

# **Columbia Theological Seminary**

## **INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE POLICY**

Columbia Theological Seminary is committed to the use of inclusive language about human beings and about God. Inclusive language with reference to human beings intentionally seeks to acknowledge the diversity of humankind. Inclusive language with reference to God seeks to express the diverse ways the Bible and our theological tradition speak about God. In both cases such language should enable everyone, regardless of differences such as gender, age, race, and denominational affiliation, to feel included, addressed, and equally valued before God. We recognize there are different points of view in the church and in the seminary community concerning inclusive language, especially language used about God, and that the use of inclusive language often requires time, love, patience, instruction, and careful consideration on the part of all concerned. With these considerations in mind, the policy of Columbia Theological Seminary concerning the use of inclusive language is: All members of the seminary community are expected to use inclusive language in classroom lectures and discussions, in written work, in seminary publications and official statements, and in seminary worship. While this policy expresses the expectations of the seminary, the use of inclusive language will not be a factor in the grading of students or in any person's acceptance by the community. Adopted by the Faculty, April 7, 1988 (from pg. 32 of the CTS Student Handbook 2014-2015)