



NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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Media Advisory Groundbreaking Event

(New Brunswick, NJ) - New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS) will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, July 31 at 11am at 21 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ, for a new, beautifully landscaped campus that will be located on the corner of Seminary Place and College Avenue. The press and the public are invited and those attending are requested to RSVP to groundbreaking@nbts.edu or call Cathy Proctor at the contact info above.

Participants will gather in historic Gardner A. Sage Library for refreshments and remarks by Dr. Gregg Mast, President of NBTS; New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill; Christopher Paladino, Executive Director of the Development Corporation of New Brunswick; Jon Hanson, Senior Consultant for NBTS and Chairman of the Hampshire Real Estate Companies in Morristown, NJ. Sandra Fisher, Moderator of the Board of Trustees of NBTS and Dr. Richard Edwards, Executive VP for Academic Affairs and Chancellor at Rutgers University will also attend.

Following the remarks, seminarians armed with hard hats and shovels will kick off digging at the building site. NBTS President Dr. Mast explains that the diversity of the seminary community is the major inspiration for the project.

"While we are the oldest seminary in the United States, over the last 30 years we have become a multi-ethnic, multi-denominational and multi-generational community in which three-quarters of our students are people of color," states Dr. Mast. "This new campus will enable us to serve a very unique community of students which is filled with second career and bi-vocational people." Construction includes a new 30,000 square-foot central building with a chapel, classrooms, offices, conference facilities and space for commuting students as well as a 100-car parking lot. The new campus will more fully support our commuting students and innovative programs and will preserve the Gardner A. Sage Library, an exquisitely appointed Victorian book hall built in the style of a fourth century cathedral and dedicated in 1875.

On May 20, 2013 the Seminary announced the sale of about 5 acres, slightly more than half its property. The purchaser is New Brunswick Development Corporation known as DEVCO which will develop the property on behalf of Rutgers University. The Seminary retained almost half of its property in order to build a new campus that is technologically smart and environmentally green. NBTS anticipates its new seminary building and campus will be ready for the fall semester of 2014.

New Brunswick Theological Seminary is the first seminary in North America, founded in 1784. As a teaching institution of the Reformed Church in America, who will retain offices in the new building, the Seminary provides theological education to students from more than 20 denominations and a variety of ethnic backgrounds. On May 19, 2013, NBTS granted degrees to 45 graduate students in programs of Master of Arts, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry in Metro-Urban Ministry. For lay leaders we offer a Certificate in Theological Studies program in English and Spanish. Full- and part-time students have the convenience of daytime, evening and weekend classes on our two campuses, the main campus in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and our New York campus at St. John's University in Jamaica, Queens. Our student body is more than fifty percent female, more than fifty percent people of color and one out of every five of our students were born outside of the United States.

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