



October 2014

Issue: 1



## Classes Are Starting!

**THIRTY STUDENTS** have registered in our first semester of classes. After three years of prayer and preparation, each of these classes is offered in a "partner congregation." While traditional seminaries begin classes in September, we are offering courses that start in September, October, and November-so students are still signing up.

***Spirituality for Busy People @ La Canada Presbyterian Church***  
Faculty: **Shelley Irvine** and **Rob Tribken** [Starting Sept 23]

***Reading and Teaching the Bible in a Multicultural World*** [Oct 8]  
Faculty: **Tina Blair** @ **First Presbyterian Church, Encino**

***Luke's Gospel: How the Good News Impacts Culture*** [Nov 1]  
Faculty: **Madelon Maupin** @ **Westwood Presbyterian Church**

## New York Theological Seminary Cooperative Arrangement

We are pleased to announce a formal cooperative relationship with New York Theological Seminary. Under an agreement signed in May with NYTS President Dr. Dale Irvin, our students will cross-register for selective classes taught by their outstanding faculty. For each hybrid-online class the NYTS professor will come to Southern California for a face-to-face meeting with our students. Thus,

***Introduction to the Old Testament*** [Hybrid-Online Course]  
Professor **Jin Han** [Sept 4]

## Accreditation

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### Welcome

We are pastors, church leaders, teachers, and theologians who are excited to be part of a new way of doing seminary - serving and building up the body of Christ by offering a theological educational resource in Southern California that can provide support for Master of Divinity students, lay leader education, continuing education to pastors, programming for churches, and independent study options.

Our focus is on spiritual formation, discipleship and the practical realities of ministry in our current times, and the intentional building of community among our students - coming along side them during their time in seminary and beyond.

This will be an adventure, and we welcome you!  
Join us!

A frequently asked question: what are you doing about accreditation?

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

We are pursuing accreditation at two levels:

1. We are continuing the accreditation process with our liaison from ATS: the Association of Theological Schools
2. We are pursuing "local accreditation." Local church entities are able to "endorse" NTSWest for their students, as the seminary continues to work with ATS.

A. The San Gabriel Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. has adopted the seminary as a validated mission cause and through its Committee on Candidates is seeking ways to approve students for attendance at NTSWest. This is also in active conversation with three additional presbyteries in Southern CA.

B. In August, after a presentation by trustees **Ivan Pitts** and **Ron White**, the 134 annual Western Convention of the National Baptist Convention endorsed a partnership with NTSWest and appointed a five member committee to move this partnership forward.

We are actively pursuing other partnerships with presbyteries and denominations who will ordain our graduates.

## Trustees

We are blessed with a committed, hands-on board of trustees. Rather than meeting three times a year, we meet monthly, always in a congregation on the second Wednesday of each month.

September: **First Presbyterian Church, Burbank**: Rev. Ross Purdy

October: **Laguna Presbyterian Church**: Rev. Jerry Tankersley

November: **Zion Missionary Baptist Church**: Rev. J. Benjamin Hardwick

## Consultation on Urban Ministry

New York Theological Seminary, through a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation, is hosting four regional consultations: Washington, D.C., Chicago, Dallas, and Los Angeles-to help revitalize the study and practice of urban ministry in theological education. We are honored that NYTS has invited the NTSWest to host the Los Angeles consultation on **November 19-20**. It will be held both in Los Angeles and at the **Second Baptist Church in Santa Ana**. Our consultation will focus on: "What is the 'Ministry' in Urban Ministry?" The consultation will consist of twenty participants-ten from across the nation and ten chosen by NTSWest. Several of our students will be able to participate for credit.

## Thank You

As we celebrate the beginning of our first classes we want to thank two people who have made this possible. **Amanda Houston** has served Director of Admissions in this startup non-traditional seminary with grace and skill. Her last day was September 30. She leaves us to startup her own family in early 2015. **The Reverend Dan Justin**, Rector of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Studio City, has served as our Coordinator of Enrollment Services. He has brought his considerable experience and insight to this important task.

## We Ask For Your Support

We hope this newsletter will allow you to feel some of our excitement and energy as we enter into a new phase in the life of our seminary. We are grateful for your prayers and financial support. As we move from a largely volunteer staff to the calling of a President and additional staffing, we need to enhance our financial support.

In the coming days you will receive an email and a letter giving you information on how you can support NTSWest.

Be sure to check out our website: [NTSWest.org](http://NTSWest.org) for more information.

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