

What Works: Seminary Integration

The below recommendations represent learnings from the work of The Black Church & HIV: The Social Justice Imperative initiative and are meant to catalogue the best practices for communicating and partnering with seminaries for those involved in HIV/AIDS work.

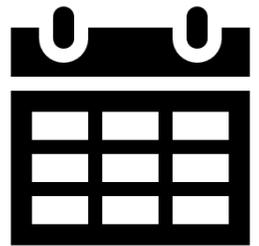
A core component of the initiative's work included partnering with seminaries to lecture as a means to educate students about HIV as a social justice issue, dispel myths, and normalize testing. This lecture was integrated in core courses that are designed to generally prepare students for ministry in areas such as counseling, pastoral care, social justice, and healthcare.

The NAACP and initiative ambassadors strategically worked with seminary presidents, deans, and professors. Relationships were formed with theological institutions, working closely with professors to identify relative core courses to integrate initiative messaging. Certain methods were most impactful in moving the needle towards the ultimate goal of getting future faith leaders invested in the initiative and its goals early in their ministerial careers. The following recommendations are meant to catalogue the best practices for communicating and partnering with seminaries for those who are involved in similar HIV work.



Plan Ahead

In preparation of reaching out to a particular seminary, it will be important to research the initiative's tools (The Pastoral Brief and Activity Manual), the seminary, professors at the seminary, and courses offered by it. Additionally, knowledge of or interest in the concept of understanding of HIV as social justice issue. This knowledge is important when communicating with contacts at the seminary to inform them of the subject's value. It's beneficial if the seminary and/or professors whom you connect with are passionate or interested in HIV and how it intersects with faith.



Finally, it's important to note that the process of seminary integration can take an unspecified amount of time. Be prepared to spend as little as several weeks to as long as several months working through this process.

Build Relationships



Once you have found a professor whose course could be bolstered by lessons from the Pastoral Brief and Activity Manual, start researching contacts at the seminary and begin thoughtful outreach, making touchpoints where possible. Seek to contact the seminary president, dean, or specific professors.

QUICK TIP: Growing Relationships

Initiative experience has proven that relationships are key to integrating initiative resources and lessons into coursework. Growing relationships with contacts at the seminary will be crucial to success. Outreach and activities to help grow these relationships include:

- *Numerous phone calls, emails, face-to-face meetings, and follow-up touchpoints. Face-to-face meetings have proven important in building these relationships.*
- *If not already affiliated, consider reaching out to your local NAACP who may already have a relationship with the seminary.*

What Works: Seminary Integration Cont.

Establish Confirmation



When and if a professor at the seminary agrees to implement the Pastoral Brief and Activity Manual into his or her coursework, establish written confirmation and plan to meet with the professor to discuss implementation and integration.

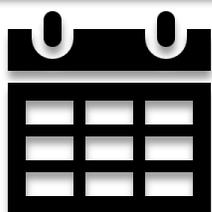
Assisting the Professor in Course Implementation and Integration

Initiative experiences have shown that certain tactics work better than others to integrate lessons about HIV as a social justice issue, via the Pastoral Brief and Activity Manual, into coursework, including:



- *Study the Pastoral Brief and Activity Manual to ensure a deep understanding of the idea of HIV as a social justice issue and the intersection of faith and HIV.*
- *Hold at least one lecture to discuss the materials and ensure the materials are included as required course reading in the class' syllabus.*
- *Consider assigning the brief and manual specifically as pre-lecture assigned readings to encourage more robust lecture discussion.*
- *Consider assigning pre-lecture homework on the readings to encourage more robust lecture discussion.*
- *Consider using a PowerPoint presentation during lecture on the materials to bolster information with powerful visuals.*
- *Consider implementing aspects of the brief and manual into course exams or the final examination.*

Continuing the Work: Following Up



Schedule a follow up to the discussion session with event leaders and participants to review progress on the action plan.