



For immediate release
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**AUSTIN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY WILL MOVE TO NEW
BUILDING TO SERVE GROWING STUDENT BASE, OFFER MORE
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

The Austin Graduate School of Theology is relocating to a larger facility that will better serve its growing ministry and has launched a \$3 million capital campaign to fund the move.

Austin Grad, a seminary associated with Churches of Christ and in conversation with all who call on Jesus Christ as Lord, signed a contract Aug. 1, 2007 to purchase the building at 7640 Guadalupe St. in Austin.

The 26,000-square-foot facility is two-and-a-half times larger than the current school located at 1909 University Ave. The new campus will be completed and ready for students as they begin classes in January 2008.

With easy access to U.S. 183 and Interstate 35, the site is next to a church, school and residential neighborhood. It has more than 90 parking spaces. Both a Capital Metro rail station and a transit center are located within a half-mile of the site.

"These new facilities will enable us to address the needs of our growing student body and expand our programs for the entire community," said Austin Grad President Stanley Reid. "We're really excited about this new opportunity. It's a great new chapter in the rich history of this school, and it means we won't be one of Austin's best-kept secrets anymore."

The number of students at Austin Grad has grown 30 percent in the last several years, requiring more classroom space and student parking. (Austin Grad no longer has student parking in its current location because of nearby construction.)

The school eventually plans to expand its educational program with its first master of divinity degree. For this degree, the school will need more faculty and staff, offices for additional personnel and a larger library.

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Austin Grad's New Campus

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The extra room also will let the school host more seminars and workshops on its campus instead of relying on other institutions' facilities.

To help fund the project, the school has launched a three-year, \$3 million capital campaign known as Building the Dream. The campaign, which kicks off with a dinner on Sept. 28, will provide for the purchase and remodeling of the new facility.

The Austin Grad Board of Trustees, Austin Grad associates and employees already have committed more than \$1 million toward the campaign goal. The commitment comes from 100 percent participation of board members and employees.

"The commitment shown by those closely involved with the school is a sign of how important this mission is to the Christian community," said Kirk Eason, director of development and public relations at Austin Grad.

Architect for the project is Studio 8 of Austin, and contractor is Structura Inc., also of Austin.

To learn more or to give to the Building the Dream campaign, contact Eason at 512-476-2772 or keason@austingrad.edu.

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About Austin Grad:

The Austin Graduate School of Theology, (www.austingrad.edu) known informally as Austin Grad, is a seminary associated with the Churches of Christ and in conversation with all who call on Jesus Christ as Lord, which exists to promote knowledge, understanding and practice of the Christian faith. Since its inception in 1917 as a Bible Chair to the University of Texas, Austin Grad has grown into an independent institution that has educated thousands of individuals and edified churches in the understanding and practice of the Christian faith by equipping ministers and other Christians for service. Austin Grad is accredited by the Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in Decatur, Ga., to award bachelor's and master's degrees.