

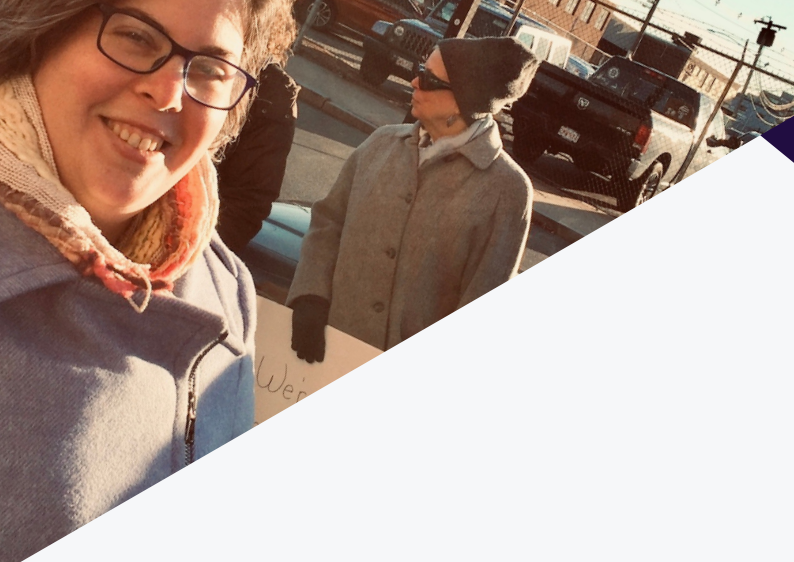


WALKER CENTER

INFO AND APPLICATION

**BARTON
COMMUNITY**

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR



Why live here?

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY

Make friends and build bridges
with fellow graduate students
from various area schools

"If you live in an apartment, who cares what you are doing in the next apartment?...Here, this is not an apartment, this is home. People care for each other."

-Anju Lamichhane, Barton resident since 2018





INTERRELIGIOUS & INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY


Grow as a leader who
embraces religious and
cultural diversity



A photograph of a brick building with autumn foliage in the foreground. The building is a multi-story structure with several windows. The foreground is filled with trees and bushes with vibrant orange and yellow leaves. A path leads towards the building.

AFFORDABLE STUDENT HOUSING

Our housing is
subsidized, so that
you have more
time to build
community, and to
focus on your
goals

A photograph of a brick building with a group of people sitting on the lawn in front of it. The building is a multi-story structure with a prominent chimney and a balcony. The lawn is green, and there are trees in the background.

"For me it's been really healthy to live in a community that's not [only] Jewish. It's a taste of the real world, because the real world is not all [one religion] - it's interfaith."

-Kelly Kossar, Barton resident since 2016

LIVE OUT A GLOBAL VISION

Eat, learn, visit, experience, laugh, and work together – Embody a vision of peace and partnership across religious and cultures



About the Walker Center

Walker Center is a nonprofit education and retreat center and residential complex. We support and develop transformative and creative educational efforts that promote a more just and peace-filled world. We focus our work on nonprofit organizations, faith leaders, and faith-based and interreligious communities. Our 150 year history as a "house of hospitality" and our inviting 2.2 acre campus in Newton offer a unique and potent space for learning and living together.

Walker Center's **mission** is to foster ecumenical and interreligious communities where people are educated and empowered to work for peace and justice. By this vision we pursue the great vision of beloved community, that embraces all of creation.

Our **core values** are: to be welcoming to all (especially those who are marginalized in society), to prioritize community, to provide opportunities for communities to learn and grow in holistic, creative, empowering, and fun ways, to promote critical thinking and open-mindedness, to encourage inclusivity and partnership among religious persons and groups, and to actively pursue a more just and peaceful world together.

About the Campus

Walker Center began as a Christian-oriented missionary housing almost 150 years ago. Since then the organization, its mission, and its focus have evolved, but one thing has been a constant for decades: We have been a vibrant, affordable, and diverse community for area students training to become religious leaders.

We have shifted to a more ecumenical and interreligious focus, and we have expanded our understanding of what "religious leadership" looks like. Yet our housing continues to be a living opportunity unlike any other in the greater Boston area for graduate students of diverse backgrounds and perspectives, united in the belief that religious communities can and should *repair the world* together.



Beginning in 2019, the Barton Community will consist of all four residential units:

- The original 8,000 square-foot **Barton House**, with 11 single rooms and 4 couples' suites
- **Howard House**, with two single rooms and two couples' studios
- **Hume House**, with four single rooms
- **Harding Apartment**, with room for two students, or a family

We also have significant green space on the campus, for gardening, hanging out, or relaxing, and we occasionally host cookouts for the community! Even though we feel outside of the Boston cityscape, **we are a 7-minute walk from the Riverside Station on the Green D MBTA line** – and so many of our residents use public transportation to get around. We do have parking on the campus for a monthly fee – although we are limited in parking space, we are looking to expand in time for the 2019-2020 school year.

The Barton Community Program

For many years Walker Center has partnered with **Boston University's School of Theology** to offer intentional community living out of the Howard House. As a community they have focused on eco-justice and environmentally-conscious living together. Now in 2019 as Howard House joins the rest of the Barton Community, BUSTH will continue to be a partner with this intentional community project in exciting ways. And eco-justice, and environmentally-conscious living, will continue to be a vital part of the *whole* community's life together.

In 2017, Walker Center also teamed up with the [Miller Center for Interreligious Learning](#), based out of Hebrew College. This partnership explores how to create an interreligious, intercultural community of student religious leaders, that models the kind of global community that we so desperately need to cultivate. The Miller Center, which grew out of the CIRCLE program co-sponsored by Hebrew College and what used to be known as Andover Newton Theological School, specializes in promoting interreligious learning and leadership, and sponsors one to two student-fellows to live in the Barton Community. The student-fellows play a critical role in leading the community's interreligious activities and events.

As we welcome student-participants from any area graduate program, we network with such programs to encourage diverse and engaged students to apply for the housing, as well as to join us in helping us envision what the Barton Community is and can become in the future.

Our Purpose and Practices

The purpose of the Barton Community at Walker is to be an **intentional, intercultural, and interreligious** community among area graduate students and future religious leaders.

In so doing, we hope that Barton Community models the kind of global society that we believe our various religious traditions ask us to help cultivate. Along the way, we hope that residents develop critical leadership capacities to help bring hope and healing to our intercultural and interreligious world.



As part of their overall learning experience, Residents of Barton Community commit to community practices, that fall under the following three categories:

- **Meals and Community-Building:** Residents find time to sit, eat, and/or talk with other residents at least once a week. Residents also participate in online community forums and pay attention to community announcements.
- **Responsibilities:** Residents clean up after themselves, and participate in group house cleaning (in Barton House, this is typically a 2-hour commitment every 3 weeks). Residents also elect to sign up for various community responsibilities, such as gardening, composting, window weatherizing, hosting a community gathering, leading a meditation/prayer service, etc.
- **Experiences:** Each month residents will have an opportunity to participate in a workshop, experience, or event as a group. These might be on-campus workshops, or off-campus field trips to a local area worship experience.

The Barton Community seeks to balance both the *commitment* and the *freedom* necessary to cultivate authentic community, with a specific focus on building bridges across differences:

- All residents are asked to sign a covenant, which states their commitment to participate in weekly meals, regular group house cleaning, participate in one or more monthly activities, one community retreat each semester, and to take on one or more community responsibilities.
- Residents will have the freedom to schedule meals and other events, as best as possible, around their school and work obligations. Residents and small groups will have some choices regarding their community responsibilities, and they will be allowed to pass on one to two monthly events over the course of the year.

In exchange for participating in this covenant, **the resident will be provided affordable housing with all standard utilities** (heat, electric, water, trash/recycling, wireless internet, and cable TV in the common room) included in the monthly rent. The only potential additional charges are for: optional parking (\$50 per month per car, if space allows), laundry (some house laundry machines are coin-op, others are household machines with a surcharge built into the rent), optional air conditioning (efficient window units must be rented from Walker Center, for \$35 per month), a \$2 composting service fee, and optional breakfasts or other meals cooked at the main kitchen in Walker House (when available).

Prerequisites for Housing

- **Candidates must be admitted into an accredited graduate degree program.**
- **Candidates should be one of the following:**
 - (a) actively belong to a religious tradition, and be enrolled in a program in the humanities or social sciences
 - (b) be enrolled in a formal professional religious or religious educational program (e.g. a seminary or a rabbinical school)
 - (c) be enrolled in a graduate-level research-centered degree program, or be a visiting scholar, in a religious-related field
 - (d) be enrolled in a formal practical training program with a supervisory component (an internship, field work, clinical pastoral education, chaplaincy intern program, etc.)
 - (e) be an active spiritual seeker who is interested in interreligious conversations and wishes to participate in them in dialogical and constructive ways, enrolled in a program in the humanities or social sciences
- **Ideal candidates should be able to articulate:**
 - How their religious commitments and/or spiritual journey played a role in choosing their degree program

- How their religious commitments and/or spiritual journey affects the way they view those who identify with other cultures and/or religious commitments
- How their religious commitments and/or spiritual journey compel them to participate in an interreligious community
- How they believe their participation in the Barton Community will benefit their personal and professional goals

- **Candidates must express their willingness to sign a covenant as to their commitment to the community's core practices. In their rental contract they must agree to the terms of the intentional community as set forth by the Walker Center Board of Trustees.**
- **Candidates should be willing to share general information about their life story and background in events organized by the Walker Center and to talk about their living experience for marketing purposes.**
- **We strongly encourage international candidates to apply. To be eligible they must hold, or have applied for, a valid student visa covering the entire period of their intended studies.**

NOTE: Barton Community can accommodate single graduate students, and couples with at least one partner enrolled as a student. Families with children over the age of ten, with one guardian enrolled as a student, may also apply to live in an available suite or apartment.



HOW TO APPLY

· **Candidates must submit a minimum of FOUR ITEMS to be considered for residency:**

- A **completed application** (the form below)
- A **personal statement** that addresses why they wish to live and participate in the Barton community, its core practices, and its focus on developing interreligiously-minded leaders. How would living in Barton benefit your work? Do you have any particular gifts, skills, or past experiences that would enrich this community? Etc.
- **Two letters of reference.** References should be recent (within the past year is preferred) and at least one or both should (ideally) be able to lend credence to your expressed desire to participate in the Barton community, its core practices, and/or its interreligious focus. We also look for demonstration of high character, experience in community living, etc.
- Optionally, you may submit additional references, and/or a curriculum vitae (CV).
- Additionally, we frequently reach out to applicants as we review your application, to ask questions about their application, or oftentimes just to talk to them and to get to know them a little better.

Acceptance is granted by a committee and is based upon strength of application and perceived fit in the community, date applied, and anticipated length of program, among other factors. If someone is accepted but no rooms are available, the student or family can be placed on a waiting list and will be informed as soon as housing becomes available for them.

APPLICATION TO RESIDE

Part 1 of 4: Please Answer the Following Questions:

Full Name: _____

Nickname, if used: _____

Please circle: Female Male Transgender Non-Binary

Permanent Address: _____

Country of Citizenship: _____

Telephone/Cell Number: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

For International Students

Passport Number: _____ Type of Visa: _____

Issue Date: _____ Country where issued: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Are you currently living in the United States? If so, for how long?

Name of institution at which you are enrolled or intend to be enrolled in a graduate degree program: _____

Major Field of study: _____

Degree you are seeking: _____

Anticipated month and year of graduation: _____

Anticipated date of needed housing: _____

Anticipated duration of needed housing: _____

Religious Affiliation: _____

Are you an ordained religious leader? Yes No

If you are not ordained, are you a candidate for ordination? Yes No

Are you a religious scholar who is not seeking ordination? Yes No

Will your spouse, partner, and/or children be living with you? Yes No

Name of spouse or partner, if applicable: _____

Names(s) and birth dates of children, if applicable: _____

Please provide the names, phone numbers and email addresses of at least two persons who will be providing letters of reference for you:

1.

2.

Part 2 of 4: Personal Statement

Along with this form, please submit a personal statement that addresses why you want to live at The Walker Center and be part of our intentional community. You may include your professional and/or academic goals, interests, and/or any experiences that may be relevant to living at The Walker Center. (See "How to Apply" above for more details.)

Part 3 of 4: Letters of Reference

Please ask the two contacts listed above to each provide a short letter of reference on your behalf. (See "How to Apply" above for more details.)

Part 4 of 4: Email, Fax, or Mail your Application, Personal Statement and Letters of Reference

Contact: Josh Lunde-Whitler, Executive Co-Director
Phone: +1 617-969-3919 ext. 3
Email: director@walkerctr.org
Fax: 617-244-0690

Mail: Admissions Review Committee
C/o Walker Center
144 Hancock Street
Newton, MA 02466

Thank you for submitting your application! We will be in touch after your application is considered by the Admissions Review Committee. Until then, please email or call with any questions—and if you are able, you are encouraged to schedule an appointment to come visit.



www.walkerctr.org/grad-student-housing.html