

As an educational institution, rooted in the Reformed Christian tradition but committed to educating a diverse community of ministry professionals, we at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary count among our staff, faculty, and student body a wide array of religious beliefs and affiliations. In keeping with this, we intentionally welcome onto our campus organizations with many diverging viewpoints. Indeed, we aspire to be a location at which difficult—even painful—conversations can take place. Working with our brothers and sisters of other faith traditions, we uphold the values that bind us together—respect for and welcoming of all God’s children.

Widening the tent for the sake of inclusivity has its benefits but also its challenges. The hope is the respectful allowance of the multitude of voices. The Seminary community recognizes that if this is to happen successfully, everyone must listen and everyone must be heard. We aspire to model the kind of dialogue and interaction we want our students to have, especially when divergent political and theological viewpoints arise. We expect the same commitment from groups or organizations who desire to hold their events on our campus. We also understand the difficulty of vulnerability and the discomfort of truth. Misunderstanding the influence of power will only evoke reactions not well thought out. In these times, respectful disagreement while still respecting the personhood of the ones with whom we disagree is especially urgent. In the spirit of our faith tradition, love of neighbor does not always mean agreeing; but it does require honoring the humanity of others.<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, [in light of this, discourse that participates in discriminatory or hate speech<sup>2</sup> will be prohibited on our campus.](#) It is our expectation that this and the aforementioned principles be upheld by all who wish to hold events on our campus. In the event this does not happen, the seminary has the right to refuse or deny future opportunities.

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<sup>1</sup> See Commitment to Civil Discourse, <https://www.pts.edu/aboutus>

<sup>2</sup> Speech that attacks, threatens, or insults a person or group on the basis of national origin, ethnicity, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. (www.dictionary.com)