

## **Formation: A Vital Part of our MDiv**

The process of becoming a spiritual leader in our world requires paying attention to our lives. Here you will actively engage in integrating all aspects of your life - spiritual, emotional, academic, ministerial, relational, financial, and physical - in order to discover a wider and deeper way of living. You will be introduced to different ways to shape a life of faith, service, and leadership through supervised ministry experiences, focused discussions with colleagues, a guided, international seminar, and interactions with a diverse student population.

## **Experience Ministry Outside the Classroom**

**Field education**, a two-year requirement, offers formative experiences in ministry outside the classroom in locations including churches, hospitals, retirement homes, university campuses, social service agencies, and local urban shelters.

## **Integrating faith, studies and practice.**

**Ministry Seminars** integrate faith, theological studies, spiritual practices, relationships, and ministry by exploring the challenges of shaping lives of faith, ministry, and leadership.

Early on, you will process and integrate the aspects of the MDiv program through practice, reflection, spiritual practice, writing, presentations, and group discussions.

Later, you research and explore the expectations for ministry within your denominational context to discern your willingness and ability to commit to that mission.

Finally, you reflect theologically on your field education experiences, and carefully consider what it means to commit to a life of ministry.

## **Opening up the world to learning.**

**The International Cross-Cultural Seminar** is a two-week encounter in a setting outside of the United States. Lancaster Seminary proudly pioneered this global educational experience more than 50 years ago! This international requirement enhances appreciation of others by embracing God's love for all people. You will become more aware of your theological, cultural, ethnic, racial, gender, and socioeconomic biases and historical conditioning, as well as becoming more aware and appreciative of the diversity of the church around the world.

Our second-year MDiv students have travelled to destinations in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Americas including Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, Haiti/Dominican Republic, India, Israel/Palestine, Kenya, Mexico, Thailand, South Africa, Turkey and Lebanon.

## **Promoting healthy relationships in ministry.**

**Boundary training** promotes healthy ministerial relationships and reduces the risk of sexual misconduct by focusing on issues of power and vulnerability in the ministerial relationship, engaging the concepts of sacred trust of ministry, fiduciary duty, and self-care for ministerial leaders.

## **Preparing for your ministry.**

**The Comprehensive Vocational Review** is a key requirement in the Master of Divinity program. You will receive feedback concerning your participation in the program and your readiness and suitability for your chosen vocation. The review session, typically 1.5-2 hours, includes you, a faculty member, ministerial guide, judicatory representative or mentor in your desired field, the field education supervisor, and one student peer.

The team will make recommendations about the final steps in your seminary education and preparations for your ministry.