

= New Brunswick Theological Seminary =

New Brunswick Theological Seminary , which has its main campus in New Brunswick , New Jersey , was founded in 1784 , and is the oldest independent Protestant seminary extant in the United States . It is one of two operated by the Reformed Church in America ( RCA ) , a mainline Reformed Protestant denomination in Canada and the United States that follows the theological tradition and Christian practice of John Calvin . First established in New York City under the leadership of the Rev. John Henry Livingston , who instructed aspiring ministers in his home , the seminary established its presence in New Brunswick in 1810 . Although a separate institution , the seminary 's early development in New Brunswick was closely connected with that of Rutgers University ( formerly Queen 's College and Rutgers College ) before establishing its own campus in the city in 1856 . Since 1986 , the seminary has offered classes at a satellite campus on the grounds of St. John 's University in the Jamaica neighborhood of Queens , New York .

New Brunswick Theological Seminary offers professional and graduate degree programs for candidates for ministry , and to those pursuing careers in academia or non @-@ theological fields . It also offers certificates and training programs to lay church leaders seeking advanced courses in Theology , Bible studies , Church History , and Servant Leadership . While rooted in the Reformed faith , New Brunswick Theological Seminary is dedicated to providing a comprehensive Christian education as " an inter @-@ cultural , ecumenical school of Christian faith , learning , and scholarship committed to its metro @-@ urban and global contexts . " As of the fall semester of 2012 , the seminary enrolled 197 students .

= = Administration and organization = =

The Reformed Church in America ( RCA ) operates two seminaries in the United States ? New Brunswick Theological Seminary and the Western Theological Seminary founded in 1866 in Holland , Michigan . New Brunswick Theological Seminary , was established in 1784 , and offers classes on two campuses . The seminary 's campus in New Brunswick , built in 1856 , is at the corner of College Avenue and Seminary Place . Since 1986 , courses have been offered on the campus of St. John 's University in the Jamaica neighborhood of Queens , New York .

According to the seminary 's by @-@ laws , the RCA 's General Synod entrusts the management of the seminary to a Board of Trustees empowered to exercise control of institution 's finances , securities , and property for the purpose of participating " in God ? s own laboring to fulfill God ? s reign on earth . " The board consists of twelve to twenty @-@ four trustees , serving for three @-@ year terms , who are required to be " confessing Christians who acknowledge a commitment to the authority of the Bible over all matters of faith and practice , the sovereignty of God , and the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all of life . " A majority of the board 's members must be RCA members , and each of the church 's regional synods are represented by one member . The president and the General Secretary of the RCA 's General Synod serve as ex officio members of the board without a vote . The by @-@ laws further empower the seminary 's trustees to provide it " with such property and buildings ; faculty , administration , and staff ; library and information resources ; equipment and supplies as are necessary for the effective accomplishment of the Seminary 's purpose . " The board of trustees selects the seminary 's president , who is elected for a five @-@ year term and can be reelected to successive terms by the board . The president can be removed by a two @-@ thirds vote of the trustees .

The current president of the New Brunswick Theological Seminary is the Rev. Gregg A. Mast , a clergyman who has served congregations in New Jersey , New York , and Johannesburg , South Africa , and held leadership positions within the Reformed Church of America . Mast is an alumnus of the seminary , having received a Master of Divinity ( M.Div. ) degree in 1976 . He was appointed by the trustees as the seminary 's 14th president in 2006 as a replacement for Norman J. Kansfield , who was suspended from the ministry and dismissed as the seminary president in 2005 after officiating at his daughter Ann 's same @-@ sex marriage .

= = History = =

= = = Establishment and early history ( 1784 ? 1810 ) = = =

The Dutch Reformed Synod of New York recognized that there was a shortage of adequately trained ministers to supply the church 's congregations in the British American colonies . Young men had to journey to the Netherlands to pursue several years of theological studies at a Dutch university . Church leaders sought to obtain the right to examine and ordain ministers in the colonies ( later in the United States ) , and to operate a school to train them . In 1766 , several clergymen secured a charter from New Jersey 's Royal Governor William Franklin for the creation of Queen 's College , now Rutgers University , in New Brunswick , New Jersey " for the education of youth in the learned languages , liberal and useful arts and sciences , and especially in divinity ; preparing them for the ministry and other good offices . "

However , in these early years , the trustees of Queen 's College and the Synod of New York disagreed on the purpose of the new institution . With uncertainty about the college 's financial stability , the Synod desired to directly oversee the theological training of their ministerial candidates . However , the question of whether to open a seminary was delayed because of the ongoing hostilities of the American Revolution . After the war concluded , the Synod decided in 1784 that it was necessary to support the study of theology and recommenced the effort to establish a seminary . The Rev. John Henry Livingston , a graduate of both Yale College ( 1762 ) in Connecticut and the University of Utrecht ( 1770 ) in the Netherlands , was appointed to be the Synod 's Professor of Sacred Theology and to organize theological education at Queen 's College . However , Queen 's College did not provide Livingston a salary , compelling him to lecture on fees paid by the students directly . Livingston remained in New York overseeing a parish and instructing theology students through lectures given in his home .

In 1792 , the Synod became aware that many students were prevented from pursuing their studies in the " commercial emporium of New York " because of the high cost of living and a lack of sufficient funds . To address this difficulty , the Synod decided to locate the seminary outside of the city . However , as Queen 's College had severe financial difficulties and was forced to close by 1795 , New Brunswick was not considered a viable option . In 1796 , Livingston was directed by the Synod to relocate his theological classes to a small school in Flatbush ( now in Queens , New York ) where it remained for the next 14 years .

= = = A seminary in New Brunswick ( 1810 ? 1856 ) = = =

After being closed for twelve years , the Rev. Ira Condict ( 1764 ? 1811 ) and other church leaders began an effort in 1807 to revive Queen 's College . Condict , the college 's third president , and the college 's trustees agreed to coordinate with the Synod on theological education , to hire professors , and establish a library . In 1810 , Condict declined the post of president of Queen 's College in a full capacity ( he had been serving in a pro tempore capacity since 1795 ) , and the trustees of the college offered the post to Livingston who accepted . The seminary was relocated to New Brunswick . The college closed again in 1816 , but the trustees permitted the theological seminary to remain on the Queen 's College campus and expressed hope that the college would be revived . At this time , the Rev. Elias van Bunschooten , a Princeton @-@ trained minister residing in Sussex County , New Jersey , established funded a trust for assisting indigent young men in pursuing their studies preparing for ministry .

In 1823 , the Synod paid a significant portion of Queen 's College 's debts in order to place the institution on a secure financial footing and enable it to reopen . With the second reopening , the Synod provided clergymen to serve at the college as theology professors . Livingston had dedicated several years to raising money for the effort but died shortly before Queen 's College reopened in 1825 . The Rev. Philip Milledoler , a Reformed clergyman from New York City , was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Livingston 's death . Milledoler persuaded one of his parishioners , Colonel

Henry Rutgers ( 1745 ? 1830 ) , to support the college . The trustees subsequently renamed it Rutgers College in his honour . At first , the Synod exercised oversight over the operations of the college , but by 1840 directed its attentions solely to the operation of the seminary . During this period Rutgers College , the college 's grammar school ( now Rutgers Preparatory School ) , and the seminary shared one building , known as Old Queens ( built 1809 @-@ 1823 ) until the two schools separated operations entirely in 1856 .

According to Bruggink and Baker , in 1792 ( seven years after Livingston began to teach in his home ) , there were 116 Reformed churches served by 40 ministers . In 1830 , twenty years after starting instruction in New Brunswick and organizing the seminary , there were 159 ministers serving 194 churches .

= = = Campus on " Holy Hill " ( 1856 ? 2012 ) = = =

In the 1850s , the student bodies of Rutgers College and the Seminary began to expand , overcrowding the space provided at the Queens Campus . The seminary professors realized that students renting rooms at boarding houses in the city were paying more for their housing than students at other seminaries ? over double the costs of housing at New York City 's Union Theological Seminary or at nearby Princeton Theological Seminary . The professors surmised that it would be cheaper to build a seminary building that provided both student housing and instruction space .

When the seminary 's leaders proposed the idea , the Synod of New York removed financial support from both Rutgers and the seminary . Colonel James Nielson , David Bishop , and Charles Dayton ? prominent citizens in New Brunswick ? donated plots of land totaling almost 8 acres ( 32 @,@ 000 m <sup>2</sup> ) consisting of part of a hill extending from George Street to College Avenue . At the same time , Ann Hertzog of Philadelphia donated \$ 30 @,@ 000 for the construction of a building to be named " Peter Hertzog Theological Hall " in memory of her husband . Hertzog Hall ( built 1855 ? 1856 ) became a dominant feature on the hill , which became known locally as " Holy Hill " . In November 1776 , during the American Revolution , the hill was the site of a British artillery redoubt during the occupation of New Brunswick .

Throughout the nineteenth century , the institution became known because of the efforts of missionaries serving throughout the world . In the 1870s , the campus was expanded with the construction of two buildings ? one housing a gymnasium and additional lecture space ; the second , a library . The seminary desired to build a library first , citing the need to house its expanding collection of books . However , local businessman and seminary benefactor James Suydam donated funds to build the gynasium , to be named Suydam Hall , because he was extremely concerned with student health . Suydam Hall was built in 1873 and was designed by architect Henry Janeway Hardenbergh . Hardenbergh had finished completing the design for Kirkpatrick Chapel and Geology Hall on the Rutgers campus and later would become known for buildings in New York City , including the Plaza Hotel and Dakota Apartments . After receiving a donation from Gardner A. Sage earmarked for the construction of a library , the trustees commissioned Hardenbergh 's former teacher , German @-@ American architect Detlef Lienau , to design it . The Sage Library was completed in 1875 . Lienau designed the library to complement Hardenbergh 's ( style ) design for Suydam Hall . In the 1960s , Suydam Hall and Hertzog Hall were deemed to be inadequate for the administrative and instructional needs of the seminary . The trustees voted in 1966 to demolish both buildings and replace it with a modern one @-@ story all @-@ purpose building , Zwemer Hall , containing the seminary 's chapel , faculty offices , and classroom facilities .

In the late 1970s , during the tenure of seminary president Howard Hageman , the seminary revised its academic programs to focus on serving the needs of second career and bi @-@ vocational students . This was intended to make theological education more accessible as the seminary transitioned from the 1980s to 2010s from " a predominantly residential school to one that is more than 90 percent commuter based . " This transition meant that the seminary would serve an increasing number of second @-@ career pastors who would study part @-@ time . Another result of this transition was that the seminary 's student body became the " most richly diverse " seminary

in North America . Today , the New Brunswick Theological Seminary offers classes through two campuses , the first in New Brunswick , New Jersey and since 1986 on the campus of St. John 's University in Jamaica , New York .

Today , the seminary focuses on providing a comprehensive Christian education as " an inter @-@ cultural , ecumenical school of Christian faith , learning , and scholarship committed to its metro @-@ urban and global contexts " and preparing its graduates to " inspire missions in a post @-@ colonial world where the gospel is taking deep root , especially in urban areas of Africa , Asia , and Central and South America . " The seminary seeks to achieve this mission by expanding through distance @-@ learning technology and online classes to reach new constituencies . As of the fall semester of 2012 , the seminary enrolled 197 students .

= = = College Avenue redevelopment ( 2012 ? 2014 ) = = =

New Brunswick Theological Seminary has partnered with Rutgers University , and the New Brunswick Development Corporation ( DEVCO ) on a \$ 300 million project to redevelop the seminary 's campus and a portion of the Rutgers campus in New Brunswick . Citing declining enrollment and financial constraints , and recognizing the maintenance needs of an aging campus including empty and unused on @-@ campus student housing ( as their student body transitioned to commuter students ) , the seminary sold a five @-@ acre ( 20 @,@ 000 m <sup>2</sup> ) portion of their eight @-@ acre ( 32 @,@ 000 m <sup>2</sup> ) campus to Rutgers . On 20 June 2012 , the outgoing president of Rutgers University , Richard L. McCormick announced that Rutgers will " integrate five acres ( 20 @,@ 000 m <sup>2</sup> ) along George Street between Seminary Place and Bishop Place into the College Avenue Campus " to build a 500 @-@ student Honors College , a dining facility , and a major academic building featuring lecture halls and departmental offices . The seminary 's Board of Trustees approved this plan and the sale on 20 May 2013 .

The seminary reconstructed its New Brunswick campus on three acres ( 12 @,@ 000 m <sup>2</sup> ) at the corner of Seminary Place and College Avenue , with a 30 @,@ 000 @-@ square @-@ foot ( 2 @,@ 800 m <sup>2</sup> ) central building featuring " a chapel , classrooms , offices , conference facilities and space for commuting students as well as a 100 @-@ car parking lot " while preserving the Gardner A. Sage Library . The seminary 's planned new campus is described as being " technologically smart and environmentally green . " The seminary relocated to its new faciities in July 2014 .

= = Degrees and programs = =

New Brunswick Theological Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada . The seminary offers admission to students after the review of a submitted application accompanied by college transcripts and letters of recommendation . It offers courses and programs leading to three degrees : the Master of Divinity ( M.Div. ) , Master of Arts ( M.A. ) and Doctor of Ministry ( D.Min. ) degree ; as well as certificates and training programs to lay church leaders seeking advanced courses in Theology , Bible studies , Church History , and Servant Leadership . Students are able to take advantage of opportunities to register in classes or complete joint degree programs with Rutgers University , St. John 's University , Princeton Theological Seminary ( Presbyterian ) , Western Theological Seminary ( Reformed ) , and the Wesley Theological Seminary ( Methodist ) .

The Master of Divinity ( M.Div. ) is a degree required by many Christian denominations for ordination , and spans a three @-@ year full @-@ time program . The core of the academic studies falls into three fields : Biblical Studies ; Historical , Theological and Ethical Studies ; and Ministry Studies . This is combined with obtaining practical experience in the field learning the practice of " varieties of ministry . " A student 's studies toward the Master of Divinity degree can be directed toward a concentration in Urban Ministry with coursework that is focused specifically on preparing candidates " for the opportunities and challenges of urban ministry . "

The Master of Arts ( M.A. ) program requires eighteen months to two years of full @-@ time coursework and offers degree concentrations in Biblical Studies , Pastoral Care , Historical and

Constructive Theology , Church and Society . The program is intended for ministry candidates who do not require an M.Div. , those who desire to enrich their studies , and for those looking to supplement a professional degree or prepare for a theological Ph.D. program .

The Doctor of Ministry ( D.Min. ) is a three @-@ year program with a specialized focus toward Metro @-@ Urban Ministry . It is a research degree that combines academic research and a focus on ministry or mission work through " a theological understanding of the life and work of the church in urban communities . " A D.Min. degree candidate has the option of two courses of study : one concerning the challenges of ministry in an ethnically @-@ diverse urban environment ; or the challenges of a " Prisons , Public Policy , and Transformative Justice " ministry . Students in both programs engage in coursework and research augmented by a collaboration between the seminary and Rutgers University ' s Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy .

= = Gardner A. Sage Library = =

The Gardner A. Sage Library was built in 1873 ? 75 and was designed by nineteenth @-@ century German @-@ American architect Detlef Lienau . Lienau combined the elements of a Romanesque fourth @-@ century basilica and a " Victorian bookhall " to create a space conducive to " the contemplation of God . " According to the seminary , the Sage Library 's collection contains more than 150 @,@ 000 books and 10 @,@ 000 bound periodicals , spanning the topics of biblical studies , theology , Reformed Church studies , general church history and denominational history . The collection includes many rare manuscripts and printed books dating as early as the fifteenth century . The library maintains subscriptions for more than 300 periodicals . It is expanding its collection with the acquisition of books and materials on urban ministry and the religious experience of African @-@ American and Asian immigrant communities . The library presently houses the official archives of the Reformed Church in America and contains comprehensive resources regarding Dutch history , culture , and Dutch Colonial Studies . The seminary 's collection is augmented by reciprocal borrowing rights with the Rutgers University library system ( over 10 @.@ 5 million holdings ) , the libraries at St. John 's University , access to libraries nationwide , and direct affiliations with the libraries at thirty other theological schools .

= = Notable people = =

The New Brunswick Theological Seminary 's bylaws establish its mission " to educate persons and strengthen communities for transformational , public ministries in church and society . " In its 230 @-@ year history , the seminary 's faculty and alumni have taken leading roles in the ministry and missions of the Reformed Church and other Christian denominations , in academia , and in the professional world .

Because of the work and reputation of alumni who became prominent missionaries , the seminary became well known in the nineteenth century . David Abeel ( B.D. 1826 ) , served as a missionary throughout the world , including in Indonesia , Southeast Asia and China . Several members of the Scudder family , including Jared Waterbury Scudder ( B.D. 1855 ) , received their theological training at the seminary before serving as missionaries in India . Alumnus John Van Nest Talmage ( B.D. 1845 ) served for over forty years in China for the American Reformed Mission . His younger brother , the Rev. Dr. Thomas DeWitt Talmage ( B.D. 1856 ) became known for his pulpit oratory , drawing large crowds to hear his sermons . Talmage 's sermons were later published in 3 @,@ 000 journals and said to reach 25 million readers worldwide . One of the main buildings on the seminary 's campus , Zwemer Hall ( built 1966 , razed 2013 ) was named for Samuel Marinus Zwemer ( M.A. 1890 ) , a missionary in the Middle East who was nicknamed the " Apostle to Islam . " Zwemer served in Basra , Bahrain , the Arabian peninsula , later in Egypt from 1891 to 1929 , and believed that distributing literature was effective in spreading God 's word . Horace Grant Underwood ( B.D. 1884 ) , served as a missionary in Korea , and was influential in establishing several educational institutions with the financial support of his brother , John T. Underwood , a typewriter entrepreneur and manufacturer . A financial gift in Spring 2011 to the seminary from the Luce Foundation and

Korean Christians established an endowed professorship , the Underwood Chair for Global Christianity .

Many of the seminary 's graduates have served as faculty and administrators at Rutgers , Western Theological Seminary , Hope College and several other institutions . Hope , an RCA @-@ affiliated liberal arts college in Michigan founded in 1851 , was founded upon a vision of becoming " a point of life for the whole Western Church , a Western New Brunswick . " Two seminary graduates served as president of Rutgers ? the Rev. William Henry Steel Demarest , a clergyman and ecclesiastical history scholar , and Philip Milledoler Brett , a prominent New York City attorney ( both also alumni of Rutgers College ) . Demarest served as the seminary 's president for ten years from 1925 to 1935 . Several other seminary alumni have served on the seminary 's faculty and as its leaders ? including its first dean and faculty president , Samuel Merrill Woodbridge ( A.M. 1841 ) , and its current president , Gregg A. Mast ( M.Div. 1976 ) .