



## Summary of the Certification Process

The *Seminary Environmental Certification Program* is organized into a **5-step process** and includes a series of requirements. Participating institutions must complete the requirements related to each of these steps to be recognized as a Certified Green Seminary.

The following is a summary of the 5-step process.

### **STEP 1: Apply to the Program – January 1, 2017 to April 22, 2017 (Earth Day)**

Interested seminaries must:

- Read the Standards and Guidelines
- Building a Certification Team
- Submit the Application Form - (by April 22)
- Submit the Certification Team Commitment Form - (by April 22)

By May 15, GSI will announce the schools selected to participate in the program.

### **STEP 2: Getting Started (May 15, 2017 to December 31, 2017)**

1. Conduct the Seminary Environmental Audit, using GSI-supplied template (by September 30, 2017)
2. Adopt a Governing Board Resolution (by September 30, 2017)
3. Develop an Action Plan, to be approved by Green Seminary Initiative, for fulfilling requirements in the selected focus areas as outlined in the standards and guidelines (by December 31, 2017)
4. Pay the \$1,500 registration fee (by August 30). *Note: the customary program registration fee of \$3,000 has been reduced thanks to support from the program funders.*

### **STEP 3: Implement your Action Plan (January 1, 2018 to May 15, 2020)**

With the Audit and Action Plan completed, schools will proceed to implement their Action Plans. GSI will offer guidance and support and will regularly connect Certification Team members from participating seminaries for the purpose of sharing strategies, successes and struggles, and for mutual support. Participating schools will submit progress reports every six months during implementation of Action Plan.

#### **STEP 4: Celebrate Certification!**

After completing all Certification Program requirements, institutions will celebrate achieving Green Seminary Initiative Certification with a ceremony marking this accomplishment, at which a GSI representative will present a Certification banner.

#### **STEP 5: Maintain Certification Status through Ongoing Activities**

In order to maintain Certification status in good standing, participating schools will submit an annual progress report to GSI describing their environmental efforts of the past year, and will also participate in mentoring seminaries newly entering the program.