

## Copy for 2003-2006 ETS Catalog

Inside front cover:

Ecumenical Theological Seminary

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Academic Programs:

Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

ETS Master of Divinity (MDiv)

Cooperative Master of Divinity (MDiv) In cooperation with:

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (American Baptist Churches)

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (United Methodist Church)

McCormick Theological Seminary (Presbyterian Church USA)

Methodist Theological School in Ohio (United Methodist Church)

Seabury-Western Theological Seminary (Episcopal Church)

Trinity Lutheran Seminary (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

Certificate in Theological Studies (Master's level)

Urban Ministry Diploma (UMD)

Bachelor of Theology (BTh) in cooperation with Iona College

Continuing Education for Ministry

John E. Biersdorf Library

The intent of this publication is to provide information. The statements within are not intended to create binding commitments on the part of the seminary. They are subject to change without notice.

Parchment sheet:

# **ECUMENICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

## **Mission Statement**

Ecumenical Theological Seminary, within an urban setting, provides education for ministry that is grounded in the Christian tradition, while welcoming interfaith dialogue.

We promote critical reflection by all members of our learning community,  
as we integrate theology with practice and faith with social responsibility.

Under parchment:

Large photograph of Detroit skyline with prominent church steeples and/or First Presbyterian Church

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# WELCOME

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

If you have a growing sense that God is calling you to undertake greater responsibility within God's mission to the world, and you want to explore that call, what better place to do so than in the community at Ecumenical Theological Seminary. In the pages that follow, you are going to read about an extraordinary institution. I hope that you find the description of our mission and our life together so compelling that you will want to visit ETS to experience our community for yourself.

It is true that we are an ecumenical community. We come from mainline Protestant churches, from Pentecostal congregations, from Roman Catholic parishes, from African-American and Euro-American denominations. Whether you look in on a board or committee meeting, attend a class, participate in worship, or talk with the faculty and staff, you will find that we learn and are shaped by sharing the many faith traditions that we bring with us. None of us will ever be the same as a result of being part of a dynamic ecumenical community.

It is true that we are a very diverse and rapidly growing community. The size of our student body has increased considerably during the past few years. We are men and women who come from different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds, as well as different parts of the Body of Christ. We have very different stories to tell each other, not only about our journeys of faith, but about our experiences of what it means to be human and to be members of particular families, communities and institutions. We work hard to understand and learn from our differences and to find our unity in the midst of genuine diversity.

It is true that we are by choice an urban community. We are very conscious of the opportunities and challenges that go with belonging to Metropolitan Detroit. We come together in the center of Detroit from the city and the suburbs in order to understand what constitutes God's good news for a broken and wounded metropolis, for alienated communities, for haves and have-nots, for a city experiencing hope for rebirth. Our study and work call us daily to struggle with issues of racism, economic justice, poverty and the breakdown of institutions. We seek to understand such things theologically and to discover what this means for the mission of the church.

And now, more than ever, we belong permanently to the city of Detroit because of a generous gift of the Presbytery of Detroit, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Through this gift ETS now owns the land, the buildings and the endowment of the First Presbyterian Church in the heart of the city, the location which has been our home for more than 10 years. Our task now is to restore and renovate the buildings on this historic site to make them a place where generations of ETS students will prepare for ministry. It is an

exciting time to be here, and it is a huge challenge to discover how we can help the church minister more effectively to the people of their communities.

The story of what we do together and how we go about it is waiting for you to discover in these pages. Our academic programs will challenge and stretch you, and you will find a community of support in which to explore what it means to serve God in this new century.

*V. Bruce Rigdon*  
President

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **WHO WE ARE**

The Ecumenical Theological Seminary (ETS) is an urban-based initiative in theological education, seeking to respond to the complex needs of a post-industrial metropolitan context in the city of Detroit. Our location is not only geographic, but theological, representing a commitment of the Seminary to work out its calling at one of the most difficult and promising epicenters of American identity. In bringing together members of Detroit's various religious communities in an ecumenical learning environment, ETS simultaneously addresses questions of spiritual nurture and social justice, traditional confession and cross-cultural innovation.

ETS offers academic programs to serve the needs of its varied clientele: Doctor of Ministry Program (for the ministerial professional), Master of Divinity (for those preparing for ordained ministry), Urban Ministry Diploma (for those seeking ministerial enrichment on the undergraduate level), and Continuing Education (for those who seek self-enrichment). The unique identity of ETS derives from its history, its vision and its method of teaching. ETS encourages students in each program to begin their training with a course in church and society, whose purpose is to examine how social position provides the foundations for beliefs and values. Race, class, gender and the environment are seen as fundamental issues already in existence when subject areas like biblical

studies, church history, theology and the practice of ministry are encountered. Dialogue, with other students and with other social experience, is at the core of the pursuit of theological education.

The dilemma of a Detroit balanced between deep division and prosperous cooperation presents the challenge of the 21st century: the invigorating necessity to develop theological education that empowers city, suburban and rural settings simultaneously. Theological education must speak in multiple cultural idioms – even as it remains faithful to the vision that was first articulated 2000 years ago by Jesus of Nazareth.

ETS is committed to bringing these dreams into reality, all within an ecumenical, multicultural context. The acquisition of knowledge and skills takes place within the context of a learning community gathering in worship, study and ministry. ETS believes that theological education is a lifelong process of professional and personal development. Coming together for study of the Bible, church history, systematic theology, Christian ethics or practice of ministry in such a richly textured environment calls forth a prophetic ministry, struggling with all the paradox and pain of modern American life that the church is called to transform. ETS seeks to develop faithful and effective church leaders for the 21st century.

Currently, ETS is an Accredited Member of the Association of Theological Schools and is working toward seeking full accreditation.

## **History**

The Ecumenical Theological Seminary was established in 1980 (as the Ecumenical Theological Center) to respond to the need for theological education in the Detroit metropolitan area. It is committed to the city of Detroit as a unique laboratory for ministerial education. ETS has been recognized by its colleagues in theological education as uniquely equipped to prepare individuals to meet the challenges of ministry in urban centers. ETS continues its mission into the 21st century to bring together members of Detroit's faith communities in an ecumenical learning environment.

The roots of Ecumenical Theological Seminary go back to 1957 when Dr. Reuel Howe, concerned with providing continuing education for ministerial professionals, founded the Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies. IAPS was the first ecumenical facility in the nation founded specifically for continuing education for the clergy – a place where persons from different traditions could learn from each other and grow in their own faith.

Seminars assisted ministers in focusing on their personal experience and exploring how they actually lived their own theology.

In 1973, Dr. John Biersdorf succeeded Reuel Howe. Biersdorf came to Detroit with a rich background of experience at the National Council of Churches which assisted him in establishing a new focus that emphasized the experience of a life of prayer as the basis and foundation for ministry. Essential to the new expression of mission was the integration of social action with a life of prayer in ministry. In 1980, IAPS became Ecumenical Theological Center, founded as an association of schools and other kindred institutions to develop and enhance the educational resources for ministry regionally, and to foster ecumenical cooperation and service.

The next 15 years brought the achievement of many academic milestones for the institution. The State of Michigan formally chartered the Doctor of Ministry program in the early 70's. The Cooperative Master of Divinity program was born through the affiliation with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois in 1988. The program now includes five additional seminaries in three states. In 1992, Dr. David Swink succeeded Dr. Biersdorf as president and initiated programs that solidified the infrastructure of the Center, including the funding of the John E. Biersdorf Library and establishment of the ETS Endowment Fund which is held by the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan.

The Urban Ministry Diploma Program began in 1994 as the result of the project of an ETS doctoral student, Rev. Kenneth Harris, who served as its director for six years. Originally called the Diploma in Christian Ministry (DCM), the program was intended for clergy and lay persons who desired a seminary-type educational experience that would ordinarily be out of their reach. The program has evolved over the years, and its new name, the Urban Ministry Diploma Program, better reflects the focus of the program. This program cooperates with Iona College in Windsor, Ontario to offer a Bachelor of Theology degree.

Also in 1994, the official name of the organization was changed to the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in order to better reflect the changing role the institution was assuming in the leadership of theological education.

Dr. V. Bruce Rigdon became president in 1997 and has led ETS to become an Associate Member institution of The Association of Theological Schools, the first step toward full academic accreditation. This decision to become an accredited theological seminary now has the strong support of all of our cooperating partner schools.

In 2002, the Presbytery of Detroit voted to give to ETS the building, land and endowments of the First Presbyterian Church, which had been our leased home for 10 years. This historic step paved the way for our expected application for full accreditation.

The future is therefore bright with promise and full of exciting challenges!



## Student profile

Most ETS students are pursuing ministry as a second career. The current student body numbers 190; approximately 59% female; 41% male. Our students are working, usually fulltime, managing families and, in some cases, serving churches part-time. Many are dedicating themselves to church service following first careers in education, medicine, law, military service, business, manufacturing and social work. They represent more than 15 denominations or faith communities. Fifty-one percent are Euro-Americans, 46% African American and 3% Asian or other.

Most ETS graduates remain in the area to serve local churches. They bring life experience, faith and practice to their educational endeavors. As ETS students develop the skills needed for ministry in today's church, they make lasting connections with student colleagues at ETS which enable them to enhance the quality of life in our churches and communities for years to come.

Pie charts with following:

Faith Tradition:	21% United Methodist	27% Baptist
	14% Presbyterian	5% Roman Catholic
	7% Lutheran	5% Non-denominational
	6% Episcopal	
	4% UCC/Disciples of Christ/United Church of Canada	
	10% Other (Unitarian, Cong.Christian, Pentecostal, others)	

Geographic:	35% Detroit	30% Suburban	
	24% Michigan beyond suburbs	7% Out of State	4% Canada

**\*Based on 2002 statistics**

## Statement of Inclusiveness

The ETS community understands itself to be a community of persons living together under God. We believe that God accepts all people. We witness to that belief by embracing all persons who exhibit the necessary academic skills for membership into our community and for leadership training to serve the church in its many manifestations.

We believe that God calls each of us into intimate relationship and specific ministry. We understand ourselves to be enriched by the diversity of persons who come to us to discern the specific nature of that ministry and to learn effective skills in carrying it out into today's world.

## Hospitality

A variety of places at ETS provide space for prayer, and for official and casual get-togethers. A kitchen off the Renaissance Room offers a refrigerator, microwave, snack cupboard, cold drink vending machine and a hot/cold/room temperature drinking water unit.

Secure parking is provided on the premises.

### **ETS Community Celebrations and Worship**

The ETS community gathers annually for Convocation in mid-September, Advent worship and Christmas Party in early December, and Commencement in early June. A faculty, student, staff and alumni Seminary Life Retreat is held annually.

During Fall, Winter and Spring quarters, community worship is held on varied nights prior to scheduled classes. Check with the Office of Seminary Life for a current schedule.

## **Our setting**

Ecumenical Theological Seminary is located in the center of the City of Detroit. We are housed in the historic landmark church of First Presbyterian, Detroit, north of Foxtown and south of Orchestra Hall and the Medical Center. Most classes meet in the First Presbyterian Church building at 2930 Woodward Avenue.

First Presbyterian Church, organized over 175 years ago, has stood on the corner of Woodward and Edmund Place, its fourth church home, since 1891. The congregation's history goes back to 1816 with the organization of the First Evangelical Society of Detroit. Its first pastor was John Montieth of Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey who, together with Father Gabriel Richard and Judge Augustus Woodward, founded the University of Michigan. In 1821, the Evangelical Society was incorporated as "the First Protestant Society of Detroit," which is still the legal name of the First Presbyterian Church. For three years the church was served by ministers from Methodist, Episcopal and Presbyterian denominations. When the Methodists and Episcopalians withdrew to form their own congregations in 1824, the congregation voted to become a regular Presbyterian church. This history is a special legacy underlying the ecumenical ministry of ETS.

The congregation of First Presbyterian has been clustered with Westminster Presbyterian Church in Detroit for worship and pastoral services since the departure of their last installed pastor in 1991. This has allowed them to use their endowment to maintain the building and reach out to the community through an after-school Latch Key Program and a free luncheon ministry to needy neighbors. In addition to ETS, the building houses the Brush Park Development Corporation offices.

The city of Detroit is a working laboratory for the church in the world. Most major denominations have a regional jurisdiction seated in Metropolitan Detroit. All major religions are active in the area. Local organizations host renowned lecturers, religious observances and special events that celebrate the diversity and spirituality of a vibrant community.

Metropolitan Detroit is undergoing revitalization. Foxtown has recently been created in the downtown area as a major entertainment center. Comerica Park has replaced Tiger Stadium; Ford Field now is the setting for the Detroit Lions. Crosswinds Condominiums and Presbyterian Villages Senior Housing have been recently added to Brush Park. The Brush Park Development Corporation is assisting residents in restoring and developing properties in the area immediately surrounding the seminary. The Detroit Institute of Art, the Detroit Opera House, the Cultural Center and Wayne State University are less than a mile away. Nearby Dearborn is the largest population center for Islamic peoples outside the Middle East. ETS believes its location in the heart of Detroit will expand its possibilities of service to the greater Detroit area.

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & DEAN**

We at Ecumenical Theological Seminary are excited about the educational experience emerging from our classrooms at First Presbyterian Church. One of our greatest strengths is our diversity. We are constantly amazed at the wonderful assortment of women and men who come to ETS to enter into theological studies in response to God's invitation. Together, faculty and students alike have opportunities to develop our call to participate in God's mission, to broaden our understandings of God and Jesus and the Christian experience, and to deepen our pastoral skills and the ways of serving God's people. Together, we discover how to work with one another in building God's reign. Together, in our urban environment, we stretch each other's vision of a just and whole world.

Ecumenically we represent a wide variety of Christian traditions. Among the faculty and student body you will find representatives from most Protestant denominations, as well as people from non-denominational communities and the Roman Catholic Church. We are blessed by the educational experience that occurs between people from varied faith traditions and cultural settings: from city and suburb, from Detroit to Lansing, from Windsor to Toledo, and many places in between and beyond, as the richness of unique experiences and traditions are brought into dialogue. The community that forms in the classrooms and around the coffee pot at ETS is a very hopeful sign for the future of the churches in southeastern Michigan, northern Ohio and southwestern Ontario.

The academic programs offered at ETS are exciting adventures in theological learning and ministry preparation. The Doctor of Ministry Program offers a rich opportunity for those already engaged in professional ministry to deepen their skills and spirituality. The Master of Divinity Programs provide, on the graduate level, a supportive environment in which to integrate past personal and professional experience with the study of the theological disciplines and the practice of ministry. This program is for those beginning their formal preparation for ordination and pastoral work. The Urban Ministry Diploma Program invites persons at the undergraduate level to explore new ways to engage in ministry with God's people and to broaden their learning and appreciation of the Christian tradition.

The John E. Biersdorf Library has many unexplored treasures. The library collection is especially rich in biblical resources and contextual theology. We have a rich variety of audio-visual materials as well as some significant CD Rom research tools. You will enjoy exploring this resource.

ETS is an Associate Member of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). One of ETS' immediate goals is to continue the process that will lead to full accreditation by

ATS. But accreditation is not enough. Ecumenical Theological Seminary enters into the 21st century with a vision of bringing people together in an ecumenical, multicultural environment amid the challenges of a major metropolitan area – to pray, worship, study and be community together and so to further God’s vision of a world transformed. Why not join us in this adventure?

*Anneliese Sinnott, O.P.*

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean

## **The Doctor of Ministry Program**

From the director:

The Doctor of Ministry Program intends your renewal in ministry as well as the renewal of your congregation, and equips you for the practice of ministry at a higher level of competence than the basic professional education of Master of Divinity. Within this framework you will develop an academic and practical program with an emphasis geared to your specific need. Your program of study is developed within the experience of the colleague group.

Intensive experiential colleague groups provide the settings in which you, your fellow colleagues and faculty mentor are “colleagues,” learning, teaching and praying together. The theory and praxis of ministry grow together through personal vulnerability and mutual support and confrontation, thus modeling faithful and effective ministerial leadership. Interpreting the meanings of theological symbols in the lived experience of ministry brings the whole context of faith to bear on immediate existential challenges of ministry. Worship, prayer and meditation are an important part of your program and are explored as a basic way of understanding and living ministry.

Ecumenical Theological Seminary is chartered by the State of Michigan to award the Doctor of Ministry degree. The seminary is an Associate Member of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and is working toward the accreditation of all programs.

*Urias Beverly*, BA, MS, MDiv  
Director, Doctor of Ministry Program

### **Admission Requirements**

- Master of Divinity Degree or its equivalence
- Three (3) years of ministerial experience and currently working in a ministerial position

### **Application Procedure**

1. Submit to the ETS Admissions Office
  - Application and a non-refundable application fee of \$25
  - Approval/Recommendation of local governance group from ministry setting
  - Two (2) recommendations (other than from members of your ministry’s governing body)
  - Stepping Stones (a two- or three-page history of your journey into ministry)
  - Official transcript of credits from all educational institutions attended
  - Graduate level research paper (as an example of the applicant’s work)
2. Make an appointment for an interview with the Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program.

All admission materials are due by July 1 of the year in which you wish to begin your DMin work.

## **Program Requirements**

The ETS Doctor of Ministry program is a three-year process of personal and professional growth. Your experience at ETS will involve the following:

### Emergent Weeks

There will be two Emergent Weeks of study per year in this program (six in the three-year period). As a DMin colleague, you are required to participate in these six Emergent Weeks of study. Each week will include worship, theme course, core courses, and group interaction. The DMin Emergent Weeks will occur in August and January each year, respectively. All DMin participants are required to complete six theme courses and six core courses.

### Thematic Courses

A new theme will be chosen for each Emergent Week. These themes are designed to challenge you theoretically and to enhance your practice of ministry.

### Core Courses

Core courses will coincide with your stage in the process. In the first year you will take Introduction I in August and Introduction II in January. During the second year you will take Practical Research and Methodology in August and Theoretical Foundations in January. As a colleague in your third year you will take Dissertation I: Implementing Ministry Event in August and Dissertation II: Completing Final Document in January.

### Area of Specialty

The area of specialization for your dissertation will be determined by you. The DMin Program is designed to help you identify your passion for ministry in the context of your current ministry. This passion will lead to the question and research that you will explore for your dissertation.

### Colleague group

Active membership in a colleague group is required each year that you are in the DMin program. Your colleague group is an essential context for personal community support, accountability, deepening communal and personal prayer and meditation practice, receiving consultation on issues in your ministry setting, integrating the learnings of the program, and presenting and receiving feedback on writing.

### Papers

Six summary papers will be due; one following each Emergent Week. Each paper is the result of your reflection individually and within your colleague group on the thematic course, the core course and the insights gained from group interactions.

There are six Dissertation Component papers. These will be shared and developed in consultation with your colleague group and mentor.

### Ministry Event

The culmination of the Doctor of Ministry Program is the ministry event, a ministerial experience that you will research, design, implement and evaluate. The ministry event is your demonstration of growth and excellence in ministry.

### Dissertation

Your dissertation brings together all of your Dissertation Component papers. Once your ministry event has been implemented and the data have been collected, the components will be assimilated into one final document, a dissertation that you will defend before your dissertation committee as a final requirement for the DMin degree.

### Graduation

Upon completion of all requirements, the candidate is recommended to the Ecumenical Theological Seminary Board of Directors for the awarding of the degree. The Doctor of Ministry degree is awarded at the annual commencement of ETS.

## **Operations**

### Class Locations

The Doctor of Ministry Emergent Weeks are normally held at ETS. Other meetings of the colleague groups may be held at ETS or at other locations according to the needs of the group.

### Scheduling

The Doctor of Ministry Emergent Weeks are held in August and in January. If you are a new student you will begin your program in the August following your acceptance into the program.

### Advising

Advising is done primarily through the colleague group (faculty mentor and other colleagues) and secondarily by the DMin Director.

## Master of Divinity Programs

From the director:

The Master of Divinity is the degree ordinarily required for ordained ministry. Ecumenical Theological Seminary offers two Master of Divinity (MDiv) programs, the Cooperative MDiv and the ETS MDiv. The two programs share a common mission: the preparation of effective church leaders for the 21st century who are grounded in ethical conviction and purpose. Through meaningful intellectual inquiry accompanying practical training, either MDiv program at ETS equips one for a full and productive career in church mission and renewal.

The Cooperative MDiv Program is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and enables you to take between nine (9) and eighteen (18) units of your course work in Detroit. The balance of the course work is done at the cooperating seminary at which you have matriculated. The Cooperative MDiv program prepares you for professional ministry in those denominations that require an accredited MDiv for ordination.

Although the ETS MDiv degree is not yet fully accredited by ATS, it will prepare you for many types of specialized ministry or for professional ministry in those faith traditions that do not require an accredited MDiv for ordination. Most MDiv courses taught at ETS fit interchangeably within these two programs.

A majority of the MDiv students at ETS are second-career, maintaining employment throughout their period of study and completing their work towards the degree within five to six years. At ETS, we understand our primary “parish” to be the Detroit metropolitan area. Located at the crossroads of American industrialization and communities of ethnic and racial diversity, we feel blessed to be called to the study of theology in this crucial arena of contemporary human experience, especially at this critical time in history.

The presence of terrorism worldwide and our own national vulnerability have challenged theological study to be realistic and engaged with the world as never before. The global existence and wellbeing of untold numbers of people are at stake. At ETS, we believe that our students are receiving the necessary tools to transform this challenge into opportunity. The need to discover truths within other religious traditions is now an imperative for Christian leaders. I invite you to visit ETS and feel the exhilaration of the study of theology in this remarkable place.

*Charles Mabee*, BA, MDiv PhD  
Director, Master of Divinity Program

## **The Cooperative Master of Divinity Program**

The Master of Divinity Cooperative Program is a joint venture involving a cluster of theological schools with various denominational affiliations. In this program, you must be admitted to the cooperating theological seminary of your choice before the end of the first quarter of study at ETS. As a student in this program, you have a dual identity throughout your career: an ETS identity and that of the cooperating seminary you attend.

The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) accredits each of the cooperating seminaries, and the courses taken at ETS are accredited by ATS through this joint venture. Transcripts are maintained in the cooperating seminary in which you are enrolled. When all cooperating seminary requirements have been completed, including the appropriate residency requirements that vary from school to school, you receive your MDiv degree from the cooperating seminary.

The requirements for graduation vary from one cooperating seminary to another in regard to the number and type of courses and other kinds of learning experiences required for graduation. The various cooperating seminaries require between 27 and 32 courses for graduation. The seminaries also vary in their residency requirements, ranging from one-third, one-half to two-thirds of total courses taken.

Completion of the MDiv degree generally requires three years of fulltime study or up to seven or eight years of part-time study.

The cooperating theological seminaries are:

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School	American Baptist Churches
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary	United Methodist Church
McCormick Theological Seminary	Presbyterian Church (USA)
Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio	United Methodist Church
Seabury-Western Theological Seminary	Episcopal Church
Trinity Lutheran Seminary	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## **The ETS Master of Divinity Program**

The ETS MDiv degree is not yet fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. If you are considering a specialized form of ministry, or an accredited degree is not required by your faith tradition, this degree may fulfill your needs. All course work is completed in the Detroit area.

The ETS MDiv Program consists of 108 credit hours (27 courses). The program offers a distinctive approach to theological education in a number of ways. Above all, course work is grounded in an ethics-praxis orientation, meaning that the initial block of courses you take is geared to practical training, set in an ethical framework.

Four key concepts characterize theological study at ETS: (1) **ethics**, (2) **leadership training**, (3) **dialogue**, and (4) **communication**.

All course work is undertaken in the ethical awareness of diverse ethnic and racial communities, the global reach of modern technology, and implications emerging from the contemporary existence of multiple “Christianities.” You will normally begin your MDiv study with the foundational course **ETH 5000 Church and Society**, which examines these realities and the contemporary need for effective church leaders to meet the myriad of resulting challenges.

As you advance in the study of theology great emphasis is placed on the early acquisition of tools for effective church leadership. At ETS, praxis-oriented courses that equip one for leadership in such areas as Christian worship, Christian education, pastoral care, and preaching are viewed as primary resources for theological reflection, not simply practical application of theoretical insight.

This approach provides preparation for church leadership during the initial stages of theological study before the required field education experience, **TPM 5100 Ministry Practicum**. As this preparation is completed, you begin to take more theoretical courses such as biblical studies, theology, and church history which further prepare you for ministry. The ETS MDiv degree normally must be completed within eight (8) years.

The intentionally diverse environment of ETS engenders dialogue as a primary way of studying theology. Rather than creating a theological mold for all to follow, we hold that dialogue affirms and reinforces the significant contributions of many churches and traditions within the household of faith in manifesting the truth and love of God. We treasure dialogue, especially in the arena of a metropolitan area where alienation and fragmentation remain systematically entrenched despite hopeful efforts at renewal.

Finally, ETS embraces the positive potential of the modern age of electronic communication. While not abandoning the primacy of face-to-face learning, we have

integrated the Internet throughout all aspects of institutional life. We believe that selective utilization of this tool enables a deeper ETS experience and expands the base of who may enter our theological laboratory.

### **Ministry Practicum**

At the core of the ETS MDiv curriculum is the Ministry Practicum. All work undertaken in the initial block of courses prepares you to enter this experience with competence and confidence. Ministry Practicum is a required year-long experience which initiates the second block of coursework. It is typically begun upon completion of seven to nine courses in the area of ethical training for church leadership, in addition to introductory courses in biblical studies, theology and church history.

Similar programs exist in all the cooperating seminaries, sometimes with different names, (e.g. Theological Field Education, Supervised Ministry, Internship, etc.) All the programs have the same basic components: placement in a church or agency, involvement in ministry, supervision by a staff person, support and feedback by a lay team, periodic evaluations, and class meetings with peers. Through periodic review the ETS Ministry Practicum is kept consistent with programs at the cooperating seminaries in terms of classroom time, credit, and cost.

The Ministry Practicum class meets 15 hours per quarter (five classes of three hours each) for three quarters (total 45 hours), and will earn one or two units credit, as needed, at the ETS current cost per unit. There are obvious advantages to taking the Ministry Practicum close to home and with others who may be ministerial peers for years to come.

**Students should contact the Ministry Practicum Director** early in the spring quarter of the first year of study to plan for this vital experience. The director will provide preliminary reading, assist in finding a suitable placement, and provide orientation and training for supervising staff and lay team. Depending on the number of courses taken per quarter, Ministry Practicum may begin as early as the fall quarter of the second year of study.

## **Schedule of Courses and Seminars**

Courses in the MDiv Program are offered over a four-quarter schedule year (fall, winter, spring and summer). Courses are scheduled to accommodate second career students still involved in daytime employment. Required courses and seminars normally are taught during evening hours at least once per year. Some courses and seminars are offered on weekends and as weeklong intensives.

### **Block One: Transforming your lived experience into church leadership skills.**

#### **Required Courses and Seminars:**

*Integrative Required Course:*

TPM 5000 Ministry Group

Plus: *Foundations*

ETH 5000 Church and Society

TPM 5001 Church Leadership for the 21st Century

*Leadership Development*

TPM 5010 Introduction to Christian Worship

TPM 5011 Introduction to Christian Education

TPM 5012 Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling

*Theological Nurture of Leadership*

SYS 5020 Doing Theology in Context

B 5020 Introduction to Biblical Studies

HIS 5020 The Growth and Development of Christianity I

### **Block Two: Empowering your leadership abilities with focused classes.**

#### **Required Courses and Seminars:**

*Integrative Required Course:*

TPM 5100 Ministry Practicum

Plus: *Leadership Development*

TPM 5110 Introduction to Preaching

*Theological Nurture of Leadership*

ETH 5100 Theoretical Foundations of Christian Ethics

B 5120 Foundations of the Old Testament

B 5121 Foundations of the New Testament

HIS 5120 The Growth and Development of Christianity II

HIS 5121 The Growth and Development of Christianity III

SYS 5120 God and Humanity in Relationship

### **Block Three: Crafting your calling.**

**Required Courses and Seminars:**

***Integrative Required Course:***

TPM 5200     Crafting Your Calling

***Leadership Development***

TPM 5220     Interreligious Dialogue

Plus: Electives (choose 7 courses from the following concentrations)

***Concentration One: Church Leadership***

TPM 6000     Church Management for the 21st Century

TPM 6110     Advanced Preaching

SYS 6000-04     Theology for Christian Praxis: Christology, Women and Theology,  
Ecumenism, Theology in a Multi-Cultural Context or  
Ecclesiology.

B 6110         Biblical Theology

TPM 6130     Small Groups in the Church

TPM 6150     Developmental Approaches in Christian Education

TPM 6350     Issues in Ministry

TPM 6390/  
B6390         Paul and Ministry

***Concentration Two: Transforming Institutions and Society***

ETH 6000     Colonialism, Nationalism, Racism, Sexism

B 6110         Biblical Ethics

ETH 6120     Race, Religion and Hermeneutics

TPM 6020     Faith-based Economic Development

TPM 6030     Urban Studies and Ministry

ETH 6120     Race, Religion and Hermeneutics

TPM 6400     Christianity and Islam

***Concentration Three: Biblical Studies***

B 6000         The Prophetic Tradition

B 6010         Paul the Apostle

Other options: All 6100-6500 elective courses in biblical studies

**Specialized Courses**

BL 6000-02     Hebrew

BL 6010-12     Greek

***Concentration Four: Spirituality***

TPM 5210     Introduction to Christian Spirituality

SYS 6100     Theology, Ecology and Spirituality

TPM 6140     Theory and Practice of Prayer

Note: Students may develop competency in a particular area by taking elective courses within a specified concentration.

## **Admission Requirements**

Normally a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university is required to be considered for a MDiv Program. Occasionally, ETS and the cooperating seminaries consider applications from those who have significant life experience in place of a baccalaureate degree. To explore this alternative, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the director of the MDiv Program. Application must be made to ETS to enter the ETS MDiv program. Cooperative MDiv students apply directly to the cooperating seminary of their choice. Students in either the ETS or Cooperative MDiv Program must be admitted officially before the end of their first quarter of study.

### **ETS Master of Divinity Program**

#### **Application Procedure**

1. Submit to the ETS Admissions Office:
  - A completed application form
  - A \$25 non-refundable, non-transferable application fee
  - Three letters of recommendation
  - An upper or graduate level research paper
  - Official transcripts from all colleges attended
2. Make an appointment for an interview with the director of the Master of Divinity degree program.

### **Cooperative Master of Divinity Program**

#### **Application Procedure**

1. Submit to the ETS Admissions Office:
  - A completed application form
  - A \$25 non-refundable, non-transferable application fee
2. Remove the registrar's certification of bachelor's degree portion of the application form and mail it to the undergraduate school that granted your baccalaureate.
3. Make an appointment for an interview with the director of the Cooperative Master of Divinity degree program.
4. Follow the Admissions procedure for the cooperating seminary to which you are applying.

Audit: Courses may be audited with the approval of the instructor and payment of the Audit Fee. Normally a baccalaureate degree is required as well as any prerequisites the course requires.

Continuing Education Credit: Continuing Education Units (CEU) may be obtained from the registrar for any MDiv course audited as described above.

## **Operations**

### Class locations:

ETS MDiv classes are normally held at ETS.

### Scheduling:

ETS courses are offered on a quarter system in Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. Application must be made at least three weeks before the start of a quarter.

### Advising:

The advising process is integral to a student's seminary education and formation. An ETS advisor will be assigned by the Director of the MDiv program. The advising process is designed to support the student during preparation for professional ministry. At the end of the first academic year, a student may choose a different advisor if desired. Preferences will be honored when possible.

Students in the Cooperative MDiv Program will also have an advisor from the cooperating school, and in some cases, an ecclesiastical advisor as well, as indicated by the denominational affiliation. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain contact with these advisors and provide them with the current quarterly grade report.

### Grading for the Master of Divinity Program:

Letter Grade	Grade Points	Letter Grade	Grade Points
A	= 4.0	C+	= 2.3
A-	= 3.7	C	= 2.0
B+	= 3.3	C-	= 1.7
B	= 3.0	D	= 1.0
B-	= 2.7	F	= 0

## **Certificate in Theological Studies Program**

This program is for people who want to deepen and enrich their spiritual life through theological study, are exploring their call to ministry, and/or who want some limited ministerial training but are not seeking a Master's Degree.

To receive a certificate in Theological Studies, a total of nine courses must be completed: Ministry Group, Introduction to Biblical Studies, Doing Theology in Context, Foundation of Christian Ethics, History of Christianity I and four elective courses from any area.

Admission to the program requires a transcript of baccalaureate degree, interview with the MDiv Director, and a letter of application describing the applicant's spiritual journey and goals for the program.



