Doctor of Ministry Degree Program: Homiletics Concentration

Program Overview

Purpose
The purpose of the Homiletics concentration is to offer theological leadership and education in the homiletical task. Preaching has become more challenging in a culture dominated by electronic media and the influence of a postmodern value system. At the same time, much exciting work has been done in homiletics in the last three decades to assist the pastor as preacher. Concordia Seminary desires to help bring pastors together with these expanding homiletical horizons to improve the preaching in our churches.

Objectives

1. To give pastors opportunities to improve their skills, knowledge, and appreciation of the preaching task.
2. To uphold and affirm the Reformation heritage of preaching, particularly its importance and distinctive role in Lutheran theology and the Lutheran church.
3. To understand and evaluate the changing perspectives and expectations of the role of preaching in congregational life.
4. To be able to discern problems and challenges of the homiletical task in one’s distinctive context of ministry, and to pursue research in the area of preaching which will further the understanding and practice of homiletics.

General D.Min. Requirements

Total credit hours: 45, consisting of the following:

0 hrs – Orientation:
• DM-000 Orientation to the Doctor of Ministry

6 hrs – Two courses (3 hrs each) within the disciplines of Exegetical, Historical, and Systematic Theology

24 hrs – Classes required for the Homiletics Concentration:
• DM-923 Preaching and Worship (6 hrs)
• DM-925 Current Trends in Homiletics (6 hrs)
Electives in the concentration (12 hrs)

12 hrs – Free electives

3 hrs – D.Min. Research Project
• DM-995 Project Research and Writing (3 hrs)
• DM-996 Major Applied Project
Distinctive Concentration Requirements

• DM-923 Preaching and Worship (6 hrs)
  This seminar will explore the ramifications of the sermon situated within the context of worship. The inner relatedness of worship and preaching, maintaining the integrity of the text while recognizing the liturgical setting, and making use of worship resources for the preaching task will be particular emphases.

• DM-925 Current Trends in Homiletics (6 hrs)
  This seminar looks at the cultural context and theological bases that have given rise to recent trends in homiletics. Close examination of the current approaches of Craddock, Buttrick, Lowry, Jensen, Long, and others will lead to evaluations based on Lutheran theology and contemporary critical reviews. Opportunities for a discerning use of such approaches will be explored.

Classes Approved for Concentration

Other offerings that qualify for the Homiletics concentration are in the subjects of Law/Gospel distinction, creative preaching, history of preaching, proper use of rhetoric, exegesis and preaching, preaching distinctive biblical genres and texts, sermon structures, life application, and the theology of preaching. Classes offered include:

• DM-924 Preaching as Persuasion
• DM-926 Preaching and Teaching in Contemporary Culture
• DM-927 Preaching the Old Testament
• DM-928 Communication Skills for Pastors
• DM-929 Preaching and Sermon Structures
• DM-930 Preaching the Gospel Creatively
• DM-931 Preaching Law and Gospel
• DM-932 Using the Arts in Worship and Preaching
• DM-933 The Gospel according to Mark for Preaching and Teaching
• DM-934 Preaching Isaiah
• DM-936 Lutheran Hour Speakers on Preaching
• DM-937 Preaching That Connects the Word to the World
• DM-938 Doctrinal Preaching
• DM-978 The Biblical Text as the Basis for Preaching
• DM-979 Exegesis of Pericopes
• DM-981 The Gospel of Matthew and the Parish Pastor
• DM-989 Theology of Preaching
• DM-990 History of Preaching

Instructors

Those who teach and lead the D.Min. classes include members of Concordia Seminary’s resident faculty. These are supplemented by a choice selection of guest instructors including synodical leaders and parish pastors who have demonstrated expertise in their fields. All teachers are dedicated to the application of confessional Lutheran theology to the contemporary concerns of parish ministry.
Financial Information
Note: Information provided here applies to current (2014-15) tuition, fee, and housing rates. These rates may and probably will increase in the future.

The Cost of Tuition

45 credit hours are required to complete the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree. The current tuition rate is $675 per credit hour. No credit is awarded for the Major Applied Project, but a MAP fee of $2,025 is assessed to cover one year of work.

Financial aid covers 50 percent of tuition (not fees) and is applied automatically to all students admitted into the D.Min. program.

Formula for calculating tuition paid to complete the coursework toward the D.Min. degree:

\[ 45 \text{ hours} \times \$675/\text{hr} = 30,375 \times 50\% \text{ (fin aid)} = \$15,187.50 \]

Additional Seminary Fees

Payment of the following fees is also required:

- Application Fee $50
- Orientation Course Fee $365
- Technology Fees* $140
- Major Applied Project Fee $2,025
- **Total $2,580**

Room and Board

Students living near St. Louis may commute and thereby eliminate the cost of room and board. Students living at a distance may configure their program so that they lodge on the STL campus from three to five one-week stays.

The cost of a dormitory room (double occupancy) for one week (5 nights) is $150.

Lunch and/or dinner are available in the seminary cafeteria for $7.50/meal.

Books

Expenses for books can vary widely, depending upon a student’s preference for new books, e-books, used books, or available library books. It is estimated that the total cost of books will range from $750 to $1,500.

Travel

Expenses depend upon the distance one must travel to and from St. Louis.

Other Sources of Financial Support

On behalf of applicants/students who request it, the D.Min. director will send a letter encouraging the congregation to support its pastor’s continuing education in the D.Min. program at an amount of at least $2000 per year.
**Prerequisites and Admission**

For admission to the program, the applicant will have a fully accredited M.Div. degree equivalent to the one offered by Concordia Seminary with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale). The applicant shall have three years of experience in the parish or related ministry following completion of the M.Div. degree. He is to exhibit a professional competence that is above average, as attested by evaluations from his peers.

The following items are to be submitted to the Director of the D.Min. program before the application can be acted upon:

- Completed application form
- Four reference forms (one each from a fellow pastor, a congregational lay person, the district president, and the circuit counselor)
- Five-page statement covering the applicant’s professional experience and personal goals in the D.Min. program
- Statement from his congregation or agency approving his enrollment in the D.Min. program
- Official transcripts from each seminary previously attended
- $50 application fee