



Toronto School of Theology 2020 Vision and Strategic Directions

Mission Statement *(approved by the TST Board of Trustees December 4, 2006)*

TST is an ecumenical federation of Christian theological schools working together at the heart of the university to achieve excellence in research, in scholarship, in teaching and in the formation of leaders for service in ministry in the church and the world.

Vision Statement *(approved by the TST Board of Trustees April 18, 2011)*

The Toronto School of Theology, honouring the distinct identities of its members and broadening the range of its collaboration, will be a leading international consortium for education, research, academic cooperation, and dialogue across particular religious and cultural traditions.

Preamble:

Our vision will be achieved as we continue to support the individual missions of our member colleges by promoting and coordinating common initiatives, sharing educational and other institutional resources among ourselves and with the University of Toronto, and encouraging one another to greater excellence.

Strategic Areas:

1. Program Development and Quality Assurance

To review and strengthen our educational programs and to support relevant research in the theological disciplines, guided by internationally recognized standards of excellence.

Action Plans:

- TST will be committed to continuous improvement, and will meet or exceed standards of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada for curriculum, teaching, and research.
- TST will use the framework of the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Plan to identify and meet or exceed international benchmarks of achievement.
- In its professional training TST will emphasize research-informed practice and will require high personal standards of character and integrity.
- TST will promote excellence and innovation in teaching, both by developing its own best practices and by adapting effective models that have been deployed elsewhere.
- TST will recruit students of the highest standard, and will significantly develop its bursary and scholarship funds.
- TST and its member colleges will collaborate in academic planning.
- TST will achieve recognition as an international leader in theological research.
- TST and its member colleges will develop new programming, new curricular streams and concentrations, and new inter-disciplinary collaboration to serve new and existing academic communities, religious ministries, and wider publics.

2. Faith and its Many Contexts

To serve the scholarly community, faith groups, Canadian society, and the global community through education and research.

Action Plans:

- TST will use theological education as a resource for building successful societies that value justice, compassion, community, the freedom to worship God and to seek truth on the basis of faith, the service of those facing difficulty, the need for healthy human identity, and respect and dialogue across religious and cultural traditions.
- TST will strengthen the faith communities that it serves, by training their leaders, educating other interested and academically qualified persons, conducting relevant research that will assist them in their teaching and ministry, interpreting their sources and traditions, and critiquing their premises and values.
- With roots in both, TST will connect communities of faith and witness with communities of academic enquiry and research.
- TST will partner with the Canadian Yeshiva and Rabbinical School and will support university-level faith-based educational initiatives of the Canadian Muslim community.
- TST will enhance the quality of public discourse about faith and will contribute to the conversations of an informed citizenry about faith, public policy, and world conflict and peace.

3. Advancement and Promotion

To strengthen TST's public identity, academic resources, scholarly recognition, and social contribution.

Action Plans:

- TST will build its recognition and reputation in the University community, in Canada, and internationally, as a leading consortium for theological education and research within, among, and beyond faith communities.
- TST, both through its member colleges and as a consortium, will develop its financial capacity to achieve its goals, through fund-raising, the support of foundations, and other revenue opportunities.
- TST will communicate effectively with faith communities, the larger academic community, and wider publics.

4. Governance and Cooperation

To strengthen the creative collaboration and mutual dependence of the TST consortium, and to review and develop our governance to enhance its exemplary character.

Action Plans:

- TST will maintain and develop its institutional model of a consortium of theological schools by collaborating in instruction, cooperating in research, sharing resources, identifying common academic standards and values, working together in governance and administration in matters of mutual advantage, and recognizing common academic and spiritual interests and kinship.
- TST will continue to make strategic use of the resources of the University of Toronto in all areas, including library services, technology, student services, planning, facilities, and support for instruction, research, and administration.

- TST will develop further interdisciplinary cooperation with academic units of the University of Toronto as appropriate, while maintaining its own distinctive character.
- TST will work with its affiliate schools to achieve greater benefits for all partners in their institutional missions.
- TST will reorganize its governance to provide more effective oversight of its complex arrangements, to respond to developing opportunities, to give a clear mandate to its administrative officers in their management of daily operations, and to ensure academic excellence and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- TST will seek strategic relationships with leaders and ministries in the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities in Canada, and will be open and hospitable to initiatives from other prospective faith partners and from foundations and academic institutions.
- TST will offer its support to other existing and prospective theological consortia and to university-based faculties of theology.