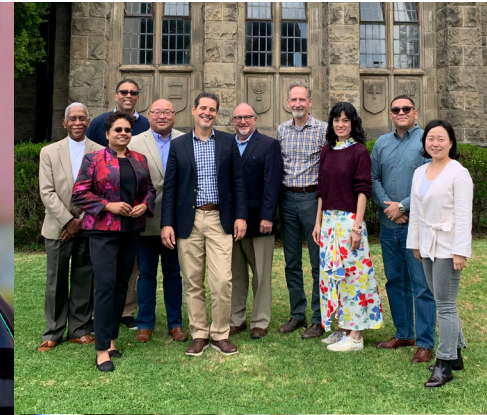


PSR 2022–23 Annual Report

Dreaming into Action, Unafraid Since 1866



Founded in 1866, Pacific School of Religion (PSR) is a progressive Christian seminary, graduate school and center for social justice committed to a radically inclusive Gospel. PSR partners with students of all backgrounds to deepen their spirituality and enhance their capacity to lead in transformative ways.

PSR offers multiple, flexible options for anyone looking to build spiritually grounded leadership skills; or learn from wisdom-based traditions. In addition to PSR's Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Arts in Social Transformation (MAST), Master of Theological Studies (MTS) and Doctor of Ministry (DMin) programs we also offer Graduate Certificates in Sexuality and Religion, and Spirituality and Social Change. Courses can also be completed through the Ignite Collective and our Theological Education for Leadership program (TEL). PSR is also home to the Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS), the first seminary-based LGBTQ+ Center.

PSR is accredited by both Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

PSR: Unafraid Since 1866



UNAFRAID SINCE 1866



PACIFIC SCHOOL
OF RELIGION

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A Message from Board Chair Sandra Nathan

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Trustees, I want to express my deep appreciation for your investment in PSR. Your generosity sustains and inspires our work. We are grateful to partner with you in supporting the next spiritually rooted leaders committed to creating a world where all can thrive.

This report gives you a glimpse into this extraordinary year of progress towards our key strategic initiatives, including celebrating another group of outstanding graduates, growing enrollment, and advancing our commitment to building a sustainable financial future for our mission. You are a key part of all of this work.

PSR is blessed to have such committed and gifted leadership, faculty, and staff—one of the most diverse and innovative teams in theological education. We want to acknowledge the service of Rev. Angela Brown (MDiv '14), Benjamin Gunning, and Cynthia Scherr, who completed their terms of service to the Board. We are also delighted to welcome four new members to our Board of Trustees: Rev. Charlene Han Powell, Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Berkeley; Peter Hanashiro, Founding Partner of KMH LLP, an accounting and business consulting firm; Russell Kaupu, owner of Pohaku Development LLC; and Rev. John Vaughn (MDiv '85), Executive Pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

PSR is a special place. I am proud to serve in an institution whose mission is to, “To create a world where all can thrive.” As we continue to thrive in a world shaped by pandemic, protest, and polarization, we are called to stand up. There are churches and communities to reimagine. There are lives to restore. The fight for justice and equality must continue. PSR’s legacy was formed in defining moments. It’s time to reinvent the story of grace and inclusion for a new world, for a new day—Unafraid. We are grateful for you being a part of the PSR family. Your support is essential to our success.



A Message from President David Vásquez-Levy

Greetings from “Holy Hill!”

We are delighted to share with you our annual report, which captures the impact you are making through your prayers, support, and advocacy on behalf of the mission of Pacific School of Religion. It has been a remarkable year for our work together. We have seen continued growth in our admissions, reaching our highest enrollment in over 5 years, up 44% since 2018. This growth represents greater impact—as each of these numbers represents a remarkable individual who shares our calling to create a world where all can thrive.

Together with participants in our lay program, Theological Education for Leadership, offerings from the Roundtables of the Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion, the Badè Museum, and our emerging Ignite Collective, they represent diverse journeys and communities across the country and around the globe.

Over this year we have also begun to see the transformative impact of two significant gifts. We received a \$5M grant from Lilly Endowment’s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. This project allows us to leverage the latest technology to bring our cutting-edge education to individuals and communities, help strengthen their work and connections to one another, and collaborate with a large network of partners to advance the preparation of spiritually rooted leaders in a wide range of sectors of society. A \$3.5M commitment from PSR alumx Stan Watson will support PSR’s distinctive academic work by establishing the Stanley Watson Endowed Chair in Ethics. The rotating position will be open to existing or visiting faculty engaged in cutting-edge teaching and research on ethics across diverse fields of study, strengthening PSR’s 150+ year mission to create spiritually rooted leaders with a strong foundation and formation in ethics.

In April we celebrated our first in-person alumx gathering since the beginning of the COVID-pandemic, where we recognized five of our distinguished alumx, whose work is celebrated in this report.

I am delighted to report that after several years of dedicated efforts and increased support, we have ended the fiscal year in the black. We have been able to achieve this with a combination of growth in our our five revenue drivers of tuition, donations, grants, auxiliary income from property, and earned revenue, as well as a strengthened endowment. You have been a part of this critical work and I hope you know both our appreciation as well as our commitment to stewarding your gifts with the outmost care.

Growing support from donors like you makes our work possible and encourages our resolve. It is such a privilege to serve with all of you in this wonderful community. Thank you.



A Message from Dean Susan Abraham

The 2022–23 academic year was a very busy and eventful one. We saw sustained growth in both our stackable curriculum, which leads to the Master of Divinity, and in our Doctor of Ministry program. And as we grow, our classes are becoming more diverse; the incoming class for Fall 2023 is the most diverse in the school's 157-year history!

One of the most important adaptations we made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was the shift to a hybrid/concurrent classroom, allowing students to join courses remotely or in person. This provides flexibility while ensuring we meet denominational requirements for in-person instruction and opens up PSR's education to a global audience. We currently have students from over thirty states and abroad.

Our faculty have worked closely with the Office of Academic Affairs and Community Life to ensure a wholistic preparation that is both academically rigorous and committed to spiritual formation. In both curricular and co-curricular programming students integrate course learnings into their field placement and their community work. With a distributed learning experience, students are truly always learning in context.

To increase accessibility to PSR's innovative education, the faculty created our first-of-its kind stackable curriculum, which provides students with several benefits:

- Integrative pathways to credentials that provide financial and vocational flexibility.
- Intentional connections are created across courses to help students see each course as a building block for the next.
- Exposure to innovative scholars and practitioners through programs like our Professors of Practice series, which this past year featured Freely In Hope founder and CEO Nikole Lim. Her lectures were open to the public and served as part of Professor McMahon's "Pastoral Care for and with Marginalized Bodies" course. The series introduced students to a global dimension for pastoral care as Lim's work addresses survivors of sexual violence in Africa.

Faculty searches that reflect our commitment to reimagining spiritually rooted leadership and theological education around an emerging generation of people of color have resulted in one of the most diverse faculties in theological education. This year we welcomed four outstanding new colleagues, Dr. Lisa Asedillo, Professor Grace So, Leonard McMahon, and Dr. Peter Rios who was with us for one year. We will be conducting two additional faculty searches in 2023–24.

Our colleagues Dr. Aaron Brody and Dr. Bernie Schlager were on sabbatical this year, expanding their research and deepening the resources and impact of their respective executive leadership of PSR's Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion and the Bade Museum. Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake was selected by the GTU consortial faculty as the 2023 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer.

My own work and leadership have expanded over this year as I was elected as President of Concilium, an international progressive journal of theology, and to the presidential line of the Catholic Theological Society of America.



The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS)

During this calendar year of 2023, Dr. Bernard Schlager was granted a sabbatical from his teaching duties along with his position as Executive Director of CLGS at PSR. However, he will continue to maintain the fundraising efforts for the Center. Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow has been appointed as the Managing Director for CLGS in his absence. Roland is an alumnx, earning his MDiv from PSR in 2006 and his DMin in 2016. He began working with CLGS in 2008 as the Coordinator of Welcoming Congregations. In 2013, he began to work remotely from Detroit, Michigan and continued his national outreach work while taking on the work of the African American Roundtable Coordinator.

CLGS hosted our 16th Annual Boswell Lecture online on April 20th featuring Dr. Pamela Lightsey, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and Associate Professor of Constructive Theology of Meadville Lombard Theological School located in Chicago. We were excited to have Dr. Lightsey's perspective for this well-attended lecture.

Also in April, our African American Roundtable hosted the 8th Souls A'Fire Conference online the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd. The conference featured previous "Souls A'Fire Fellows" who reintroduced their original papers on Black queer theology, with a focus on Black queer trauma and recovery. Their ideas have stood the test of time and continue to have relevance for the Black Church today.

CLGS hosted a great slate of presenters for our monthly Lavender Lunch series that covered a variety of topics on queer theology. We're currently receiving applications for our Tran Seminarian Cohort, sponsored by our Transgender Roundtable which is led by Rev. Jakob Hero-Shaw, that will begin this summer and we are looking forward to hosting several rabbinical students this year. Our Asian American Pacific Island Roundtable, led by Maij Mai, launched their second edition of the online AAPIRT Zine Project that highlights the experiences of queer API voices. Our Jewish Roundtable Coordinator, Rabbi Jane Litman, and Latinx Roundtable Coordinator, Rev. Carla Guzman, planned their programming for the semester based on a continuation of the projects they have begun in the fall.

We unfortunately said goodbye to Rev. Carla Guzman this June as she is leaving her position to work fulltime at General Theological Seminary in NYC. As we prepare for the fall semester, we look forward to developing the CLGS platform on the PSR Ecosystem.



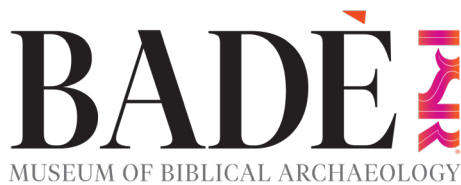
The Ignite Institute

Pacific School of Religion has been leading the way in reimagining the work of theological education and leadership formation through Ignite Institute. Functioning as PSR's skunkworks (an experimental laboratory), Ignite Institute has been an incubator for new ideas, program offerings, and partnerships.

Through its Wisdom Based Leadership approach, Ignite Institute brings together cross-sector leaders, creators, and movement makers to discover wisdom, find purpose, and create lasting change. The Ignite team has taken the lead in the implementation of the Pathways to Tomorrow grant PSR received from Lilly Endowment Inc. (see press release on page 19). This grant seeks to strengthen the capacity of theological education to prepare Christian pastors and congregational leaders. It will enable us to leverage the latest technology to create a distributed network of learning powered by a diverse collective. As the first phase of this project, we launched a pilot version of our distributed network on an online platform and mobile app that provides easy global access for members to connect, build community, and learn together. Under the name of the Ignite Collective, this pilot is marked by PSR's commitment to diversity, radical inclusion, academic excellence, and access. It provides a virtual space for student and leader formation, community, and education.

As we move into the next phase of this project, we are bringing together a distinctive group of partners that center the voices of people of color and LGBTQ communities. These will include social justice organizations, leadership innovation collectives, and seminaries and theological education programs and will help us co-create this educational platform and collective.

Grateful for your ongoing support, we invite you to get a sense of the richness of our partnerships and impact by listening to our "Change of Happens Now" podcast which is now in its seventh season and can be accessed anywhere you get podcasts.



The Badè Museum of Biblical Archaeology

The goals this year at the Badè Museum were to continue to provide community outreach, community education, and visitation. The staff and I continue to work on decolonizing the Museum and making it an actively antiracist institution in all aspects of our work.

The Museum has provided outreach and community education through its exhibits and events programming. We have given tours to classes at UCB and San Francisco State University; and off-campus communities. The program of traveling exhibits continues, reaching communities from the Bay Area to the East Coast, and bringing funding to PSR. Our most recent online exhibit, *New Perspectives on Ancient Nubia*, developed out of our 2020-21 lecture series and provides quality online content related to this ancient African culture. This year's online lecture series, *Women and Gender Performance in the Ancient Middle East*, was also a great success. The series featured a diverse and intersectional group of both up-and-coming and established scholars, a majority who identify as women, BIPOC, and queer, including our first transgender scholar.

The museum's collection continues to be of great value for research, publication, and teaching. Scholars from University College London, Cornell University, and Zurich University researched the collection this year. Director Aaron Brody also furthered his own studies, publishing, "The Judahite Economy in First Temple Times: Remodeling the House of David—A Case Study from Tell en-Naşbeh," in *The Ancient Israelite World*, (Routledge Press, 2023).

Current museum curator Melissa Cradic and former curator Sam Pfister were awarded the inaugural Community Engagement and Public Outreach Award by The American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) for their work on a multi-platform project and web exhibition, *Unsilencing the Archives: The Laborers of the Tell en-Nasbeh Excavations (1926-1935)*.

The Museum Advisory Board, key for oversight of the workings and vitality of the Badè, includes Elly Badè, Michael Badè, Professor Ron Hendel, Olga Katsnelson, Mitch Allen, and Christina Kahrl Brody. The Museum would especially like to thank Elly and Michael Badè for continued family involvement and financial support, as well as Mitch Allen and Olga Katsnelson for their continued backing. Contributions allow us to continue our exhibit development, programming, and community outreach, thus meeting our institutional goals.



Theological Education for Leadership (TEL)

The Theological Education for Leadership (TEL) program had a productive year curating multicultural and intersectional curriculum for nontraditional students. TEL courses and seminars are accessed through the Moodle learning platform and Zoom, enabling students to participate remotely. This year students joined the program from Hawaii, Alabama, Nevada, Illinois, California, and South Korea. Typical TEL participants are employed full-time, have a family, and serve in a church ministry.

While students can join the program at any time, each August we welcome a new Certificate of Theological Education for Leadership (CTEL) cohort. The cohort model invites students into community-based learning. We conducted an orientation to welcome the new cohort and provide them with the opportunity to meet each other, the faculty, and to learn about the program's expectations. Most students in the cohort complete their certificate in a year. This fall, as is the case in most years, a graduate of CTEL will become a master's student at PSR!

TEL has actively invited students and ministry partners to other PSR events, including the Dean's Tea, weekly Chapel, as well as on to the Ignite Collective. With the opportunity to participate in events outside of TEL courses, students have become more visible to the broader PSR community and shared their program experiences.

PSR's stackable approach to education also serves TEL students. Graduates from CTEL are able to receive advanced standing if they choose to continue their education in one of PSR's graduate programs. This year, CTEL students were also given the opportunity to partake in the Professor of Practice series alongside graduate students. This series enhanced their theological understanding and academic knowledge.

We invite you to visit our website to find out more about TEL. Our courses are open to the public and very accessible. Consider joining one of our courses or encourage someone in your congregation or community to strengthen their leadership capacity through TEL.

Academic Excellence Day

Academic Excellence Day at PSR, endeavors to honor, recognize, and celebrate projects and presentations by students and faculty that showcase the breadth and depth of PSR's commitment to preparing students to live, lead, and build a world where all can thrive.

Featured Speakers

Ryan Cassata

"TERF" a mini case study on trans exclusionary radical feminism, transphobia, and J.K. Rowling

Sanghyeon Jin

A Case Study on the Problem of Married Migrant Women in Korea

Jude Pond

Twelve Steps from Gerasene

Kate Steinberg & Jennifer Hughes

Proposed Spiritual Elements for a Municipal Reparations Program

Micah Melody Taberner

Beyond the "Clobber Passages": Toward a Transgender Christian Ethic of Liberation

Najon Saina Tuiotemotu, Roxana Perez and Sai Opeta

Nonpublic Schools in the Public Eyes of Neurodiverse Students

Michele Winter

Tending to the Soil of Community

Leanne Younger

A Field Guide to Salvation Without Colonization



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT Micah Melody Taberner

In addition to pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at PSR Micah Melody Taberner (she/her) is the Community Care Coordinator for Transmission Ministry Collective—an online community dedicated to the spiritual care and leadership potential of transgender and gender-expansive Christians. As a transgender, bi-racial Latina follower of Jesus, her greatest passion is helping individuals and communities explore the intersection of their own identities and faith. In all her work, she loves using art, music, and storytelling to build relationships and stir cross-cultural dialogue.

For Pride Month 2023, Taberner turned her Academic Excellence presentation into an op-ed titled *Transition as an Act of Co-Creation in Partnership with the Divine* which was published through PSR's Newsroom and Religion News Service. She also presented on the same topic to prospective students in our PSR Engage Pride month event.

Meet PSR's 2023 Distinguished Alumna



Rev. Adriene Thorne (MDiv '08)

Reverend Adriene Thorne is the eighth senior minister of the historic Riverside Church in the City of New York and the first African American woman to hold the position. Prior to leading Riverside, Adriene served The First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn for six years where she cofounded the award-winning Brooklyn Heights Community Fridge, and the community named her one of the Top Ten Most Impactful People. Adriene is a healer, Presbyterian minister, and classically trained dancer who uses movement to heal bodies in the church and community. She has been a dancing theologian for over twenty years and brings unparalleled creativity and movement to her work of anti-racist practice and culture building.

“PSR shaped my theological understanding to believe there is nothing wasted in God’s economy. Everything I ever did prepared me for everything that was to come. While I often do not know the outcome my life path will take, I often feel ready to face the challenges because PSR touched my life.

PSR offered me the powerful gifts of art and theology with which to face a lost and broken world so loved by God. Having room to connect with other bodies of culture showed me the deep need for creating healing spaces for leaders of culture if we are to answer our call to create a world where all can thrive. I am still committed today to creating those healing spaces for us.

I’ve made a difference in my local public school as a member of the PTA, in my neighborhood as co-founder of a community fridge, in my council district as a concerned neighbor and partner with civic leaders, and in my family as caregiver to my kid and parents. I lead a big church but continue to learn more about God and self in the small interactions I have feeding hungry neighbors, connecting local activists with politicians, and volunteering to bake cookies for the local shelter.”



Rev. Deborah Streeter (MA '78, MDiv '82)

Rev. Deborah Streeter has served in many different settings during her 40-year ministry, including as a local church pastor in the Northern California United Church of Christ (UCC) churches of Danville, Sonoma, San Lorenzo, Woodside, and Belmont. In 1996 Streeter created a ministry connecting faith communities and ocean conservation issues, coining the term “Blue Theology” and co-founding a growing network by that same name with PSR Alumnus Daniel Paul. She served the wider UCC church as an Associate Conference Minister, as Editor of the UCC Conference newspaper. Streeter writes a weekly blog of ocean devotions and preaches widely on ocean and climate change issues.

“PSR faculty and students taught me how to be bold in ministry, and how to find faith and God in all kinds of odd and surprising places. They taught me to think and reason and love and helped me find work in bioethics. I learned to write about Darwin and faith communities, leading to a long interest in science and religion. So many incredible women opened my heart and soul. I met quite a few cute guys and finally married one who worked down the street. I always felt safe, supported, and challenged at PSR. Thanks, PSR.”

Meet PSR's 2023 Distinguished Alumnx



Bridget Cooke (MDiv '90)

After graduating from Western Oregon University with a degree in education, Bridget Cooke heeded a call to join the Franciscan Sisters. Soon realizing her path was leading elsewhere, she put her heart into work as a lay leader advocating for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation. After attending PSR, she headed to Chile as a Maryknoll missionary focusing on ecofeminism and striving to live grassroots solidarity with communities on the margins.

In the late 1990s she returned to the family farm and began building relationships with the Spanish-speaking, immigrant community in Oregon. In 2002 she co-founded and continues to lead Adelante Mujeres (Rise Up Women), a nonprofit with a mission of holistic cross-generational education, sustainable micro-enterprise development, shared leadership empowerment, and public policy advocacy for immigration reform and other just causes.

“My approach to justice was honed during three fabulous years at PSR. The inquiring spirit of the PSR community invited me to deepen and expand on truths and principles that guide me still. I’m ever grateful for the gift of PSR – to journey with others, seeing god and envisioning wholeness in places of struggle and hope.”



Rev. James Ishmael Ford (MDiv '91, MA '92)

The Reverend James Ishmael Ford served as a Unitarian Universalist parish minister for a quarter of a century. A lifelong student of mystical religion, he has walked a spiritual path “between” Christianity and Buddhism for the past fifty-plus years. In these years, James has been confirmed as a teacher in two traditional Zen lineages. James is the author of five books published in the UU World, Tricycle, Buddhadharma, and Lion’s Roar. A sixth, *The Intimate Way*, is due from Shambhala Publications, next year. His blog “Monkey Mind,” now hosted by Patheos, is sixteen years old.

“Pacific School of Religion and its teachers guided and nurtured me as I explored the range of possibilities unique to the Graduate Theological Union (GTU). GTU and PSR provided the latticework upon which I was allowed to grow. The school gave me mentors who pointed me in directions, then allowed me to explore to the depths. They were there when I faltered, and they celebrated when I succeeded. This allowed me to be a useful parish minister for a quarter of a century, as well as an effective partner within interfaith dialogue, as well as a spiritual director at the meeting place of Zen’s profound traditions and Christian and Western spirituality.”

Meet PSR's 2023 Distinguished Alumnx



Dr. Kit Evans-Ford (MDiv '12)

Social entrepreneur, spiritual director, and autism advocate, Dr. Kit Evans-Ford is a woman who is passionate about serving others. She has been a trainer and activist for 16 years working relentlessly in the areas of nonviolence education and assisting people in healing from violence and abuse. Dr. Kit is a Teach for America and United States Peace Corps Alumni. She has studied, worked, and served in England, Japan, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Dr. Kit is a certified spiritual director and the founder of Argrow's House of Healing and Hope – a safe space where free services are offered daily for women healing from violence. Argrow's House is also a successful social enterprise where women healing from violence create beautiful bath products that provide a living wage for themselves in a safe space that celebrates who they are. Additionally, Dr. Kit is the founder of Autistic & Loved, LLC where she created food-grade silicon pendants, called chewelry, for children with autism spectrum disorder and sensory processing disorder.

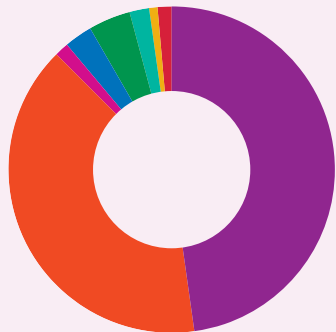
“I love Pacific School of Religion! It was here that I was provided a lens to become radically inclusive and to serve as a chaplain and now social enterprise founder with a heart of compassion for all. It was here that I learned how to take the love I was taught from the Christian women in my family and combine it with the bold and radical love taught at PSR. Today I stand boldly in ministry as a more just, more compassionate, a more inclusive Christian minister for change. I understand that with compassion and love, we can live in a world where all people can thrive.

I pray that my impact on the world is one grounded in humility and compassion, with a firmness for justice intertwined with hope. My impact has been seen in my work with women and children survivors of violence. The older I get the more I realize that impact is measured by the love you share with people. The work of journeying in solidarity with people. The work of using the resources and network we have for good in the world.

As an alumnx, I would like to make sure that this opportunity continues to be provided for students at the highest level.”

PSR by the Numbers

Information reflects 2023 Fall enrollment



Students By Program

- Doctor of Ministry Students: 69
- Master of Divinity: 57
- Common Master of Arts: 2
- Master of Theological Studies: 4
- Master of Arts in Social Transformation: 6
- Certificate of Sexuality and Religion: 3
- Certificate of Spirituality and Social Change: 1
- Certificate of Theological Studies: 2

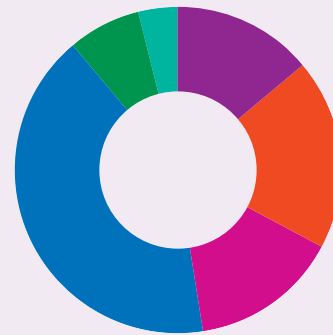
Total Graduate Enrollment

144

Student / Faculty Ratio

10
Student

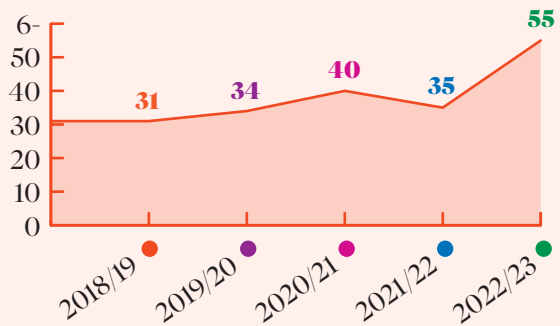
1
Faculty



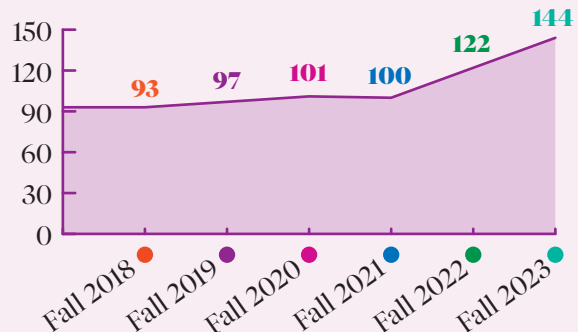
Students by Ethnicity

- Asian / Pacific Islander: 23
- Black or African American: 31
- Hispanic / Latinx: 24
- White: 68
- Two or More Races: 12
- Undisclosed: 6

5-Year New Student Growth



5-Year Enrollment Growth



Welcome to our Intergenerational Campus



Welcome to our Intergenerational Campus

To foster the richness of our inclusive culture, we've partnered with missionally-aligned organizations to create a diverse learning community on the Pacific School of Religion campus. Collaborating with Berkwood Hedge Middle School and The Coleman Fung Institute for Engineering Leadership at UC Berkeley, PSR exemplifies its dedication to nurturing an enriching, intercultural, and intergenerational community.

Together, we're building a dynamic model for collaboration that benefits all our communities. The shared experience of those living and learning together provides additional opportunities for meaningful connections, conversations, and scholarship to deepen learning for students and faculty alike. This holistic approach allows us to educate the mind while we embolden the heart and strengthen the hands.



The Coleman Fung Institute for Engineering Leadership, housed in the Seely Mudd building, trains inclusive leaders to solve the world's problems through innovation, technology, and collaboration. Through this collaboration, PSR extends its commitment to diversity to encompass technological innovation. By bridging theological and engineering disciplines, this partnership will enable cross-disciplinary research, workshops, and projects.



BERKWOOD HEDGE SCHOOL

Cultivating Creativity and Intellectual Curiosity

Berkwood Hedge School, housed in PSR's former Chapel space prepares children for a life of active and engaged citizenship. As Berkeley's first racially integrated school, Berkwood Hedge shares PSR's historical commitment to diversity. The intergenerational exchange of ideas, experiences, and insights made possible by this partnership will help nurture future leaders with empathy and understanding.

In Memoriam

With deep gratitude for their lives and ministries, we remember those who have died in the last academic year.



Isamaeli (Eli) Mata'afa
Alumnx (Master of Divinity, 2023)

Eli died on October 8, 2022, the victim of a shooting that took place while he was out with friends and relatives in Berkeley. Eli entered Pacific School of Religion's Master of Divinity (MDiv) program in the spring of 2020 on a presidential scholarship, awarded to the top incoming students who best exemplify PSR's mission. He came to PSR after graduating from Kanana Fou Theological Seminary in American Samoa, a school with a long-standing connection to the PSR community. In pursuing an MDiv, Eli's goal was to serve God and his community in San Lorenzo and the greater Bay Area – especially through ministry with youth. He also had a commitment to address climate change, which threatens the Pacific Islands through extreme weather and sea level rise, from a theological perspective. PSR President Rev. David Vásquez-Levy said, "Eli embodied everything our PSR family holds dear. He was a person of deep personal faith and was a leader and mentor in his community with a desire to create a world where all can thrive. He had much more to give before he was taken from us."

This spring PSR students completed and opened the Isamaeli (Eli) Mata'afa Community Garden to honor his legacy and to help transform seeds of dialogue into fruitful action against violence and oppressive social issues that endanger our collective sustainability. This fall PSR is offering the Isamaeli Mata'afa Memorial Scholarship to an incoming Master of Divinity student who we believe will carry on Eli's spirit, demonstrated through their leadership, commitment to their community, and passion for education. Priority will be given to a student from American Samoa or from the broader AAPI community. At the 2023 Commencement Eli's family was presented with a posthumous Master of Divinity degree on his behalf.



Rev. Sharon Li Mei Shem MacArthur
Alumnx (Master of Divinity 2001), Trustee (2002-2012)

Rev. MacArthur received her Master of Divinity at Pacific School of Religion in 2001. She went on to serve in a wide range of pastoral and leadership roles in the UCC and the broader community, including her service at Sycamore Congregational Church, Berkeley Chinese Community Church, Church of the Crossroads, and Community Church of Honolulu. Her ministry reflected a commitment to widening the diversity of the United Church of Christ, often through PAAM (Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries) serving as its National Moderator from 2022-23.

Rev. MacArthur became the first Asian-American woman to serve on a US seminary board, serving on the PSR Board of Trustees from 2002-2012, included service as Chair of the Board. In 2019, she became the first Asian American Clergywoman to preach at the United Church of Christ General Synod. Sharon also served on many ecclesiastical church bodies and as a beloved mentor. Sharon truly loved people and impacted many lives in both her personal and professional life. She was a beloved pillar of her family and will be missed by many.

In Memoriam

Hope A. Attenhofer

Alumnx (Master of Divinity, 2014)

John R. Calhoun

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2022 Fiscal Year in Review Financial Statements

Overall Financial Goals

As an institution, PSR is committed to meeting a “double-bottom line” of delivering on our mission while achieving financial sustainability. Thanks to your generous support, growing enrollment, and good stewardship of our resources in 2022 we achieved our goal of break-even operations.

Revenue **\$7,832,405**

Expenses **\$7,331,496**

Surplus **\$500,909**

We are investing surplus resources in “regenerating the ecosystem” of theological education, offering an innovative stackable approach to our graduate education as well as developing an extensive distributed network and collective of learners and partners.

Resource Allocation

Most of our expenses are invested in academics including faculty, scholarships and our academic programs in alignment with our mission.

Revenue

Development: **35%**

Real Estate Operations: **28%**

Endowment Draw: **28%**

Net Tuition: **11%**

Earned income: **<1%**

Expenses

Academic and Centers: **48%**

Finance and Administration: **29%**

Institutional Support: **12%**

Enrollment and Marketing: **11%**

Endowment

Generous gifts, careful stewardship, and efforts to leverage our property assets towards our mission, have allowed us to significantly grow our endowment to a record high of \$53.5M. This has been possible in spite of a period of significant uncertainty in the market. Living out our mission over 40% of our endowment funds are now managed by investments led by women and people of color. This is in stark comparison to the national average. According to the Knight Foundation only 1.4 % of assets under management in the U.S. are invested with firms owned by women and people of color.

Donor Restricted **\$34,217,012**

Board Designated **\$19,251,959**

Total **\$53,468,971**

PSR Receives \$5M Grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. To Build Innovative Educational Ecosystem

Press Release: September 27, 2022

Pacific School of Religion (PSR) is excited to announce that we have received a grant of \$5 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. to equip a diverse new generation of spiritually rooted leaders with the tools they need to transform their communities.

Delivered through an online platform currently in pilot under the brand name The Ignite Collective, PSR's educational ecosystem will be funded through the third and final phase of Lilly Endowment's Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative.

The platform will connect emerging leaders — from inner cities and rural areas, from congregations and social movements — to each other and to educational resources often not accessible to them. Participants will have access to short courses, gatherings, coaching, and events that will strengthen their preparation and build their networks.

Employing a distributed learning model, the platform will also offer space for partner seminaries, organizations, and individuals to host and deliver their own content. PSR will establish an incubator to help a curated group of partners, with a focus on communities of color, to adapt or create content for the platform and offer training in community building and promotion. The networked model combined with tiered membership options will create educational opportunities that are affordable for learners and financially sustainable for partner organizations.

“We are grateful to Lilly Endowment Inc. for their generous support of this collaborative project and for their investment in making leadership resources more accessible and impactful. At a time of multiple crises in education, religion, and leadership, PSR brings the right combination of proven social impact over our 150+ year history and innovation to make this ambitious project a reality. Together with our collaborators, we will respond to the growing need for leaders with the vision, resilience, and skill to create a world where all can thrive,” said PSR president Rev. David Vásquez-Levy in response to the grant announcement.

“Many theological schools believe that their paths to the future depend on their abilities to form strategic partnerships with other schools and church agencies. These grants will help seminaries develop innovative and collaborative approaches to theological education that we believe will strengthen their efforts to prepare and support excellent leaders for Christian communities into the future,” said Christopher L. Coble, the Endowment's vice president for religion.

“PSR is well positioned to make the most of this generous grant with our commitment to radically inclusive Christian scholarship, the spirit of innovation in both technology and social movements that mark our Bay Area home, and our country-wide, majority people-of-color network of partners,” said Sandra Nathan, Chair of the PSR Board of Trustees and Managing Director at Humanity United.

Pacific School of Religion Honor Roll 2022–2023

We are so grateful to our donors who have partnered with us in our mission to prepare spiritually rooted leaders with the vision, resilience, and skill to create a world where everyone can thrive. More than ever, the world needs progressive and innovative faith leaders who can address the complex challenges, inequities, and injustices that hurt the most vulnerable in our communities. Your generosity sustains our work and strengthens our impact in the world. Together we can make a difference!

The following alumnx, individuals, churches, organizations, and foundations have made gifts to PSR between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

If you are not already part of our community of supporters, please consider making a gift today. You will be included in our 2023-2024 Honor Roll.

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