



# Keeping Faith at Princeton: A Brief History of Religious Pluralism at Princeton and Other Universities

*Frederick Houk Borsch*

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## **Keeping Faith at Princeton: A Brief History of Religious Pluralism at Princeton and Other Universities** Frederick Houk Borsch

In 1981, Frederick Houk Borsch returned to Princeton University, his alma mater, to serve as dean of the chapel at the Ivy League school. In *Keeping Faith at Princeton*, Borsch tells the story of Princeton's journey from its founding in 1746 as a college for Presbyterian ministers to the religiously diverse institution it is today. He sets this landmark narrative history against the backdrop of his own quest for spiritual illumination, first as a student at Princeton in the 1950s and later as campus minister amid the turmoil and uncertainty of 1980s America.

Borsch traces how the trauma of the Depression and two world wars challenged the idea of progress through education and religion--the very idea on which Princeton was founded. Even as the numbers of students gaining access to higher education grew exponentially after World War II, student demographics at Princeton and other elite schools remained all male, predominantly white, and Protestant. Then came the 1960s. Campuses across America became battlegrounds for the antiwar movement, civil rights, and gender equality. By the dawn of the Reagan era, women and blacks were being admitted to Princeton. So were greater numbers of Jews, Catholics, and others. Borsch gives an electrifying insider's account of this era of upheaval and great promise.

With warmth, clarity, and penetrating firsthand insights, *Keeping Faith at Princeton* demonstrates how Princeton and other major American universities learned to promote religious diversity among their students, teachers, and administrators.

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