

# Theological Education at San Francisco Theological Seminary

## Habits and Skills

San Francisco Theological Seminary, as a community of students, faculty, and administrators, seeks to practice and inculcate the following habits. These exemplary qualities and practices proceed from worthy trends of mind or character, each contributing to education in spiritual formation, critical theological reflection, and the skills and arts of ministry:

- *Knowledge of and respect for the Church of Jesus Christ and its role in God's ecumenical mission; knowledge of, respect for, and intelligent use of the Church's manifold traditions; a sense of how and why theological reasoning has been done in the past, and in the present by others.*
- *Historical and theological responsibility in the interpretation of Scripture and all communication; the ability to represent accurately the words and meanings of others and to account for one's interpretation.*
- *Personal integrity, reflecting a healthy sense of self and healthy relations with others, in which one behaves ethically and exercises compassion.*
- *Commitment to ongoing spiritual formation and a well-nurtured relationship with God, and commitment to fostering that relationship in others.*
- *Critical awareness of the impact of social, political, economic, and cultural contexts on life and thought; critical interpretation of evidence on which historical knowledge is founded.*
- *An ability to ground theology in practical reality; awareness that theoretical reflection builds on practical wisdom and that theological propositions must be tested by their consequences for the individuals or congregations that hold them.*
- *Sensitivity to contrasting experiences and cultures and respect for otherness, in the Christian faith and outside it.*

SFTS seeks to train ministers who, practicing these habits, demonstrate certain skills, as appropriate to the form of ministry and service to the church to which they are called. Among these are the ability to:

- *Lead a congregation in Reformed worship.*
- *Preach literate, thoughtful, scripture-based sermons.*
- *Provide pastoral care and counseling.*
- *Educate a congregation in the faith.*

- *Manage the practical affairs of a congregation.*
- *Articulate the global witness and mission of the church and foster participation in its evangelistic task.*
- *Articulate personal faith and nurture the spiritual life of a congregation and its members.*
- *Lead in ethical witness to society, challenging public evil and cultivating the common good.*
- *Apply theological education in non-congregational ministries.*