Austin Seminary
WHERE FAITH INTERSECTS PURPOSE

Student Groups 2026-2027

APTS Polity Bowl

CONTACT INFORMATION:
James Blackwelder James.blackwelder@student.austinseminary.edu
MISSION STATEMENT: Bring cohesion and unity across all students, faculty, and families in preparation to compete against Seminary of the Southwest.

Sponsor: Ted Foote

A Threshold to Chaplaincy

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Emmanuella Ugwu emmanuella.ugwu@student.austinseminary,edu

MISSION STATEMENT: 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.

Sponsor: Ted Foote

Camping Club

CONTACT INFORMATION:
James Blackwelder James.blackwelder@student.austinseminary.edu
MISSION STATEMENT: Our purpose is to encourage fellowship and community growth by contributing our supplies and spiritual gifts toward a collaborative camping experience.

Sponsor: Bill Greenway

Episcopal Student Group

CONTACT INFORMATION
Emmanuella Ugwu emmanuella.ugwu@student.austinseminary,edu

MISSION STATEMENT: We aim to provide a well-rounded theological learning that includes spiritual formation and a commitment to community service.

Sponsor: Ted Foote

Holy Stitch

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Kenzie Tuttle kenzie.tuttle@student.austinseminary.edu
Emma Teichert emma.teichert@student.austinseminary.edu

MISSION STATEMENT: To bring people together in community around their fiber arts hobbies (knitting, crochet, sewing, etc.). Provide a space to learn and share skills and talents related to fiber arts while fostering a community of social and spiritual support.

Sponsor: Margaret Aymer

Latinx Community Alliance

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Laura Stoner laura.stoner@student.austinseminary.edu

MISSION STATEMENT: 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.

Sponsor: Gregory Cuellar

SEED Club

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Kyla Nies kyla.nies@student.austinseminary.edu
Rachel Goodwin rachel.goodwin@student.austinseminary.edu

MISSION STATEMENT: 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.

Sponsor: Sarah Allen

Students for a Free Palestine

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Ronnie Gelman Ronnie.Gelman@student.Austinseminary.edu

MISSION STATEMENT: Our group aims to explore how Austin Seminary *can be* complicit in the genocide through the normalization of the Israeli occupation of Palestine; economic support of problematic companies and institutions; and participation in Christian zionist hegemony

Sponsor: Cristal Silva-McCormick

United Methodist Student Group

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Patty Highland Patty.Highland@student.austinseminary.edu

MISSION STATEMENT: To connect with and strengthen fellowship between United Methodist Students at Austin Seminary

Sponsor: Patricia Bonilla

Poets of Faith

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Rochelle Henderson, Rochelle.henderson@student.austinseminary.edu
Kennedy Thedford, kennedy.thedford@student.austinseminary.edu
MISSION: To uplift, inform and inspire our APTS community through poetry/spoken word. Purpose: 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.

Sponsor:

Queer Alliance

CONTACT INFORMATION
Tara Litton tara.litton@student.austinseminary.edu

MISSION STATEMENT: Queer Alliance celebrates the imago Dei in all of God's children, recognizing God's creative power in all gender and sexual identities. Thus, the mission of Queer Alliance is to create a welcoming, supportive, and brave space within the APTS community for LGBTQIA+ persons and allies through fellowship, education, worship, and advocacy both in and beyond the walls of our seminary.

Sponsor: Stephanie Budwey

YELE

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Cherri Johnson cherri.johnson@student.austinseminary.edu
Alex Asare alex.asare@student.austinseminary.edu

MISSION STATEMENT: Yelé — meaning "one who benefits the family" — exists to cultivate a community of belonging, support, and spiritual formation for Black students within our seminary. Rooted in the conviction that we are called to serve as blessings to our families, communities, and the wider Body of Christ, Yelé provides a space where Black students can be fully seen, heard, and affirmed as they pursue their theological education and vocational calling. We are also committed to building genuine partnership and solidarity with allies across the seminary community who share our commitment to justice, belonging, and mutual flourishing.

Sponsor: