



2025-26 Student Groups

AFRICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDENT GROUP

Mission & Purpose: To cultivate a spiritually grounded, theologically informed, and socially conscious community of African Diaspora seminarians and leaders. Rooted in our ancestral wisdom, Christian faith, and commitment to justice, we seek to affirm our cultural identity, empower our voices in theological discourse, and serve as prophetic agents of transformation within the Church and the world.

Student Leaders: Cherri Johnson cherri.johnson@student.austinseminary.edu; Alex Asare alex.asare@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer

CAMPING CLUB

Mission & Purpose: To cultivate a spiritually grounded, theologically informed, and socially conscious community of African Diaspora seminarians and leaders. Rooted in our ancestral wisdom, Christian faith, and commitment to justice, we seek to affirm our cultural identity, empower our voices in theological discourse, and serve as prophetic agents of transformation within the Church and the world.

Student Leader: Ryan Obray ryan.obray@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Bill Greenway

CHESS CLUB

Mission & Purpose: To foster a community centered around the love of the game of chess for people of all skill and interest levels. For the purpose of respite, relaxation, joy, challenge, growth, and fellowship within our community.

Student Leader: Ian Clarke ian.clarke@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Ángel Gallardo

crUU

Mission & Purpose: To establish a connection among Unitarian Universalist students for fellowship and discussion of relevant and engaging issues.

Student Leader: AJ Juraska aj.juraska@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Dave Jensen

EPISCOPALIANS

Mission & Purpose: To provide fellowship and support to the Episcopalian students at APTS

Student Leader: Heather Lodovico heather.lodovico@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Rev. Ted Foote

HOLY STITCH (FIBER ARTS CLUB)

Mission & Purpose: To bring people together in community around their fiber arts hobbies (knitting, crocheting, sewing, etc.). To provide a space to learn and share skills and talents related to fiber arts while fostering a community of social and spiritual support

Student Leaders: Andrea McDaniel

andrea.mcdaniel@student.austinseminary.edu; Emma Teichert

emma.teichert@student.austinseminary.edu; Kenzie Tuttle

kenzie.tuttle@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer

LATINX COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Mission & Purpose: To provide a forum for Christian students of Latinx/Hispanic descent to support each other and build community/network. The group will engage APTS students, staff, and the community in Austin and beyond to provide social, educational, service and ministry opportunities that reflect the voice and needs of the Latinx/Hispanic community.

Student Leader: Laura Stoner laura.stoner@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar

POETS OF FAITH

Mission & Purpose: To uplift, inform and inspire our APTS community through poetry/spoken word. To unite poets and spoken word artists from diverse backgrounds and to support all who appreciate poetry and its place in faith, in our community and the revitalization of the church.

Student Leader: Rochelle Henderson

rochelle.henderson@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Rev. Dr. Donghyun Jeong

QUEER ALLIANCE

Mission & Purpose: The APTS Queer Alliance celebrates the image of God in all of God's children, recognizing God's creative power in all genders and sexual orientations. Its mission is to create a welcoming, supportive, and brave space within the APTS community for the LGBTQIA+ community and its allies through fellowship, education, worship, and activism both on and off campus.

Student Leader: Eva McNabb eva.mcnabb@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Rev. Dr. Patricia Bonilla

QUESO CLUB

Mission & Purpose: Queso Club isn't just about melted cheese, it's about who you enjoy it with. This club exists to create events that allow students to enjoy fellowship with their peers, be sustained by local queso, and recharge to continue their studies with a spirit fueled by fellowship and a belly filled with cheese.

Student Leader: Ryan Obray ryan.obray@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Rodney Caruthers

SEED CLUB: STUDENTS ENGAGING ECOLOGY DAILY

Mission & Purpose: To assist students in their care for campus garden plots and provide environmental education opportunities for all. To Provide the Austin Seminary community with the opportunity to engage with the earth and gain a sense of co-creation, peace, and care.

Student Leader: Kyla Nies kyla.nies@student.austinseminary.edu; Rose Walters rose.walters@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Allen

SOCCER CLUB

Mission & Purpose: To foster a community centered around the love of the game of soccer for people of all skill and interest levels. For the purpose of exercise, joy of the game, and an ability to engage in a casual competitive activity.

Student Leader: Ian Clarke ian.clarke@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Ángel Gallardo

SEMINARIANS FOR A FREE PALESTINE (SFAFP)

Mission & Purpose: New group, Mission & Purpose coming soon

Student Leader: Eva McNabb eva.mcnabb@student.austinseminary.edu; AJ

Juraska aj.juraska@student.austinseminary.edu; Ronnie Gelman

ronnie.gelman@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Rev. Dr. Crystal Silva-McCormick

THRESHOLD TO CHAPLAINCY

Mission & Purpose: A threshold takes you from one place into another, when you're about to start something new, leave something old, or are in transition – you're also on a threshold. As we stand at the threshold of learning we strive to be spiritual healers to those encountering a threshold in their lives. This group seeks to inform and guide students on the education requirements, volunteer opportunities, current events, and work options in the chaplaincy field.

Student Leader: Elizabeth Donihoo

elizabeth.donihoo@student.austinseminary.edu; Emmanuella Ugwu

emmanuella.ugwu@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Rev. Dr. Phil Helsel

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT GROUP

Mission & Purpose: To provide community and support to the United Methodist Church students attending APTS

Student Leader: Kellie Brewer kellie.brewer@student.austinseminary.edu; Patty Highland Patty.Highland@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Rev. Dr. Patricia Bonilla

POLITY BOWL

Mission & Purpose: To amplify school spirit, practice team building dynamics, engage in sporting exercise, and bring cohesion and unity across all students, faculty, and families through the excitement of this historic annual flag football game, “The Polity Bowl” with our neighboring seminary, The Seminary of the Southwest.

Student Leader: James Blackwelder

james.blackwelder@student.austinseminary.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Rev. Dr. José Irizarry