

## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM

Pastoral Leadership is the organizing theme of the seminary's DMin program. Through reflection on pastoral leadership, the program offers ways of empowering pastors and ministerial leaders to open up the resources and potential of mainline congregations and agencies for participating in the "praxis of God." This phrase, coined by theologian Peter Hodgson, points toward our conviction that pastoral leadership, as opposed to other forms of leadership, involves a dynamic interplay between contemplation of the activity of God, now and throughout history, and energetic participation in that activity.

The MDiv degree is the academic foundation of the DMin program, and experience in the art and practices of ministry is the practical foundation. Accordingly, applicants to the DMin program are expected to be familiar with the theological disciplines of Biblical Studies, History of Christianity, Systematic Theology, and Practical Theology. They must also have significant professional experience in ministry. ATS, the seminary's primary accrediting association, defines that as a minimum of 3 years of full-time ministry following the completion of the MDiv degree. Academic preparation and experience in ministry enable applicants to identify certain aspects or issues in ministry on which they wish to focus in their doctoral studies.

### Purpose

The purpose of the DMin program at Phillips Theological Seminary is to empower women and men who hold the MDiv degree and are already engaged in various Christian ministries of the church to develop further the talents, competencies, and skills necessary for leading churches in meeting the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Program Goals

Students in the DMin program in Pastoral Leadership will develop their abilities to:

1. act as responsible contextual theologians demonstrating advanced skills in biblical studies, history of Christianity, and theology;
2. exercise advanced skills in pastoral leadership specific to the student's area of specialization;
3. integrate theological research with the praxis of ministry within a particular context, and with critical studies in arts, culture and the sciences in order to craft an in depth study of a specialized area of ministry that will serve the local community and the broader church.

### Degree requirements

The DMin program requires a minimum of 32 semester-hours of work, including 9 hours in the Foundation phase, 16 hours in the Specialization phase, and 7 hours in the Project phase. Students should plan for a minimum of four years and a maximum of six years to complete the degree.

### Curriculum

Students apply to one of three Specializations in which they will concentrate their work:

- **Pastoral Leadership in Homiletics** (PLH; admitting students in 2011)
- **Pastoral Leadership in Church and Society**
- **Pastoral Leadership in Spiritual Formation**

The coursework is divided as follows:

**Foundation Phase: 9 semester-hours in Foundation Courses**

(required for DMin students in all specializations):

- DMIN 807 Pastoral Leadership in Context (3 hrs)
- DMIN 808 The Biblical Message and the Praxis of God (3 hrs)
- DMIN 809 Constructive Theology of Ministry (3 hrs)

**Specialization Phase: 16 semester-hours in Specialization**

Seminars related to a student's chosen specializations (See DMin Courses of Instruction for detailed descriptions)

**Project Phase: 7 semester-hours in Proposal/Project Courses**

(required for DMin students in all specializations):

- DMPR 904 Project Development Seminar I (.5 hr)
- DMPR 905 Project Development Seminar II (2.5 hrs)
- DMPR 902 Project Proposal Course (2 hrs)
- DMPR 906 Project Course (2 hrs)

On completion of at least one Foundation course, students will enter into the Specialization phase and begin taking courses in their chosen specializations. Each student will also begin individual work on her or his project which provides the substance for the Project phase.

All Foundation phase and Project phase courses and many Specialization phase courses are taught on the PTS campus during DMin Fortnights (two concurrent weeks) at the end of June and the beginning of January. Some Specialization phase courses may be taught online or in other formats.

In the Project phase, which includes 7 hours of the total program, DMin students work directly with a faculty adviser and reader on an original project that makes a contribution to the study and practice of ministry within their chosen specialization. After they complete the Specialization coursework and Project Development Seminar I, they will be assigned an adviser and reader by the DMin director. These persons will be selected in consultation with each student and in light of her or his particular direction of the proposal. Please note that the specialization coordinator of any specialization will be limited in the number of students for whom he or she may serve as adviser or reader.

All project advisers and readers must be Phillips Theological Seminary faculty members and available in all semesters (including summer terms) in which their assigned students are enrolled in Project phase coursework. For a student who has completed the Specialization phase coursework at the Counseling and Mediation Center in Wichita, one reader must be a faculty member on the staff of that partner institution.

Once a student is enrolled in the Project Proposal Course, she or he will begin work on designing her or his own project. If a student does not pass the Project Proposal Course or the Project Course by receiving approval from adviser, reader, and DMin director on a final draft, in the following semester he or she will enroll in Project Proposal Continuation Course or Project Continuation Course. Most students do not pass the Project Proposal Course or the Project Course the first time they enroll in it. A student may enroll in either continuation course for three consecutive semesters (counting the summer term as a semester). If, after three semesters of enrollment in the continuation courses, the student is unable to present an acceptable proposal or project, he or she may be terminated from the program, or allowed to re-enroll in the Project Proposal or Project course.

## **Candidacy**

Once a student's project proposal has been passed by adviser, reader, specialization coordinator and DMin director and the student has completed all Foundation and Specialization coursework with a 3.0 or better GPA, the student becomes a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Ministry.

## **The Oral Presentation**

When the project adviser and reader approve the project report, they notify the DMin director who assists the student in making arrangements for the oral presentation. The DMin director invites all full-time PTS faculty and the faculty of partner institutions to read the project report and attend the oral presentation. The DMin candidate, the adviser, the reader, the lead professor of the appropriate track and the DMin director or the director's designated alternate are required to attend.

During the oral presentation, which lasts approximately two hours, any faculty member may ask the DMin candidate questions about the project and project report. Toward the end of the presentation, the candidate will be asked to leave the room. The faculty members in attendance will discuss the report and come to consensus on whether to accept it, return it for revisions, or reject it. If the report is accepted, the candidate is approved for graduation. If the report is returned for revisions, the candidate must revise it with the help of the project adviser and reader, who may require another oral presentation. A candidate is allowed a maximum of two oral presentations. If the report is not accepted in two presentations, the candidate will be dismissed from the program.

The oral presentation must be satisfactorily completed by February 28 of the academic year if the student wishes to graduate in May of that year.

Project Proposals and Project Reports must be prepared according to the form guidelines in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Final copies of the DMin report with approval page, abstract, copyright approval form, and library invoice must be submitted and approved by the DMin director and the dean at least two weeks prior to graduation. A standard administrative fee (\$75 in 2011-2012) is charged for all DMin project reports at the time that approval is requested. This fee covers the binding of two copies for the library and other related administrative expenses. Students must submit to the library two copies of the final project report on acid-free document bond or 100% cotton bond paper. They may submit additional personal copies for binding for a fee.

Failure to meet all deadlines, format and fee requirements for a completed D.Min project can prevent a student from participating in graduation exercises and delay receipt of one's diploma.

## **Pastoral Leadership in Homiletics**

This specialization is designed to enable pastors to gain greater clarity in preaching as a major function of congregational leadership and to develop their preaching gifts and abilities in service to the proclamation of God's work in the world. The specialization coordinator is Dr. Richard F. Ward, Fred B. Craddock Associate Professor of Homiletics and Worship. In addition to the Foundation and Project phase courses listed above, students in this track will enroll in three required courses and one elective arranged by the student, the specialization coordinator and the DMin director. These required courses of the Specialization phase are normally taught during the DMin Fortnights. For course descriptions see "Doctor of Ministry Program: Courses of Instruction" at the back of this catalog.

Graduates of this DMin program will be prepared to exercise advanced skills in homiletics including abilities to:

- a) Articulate an understanding of preaching as a function of pastoral leadership that is grounded in theological and biblical reflection and responsive to the history of Christianity particularly as it is reflected in student's own denominational heritage
- b) Utilize comprehensive analysis of a congregational setting as a tool for understanding the effectiveness of preaching in a given situation
- c) Demonstrate advanced skills in biblical exegesis, sermon construction, and oral and visual communication (e.g., spatial considerations, use of digital and electronic media).

### **Pastoral Leadership in Church and Society**

In this specialization ministers will be offered opportunities to reflect on theoretical and theological themes as they relate to significant cultural issues like gender, race, and interfaith relations and to develop community organizing skills for leading churches and their institutions toward social transformation. A key component of this track will be at least one national or international immersion experience led by a member of the PTS faculty. The specialization coordinator is Dr. Joe Bessler, Robert Travis Peake Associate Professor of Theology. In addition to the Foundation and Project phase courses listed above, students in this track will enroll in two required courses taught during a DMin Fortnight, a required immersion experience (normally taught during a DMin Fortnight), and one elective arranged by the student, the lead professor and the DMin director. For course descriptions see "Doctor of Ministry Program: Courses of Instruction" at the back of this catalog.

Graduates of this DMin program will be prepared to exercise advanced skills in church and society issues including abilities to:

- a) Articulate an understanding of bringing about social change as a function of pastoral leadership that is grounded in theological and biblical reflection and responsive to the history of Christianity particularly as it is reflected in student's own denominational heritage;
- b) Articulate and critique important cultural issues surrounding race, gender, economic and cultural globalization, and interfaith relations from a theological/biblical standpoint; and
- c) Develop strategies for community engagement and change around particular issues of common concern.

### **Pastoral Leadership in Church and Society: Women in Ministry**

This version of the Pastoral Leadership for Church and Society specialization, that will open in summer 2012, will focus on issues and concerns for women in ministry as they work with their communities in the ongoing praxis of God in the world. Students will be engaged in four tasks:

- a) Recovering the history of women in the Christian movement since its beginning.
- b) Reclaiming authority and responsibility for ministry within the whole people of God.
- c) Reconstructing roles and tasks based on new understandings of what it means to be gendered in this western 21<sup>st</sup> century society.
- d) Reenvisioning possibilities for human community faithful to the way of Jesus and responsive to the needs of all people.

Ellen Blue, Mouzon Biggs, Jr. Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and United Methodist Studies, will serve as specialization coordinator.

Graduates of this DMin specialization will be prepared to exercise advanced skills in leadership including abilities to:

- a) Articulate an understanding of social change as a function of pastoral leadership that is grounded in theological and biblical reflection and responsive to the histories of Christianity particularly in relation to women and the student's own denominational heritage;
- b) Articulate and engage from a theological, biblical and ethical standpoint important cultural issues surrounding gender as it intersects with race, economic and cultural globalization, and interfaith relations;
- c) Develop justice-seeking strategies for community engagement and social change around particular issues of common concern;
- d) Develop models for being church that build upon values of gender inclusivity, diversity and collaborative and transformative leadership.

### **Pastoral Leadership in Spiritual Formation**

In this specialization, spiritual formation is understood as the intentional activity of attending, discerning, and responding to the initiative of God in ways accountable to Christian communities, scriptures, and traditions. Students will retrieve, re-imagine, and critically re-appropriate Christian spiritual traditions and practices as resources for leading various communities that participate in the praxis of God in the world. The curriculum is designed for pastoral leaders who want to integrate critical reflection with spiritual practice through a holistic lens, honoring the rich complexity of human ways of knowing and relating to the divine. Students will participate in an ongoing conversation among experience, Christian spiritual traditions and diverse cultures which leads to reflective action. Dr. Nancy Claire Pittman, Associate Professor of the Practice of Ministry, is the specialization coordinator.

In addition to regular coursework, students will be required to participate throughout the Specialization phase in an ongoing "rule of life" which they write for themselves in the first Specialization course. They will also be required to select and engage in a continuing relationship with a spiritual director/friend/companion.

Graduates of this DMin program will be prepared to exercise advanced skills in spiritual formation including abilities to:

- a) Articulate an understanding of the development of spiritual formation as a function of pastoral leadership that is grounded in theological and biblical reflection and responsive to the history of Christianity particularly as it is reflected in student's own denominational heritage;
- b) Articulate a critical understanding of the traditions of Christian spirituality as resources for the formation of individual Christians and their churches in conversation with other disciplines and traditions of learning (e.g., non-Christian religions, western biology, philosophy, and social sciences);
- c) Utilize and teach techniques for attending, discerning and responding to the initiative of God in ways accountable to Christian communities, scriptures and traditions.