and libraries of all. That's 400 professors and 500+ courses for cross-registration.



Master of Divinity (MDiv)

Prophetic, practical religious leaders grounded in the wisdom of their traditions are essential to the ongoing transformation of both church and world. But training for 21st-century ministry cannot be “one size fits all.” Our track-based MDiv program allows students to specialize coursework toward their unique vocational callings. Any of our seven tracks can be completed in three years of full-time study and will fulfill the requirements for ordination in most traditions.

- **Pastoral Ministry.** Those called to local church ministry often select this track, which emphasizes competencies related to congregation-based leadership, including worship, preaching, social ethics, religious education, mission and evangelism, pastoral care, and spiritual formation.
- **Global & Community Engagement.** This track is for those interested in being local or global change-agents through vocations in conflict transformation, restorative justice, ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, ecological justice and sustainability, social and economic justice, or nonprofit leadership.

- **Religion & the Academy.** Want to do doctoral studies after your MDiv in order to teach in the academy? This track relies heavily on advisor mentoring.
- **Theology & the Arts.** For a vocation in sacred music, music ministry, church architecture, liturgical studies, literature and religion, aesthetics and visual faith, film-making and digital arts.
- **Chaplaincy.** Equips students to provide spiritual care within religiously pluralistic and secular contexts such as prisons, hospitals, hospice, retirement communities, police stations, airports, workplaces, and educational institutions. Coursework emphasizes pastoral care and counseling, spirituality, trauma and theology, multicultural capacity-building, and restorative justice.
- **Interfaith Leadership.** For those planning to work in interfaith leadership, interreligious dialogue, and the study of world religions. Requires substantial core coursework in Christian history and theology, while also providing for the study of other religious traditions.
- **Theology & Social Work.** If you enroll in the dual degree program with the Master of Social Work, choose this track, which ensures efficient progression through both programs' coursework.



CLASS OF
2021

Jessica R. Hamilton

Memphis, Tennessee
Candidate for MDiv

How has STH shaped you vocationally? My work has provided me with new skills, including stronger analytic skills and a broader perspective about the factors influencing social matters.

How has your spiritual life grown? STH students are encouraged to combine spirituality and scholarship, and this is a spiritual perspective I plan to continue after graduation.

The theological question you're asking right now? First, how do we create public policy that compassionately meets the needs of our neighbors, especially those most vulnerable and most oppressed? Within this: what is the unique way I approach this question to contribute to my community and to the field of my studies?

What topic of study most interests you? Social ethics: how we live out our responsibilities and commitments to one another, especially at a systemic level within the public sphere. What we do in public is a reflection of what we learn and believe about God and ourselves in private.

Your best advice for a prospective STH student? Envision where you want to be in the next three, five, and 10 years, then pick the school that offers the most support for you to, as Howard Thurman would say, “come alive.”

Why STH? I wanted to receive my theological education in an academically rigorous environment with a strong community that supported my holistic formation.

Favorite class? Practicing Justice with Dean Hickman-Maynard reframed my view of what justice means and how the church and the public can work together to achieve justice.

On faculty: Scholars and leaders. They are accessible and want to see students rise to the challenge of our studies. I respect their ability to balance life in the academy and the church.

What's the STH community like? From community worship and community lunch to all of the student orgs and events, STH is fun, lively, supportive, and nurturing. But what I love most are the unfacilitated moments over tea or dinner or in the hallways between classes.

What do you plan to do with your degree? Before coming to STH, I worked in healthcare policy. I think I will head back into the policy world with a renewed commitment and new tools to solve social problems.

Master of Theological Studies

Two full-time years rigorously studying religion, philosophy, and theology. Once you complete core coursework in theology, history, and biblical studies, you can choose a flexible “open format” in which you take courses from any discipline that fits your interests, or opt for a specialization, which still leaves plenty of free electives. The specializations are:

- **Open Format MTS.** Customizable toward your own interests.
- **Religion & Conflict Transformation.** Theology, theory, and practice of faith-based conflict transformation in faith communities and in the world.
- **Transcultural Studies.** Interdisciplinary study of faith and leadership across cultural and national borders, drawing primarily upon sociology, mission, ethics, and culture studies.

- **Theology.** Critical and constructive study of the Christian witness of faith, its meaning and truth, and its relevance for the world.
- **Texts & Traditions.** Historical study of Hebrew and Christian scripture, church history, and the broader history of Christianity (focusing on one or more of these).
- **Religion & Science.** Interdisciplinary study of religion and science, with attention to the challenges and debates, opportunities and interrelationships that arise when they meet.
- **Ecological Theology & Ethics.** The interrelationships between theology, ethics, spirituality, and nature, particularly in light of environmental concerns and employing the tools of ecological sciences.
- **Spirituality Studies.** The study of religious experience and spiritual practices, texts and traditions with careful attention to the intersections of spirituality, faith communities, culture, and public life.



CLASS OF
2020

Regan
Hardeman

Fort Worth, Texas
Candidate for MTS



Why STH? I knew it was a place where I would find community and be challenged academically, which would in turn prepare me for my vocational goals.

Favorite class? Dean Stone’s Evangelism in Contemporary Cultures was unlike other evangelism courses I had been exposed to; the material was unexpectedly new. I now see evangelism as a practice almost entirely different than I had previously.

What are the faculty like at STH? The faculty are extremely intelligent yet approachable. They’re each distinct from one another, so no two class experiences will be the same.

What has been your favorite part about living in Boston? The cultural diversity has been one of my favorite things. The number of languages I hear spoken each day is astounding to me.

What has been the hardest part of living in Boston, and how have you overcome it? The unpredictability of mass transit. If you plan on utilizing mass transit, throw an extra 10–15 minutes on your commute, because there’s a one in five chance you’ll need it.

What is the STH community like? Everyone is respectful of each other’s beliefs. It took time for me to see that I could express my own thought without the fear of judgment, but fortunately it did come.

What extra-curriculars are you involved in within or beyond STH? I work part time for a church in the city and spend time with the community I’ve found there.

The theological question you’re asking right now? I’m designing a research project into the question of what extent secularization influences ecclesial communities in Texas. But the whole “nature of God” question is always on the mind, too.

What topic of study most interests you? Ecclesiology.

Your best advice for a prospective STH student? Be open, be respectful, be ready for new challenges, and above all, be kind. Not only to others but to yourself.

Master of Sacred Music (MSM)



A two-year degree program for musicians who understand the vital role the arts play in traditional and emerging religious settings and congregations. Students are prepared with a curriculum that emphasizes musical excellence in organ performance or choral conducting, the liturgical arts, and sacramental theology. Additional coursework is available in world music, hymnology, and composition, according to individual interests. Students have access to the College of Fine Arts, which offers conservatory-style coursework and performance opportunities.

Elizabeth Smith

Melrose, Massachusetts
MDiv/MSM '09

“ I couldn't make up my mind between music and theology, so I chose both. I was also torn between academia and ministry, so I chose the MDiv/MSM dual degree. The variety of expertise at STH is unparalleled, while the internship and job opportunities enabled me to excel in the field from the very start. Today, I direct choirs, teach theology and religious studies, and remain active in local parish ministry. ”



STH's Seminary Singers is a choral group with a 70+ year history and globally inspired musical repertoire. The choir builds its own community in weekly practice and sings an anthem at worship each week at Chapel. The group tours locally and nationally and was recently invited to sing at the United Methodist General Conference.

Dual Degrees

MDiv and MSM. For aspiring church musicians who wish to engage in a full range of theological studies and prepare for ordination. Develop your gift of organ performance or choral conducting at a professional level while also preparing for a dual ministry in areas such as church music and pastoral counseling, a position on a large church staff, or for a comprehensive ministry as both pastor and church musician in a smaller church. Requires four years of full-time study.

MDiv or MTS with Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT). Bivocational ministry is growing; many institutions seek part-time ministers or chaplains who supplement professional life with other work. This program provides theological education through either the MDiv or MTS program, and training as a teacher through the MAT program at BU's Wheelock College of Education & Human Development. The MDiv or MTS provides you the credentials necessary for ordination or endorsement in ecclesial spaces. The MAT leads to licensure as a middle or high school teacher in the field of your choice in all U.S. states

and the District of Columbia, assuring you of employment opportunities to complement your ministry. You'll need two and a half years (MTS/MAT) or three and a half years (MDiv/MAT) of full-time study to complete the program.

MDiv or MTS with Master of Social Work (MSW). This is theology on the front lines, addressing human and societal need. STH and BU's School of Social Work (SSW) have a longstanding dual-degree program that allows you to choose between the MDiv or MTS programs, and between clinical (individual counseling) or macro (community organizing) options within the MSW program. Fieldwork opportunities in Boston's urban setting provide real-life training focused on intervention with vulnerable populations and social issues. The SSW, which ranks in the top 4% of all graduate social work schools in the nation, is only a five-minute walk from STH, making the two programs and communities much more integrated than at other institutions. Students graduate in either three years full time (MTS/MSW) or four years full time (MDiv/MSW).



CLASS OF
2021

Megan Berkowitz

Ocean City, New Jersey
MDiv & MSW Candidate



Why STH? A lot of practical reasons. But more than that, I had a sense of embodied joy and belonging when I visited. I felt clearly called to be here, and that sense has stayed strong.

Favorite class? Ethical Leadership and African American Moral Traditions really shifted my thinking about theology and ethics and exemplified how theological education can be embodied, inspired, and personally challenged in ways other kinds can't.

On faculty: At Wednesday Community Lunch, I've had conversations with professors having little to do with coursework or their area of study; they're real people fully engaged in the STH community.

What's the STH community like? There is an everyday feeling of collaboration and care that makes me feel I am thriving as a whole person. It makes STH unique.

What extra-curriculars are you involved in? Comma, the United Church of Christ student group. And I'm a founding member of the Faith & Ecological Justice Program. Outside STH, UCC youth ministry from local to national levels. I also quilt, weave, and host story slams.

How has your internship supported your learning? My placement as a social worker at a Catholic middle and high school gave me the chance to implement cross-disciplinary work from my MDiv and MSW programs.

How has your spiritual life grown? The Hebrew Bible and New Testament courses gave me the tools not only to wrestle with scripture but to find devotional meaning and spiritual support within the wrestling.

The theological question you're asking right now? How to bring the theological practices of story and testimony into my work as a clinical social worker.

What topic of study most interests you? Ecological theology and environmental ethics feel like two of the most pressing areas in this historical moment.

Your best advice to a prospective STH student? If you're not sure whether STH is right for you, come visit for a Wednesday Community Lunch—it's the best hour you can spend to see what the community is really like. And the food is always great!

Advanced Studies

Master of Sacred Theology (STM). A customizable one-year program allowing those with a previous graduate theological degree to focus on a particular academic or religious leadership practice. Students declare either a disciplinary concentration or a religious leadership concentration at the start of the program. The disciplinary concentration is an excellent option if you have a previous MDiv, MA, MTS, or MSM and anticipate future doctoral study but would like a year of focused coursework in your area of interest beforehand. The religious leadership concentration allows ministers or other religious practitioners to return to seminary to cultivate advanced understanding and competence in a particular pastoral practice, such as pastoral care and counseling, preaching, liturgy and worship, social justice, evangelism, or religious education.

Doctor of Ministry (DMin). A professional doctorate designed to enrich religious leaders with a deeper understanding of and commitment to the practice of ministry. Our DMin focuses on Transformational Leadership, which prepares you to bring real, lasting change and sustainability where you see it is needed. STH students

come from a variety of professional backgrounds, including local church ministry, chaplaincy, education, and nonprofit leadership. The curriculum allows them to tackle hard questions arising from their own contexts and develop expertise. The program is a three-year hybrid degree; you can complete it part time from anywhere in the world. The curriculum combines online learning with intensive, on-campus classes twice a year, all with a cohort model of support and community with fellow students and faculty.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). A research doctorate for students wishing to enhance their knowledge and competence in teaching and research and to contribute to scholarship in a specialized area of theological studies. This highly selective program provides five years of funding for full-time study. You'll develop expertise in your field of specialization, and also in teaching and research, preparing you for scholarship and teaching at a broad range of institutions. You'll receive deep faculty support and mentoring beyond the classroom. Alumni have an average placement rate of 83% within one year of graduation.

Wendy von Courter

Marblehead, Massachusetts

MDiv '04; DMin '17

Parish Minister of Unitarian Universalist Church of Marblehead

“STH's program is so rooted in relevancy and action that I could not resist! I was drawn by the academic rigor, the ability to study while remaining active in ministry, and having colleagues from so many different experiences. What I didn't expect, however, was how immediately valuable our learnings would be in our day-to-day lives.”



HiRho Park

Nashville, Tennessee

PhD '11

Executive Director of Clergy Lifelong Learning and UMC Cyber Campus
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, United Methodist Church

“STH provided a concrete direction for life as a practitioner of and leader in Christianity. BU's Practical Theology program is one of the nation's best and most innovative. The Center for Practical Theology bridges the gap between theology and practice. And the Boston Theological Institute is excellent for expanding horizons.”





Faith in Action.

Students rally on BU's Marsh Plaza to protest an immigrant ban on Muslims. We are clearly a social justice school, but we are more than that. Our social justice is grounded in religious motivations, theological and contextual analysis, and deep spiritual practices. We don't all share a single faith, political perspective, or calling, but almost everyone at STH shares a passion: changing the world for the better.

ALUMNI

Making a difference, each in their own way.

> You believe you can help make the world a better place. You're not alone. STH alumni are effecting positive change in many different ways. Whatever you dream of doing, you can find mentors or partners around the world who have walked our halls before you. And anytime the path ahead looks daunting, draw inspiration from these recent STH alumni who are making history today.

You may leave STH, but STH never leaves you.

Our Alumni Office provides tools and connections for continuing your growth long after you graduate from seminary. We host regular continuing education, networking, and retreat opportunities across the country. Our Lifelong Learning virtual network connects those at a distance through small groups and classes. Wherever your journey takes you, you never walk alone.

CLASS OF
2010



Xochitl Alviso, MDiv & PhD

Hometown: Los Angeles, California
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
California State University, Northridge

Xochitl Alviso is interested in doing "church" differently. During her studies at BU, she established "Pub Church Boston," a worshipping community meeting weekly at area bars and pubs around town. The congregation often attracted those who sought connection with God, but who felt somewhat disconnected from—or even disenfranchised by—traditional church structures. Xochitl went on to earn her PhD from BU in practical theology with an emphasis in feminist theology and ecclesiology.

Of her time at STH, she says, "There are three things that I am quite nerdy about that I developed during my PhD program at BUSTH—thinking critically, conducting research, and writing well. In my job now as a professor, as I work to help my students be academically successful, I can honestly say that I have no fear. I know I have the tools I need to help them strengthen their efforts. Teaching is a delight because I've come to the job well prepared. Thank you, STH!"

CLASS OF
2016



Chad Moore, MTS

Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas
PhD Candidate, BU Graduate School of Religion

"The academics of STH helped me learn to excavate the past for clues to the present," says Chad Moore, "while the community helped me apprehend and appreciate beauty in places I might otherwise have missed. In my current work as a PhD student, both these skills have proved vital."

That work involves studying the interweaving of evangelical politics

and neoliberal economics during the latter half of the twentieth century. He also puts his STH background to use in the "real" world with Communities Engaging with Difference and Religion (CEDAR), a global educational network enabling members of disparate communities to recognize and accept their differences as they work toward a civil society.

CLASS OF
2019



Hazel Johnson, MDiv

Hometown: Lexington, Kentucky
Manager of Leadership Development, Episcopal City Mission

Leadership is a recurring theme for Hazel Johnson. With ECM, she leads the fight for social justice, engaging churches and nonprofits to respond ethically and faithfully to the needs of the world. While at STH, she served two terms as president of the Student Association and was inducted into the

STH Student Leadership Society. She also received the Howard Thurman Scholarship, on which she reflects, "there was a lot of pressure, but there was also a great deal of depth that it allowed me to reach. I was able to cultivate my style, create a leadership development curriculum, and clarify my theology."

CLASS OF
2017

Mariama White-Hammond, MDiv

Hometown: Roxbury, Massachusetts
Pastor, New Roots African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church

Activist, organizer, consultant, preacher, speaker—Mariama White-Hammond is committed to engaging the faith community on social justice issues, and particularly African American churches on ecological justice.

She has a knack for finding common ground among disparate groups and has emerged as a national figure in the fight for ecological justice. In fact, she was instrumental in the national AME church passing a resolution that highlights how climate change disproportionately affects communities of color. But she is as likely to be found protesting a



pipeline through a neighboring community or helping install solar panels at her church.

At STH, she began looking into what African American churches were doing about environmental justice and the answer was “not much,” so she decided to take up the fight herself. Eventually she became the first Minister for Ecological Justice at Bethel AME, and now also serves as pastor at New Roots.

“To me,” says Mariama, “faith is about living what I believe in, in every sphere of my life.” Clearly, what she believes in—and effects—is a better world.

CLASS OF
2002

Haksun Joo, ThD

Hometown: Incheon, South Korea
Senior Pastor, Dongsoo Methodist Church

Higher education has had a big influence on Haksun Joo ('02). He studied at a seminary in Korea prior to Boston University, and he quickly noticed a difference at STH. “BU opened my thoughts and mind and helped me to see ministry as more inclusive and open to people who are different from me,” he says. “STH is a community of many different people from many places, and also many different denominations.” He recalls the diversity of his cohort fondly.

He credits STH with preparing him to

assume his role as senior pastor at Dongsoo Methodist Church on the western coast of South Korea, where he serves the district’s significant population of people with disabilities, providing them with a spiritual home.

“Boston University’s a very good place for challenging and changing leaders’ minds,” Joo says. He returned to South Korea with a vision for the church that he still has today: “We really want to be a true community, with inclusiveness and integration,” he says.



CLASS OF
2018

Jen Bloesch, MDiv

Hometown: Knoxville, Tennessee
Agrarian Youth Mentor & Program Director, Gideon’s Garden and Grace Church

There is no shortage of food allusions in religious circles, from the “four foods” to the “bread of life.” The difference with Jen Bloesch is that most often, she uses them literally. In fact, it was her love of food, not a ministerial calling, that first led her to STH.

“I came in wanting to enrich my secular environmental advocacy background with religious and spiritual understanding,” she explains. “Little did I know that I would discover a call to ministry.”

With Gideon’s Garden, she’s found a rewarding convergence: her “dream position, doing ministry in a farm setting.” The garden, with the primary mission of more equitable access to healthy food, is tended by young people and distributes produce to more than six

nonprofits in the southern Berkshires of Massachusetts. While helping feed the hungry, the program also instills in its participants a sense of community and respect for both the land and each other.

Describing her journey to this unexpected place, Jen says, “At STH, it became clear to me that I could not separate my sense of call to ministry from my passion for food and farming. That clarity came to me through years of coursework, conversations with my advisor and friends, and my master’s thesis, Farm and Dinner Churches in the Eastern US.”

While her position as Agrarian Youth Mentor is unique among our graduates, Jen’s process of discovery rings familiar.

Sometimes you don’t so much make history as grow it.

CLASS OF
2017



Jordan Harris, MDiv

*Hometown: Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Pastor, Connexion United Methodist Community*

A new church start, Connexion is a reimagined faith community center in Somerville, Massachusetts. As pastor, Jordan Harris' days are spent working on contextual and imaginative worship experiences, fostering community resiliency, and working with the marginalized to help ensure they can prosper in all aspects of life.

It's no surprise Jordan nurtures his community. He is inspired—and was initially drawn to STH—by the legacies of Dr. Howard Thurman and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who, he says, “helped shape my vocational goals through a prophetic lens. I feel I am standing on the backs of giants because of my STH experience.”

CLASS OF
2019

Jamie Mangiameli, MDiv

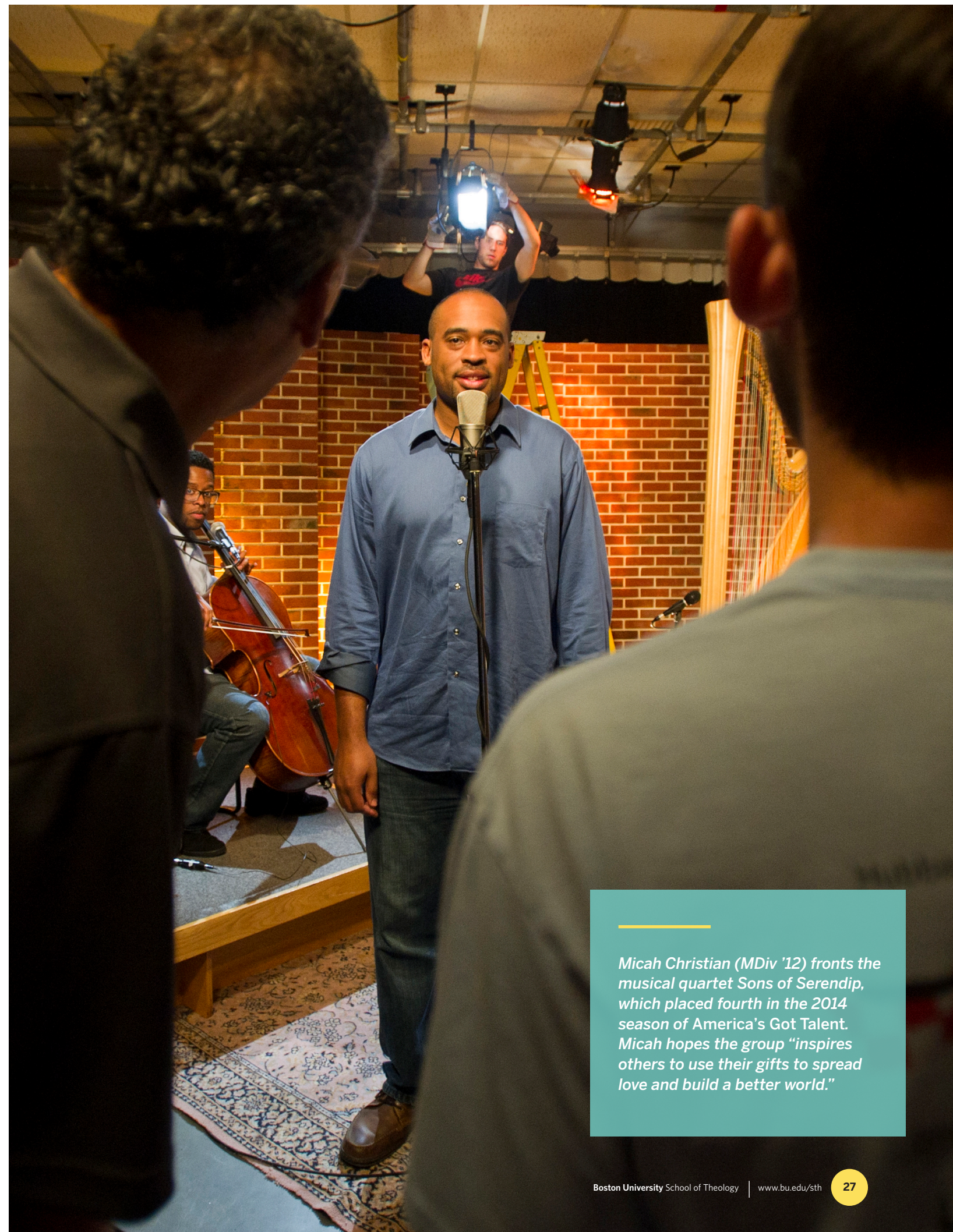
*Hometown: Chicago, Illinois
Urban Pastoral Ministry Resident,
Boston City Mission Society;
Staff, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church*



Jamie Mangiameli works to make the church more inclusive and accepting. Her residency affords experience in worship, administration, urban outreach, and mentorship. But it is her “passionate view that religion is a creative and collaborative posture” that drives her.

At STH, Jamie was president of Sacred Worth, an organization committed to

the full inclusion of LGBTQIA students. Here, she was “challenged by mentors, encouraged by peers, and given the space to creatively play into the active and ongoing process of discernment.” She adds, “I truly believe the impacts of my time at STH will continue to unfold as I live deeply and unapologetically as one who is queer and called.”



Micah Christian (MDiv '12) fronts the musical quartet Sons of Serendip, which placed fourth in the 2014 season of America's Got Talent. Micah hopes the group “inspires others to use their gifts to spread love and build a better world.”



Boston University School of Theology is not just another graduate school.

You don't come here to learn some new information, gain a few marketable skills, or obtain a needed credential on your way up the "ladder of success." While STH graduates leave with greater knowledge, increased leadership capacity, and a respected degree, those achievements are not our primary goal. The study of theology is, primarily, soul-craft.

Soul-craft requires both a commitment to critically exploring one's own individual and communal identities as well as the courage to engage in a diverse community through mutually transformative exchanges across the myriad boundary lines of difference that distinguish us from one another. While the sacred space that we inhabit at the intersection of difference is a productive, loving, and wisdom-generating place, it can also be uncomfortable, unsettling, and destabilizing. Therefore, students must also be able to find a sense of "home" within the school—experiences and communal spaces wherein students receive care, affirmation, and needed support. The Students and Community Life Office coordinates the array of opportunities through which students engage in the work of soul-craft outside the classroom.

Your time at STH would be an investment in the development of the quality of your character, the clarity of your ethical commitments, the strength and flexibility of your relational capacities, your passion for justice, and the depth and breadth of your love. We hope the information provided here will inspire you to join the STH community for an experience that may very well shape the rest of your life.

Grace and Peace,

Teddy Hickman-Maynard
Associate Dean for Students and Community Life

COMMUNITY & SPIRITUAL LIFE

Love and respect, without a wisp of irony.

➤ **Our students bring their whole selves to their studies:** minds, cultures, identities, and life stories. It's not easy cultivating a true community across differences, but that's just what you'll find at STH. A supportive environment where lifelong friendships are forged daily.

Love, justice, safety, rights, responsibilities, and respect.

A decade ago, our faculty adopted these six principles to guide the interactions of students, faculty, and staff, and

help individuals speak their truths while holding space for disagreement and dialogue.

More than just some figurative group hug, the principles underlie a diversity of activities and organizations from community meals and spiritual gatherings to special interest groups and opportunities for volunteering. Among student organizations is the STH Student Association, which provides programming and represents student concerns on faculty committees.



STH Student Groups

Students and alumni consistently cite STH community life as one of our most valuable and distinctive features. Here are just a few of our student-led opportunities.

- **Association of Black Seminarians.** Comprised of black seminarians and advisors from the African diaspora, who share their common heritage, support one another in scholarly and vocational endeavors, and explore theological education topics related to the black experience.
- **Korean Students Association.** Provides community and support to help students retain friendships and culture, as well as a welcoming space to express concerns. Students of any ethnic group who are interested in Korean culture are welcome.
- **Raíces Latinx Student Association.** A place of both student and faculty support and discussion for people who are from, or share the culture of, countries across Latin America. Programs bring the heritages of Latinx people to the wider STH community.
- **Sacred Worth.** Committed to the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons in the church, academy, and society. Sacred Worth serves as a community of support for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.
- **Southern Fried Theologians.** Originally formed by southeastern US transplants, this group welcomes anyone interested in a little Southern hospitality in Boston. The “Feast of the Holy Biscuit” road trip and a winter clothing shopping excursion are annual highlights.
- **TheECOlogy Club.** Incorporating spiritual discipline, personal transformation, and activism, TheECOlogy seeks to discern prophetic discipleship in the face of ecocide and issues of eco-justice. They work with BU groups, local parishes, and communities to promote green curricula and awareness.
- **UCC Student Group (Comma).** For United Church of Christ students and those interested in the UCC tradition. Comma hosts regular gatherings, “Mock Ecclesiastical Councils” for alumni in the ordination process, and provides students support for jobs, internships, and contextual education opportunities.
- **Wesleyan Students Association.** Facilitating professional and spiritual development of students in Methodist and Wesleyan traditions and those interested in them. The group shares monthly meals, provides support for ordination candidates, and hosts speakers and public forums.
- Other groups include those focused on support for interfaith students, students of color, and students from historically conservative Christian traditions.



Mahalia Damm

Northfield, Minnesota
Candidate for MDiv '21

“The STH community is a plethora of passions and life experiences. I learn so much outside the classroom—during global dinner club, at community lunch, or grabbing a coffee. STH is a close-knit community where I never feel like a face in the crowd.”



Tanjay Innis

Atlanta, Georgia
MDiv '13
Director of Faith Foundation, St. John's Lutheran Church

“Putting faith in action excites young people about God and the church. Where mission is at the center of a faith community, there God's people will wholeheartedly be. STH made faith come alive in a new way.”



A soul-crafting community.

➤ **Each student brings with them their own understanding and practices of spirituality and community.** Enhance your personal formation by taking advantage of all STH has to offer outside of the classroom.

Holistic The Spiritual Life.

We cultivate human relationship with the Holy through numerous programs, including worship opportunities,

interfaith observances, prayer gatherings, social justice activism, retreats, road trips, community meals, yoga, and individual spiritual direction. Our hope is that you will leave here with a holistic understanding of spirituality—ethical, emotional, and intellectual—that will sustain your future life and ministry.

STH Worship.

Our worship draws upon the best of our traditions, and no two weeks are alike. The Worship Team is made up of students and faculty who craft Wednesday Community



Worship toward the style and message of the day's preacher, who could be a student, faculty member, graduate, or visiting guest.

Weekly Events Include:

- Wednesday Chapel Worship & Community Lunch
- Seminary Singers Choir
- Weekly Eucharist Service
- Episcopal Daily Office
- SpiritualiTEA, a weekly gathering for high tea and conversation
- Storytelling lunch series at the Anna Howard Shaw Center

Frequent Events:

- Reading retreats that integrate study with spiritual practice & all-STH spring retreat
- Vigils and marches for social justice concerns
- Buddhist meditation
- Labyrinth walks for personal reflection
- Engagement with visual art in our rotating exhibits in the Community Center
- Student-led initiatives, such as Bible studies, open-mic nights for music and spoken word, Taizé worship services, and contemporary worship band
- Town hall gatherings of students, faculty & staff to discuss issues of shared concern
- Lectures & panels addressing pressing local & global topics
- Presentations & dialogues on current faculty research

BOSTON

Our city is our greatest resource.

➤ **There is no better place to study religion in the US than in Boston;** the city offers an extraordinary diversity of resources for religious education.

America's College Town.

The sheer numbers of students, faculty, staff, and alumni who care about religious studies in the metro area make this the place for cutting-edge scholarship and theological thinking. And the Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium (bostontheological.org) puts multiple theological schools at your fingertips, with free cross-registration and shared library privileges.

There are myriad churches, interfaith institutions, and non-profit agencies—many with STH alumni at their helms. Several spiritual retreat centers and emerging faith communities dot the landscape, providing both spiritual nourishment for our students and novel ideas for 21st century ministry.

History, Culture, Diversity, Beauty.

Boston has it all. Seminarians studying the history of Christianity in the US can tour—and even serve in—the very churches where the story is set. Free museum passes and student tickets to area orchestras and theaters make some of the world's best art always accessible. The city's sporting and outdoor culture is strong, as is our reputation as a great place for walking, running, and biking.

Urban Involvement.

Boston University sits at the very heart of this vibrant city; and STH sits at the heart of the University. We live in relation to the needs of the community. Students encounter issues every day and bring them up in our classrooms. Then, informed by their studies and experiences, those students take their learning into places where their ministry deeply matters.

It's no surprise so many students who study in Boston choose to remain long after their school days are over.



BOSTON FAQs

I've never lived in a big city. What's Boston like?

Boston is made up of small villages and towns, each with their own unique personality, and all connected by a very accessible public transit system. The city's population spans every human diversity—people come from across the world to take advantage of Boston's unique opportunities. The bustle of city life means that there is a palpable energy on the streets, with fast-paced people going about their daily lives.

What if I get homesick? You probably will. However, Boston is a welcoming city with over 65 colleges and universities in its metro area, the highest concentration of accredited educational institutions nationwide. Thousands of students from all over the US and world relocate to Boston successfully every year. And the strong emphasis on community and spiritual life at STH means that students easily find friends and mentors. Typically, their homesickness quickly fades into a love of Beantown.

Aren't Boston winters awful? Honestly, it's not that bad. Yes, it's cold. Yes, there's snow. And the wind is, as we say, wicked. But it's milder and shorter than in many parts of the country—we've never had a student who couldn't handle it.

In fact, Boston has four distinct seasons, each with its own charm. The unofficial start of the pleasant, temperate spring is Patriots' Day, a public holiday celebrated only in Massachusetts. Summer offers quieter streets and free public arts events. And autumn is simply glorious! With apple-picking, harvest festivals, and world-famous foliage colors, there is nothing else like fall in New England.

Isn't Boston expensive? Boston's housing market is definitely one of the most competitive in the nation. Despite the high cost of living, our students enjoy the lowest debt of any UMC seminary in the country* due to our extraordinarily generous financial aid. And you're not in the housing search alone—our Admissions Office can help you with connections and point you to affordable housing options in and around the city.

*Based on a 2016 outside study

FINANCIAL AID

You can afford to follow your passion.

> **The rewards of ministry and service to the world are great, but rarely financial.** And it's hard to pay back \$70,000 in debt when you're making \$35,000 a year. We do our best to make sure you don't have to sacrifice your passion. Every accepted student receives significant financial aid. And our graduates enjoy one of the lowest debt rates among mainline seminaries, despite the expense of Boston.

Aid for Master's Students:

- **Tuition Scholarships:** All incoming students taking two or more classes per semester receive 70% tuition scholarships upon admission. Yes, you read that correctly.
- **Ordination Scholarships:** Students pursuing ordination in the United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, or Christian Methodist Episcopal church receive 100% full tuition scholarships.

Leadership Merit Awards:

These scholarships begin at full tuition with yearly stipends that range from \$5,000–\$10,000. Approximately 25 are awarded annually.

- **Howard Thurman Fellowship:** Awarded to applicants who reflect Thurman's ideals and who exemplify in their lives a commitment to learning spirituality and moral leadership in service to the church and the world.
- **Indigenous Studies Fellowship:** Awarded to applicants who seek to study theology in relation to indigenous cultures or to prepare themselves for leadership within indigenous communities worldwide.
- **Raíces Latinas Fellowship:** These awards are designed to recruit and support applicants who display commitment and service to the Latinx community.

- **Sacred Worth Fellowship:** Awarded to applicants who are committed to understanding the rich diversities in sexuality; exploring the intersection of sexuality, theology, and ethics; and working toward the full inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in church, academy, and society.
- **Moore Fellowship:** Awarded to those dedicated to supporting women's leadership in the church, the theological academy, or society.

Academic Merit Awards:

These scholarships begin at full tuition and can include yearly stipends that range from \$2,000–\$10,000. Approximately 25 are awarded annually.

- **Dean's Fellowships:** Awarded to applicants with a 3.3 cumulative GPA from their most previous degree program on the basis of proven academic excellence and extracurricular commitments.

Aid for Doctoral Students:

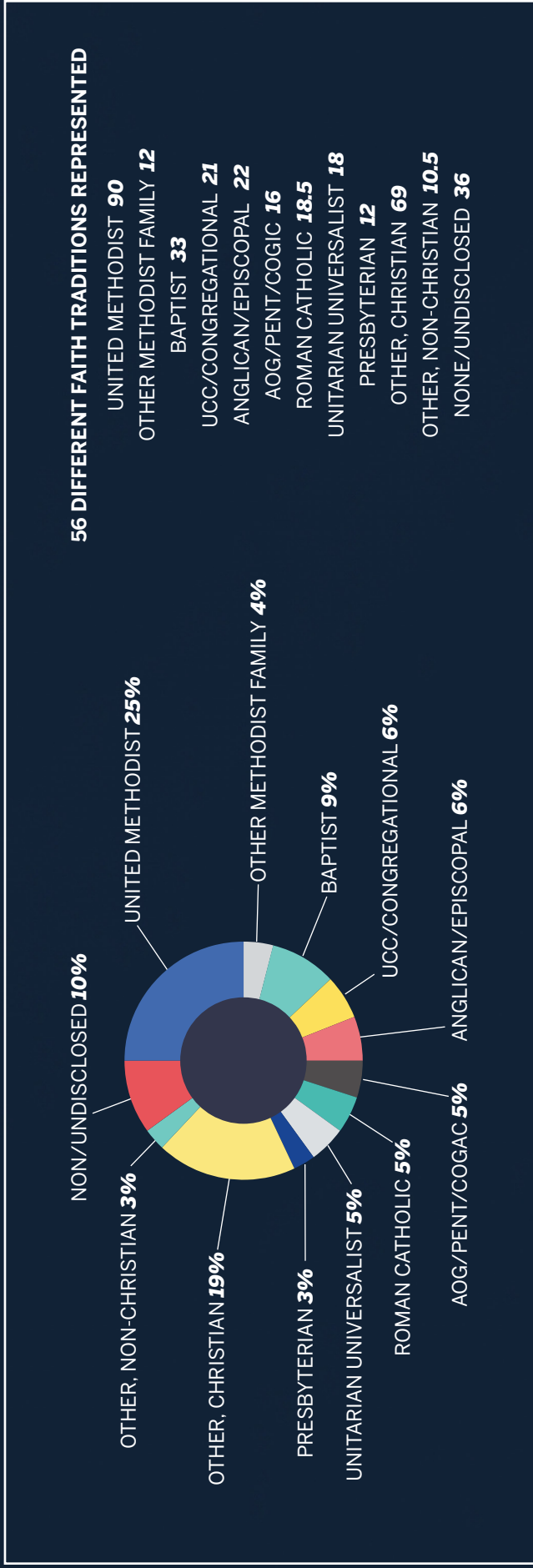
- **Doctor of Ministry students** enjoy a reduced hourly tuition rate and part-time student status that make the program affordable for working ministers.
- **Doctor of Philosophy students** receive a full-tuition scholarship, health insurance coverage, and an annual living stipend for five years of academic study.

Housing:

Housing in Boston is expensive but we can help. STH has on-campus and off-campus housing options that fall far below typical market costs. Our Admissions Office has contacts with realtors and landlords who can help you find housing. If you want to come to BU, housing won't keep you from doing so.



STH by the numbers.



Students by ethnicity

12% BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN
1% INDIGENOUS
4% ASIAN
7% LATINX
2% MULTIRACIAL
58% WHITE
16% INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Full-time faculty by ethnicity

18% HISPANIC/LATINX
6% ASIAN
12% BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN
64% WHITE

Lowest average debt

OF THE 13 UMC SEMINARIES IN AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL DEBT FOR MDIV STUDENTS INCURRED WHILE IN SEMINARY

5.6 million

DOLLARS OF FINANCIAL AID AWARDED PER YEAR

Highest average financial aid award among UMC seminaries according to a 2016 study

59 BU'S RANK AMONG US UNIVERSITIES FOR BEST VALUE —KIPLINGER'S PERSONAL FINANCE	23 STATES AND TERRITORIES REPRESENTED BY STUDENT BODY	100 PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID
46 BU'S RANK AMONG BEST GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES —U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT	33 AVERAGE MASTER'S STUDENT AGE	50 PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING FULL TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS
12 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY STUDENT BODY	> 230 STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF & FRIENDS FED BY OUR WEEKLY COMMUNITY LUNCH	> 40K DOLLARS PER YEAR SPENT ON OUR FREE WEEKLY COMMUNITY LUNCH
55/45 PERCENTAGE OF MALE/FEMALE FULL-TIME FACULTY	> 3.5K STH ALUMNI WORLDWIDE	> 1,286 SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS WRITTEN BY OUR FACULTY IN THE PAST DECADE
10:1 STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO	> 5 TRAVEL SEMINARS AVAILABLE EACH YEAR	> 230 STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF & FRIENDS FED BY OUR WEEKLY COMMUNITY LUNCH



Your Turn.

If you have the inspiration, imagination, and determination, we can provide the preparation.

Let's make history together.

Learn more and apply online.

Find even more resources on our website, including our Discernment Tool, online application and instructions, and current deadlines. You can also learn more about how STH utilizes early decision, priority, and final deadlines for each program. Visit bu.edu/sth.

Please contact our Admissions Office with any questions or to schedule a visit to campus.

Admissions Office

745 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 108
Boston, MA 02215
617-353-3036

sthadmis@bu.edu

@BUTheology on Twitter, Instagram,
and Facebook



Changing
the world
is a cliché
only
to those
who don't.



Boston University School of Theology