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As of January 1, 2016

On the cover:  
Auburn Senior Fellow Linda Sarsour  
This page:  
Social entrepreneur Melvin Bray,  
MountainTop 2015
We invite you to learn about Auburn’s work, since it affirmed a strategic plan in 2013, through the lens of its impact—on leaders and the movements that energize and drive the national conversation around issues of faith and social justice.

Your humanity and vision have helped chart a new course for Auburn and advance a more just, compassionate world. Thank you for having made Auburn’s work possible as we trouble the waters and heal the world.
You are in the pages of this publication.

Your support, commitment and participation in Auburn’s programs help to build a more just and hopeful world.

Nearly 200 years old, Auburn retains the agility of youth in its readiness to respond to inequality on frontiers old and new. Today, Auburn is connecting with faith leaders in powerful ways—equipping them with the tools they need to bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice.

Auburn’s leadership, currently headed by Katharine Henderson, has been essential to Auburn’s success. Auburn draws people from across faith traditions, generational divides and institutional loyalties around a vision of the transformative power of religion. Auburn’s Board of Directors, Staff and Senior Fellows alike represent a rich diversity of committed and powerful individuals from many faith traditions.

More than ever, in these days of religious extremism and social injustice, our world needs to hear religious voices like those coming out of Auburn, representing a transformative message of justice and peace, hope and joy.

On behalf of the entire Board, I thank you for your support in making this essential work possible.

The Rev. Mark D. Hostetter
Chair, Auburn Board of Directors
What a privilege it has been to work with all of you over these past few years as, together, we create a more integrated, effective Auburn. On the way to our 200th birthday in 2018, I want to remember all the ancestors who tended Auburn lovingly, the staff who guide Auburn wisely and joyfully today, and all of you who contribute such energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to trouble the waters and heal the world.

I want to welcome you to our inaugural Impact report. Although we have always tried to examine our effectiveness, Auburn is developing new ways of discovering how leaders of faith and moral courage drive social change. In these pages you will meet some of the game-changing leaders we help to shape and form. You will hear about Groundswell, Auburn’s digital platform, used in campaigns focused on income inequality, immigration, gun violence, and more. You will be introduced to MountainTop, our convening platform that focused on racial justice just a week before Charleston. You will meet the Rev. Dr. Christian Scharen, who leads Auburn’s research that undergirds all of Auburn’s endeavors. And you will learn how we train leaders to communicate their essential messages with clarity and power in the media.

We have been able to embrace our part because you have played yours: as generous supporters and as partners in the work. Our deep relationships with you make all the difference and encourage us daily.

With appreciation. In hope.
The Rev. Dr. Katharine R. Henderson, President
Impact on LEADERS
Auburn identifies, equips and sustains game-changing leaders who heal and repair the world.

Auburn Senior Fellows

Their is among the most powerful and recognizable faith voices in the nation, lifting up the dialogue and speaking out on issues of economic inequality, racial justice, immigration reform, climate change and civil and human rights. Each is a force to be reckoned with. Together—nurtured and strengthened by one another and by Auburn’s commitment to them—they are the harbinger of a more just and peaceful world.

MEET THE INAUGURAL SENIOR FELLOWS

Rabbi Sharon Brous, rabbi of IKAR in Los Angeles, dedicated to reanimating Jewish life through soulful religious practice rooted in a deep commitment to social justice, recognized by Newsweek’s Daily Beast as “The Most Influential Rabbi in America.”

Sister Simone Campbell, sister of social service, religious leader, attorney, poet, and executive director of Network, the Catholic social justice lobby which organized the influential “Nuns on the Bus: Nuns Drive for Faith, Family and Fairness.”

Bishop Minerva Carcaño, leading advocate for immigration reform in the U.S. and the first Hispanic woman elected to the episcopy of the United Methodist Church, the nation’s second largest Protestant denomination.

Rev. Dr. Peter Heltzel, author, associate professor at New York Theological Seminary, and director of the Micah Institute, a faith-rooted organizing effort promoting a living wage in New York City’s black and brown evangelical communities.

Valarie Kaur, media & strategy fellow at Stanford Law School’s Center for Internet and Society, national Sikh voice, civil rights lawyer, interfaith leader, filmmaker, and founder of Auburn’s Groundswell.

Rabbi Stephanie Kolin, associate rabbi at New York City’s Central Synagogue, previously co-director of Just Congregations, a community organizing program of the Union of Reform Judaism, and a founder of Reform CA, a California statewide campaign for political change.

“We make every one of our programs available to Auburn Senior Fellows, but the innovation in the education model is this: We put the leader in the center, not the content, so that each one can learn from the other and catalyze change.” Rev. John Vaughn, Auburn Executive Vice President

6,018 attended Auburn Conference Presentations, educational programs & events
Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Lewis, senior minister of Middle Collegiate Church in New York City, national spokesperson on racial justice, LGBTQI equality and economic justice, author of two books, numerous articles, and blogs. Rev. Michael-Ray Matthews, a Baptist pastor, director of Clergy Organizing at PICO and leader of the Prophetic Voices Initiative, shaping the movement for racial and social justice inclusion in the U.S. Brian D. McLaren, speaker, activist, networker among innovative Christian leaders nationwide, author of a dozen-plus books including *A New Kind of Christianity*, and collaborator for the common good as board member of Convergence. Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, III, senior pastor of Chicago’s Trinity United Church of Christ, ordained as well in the Progressive National Baptist Convention, leading Christian activist and cultural critic preaching on love and justice. Right Rev. V. Gene Robinson, the first openly gay man to be elected bishop in the Episcopal Church, active in

1,208 participated in Auburn’s group & individual media trainings & coaching sessions

“Auburn has provided the best media training I’ve ever been exposed to. I only wish I’d had this experience 30 years ago.”

Brian McLaren, Auburn Senior Fellow
promoting full civil rights for LGBTQ communities, invited by Barack Obama to deliver the inaugural invocation in 2009. **Linda Sarsour**, community activist and executive director of the Arab American Association of New York, launching a national initiative to train and support Muslim community organizers on national security, community organizing, civil engagement, and civil rights.

Recent additions to Auburn Senior Fellows include **Rev. Dr. William Barber II**, architect of the Moral Mondays movement and president of the North Carolina NAACP; **Lisa Sharon Harper**, chief engagement officer for Sojourners; and **Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock**, senior pastor of Atlanta’s Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The Auburn Senior Fellows act as a powerful think-act-tank—communicating with one another regularly, sharing strategies, offering insights, and accelerating outcomes. Three to five other top leaders will be invited to join their ranks every year.

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**ENTREPRENEURIAL MINISTRY**

**DECEMBER 2013, NYC**

At a week-long training led by Rev. J.C. Austin, Auburn VP for Christian Leadership Formation, recent seminary graduates from diverse backgrounds envisioned innovative ways to minister in a changing church landscape.

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**MountainTop**

**80 FAITH LEADERS**

gathered to advance racial justice at the MountainTop 2015 conference in Atlanta, Georgia.
Mountaintop: Racial Justice in America

At its second national summit, Mountaintop 2015 focused on advancing racial justice in America. Auburn welcomed 80 faith leaders from diverse backgrounds for three intense days of work and worship, discord and solidarity, struggle and song. Facilitated by the DesignShop™ process, relationships developed, the seeds of an infrastructure took root, and the capacity to mobilize oneself and others for shared action expanded. Mountaintop concluded with the unanimous affirmation to build, together, a more racially just society.

“By having difficult conversations, we deepened our bonds and discovered new pathways forward,” says participant/facilitator Melinda Weekes-Laidlow. This would soon be put to a test. Less than a week after Mountaintop concluded, nine people were murdered at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston.

“The Mountaintop experience felt like a moment in the realm of God.”

REV. REBECCA VOELKEL, Director for National LGBTQ Task Force and member of the Mountaintop Movement Building Committee

Money matters.
Wisdom around money remains essential to sustainable leadership. Auburn programs cover a range of issues from poverty to philanthropy, corporate ethics to church governance.
South Carolina. Several who had attended MountainTop shifted agendas and got on the road to bear witness with the families. They delivered thousands of messages of love, condolences and prayers—collected by Auburn from people across the nation.

**Sojourner Truth Leadership Circle**
How is care for one’s precious life connected to all lives and to the earth? This question spurred the development of Auburn’s Sojourner Truth Leadership Circle—an ongoing fellowship program in which black women justice leaders harness the power of self-care as a mandate for sustainable leadership. The commitment to wholeness and wellness extends beyond this Circle, reaching into other Auburn leadership initiatives, including Table to Action and MountainTop.
Auburn invests in creating relationships across faith lines within movements and among movements. For perhaps the first time, people of various religions trade stories and strategize together. Weaving connections throughout the country among congregations, organizations and leaders, Auburn brings a faith-rooted perspective to the critical issues of our time.

Equipping Today’s Prophets

Asking, “How do we bring a faith lens to frame critical debates?” Auburn answers, “Strengthen the prophetic voices.” Whatever the issue—gun control, racial profiling, poverty, immigration reform, the environment—people often have the will, but lack the training or strategies to make a significant impact. Thousands of thought leaders across the country have been touched by Auburn—their skills enhanced, minds opened, and avenues for action expanded.

One example: “How is it possible to be both pro-gun and pro-life?” The question intrigued filmmaker and philanthropist Abigail Disney. Her directorial debut film, The Armor of Light, follows Rev. Rob Schenck, an Evangelical, anti-abortion activist and fixture on the political far right. He reconsiders his stand on the gun
“WHAT DOES THE SANCTITY OF LIFE MEAN IN A PRO-GUN CULTURE?”

The question lies at the heart of the documentary, Armor of Light. “This film would not have happened without Auburn.”

ABIGAIL E. DISNEY, director, filmmaker and philanthropist

722,141 Social media reach of GROUNDSWELL
culture after meeting Lucia McBath, a pro-choice Christian whose 17-year-old son Jordan had been shot dead because his music was too loud. “This film would not have happened without Auburn,” Ms. Disney said. “Auburn not only introduced me to Rev. Schenck but also played a critical role in the film.”

Groundswell at Auburn
Auburn’s online petition platform provides avenues for 200,000+ multifaith activists to take strategic action around shared moral imperatives. Faith leaders and concerned citizens initiate petitions, communicate with those who signed them, and mobilize actions across the nation. Groundswell provides the tools to reach thousands of people who share a vision for our world. The following three campaigns, illustrate the impact of Groundswell.

Climate March and the Ark On September 21, 2014, an ark set sail in a sea of 400,000 people on the streets of New York City. As the United Nations Climate Summit convened, this “ethical spectacle” placed faith at the center of the movement to heal the earth. Auburn and GreenFaith, along with friends at Catholics United, Sojourners, the World Council of Churches, Judson Memorial Church, Middle Collegiate Church, and The Shalom Center built the ark to inspire people around the globe to recognize that we are all Noah now, on the ark that is the planet earth.

Sanctuary Movement Daniel Neyoy Ruiz became the first immigrant facing deportation to enter Sanctuary in 2014. Coming to the U.S. 14 years ago, Daniel was seeking a better life. He married and had a son, became a music leader at his church, supported his family, and paid taxes. Still, he was out of options for keeping his family together. Daniel turned to Rev. Alison Harrington and the protection of Sanctuary at Southside Presbyterian Church, Tuscon, AZ. Auburn equipped Rev. Harrington with the organizing, digital, media, and messaging strategy she needed to elevate and fortify Daniel’s case and win his stay of deportation.

#GodCan’tBreathe: NYC City Council Die-In, December 8, 2014. Following the death of Eric Garner on Staten Island, 50 clergy and people of faith, led by Auburn Senior Fellow, Rev. Dr. Peter Heltzel and the Micah Roundtable, staged a die-in to protest an unjust criminal justice system. They lay on the ground for 11 minutes—symbolizing the 11 times that Eric Garner said “I can’t breathe” before his death from a police chokehold. Auburn delivered a pastoral letter signed by 108 clergy and faith leaders; The New York Times and other major media outlets publicized the die-in; and Mayor DeBlasio claimed the action strengthened his resolve to reform the NYC Police Department.

Top to bottom: #GodCan’tBreathe protest, NYC; Rev. Alison Harrington on msnbc.com
Church gives sanctuary to undocumented man

Rev. Alison Harrington, pastor of Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson, Arizona, explains why she offered sanctuary at her church to a Mexican man who was facing a final deportation order, following a traffic stop.
Auburn has achieved a national reputation for exceptional research studies on the needs of theological institutions, their leaders and students. Today, Auburn’s research is expanding to explore how faith influences social change, bringing a faith perspective to the subjects of marriage equality, money in politics, climate change, and other critical conversations of our time.

For example, on June 11, 2014, at a bipartisan briefing of 50 congressional staffers and faith leaders, Auburn’s Dean, Rabbi Justus Baird, presented the findings of the study he authored, *Lo$ing Faith in Our Democracy: A Theological Critique of the Role of Money in American Politics.* “As an American, and as a rabbi, I believe we can achieve an approach to money in politics where the voices of the poor and the voices of the middle class can be heard alongside the...
voices of the wealthy.” In September 2014, Rev. Dr. Christian Scharen assumed the role of Auburn’s Vice President for Applied Research. He, Dr. Sharon Miller, Director of Applied Research, and their team conduct timely studies, exploring the changing dynamics of religious life in America. Applied Research allows Auburn to evaluate its own impact, as well.

Auburn Consulting
Auburn offers a broad variety of consulting services to help leaders and their institutions overcome challenges and seize opportunities. Clients include a range of faith-based NGOs, theological schools and seminaries, denominations and congregations. The consulting may focus on such topics as financial sustainability, community organizing and crisis communications.

Auburn published THREE major research reports

275 Graduate Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada looked to Auburn for rigorous research on the key challenges and opportunities facing theological education

Auburn consulted with 10+ theological schools or seminaries and convened leaders from another 25+ at Auburn
Impact on the NATIONAL Conversation
Our nation’s strongest prophetic voices are being trained, supported and encouraged by Auburn to address today’s critical concerns. They are lifting up the dialogue, opening our imagination, and bringing forth the possibility of a more just and peaceful world.

Auburn Media

Leaders of faith and moral courage must excel in today’s most prominent pulpit—the media. From gun violence to racial profiling, headlines are dominated by religion and faith. Auburn trains leaders to communicate values, harness the power of story, shape history, and prevent religious extremists from hijacking our faith traditions.

One of 5,000 faith leaders to participate in Auburn’s media training since its founding in 2002, Auburn Senior Fellow Rabbi Stephanie Kolin was featured prominently on the front page of the February 2014 issue of the L.A. Jewish Journal. She credits Auburn’s media training with the success of her interview. “I learned how to speak with reporters and to tell the story that I wanted to share. Auburn helped me advance the cause of justice.”

Before becoming an Auburn Senior Fellow, Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Lewis, Senior Minister of Middle Collegiate Church in New York City, worked with Auburn to hone her media savvy. Today, she moderates Just Faith, a pilot show recently launched on MSNBC’s online channel, Shift. “Just Faith is a conversation about justice, healing and love,” she tells her viewers. “We hope that faith can be a force for common good and we have evidence that, every day, good people are doing amazing things to heal the world. You and I? We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.”

“Auburn is doing the most important work that needs to be done right now. Bringing together people across religions and having conversations that nobody seems to be able to have.”

BARBARA DOBKIN, Auburn Supporter

One of 5,000 faith leaders to participate in Auburn media trainings, RABBI STEPHANIE KOLIN was featured on the front page of the February 2014 L.A. Jewish Journal.

“Auburn media helped me advance the cause of justice.”

MAY 13, 2015

Auburn announced the creation of THE MACKY ALSTON MEDIA LAB, a state-of-the-art studio to train leaders in winning today’s values debates.
“It can be amazing to see what unlocking our personal stories makes possible. I’ve watched it transform lives.” 

ISAAC LURIA, VICE PRESIDENT, AUBURN ACTION

6,421
number of unique visitors to FAITHSOURCE website

1,000,000+
individuals reached with FAITHSOURCE content

Clockwise from top: Isaac Luria, Vice President, Auburn Action; Senior Fellow Bishop Gene Robinson; Auburn’s Open House Celebration
The Art of Storytelling
In advocating for change, faith leaders succeed when they deploy their strongest assets: their personal stories. More effective than finely wrought policy arguments, or appeals to narrow self-interests, the power of story has the potential to transform communities, issues, even the speakers themselves. Auburn offers training in the art of storytelling, enabling faith leaders to be their most human, persuasive and inspiring selves.

FaithSource
Featuring Auburn Senior Fellows and other top leaders, FaithSource stands as Auburn’s platform for amplifying multifaith perspectives on a wide range of breaking news and social justice issues. The voices of these top leaders serve to counterbalance the often extreme views of those claiming to represent America’s religious majority.

In 2014 and 2015, FaithSource voices were featured in more than 67 print, online, broadcast, and radio outlets, including The New York Times, Huffington Post and The Washington Post; ABC, CNN, PBS, MSNBC; and WNYC and State of Belief Radio.

Auburn’s New Space
In 2014, Auburn moved to a new home—only its second move in nearly 200 years—which it is renovating so that its expert staff can support leaders in a state-of-the-art learning environment.

After 75 years of making its home on the campus of Union Theological Seminary, Auburn unified its headquarters from three
locations into a single, larger space nearby—the 18th floor of The Interchurch Center in New York City. Affectionately called The God Box, The Interchurch Center is home to many diverse religious and justice-focused organizations.

On October 23, 2014, Auburn announced the new Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein Center for Multifaith for Education and Engagement. It honors the vision and leadership of Auburn’s former Board Chair and Central Synagogue’s Rabbi Emeritus for a world where leaders of different faiths can deepen relationships across all kinds of divides and, together, build a better world.

A large convening space offers Auburn and its many partners a distinctive setting for meetings and seminars. The Macky Alston Media Lab will train leaders to win today’s values-based debates. And the views of New York City—north, west and south—never cease to inspire wonder.

“[Auburn’s Awards Breakfast inspires me each year; I feel exhilarated and humbled at the same time. No better way to spend a spring morning.]”

CAROLYN RISOLI,
LIVES OF COMMITMENT SUPPORTER
**Lives of Commitment Awards**
The 18th and 19th annual *Lives of Commitment Awards* Benefit Breakfasts, celebrating God’s beloved troublemakers, were Auburn’s most successful yet.

2014 honorees included Chelsea Clinton and Linda G. Mills, Ph.D.; Patricia Fili-Kruschel; Sapreet Kaur; Rev. Dr. Jacqueline J. Lewis; and Rabbi Jeannie Rosenn. The 2015 honorees were Dr. Georgette F. Bennett; Abigail E. Disney and Lucia K. McBeth; Tamika D. Mallory; Teresa Wynn Roseborough; and Nadia Roumani.

**Auburn Conversations**
An exciting new initiative, *Auburn Conversations* invited the larger community to six gatherings to share a meal, engage in thought-provoking dialogue, and gain insights that foster relationships and prompt social change.

The Auburn Conversation—*God Can’t Breathe: Race, Religion and Power in the #BlackLivesMatter Movement*—could not have been more timely. On June 18, 2015, 50 participants attended the event to discuss race and violence in America. A day later, nine people were murdered in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church shooting.
Impact of FRIENDS
Hopeful. Steadfast. Generous.
Auburn supporters are all that and more.

To transform an organization requires leaders and investors of faith and moral courage willing to commit their resources and energy over time. In 2009, Auburn inaugurated its new president, the Rev. Dr. Katharine R. Henderson, and embarked upon a highly creative period of program development and growth, laying the foundation for the remarkable achievements detailed in this Impact Report.

Auburn expresses its special gratitude to the following individuals and institutions, whose extraordinary gifts during 2009–2015 enabled Auburn to embark on this exciting journey.

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To learn more about how you can support Auburn, please contact Susan Milamed, Vice President of Philanthropic Partnerships, at smilamed@AuburnSeminary.org.
As Auburn approaches its 200th year of developing bold, resilient leaders who will change the world, we thank our growing community of supporters for their generosity during 2014-2015.

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Catalyzing Change: Auburn’s Financial Growth

Every gift to Auburn matters. Indeed, every donation helps Auburn to develop leaders of faith and moral courage who catalyze change and work to bring about a better world.

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Since Auburn embarked on its organizational transformation, contributions to Auburn have increased on average by 10% annually. This growth has enabled Auburn to make significant progress in fulfilling its strategic plan as evidenced by this Impact Report.

With an annual operating budget now at $7 million, Auburn also keeps a watchful eye on the ratio of administrative and general spending to total costs. In 2014-15, 85% of Auburn’s expenses were for program services. The balance of 15% was for management, general expenses and fundraising. Auburn outperformed most non-profit organizations on this important benchmark.

At the end of its 2014-2015 fiscal year, Auburn had nearly completed the first phase of construction on the new Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein Center for Multifaith Education and Engagement. An investment of $1.5 million by donors and Auburn in this exciting project has enabled Auburn to serve as a crossroads where leaders of diverse faith traditions can gather, build trust and work together to solve the pressing problems of the day.

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For a copy of Auburn’s most recent audited financial statements, please visit www.AuburnSeminary.org.
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in the days and years to come.
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as together we build a
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Leaders of faith and moral courage have guided social change throughout our nation’s history—from the abolition of slavery and the fight for Civil Rights to the struggle against gun violence and global warming. Auburn identifies and strengthens leaders—from the pulpit to the public square—to build communities, bridge divides, pursue justice, and heal the world.

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Auburn Seminary
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1800 | New York, NY 10115
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