Doctor of Ministry Degree Program: Missional Leadership Concentration

Program Overview

Purpose

The Missional Leadership concentration is designed to prepare pastors for leadership of congregations in their place in the Mission of God (Missio Dei). It guides students in critical reflection on the theology, theory, and practice of leading the people of God to participate in the Mission of God in contemporary cultures. The Missional Leadership concentration seeks to transform pastors (and their congregations) in their commitment and ability to witness in word and deed to God’s salvation in Jesus Christ and to share the reconciling Gospel with those alienated from God by unbelief.

Objectives

1. To understand and articulate a coherent missiological perspective that is informed by the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.
2. To exercise missional leadership in a theologically competent and confident manner.
3. To be able to communicate the Gospel meaningfully to one’s cultural context and in cross-cultural and multi-cultural settings so that mission outreach is accomplished.
4. To be able to discern problems and challenges of missional leadership in one’s distinctive context of ministry, to pursue research, and to formulate missional solutions and strategies.

General D.Min. Requirements

Total credit hours: 45, composed 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 approved for the Missional Leadership Concentration:
   Required:
   • DM-947 Leadership and the Missio Dei (6 hrs)
   • DM-949 Leadership in Cross-Cultural Contexts (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-947 Leadership and the Missio Dei (6 hrs)

This seminar will present and reflect on a Lutheran conception of the church’s mission. Special attention will be given to the implications of a congregation’s life for its understanding of the mission, and also to the implications of a faithful theology of mission for the life of a congregation and its leaders.

• DM-949 Leadership in Cross Cultural Contexts (6 hrs)

This practicum provides cross-cultural engagement in a context that is different from the student’s ordinary ethnic and cultural setting. This will serve to broaden his perspective and awareness of opportunities for mission. It will cultivate cross-cultural skills that are useful for ministry in a society that is increasingly diverse ethnically, culturally, and linguistically.

Classes Approved for Concentration

Other offerings that qualify for the Missional Leadership concentration are in the subjects of: evangelism/outreach, assimilation, strategic planning for mission, formation of lay leaders, lay mobilization, team ministry, witness in cross-cultural contexts, stewardship development, change and conflict management, church planting and extension, and administration. Classes offered or being developed include:

• DM-907 Leadership in the Congregation
• DM-917 Team Ministry
• DM-927a Church and Mass Media
• DM-928 Communication Skills for Pastors
• DM-942 Shepherding the Growing Parish
• DM-943 Conflict and Reconciliation
• DM-945 The Gospel in Cross-Cultural Contexts
• DM-946 Christian Witness to World Religions
• DM-948 Advanced Strategic Planning for Mission
• DM-950 Outreach through Small Groups and Lifestyle Evangelism
• DM-954 Strategies for Evangelism
• DM-955 Congregational Involvement in World Missions
• DM-977 Personal and Organizational Dynamics
• DM-985 Defending the Faith: Christian Apologetics
• DM-986 The Lutheran Church in a Pluralistic Society
• DM-9xx Strategies for Assimilation and Discipleship
• DM-9xx Mobilizing the Laity for Service
• DM-9xx Stewardship Development

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 (2014-2015) tuition, fee, and housing rates. These rates may and probably will increase in the future.

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
- Major Applied Project Fee $2,025
- Technology Fees $140
- 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 (five day) 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