



A BLESSING FOR STARTING SEMINARY

Welcome to your disorientation, the upending of your certainties.

Fear not.

Know that God and your faith can survive
your uncertainty, anger, doubts, and questions.

May your faith seek understanding. Keep a dictionary near at hand.

And remember the calling that brought you to this moment.

The Spirit of love and grace that will see you through.

Follow your questions with courage. They will keep you engaged.

Listen deeply to your professors and peers.

Make friends easily and often,

because they will become your lifelines,

and each is an opportunity to practice the relational aspects of ministry.

Listen also to your body and heart for their rhythms of well-being.

Lean into ideas, books, and arguments, and also ask, *so what?*

Figuring out how to use that pile of information is what will make it stick.

Pay as much attention to process as to the content of your classes.

Try out new spiritual practices and prayer.

Keep the ones that nourish you.

Learn from history how church leaders missed the boat.

Then go and do otherwise.

Partake in the wisdom of scriptures, theology, ethics, and values.

Wrestle them to the ground and make them your own.

This will give you both voice and authority when you speak, write, and lead.

Re-orientation will arrive in its own good time.

Trust the process and the Holy presence through it all.

