

Synod Assembly Report

Thank you for your faithful and very generous support! Because of your prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts, PLTS is growing and helping meet the ELCA's leadership needs.

Growth in Enrollment

PLTS enrollment continues to grow. In 2021, the seminary had the largest enrollment in several years. Approximately fifty percent of the incoming students have been choosing the Distance Learning (DL) option, in which they view and participate in classes on their own schedule and gather together in Berkeley three or four times during the course of the program.

The Center for Climate Justice & Faith has a new website!

<https://centerforclimatejusticeandfaith.org/>



Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith

This year, PLTS launched a one-year, online Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith. The inaugural certificate class includes 30 people from 12 countries ranging in age from 21 to 70. In addition to pastors and other church staff, there are teachers, a farmer, a

therapist, a journalist and a range of other professionals. At the end of the program, each of them will develop a “sacred action project” to serve their communities.

MA in Spirituality and Social Change

PLTS will launch a new master's degree program in Spirituality and Social Change in September. The MA was developed to address the need for theological education and spiritual formation for those called to serve as Deacons in the ELCA, and for anyone interested in spiritually grounded and theologically informed social change. Students can choose a residential program in Berkeley or one that is a mixture of online learning and occasional gatherings in Berkeley for orientation and intensive courses.

Certificate in Racial Justice and Faith

PLTS received a planning grant to develop a certificate program in Racial Justice and Faith. A faculty from around the country representing the African American, Latinx, Native American and Asian-Pacific Islander communities gathered in Berkeley in February to begin working on the curriculum. This will be an online program with modules that will be taught exclusively by instructors of color who can authentically represent their lived reality in ways that promote understanding, authenticity, and solidarity.