Doctor of Ministry:
Pastoral Leadership
in the Renewal
of Christian Vocation

Information Packet

January 2009
Pastoral Leadership in the Renewal of Christian Vocation

The vocation of all Christians, says Thomas Merton, is to share in God’s life and in God’s kingdom. He writes, “For each one of us, there is only one thing necessary: to fulfill our own destiny . . . to be what God wants us to be.”

This may be a truism, but too often we ministers use the word to refer exclusively to the vocation of a professional class of clergy, inadvertently forgetting that vocation is a matter of concern for all people. In fact, here at Phillips Theological Seminary, we would say that the vocation of all Christians is to follow the way of Jesus in all aspects of our lives—in families, in workplaces, in markets, in towns, in faith communities, in nations, and as global citizens. And we would add that churches also have unique vocations to be more than a replication of what we once were. Churches also are called to embrace new models of faithfulness and mission to the God who calls all of us into life.

The pastor as teaching minister is uniquely placed to help all people discover or re-interpret their own vocation as witnesses to the work of Jesus. As such, she or he must continue to develop practices in interpreting the various contexts in which Christians live and work, in re-appropriating resources in the Christian tradition for perceiving the way of Jesus in these contexts, and in teaching Christians to attend, discern, and respond to the activity of God in the world.

Specialization Coordinator

Dr. McGarrah Sharp, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and Ethics, will serve as coordinator for this DMin specialization. With a firm belief that courageous self-awareness, communal awareness and intercultural awareness are vital for ministry, she is especially interested in bringing resources from the interdisciplinary field of postcolonial studies into conversation with theological study and formation. In her courses, she hopes to help students develop meaningful and responsible practices of caring for the variety of needs within increasingly diverse congregations, hospitals, and other ministry contexts. In addition to the introductory courses in pastoral care and ethics, Dr. McGarrah Sharp also challenges students to think about how questions of diversity impact specific areas of care with persons, families, and congregations. She was influenced to think more critically about culture with her experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Suriname, South America. She is also trained as a hospital clinical ethics consultant and currently consults with Hillcrest Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma.


Dr. McGarrah Sharp teaches introductory courses in pastoral theology and ethics. Recent elective courses focus on ethics and care around questions of sexuality and contemporary forms of violence. She continues to craft a collaborative online pedagogy for the introductory course in pastoral care, co-presenting and co-leading discussions at the Society for Pastoral Theology, American Academy of Religion, and Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning. Before coming to Phillips Theological Seminary, she taught in the areas of pastoral theology, Christian ethics, and theologies of religious pluralism both at Vanderbilt University and with the Course of Study program for licensed local pastors in the United Methodist Church.

Dr. McGarrah Sharp is an active lay member in the United Methodist Church. She regularly leads Sunday School classes at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on sustainability and faith. She has led workshops and courses in creativity and spiritual formation. She is trained as a leader for the *Way of the Child* (Wynn McGregor, 2006) curriculum for children.

### Program Goals

Graduates of this DMin specialization will be prepared to:

1. Act as responsible contextual theologians demonstrating advanced skills in biblical studies, history of Christianity, and theology.

2. Exercise advanced skills in leadership including abilities to:
   a. Articulate a theology of vocation;
   b. Empower agency of all Christians in living as followers of Jesus in the world;
   c. Attend, discern, and respond in the various environments of laypersons (i.e., the workplace, family and partnership, neighborhoods, etc.) in conversation with relevant theologies (i.e., stewardship, ecology, hospitality, work and Sabbath, childrearing, etc.);
   d. Analyze and interpret contexts, not only of ministry settings, but also of the context in which people live and practice their faith;
   e. Develop strategies for transforming programmatic life of congregations to support faithful and effective Christian living in the world;
   f. Teach wisdom for living Christian life through theological reflection.

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.

### Overview of Course Work

The 32 semester hours of the DMin program in Pastoral Leadership in the Renewal of Christian Vocation are distributed in 3 phases as follows:

**Foundation Phase:** 9 hours in Foundation Courses:
- 3 hrs Pastoral Leadership in Context
- 3 hrs The Biblical Message and the Praxis of God
- 3 hrs Constructive Theology of Ministry: Vocation

**Specialization Phase:** 16 hours in Specialization Seminars:
- 4 hrs Ethics of Christian Work and Life
- 4 hrs Ecclesiologies and Communal Life
- 4 hrs Pastoral Leadership for the Learning Congregation
- 4 hrs Elective related to DMin project
**Project Phase:** 7 hours in Proposal and Project Courses:
- .5 hr  Project Development Seminar I
- 2.5 hrs  Project Development Seminar II
- 2 hrs  Project Proposal Course
- 2 hrs  Project Course

Most courses will be taught in January and June for two-week periods called “**DMin Fortnights.**” These fortnights will begin on Tuesday of the first week and continue through Wednesday or Thursday of the second week (depending upon the required contact hours of each course). On Friday of the second week the Project Development Seminar II will meet (see below).

During DMin Fortnights students and faculty will gather for morning worship at 8:30 a.m. Classes will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with an hour and a half for lunch and appropriate breaks.

The first DMin Fortnight for this specialization is **June 17-28, 2013** at the PTS campus in Tulsa. Orientation will begin Monday morning, June 17. The first Foundation course, “Pastoral Leadership in Context,” begins Tuesday morning, June 18. Students will be required to read and prepare some assigned materials beforehand.

**The dates for subsequent DMin Fortnights are:**
- January 6-17, 2014
- June 16-27, 2014
- January 5-16, 2015
- June 22-July 3, 2015
- January 4-15, 2016
- June 20-July 1, 2016
- January 2-13, 2017
- June 19-30, 2017

**Tuition and Financial Aid**

The tuition rate for all PTS students is $400.00 per semester hour; all DMin students receive seminary tuition assistance of approximately 19% which decreases their tuition to $325.00 per semester hour. Service fees for DMin students are $100.00 per semester.

For students who complete the degree in 4 years (3 semesters per year) the approximate costs would include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition for 32 hours (at $325 per hour)</td>
<td>$10,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student fees for 12 semesters</td>
<td>1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuation Fees</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matriculation and graduation fees</td>
<td>130</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,230</strong></td>
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Application Information

Applications are available in the PTS Admissions Office or at the PTS Website. **PLEASE NOTE:** The deadline for application to this specialization, beginning in June 2013, is **March 15, 2013.**
Foundation Phase Courses

Pastoral Leadership in Context  
June 18-26, 2013  
**Instructor:** Dr. Nancy Claire Pittman, Associate Professor of the Practice of Ministry and DMin Director

In this course students will engage and critique current leadership concepts and theories drawn from Christian traditions and a variety of current disciplines and arenas. In addition, students will be introduced to methods of analysis of the various contexts in which Christian living occurs, including their own ministerial settings. Lectures, large and small group discussions of readings, and case studies are among the methods that will be used to achieve the outcomes of the course.

The Biblical Message and the Praxis of God: Re-imagining Christian Community  
January 7-15, 2014  
**Instructor:** Dr. Dennis E. Smith, LaDonna Kramer Meinders Professor of New Testament

Students in this foundational course in biblical studies will explore biblical paradigms that define a theological approach to the practice of ministry specific to this specialization. The focus will be on texts in Paul and the Gospels which witness to the early phases of Christian community formation and provide a paradigm for reimagining the process of Christian community and identity formation today.

Constructive Theology of Ministry: Vocation  
June 16-27, 2014  
**Instructor:** Dr. Joe Bessler, Robert Travis Peake Associate Professor of Theology

This foundational course in theology is designed to clarify and deepen students’ theological perspectives as they begin their studies. The course prepares students for the final project by requiring students to situate the vital tasks, practices, and prayer-life of ministry within an explicit theological framework. Readings, in-class work, and assignments will encourage competence in understanding contemporary theological methods and skill in articulating a vision of the Christian faith for our time and context. In this specialization issues receiving special attention will include attention to the theme of embodiment with special emphasis on the topics of vocation, work, and vulnerability in discerning various shapes of the Christian life.
Specialization Phase Courses

Ethics of Christian Work and Life
Instructor: Dr. Melinda McGarrah Sharp, Assistant Professor of Congregational Care and Ethics
January 5-16, 2015

In this course, students will examine ethical dimensions of decisions and practices Christians confront throughout their lives. An ethics of vocation considers work and life to present regular moral dilemmas and opportunities for exercising moral imagination. This course will use a case study method to study ethics in the contexts of relationships, identities, healthcare, work and sabbath, family, birthing, living and dying. In addition, the course will attend to a larger framework of contextual moral reflection around themes of environment, creation, and technology.

Ecclesiologies and Communal Life
Instructors: Dr. Sarah Morice Brubaker, Assistant Professor of Theology and Dr. Nancy Claire Pittman
June 22-July 3, 2015

In this class students will explore a variety of contemporary models of church and the kinds of vocation they encourage. Special attention will be given not only to re-imagining Christian theologies of church but also to current emphases on the transformation movement as it is expressed in various denominational programs and other forms of church in the 21st century.

Pastoral Leadership for the Learning Congregation
Instructor: Dr. Melinda McGarrah Sharp
January 4-15, 2016

In this course, students will examine sites of ministry as learning communities by engaging educational theories that affirm the importance of teaching and learning to Christian vocation independent of the particular form that one’s life’s work takes. The course assumes that leaders in faith communities serve as teachers and hosts to learning for all people. Students will reimagine teaching for transformation as central to the life and work of the church through attention to philosophies of teaching, ethics of teaching, cultural aspects of teaching, and various practices of teaching that support a vibrant life of learning that is part of a life of faith.

Elective Course

Each student, in consultation with the DMin Director and the coordinator of this specialization, will select or design one course that relates to her or his proposed project. This course may be chosen from MDiv course offerings at PTS (additional work will be required) or DMin Specialization courses for other tracks. It may also consist of an independent study with an appropriate faculty member.
Project Phase Courses

**Project Development Seminar I**  
**Instructor:** Dr. Nancy Claire Pittman  
**January 16, 2014**

This course will serve as an introduction to the art and craft of developing a DMin project, methods for research in ministry, and the process of writing a project. Students will participate in this course after completing the second Foundation Course.

**Project Development Seminar II**  
**Instructor:** Dr. Nancy Claire Pittman  
**June 27, 2014**

This course will meet, on an ongoing basis, on the 2nd Friday of every DMin Fortnight from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This course will be required for all students in the Specialization and Project Phases. Students must participate in a minimum of 5 sessions.

The goal of the Project Development Seminar II is to facilitate peer learning as a tool for achieving clarity about students’ research and project interests. Regardless of their year or track in the program, students will meet in seminar format with the DMin Director and one other faculty member to present versions of their proposal to one another, to participate in discussion of the proposals of other students, and to report progress toward completion of the project. Students will also be given opportunity to present materials related to their research interests, ministry settings, and Specialization Track concerns. These materials may take various forms, i.e., case studies, book reviews, sermons, exegetical papers, verbatims, etc.

**Project Proposal Course**

This course will be arranged between student and advisor. The reader will also be consulted. When a proposal has been accepted by advisor, reader, and DMin Director, the student will be granted candidacy for the DMin degree.

**Project Course**

Students enroll in this course after passing the Project Proposal Course. It is also arranged between student and advisor; again, the reader and DMin Director will be consulted as needed.
Schedule of Classes

First Year:
June Fortnight 2013  
Pastoral Leadership in Context (3 hrs)

January Fortnight 2014  
The Biblical Message and the Praxis of God (3 hrs)  
Project Development Seminar I (2nd Thursday, .5 hr)

Second Year:
June Fortnight 2014  
Constructive Theology of Ministry (3 hrs)

January Fortnight 2015  
Ethics of Christian Work and Life (4 hrs)  
Project Development Seminar II #1 (2nd Friday, .5 hr.)

Third Year:
June Fortnight 2015  
Ecclesiologies and Communal Life (4 hrs)  
Project Development Seminar II #2 (2nd Friday, .5 hr.)

January Fortnight 2015  
Pastoral Leadership for the Learning Congregation (4 hrs)  
Project Development Seminar II #3 (2nd Friday, .5 hr)

Spring Semester 2016  
Renewal in Christian Vocation Elective (4 hrs; arranged)  
Project Proposal Course (2 hrs; arranged)

Fourth Year:
June Fortnight 2016  
Project Development Seminar II #4 (2nd Friday, .5 hr)  
Project Proposal Course (2 hrs; arranged for Summer Semester)

Fall Semester 2016  
Project Course (2 hrs; arranged)

January Fortnight 2017  
Project Development Seminar II #5 (2nd Friday, .5 hr)

Spring Semester 2017  
Project Course (continued; arranged)  
Oral Presentation

May  
Graduation!!!