

The John Case Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership for Transformational Ministry



"The great need is for preachers who will lift up the gospel of Jesus Christ in a clear, intelligent, understandable way. When you believe the gospel message, you know that every person has eternal value because every person is someone for whom Christ died. Without a shadow of a doubt, at Wesley Biblical Seminary, 'the greatest story ever told' is being told."

-Dr. John Case

This Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree has been named after Dr. John Case in honor of his outstanding pastoral ministry and in gratitude for his long-time support of Wesley Biblical Seminary. The D.Min. is a professional in-ministry doctorate that offers advanced ministerial education to experienced pastors and other Christian workers. It is intended for those who have earned an M.Div. or equivalent and are currently serving in ministry positions. The in-ministry nature of the program allows Christian professionals to pursue rigorous advanced study while remaining in their current ministry.

What is the nature of a D.Min.?

As a professional doctorate, the D.Min. differs from the academic Ph.D. in that its focus is on advanced proficiency in the practice of ministry rather than scholarly research. The D.Min. is comparable to other professional doctorates, such as the D.B.A. in business, the Ed.D. in education, the D.M.A. in music, and the Psy.D. in psychology, to name a few.

What are the application requirements of the D.Min.?

- M.Div. from an ATS accredited institution (or at least 72 hours of graduate-level work approved by Academic Affairs, evaluated upon application)
- Minimum 3.00/4.00 cumulative GPA
- Three years of post-M.Div. ministry (exceptions may be made for students with extensive pre-M.Div. ministry)
- Demonstration of spiritual and moral integrity essential for Christian leaders with satisfactory references attesting to such
- (If you are an international student, you must have a TOEFL score of 80 or above OR an IELTS score of 6.5 or above. Please contact the academic office for other international student requirements.)

When do I need to apply?

- Apply by March 1 for the spring intake.
- Apply by September 1 for the fall intake.
- If you are a United Methodist pastor serving in Mississippi and would like to be eligible for The Martin Case Scholarship for Mississippi Ordained United Methodist Clergy, apply by December 1 for the spring cohort.

How does the D.Min. program work?

- 30 credit hours (part time)
- On campus intensives (in Jackson, MS) supplemented by online interaction
- Cohort model—journey through with the support of strong relationships
- Pre-course reading, on campus interaction during intensives, post-course projects leading up to the third year’s Ministry Research Project
 - Spring-summer term (April 1-September 30) with a two week intensive in June (first two years)
 - Fall-winter term (October 1-March 31) with a two week intensive in January (first two years)
 - Research project (final year)

D.Min. Cohort Map

	Courses	Term	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4	Cohort 5	Cohort 6
Course Cycle 1	DM801 DM802	Spr-Sum '17 (June intensive)	1 st term					
	DM803 DM804	Fall '17-Win '18 (Jan Intensive)	2 nd term	1 st term				
	DM805 DM806	Spr-Sum '18 (June intensive)	3 rd term	2 nd term	1 st term			
	DM807 DM808	Fall '18-Win '19 (Jan intensive)	4 th term	3 rd term	2 nd term	1 st term		
Course Cycle 2	DM801 DM802	Spr-Sum '19 (June intensive)	Research Project	4 th term	3 rd term	2 nd term	1 st term	
	DM803 DM804	Fall '19-Win '20 (Jan Intensive)	Research Project	Research Project	4 th term	3 rd term	2 nd term	1 st term
	DM805 DM806	Spr-Sum '20 (June intensive)	Graduation	Research Project	Research Project	4 th term	3 rd term	2 nd term
	DM807 DM808	Fall '20-Win '21 (Jan intensive)			Research Project	Research Project	4 th term	3 rd term
Course Cycle 3	DM801 DM802	Spr-Sum '21 (June intensive)		Graduation	Graduation	Research Project	Research Project	4 th term
	DM803 DM804	Fall '21-Win '22 (Jan intensive)					Research Project	Research Project
	DM805 DM806	Spr-Sum '22 (June intensive)				Graduation	Graduation	Research Project
	DM807 DM808	Fall '22-Win '23 (Jan intensive)						
	DM801 DM802	Spring '23...						Graduation

*Course order and instructors subject to change.

Meet the D.Min. Faculty

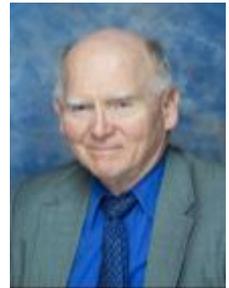


Dr. Chris Bounds, Professor of Theology, Chair of the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy, Asbury University

- B.A., Asbury University
- M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary
- M.Phil., Ph.D., Drew University

**Dr. Gareth Cockerill, Professor Emeritus of New Testament and Biblical Theology
Wesley Biblical Seminary**

- B.A., Southern Wesleyan University
- M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary
- Th.M., Ph.D., Union Theological Seminary



Dr. Matt Friedeman, Professor of Evangelism and Discipleship, Wesley Biblical Seminary

- B.A., M.A., University of Kansas
- M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary
- Ph.D., University of Kansas

Dr. Rebecca Luman, Assistant Professor of Formation and Instruction, Director of Spiritual Formation and Distance Learning, Wesley Biblical Seminary

- A.A., Kentucky Mountain Bible College
- B.S., California University of Pennsylvania
- M.Div., Wesley Biblical Seminary
- Th.M., Ph.D., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary



**Dr. Thomas H. McCall, Professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology, Director, Carl F.H. Henry Center for Theological Understanding,
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School**

- B.A., Hobe Sound Bible College
- M.A. Wesley Biblical Seminary
- Ph.D. Calvin Theological Seminary



**Dr. John E. Neihof, Jr., President, Professor of Pulpit Communication,
Wesley Biblical Seminary**

- A.A.R., Kentucky Mountain Bible College
- B.A., Asbury University
- M.A., Ph.D., The University of Kentucky

Dr. Harold A. Netland, Professor of Philosophy of Religion and Intercultural Studies, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

- B.A., Biola University
- M.A., Ph.D., Claremont Graduate University



**Dr. M. William Ury, Ambassador of Holiness,
The Salvation Army**

- B.A. Asbury College
- M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary
- Ph.D., Drew University

**Dr. Jason Vickers, Professor of Theology,
Asbury Theological Seminary**

- B.A., Trevecca Nazarene University
- M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary
- Ph.D., Southern Methodist University



“Teaching in the D.Min. program at Wesley Biblical Seminary is one of the most personally and professionally enriching things that I do.

The residential faculty and D.Min. student cohorts are truly outstanding.

Through eating together, praying together, and learning together, faculty and students develop theological friendships that last a lifetime.

The fellowship of believers in this program is truly second to none!”

-Dr. Jason Vickers, D.Min. Faculty

Course Descriptions (from the WBS Academic Catalog)

DM 801 Advanced Biblical Hermeneutics for Relevant Preaching and Ministry

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, DM802 Transformational Preaching. It focuses on four areas crucial to effective biblical preaching: (a) the integrity of the biblical canon and issues and principles relevant for preaching from each part of that canon, (b) the importance of and principles for understanding each biblical book in terms of its literary genre and integrity, (c) the relevance of and ability for understanding the Bible within the environment of the Ancient Near East and the first century Hellenistic world, and (d) issues that arise when we attempt to apply biblical teaching in the contemporary world. The course assumes a basic knowledge of the principles of biblical interpretation. 3 hours

DM 802 Transformational Preaching

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, DM801 Advanced Biblical Hermeneutics for Relevant Preaching and Ministry. It focuses on the theology and practice of preaching as a means of leading individuals and congregations into the transformational reality that John Wesley called “holiness of heart and life.” The course rigorously examines the theological purposes, hermeneutical principles, and communicative skills that are essential to biblically sound and effective preaching. 3 hours

DM 803 Sacramental Spirituality and Disciple-Making Leadership

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, DM804 Holistic Renewal of the Church. It engages students in the study of diverse views of the sacraments and the classical spiritual disciplines for the purpose of enabling them to think deeply about how the corporate life of churches and the discipleship of believers are shaped by the theology embedded in these practices. Students will engage in research that helps them understand the commonalities and differences of various Christian traditions. Additionally, students will be expected to develop a plan of personal participation in sacramental practices and spiritual disciplines as well as giving leadership to others in small groups formed around the sacramental practices and spiritual disciplines. The goal of the course is for students to develop a more robust and intentional understanding of how a recovery of vibrant sacramental practices can (a) undergird the disciple-making programs of a local church, (b) provide a rich and historically rooted basis for establishing in congregants’ minds a sense of their corporate identity as a local community of faith, and (c) establish a Christologically centered, missionally oriented focus for pastoral leadership in the life of the church. 3hours

DM 804 Holistic Renewal of the Church

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, DM803 Sacramental Spirituality and Disciple-Making Leadership. It focuses on local church participation in evangelistic and discipleship ministries that are coupled with compassionate social ministries. An investigation of the biblical and historical emphases of the church on these matters is included and the transformative personal, corporate, and cultural power of their coupling demonstrated. The spiritual life and worship structures of the church should support the outward missional life of the church. Therefore, the effective meshing of these critical

components will be viewed in order to build a biblically fruitful church that contributes to both church health and societal welfare. 3 hours

DM 805 Wesleyan Practices in Community Formation and Social Transformation

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, DM806 Wesleyan Theological Vision for Community Formation in the Post-Modern Context. It engages students in an in-depth study of the socio-historical context of the eighteenth century evangelical revival led by John Wesley and the early Methodists. The purpose is to show how the pastoral orientation, the practices of personal piety, and the risk-taking spirit of these leaders sustained a movement that led to significant ecclesial renewal and social transformation. Attention will be given to the transitions and social upheaval that marked Wesley's England and their similarities to twenty-first century Western culture. The goal is to show that the ministry practices of the early Methodists provide a framework for ministry from which practices can still be gleaned to foster church revitalization and social transformation. 3 hours

DM 806 Wesleyan Theological Vision for Community Formation in the Post-Modern Context

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, DM805 Wesleyan Practices in Community Formation and Social Transformation. It engages students in the theological vision that has provided the motivation, focus, and spirituality of the Methodist/Wesleyan tradition at its best. Special attention will be given to the *ordo salutis* (theology of salvation) that John Wesley and the early Methodists bequeathed to subsequent generations. Further attention will be given to how the optimistic view of God's grace in human life not only provided an evangelical counter proposal to eighteenth century English Calvinism, but also drove early Wesleyans to see social transformation as inherent in the Gospel. The goal is to enable those engaged in ministry in the twenty-first century to discover the theological resources offered by this Wesleyan understanding of the universal and transformative scope of saving grace. 3 hours

DM 807 The Gospel as Truth in a Multi-Religious World

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, DM808 Secular "isms" that Challenge the Faith and Confront the Church. It engages students in a comparative study of the nature and content of Christian theism in contrast to other world religions and their corresponding worldviews. The goal is to increase the competency of students when interacting with and explaining other religious worldviews to their congregations, and to deepen their confidence as Christian preachers and teachers in our increasingly multicultural age. 3 hours

DM 808 Secular "isms" that Challenge the Faith and Confront the Church

This course is taught concurrently with its related course, DM807 The Gospel as Truth in a Multi-Religious World. It involves students in a rediscovery of essential Christian orthodoxy and its engagement with various non-theistic, naturalistic, and secular philosophical systems that have risen over the last two hundred years in Western culture. The goal of the course is to equip those who preach, teach, or engage in evangelistic ministries to have greater competency in interacting with, explaining, and critiquing these

“isms” for contemporary believers and seekers. Special emphasis will be given in the course to competing belief and value systems that make up the so-called “post-modern” perspectives on truth, meaning, and moral values. 3 hours

DM 809 Ministry Research Project

The MRP is the doctoral student’s culminating work that integrates insights from the previous courses with research and application in the context of the student’s place of ministry. The project will begin with a taught research methodology component in order to ensure that students are properly prepared and supervised. Students will be expected to utilize the research component of the degree to craft a capstone project that is specifically expressive of the learning objectives and professional development goals that they have developed during the course of study.

The project will be supervised by a WBS faculty member and one external reader who possesses the necessary academic and professional credentials to critically examine the ministry project. The final requirement for the D.Min. degree is the successful completion of an oral defense of the MRP. The defense committee will consist of at least three members, including the faculty supervisor, the external reader (if possible), and at least one other full-time or adjunct member of the WBS faculty. The defense will be approximately two hours in length and will engage the candidate in a range of dialog concerning the nature, methodology, findings, and implications of the MRP.

When students submit their MRP, they are also to submit evidence from their D.Min. coursework that, along with the MRP, demonstrates the level of competency they have achieved in each of the D.Min. goals. This evidence, including the MRP, constitutes their Program Goals Portfolio. The submission of this entire portfolio is necessary to complete the requirements for DM810, but its evaluation by the faculty is not a condition for graduation. Faculty will use the data from Program Goals Portfolios to assess and improve the D.Min. program. 6 hours

Note: Students will engage in a seminar on the Saturdays between intensive classes in order to set them up for success regarding their research projects. Each seminar will be a time of Q&A, discussion of research methodology, expectations, feedback, etc.

WBS is an accredited seminary, and our Grad Certificate, M.A., M.Div., and D.Min. programs are all approved by the Association of Theological Schools.

Payment Options for D.Min. Students

- **Full Payment at the beginning of the D.Min. program.** Students who choose to pay the full \$15,000 tuition for the entire D.Min. program by April 1 of the term in which they enroll will receive a 10% discount (October 1 for those beginning in the fall).
- **Full Payment each term.** Check, cash, or credit card payment received in the business office by the first day of the D.Min. term (April 1, October 1) for \$3,000, the total tuition for each term.
- **Deferred Payment Plan.** For an annual fee of \$50 the student may arrange with the business office to pay \$500 per month for the six months of each term, totaling \$6,000 for the year. These arrangements must be completed April 1 of each year. Late payment will result in a \$25 late fee.
- **Loan agreement.** Approved Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan for a sufficient amount to cover the total tuition, books and fees. The loan should be certified by the Financial Aid Office on or before the due date, which is seven (7) days before the first day of each D.Min. term.

D.Min. Students will not be registered for a new term, no transcript will be issued, and no degree will be granted unless all financial obligations to the seminary have been settled. Any balance owed 180 days after the beginning of the D.Min. term in which the charges were incurred will begin to accumulate interest at the rate of 1.5% per month.

Refund Policy

D.Min. students may withdraw from their courses with full refund up until they come to campus for the June or January intensives. No refund will be given after the beginning of the first intensive week. Students who received a discount by paying the full cost of the D.Min. at the beginning will receive a full refund if they withdraw before the first intensive of their program. If they withdraw at a later time they will be charged the full \$15,000 undiscounted rate before being given a refund for the courses not yet taken. D.Min. students who withdraw from a particular term may elect not to receive a refund but to join the next D.Min. cohort.

Students receiving federally funded Title IV financial assistance: If a student withdraws from all courses on or before the 60% point in time of the period of enrollment, calculated using calendar days, a portion of the total of Title IV funds awarded a student (Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan) must be returned, according to the provisions of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. The calculation of the return of these funds may result in the student owing a balance to the seminary and/or the federal government. The federal Title IV written refund policy and method of calculation is available in the Financial Aid Office.

For complete program information, payment options, and policies, please see the current academic catalog.