



SAN FRANCISCO  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
*Whole Leaders for the Whole Church*

105 Seminary Road  
San Anselmo, CA 94960  
415.451.2800  
www.sfts.edu

SFTS Contact  
Holly Woolard  
Communications Associate  
415-451-2823  
hwoolard@sfts.edu

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## **SFTS graduates meeting needs of the church throughout the world**

**SAN ANSELMO, Calif., March 1** – Last summer, San Francisco Theological Seminary graduate Rev. Deborah J. Burger (M.Div. '07) was called from her home in Southern California to serve a 200-member, federated Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Methodist congregation in Bottineau, N.D., 30 miles from the Canadian border.

“I felt so called to this place at this time,” Burger said, “but I wouldn’t be here today unless I had opened myself up by saying, ‘God, show me what it is you want. God, show me your will.’”

A second-career pastor and single mother of two, Burger struggled to meet and eventually to overcome the many challenges associated with her call to ministry, which she first heard as a teenager.

While coping with the demands of a full-time teaching job and raising two children, Burger entered seminary part time at the SFTS Southern California campus in Pasadena, completing her degree in seven years in the spring of 2007 as well as the requirements for candidacy with [Los Ranchos Presbytery](#).

SFTS has been preparing leaders for the church since 1871. This year, SFTS expects to graduate 42 students with Master of Divinity degrees, 18 with Doctor of Ministry degrees, four with Master of Arts degrees and 11 from the Diploma in the Arts of Spiritual Direction program.

### **Below is a list of SFTS graduates ordained in 2009. Please pray for these servants of Christ:**

Rev. Meghan Davis, Pastor, PCUSA, ordained in Longview, Wash., January 31, 2009  
Rev. Beverly Brewster, Admissions Director, PCUSA, ordained at SFTS, February 22, 2009  
Rev. Ruthanne Svenson, Spiritual Direction, PCUSA, ordained in Santa Rosa, Calif., March 2, 2009  
Rev. Beth Erickson, Pastor, UCC, ordained in Marin County, Spring 2009  
Rev. Dan Christian, Pastor, PCUSA, ordained in San Rafael, Calif., May 31, 2009  
Rev. Anni Mingin, Associate Pastor, RCA, ordained in San Francisco, May 2009  
Rev. Derrick Weston, Temporary Stated Supply, PCUSA, ordained in Pittsburgh, Penn., June 6, 2009  
Rev. Nick Kolivas, Chaplain, Disciples of Christ, ordained in Honolulu, Hawaii, June 13, 2009  
Rev. Phuc Dai Nguyen, Chaplain, PCUSA, ordained in Charlotte, N.C., June 15, 2009  
Rev. Helen Mansfield, Pastor, United Methodist, ordained in Galt, Calif., June 20, 2009

Rev. Deborah Burger, Pastor, PCUSA, ordained in Bottineau, N.D., June 2009  
Rev. Sung-Ai Lee, Pastor, UMC, ordained in Yuba City, Calif., June 2009  
Rev. Rebecca McClintock, Associate Pastor, PCUSA, ordained in La Grange, Ill., June 2009  
Rev. Jean Boal, Pastor, UCC, ordained in Weaverville, Calif., June 2009  
Rev. Nick Larson, Chaplain, Disciples of Christ, ordained in San Francisco, November 15, 2009  
Rev. Elaine Besthorn, Pastor, PCUSA, ordained in Cozad, Neb., November 15, 2009

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**San Francisco Theological Seminary**, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) graduate school, has prepared whole leaders for the whole church since 1871. One of the founding members of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, it offers theological degrees at two campuses, in San Anselmo and Pasadena. Its innovative Program in Christian Spirituality is open to clergy and non-ordained individuals. For more information please call SFTS at 1-800-447-8820 in San Anselmo or 1-800-473-8772 in Pasadena. Also find information on our Web site: [www.sfts.edu](http://www.sfts.edu).