

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY STUDENT HANDBOOK

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

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.

The purpose of this degree is the development of transformational leaders for church and society through critical study, analysis, reflection, and application at the professional doctoral level. The degree is intended for those who have earned the M.Div. degree (or equivalent) and are currently serving in ministry positions in churches, church-related institutions, or parachurch organizations.

As a professional doctorate, the Doctor of Ministry 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.

The in-ministry nature of the program allows Christian professionals to pursue rigorous advanced study while remaining in their current ministry. The degree is designed to be completed in three years—two years of half-time course work (24 hours) and one year for writing and defending the Dissertation Ministry Research Project (6 hours).

Objectives: Students who receive the Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Biblical Seminary will grow significantly in their intellectual, professional, ethical, and spiritual lives, as will be evidenced by excellence in their commitment and ability to:

- **Goal 1:** Proclaim the message of the Bible to the contemporary world with accuracy and cultural sensitivity but without compromising the authority of Scripture.
- **Goal 2:** Articulate both the essential outlines of Trinitarian orthodox theology and the distinct contribution of Wesleyan soteriology, their grounding in Biblical Revelation, and their implications for ministry practice.
- **Goal 3:** Practice biblical means of grace for a deepening spiritual life, lead others to do the same, and articulate a practical “sacramental theology” of discipleship.
- **Goal 4:** Demonstrate in verbal expression and in concrete action how the practice of Christian ministry and leadership grows out of the theological commitments and implications of Christian orthodox theology.
- **Goal 5:** Analyze the systemic dynamics of a local church or other Christian ministry and facilitate the movement of congregations and ministries toward greater spiritual health.
- **Goal 6:** Analyze the ideological commitments that give shape to the moral, social and political values of the culture at large.

- **Goal 7:** Lead the local congregation or other Christian ministry to engage the needs of its particular context in a holistic manner.
- **Goal 8:** Cast a vision for ministry by one's own servant-focused example and through worldview shaping, biblically based, and theologically sound teaching and preaching.

Doctor of Ministry Curriculum (30 hrs)

The Doctor of Ministry academic year is divided into two terms:

- Spring-Summer term (April 1 through September 30)
- Fall-Winter term (October 1 through March 31.)

The focus of each of these terms is a five-day on-campus intensive in June for Spring-Summer and in January for Fall-Winter. Students may enter the four terms cycle at any point. Each term has two required courses consistently paired together. Every course within the term has Zoom sessions before and after the on-campus intensive week. (See Case scholarship section for details concerning Case scholarship qualifications and guidelines.)

Doctor of Ministry Course Terms:

The Doctor of Ministry degree has four academic terms in the program. The student is expected to take two terms each year so that course work will normally be completed in two years. Each term has two courses that are consistently paired.

Spring-Summer Term (with joint intensive seminars in June)

- DM 801 Advanced Biblical Hermeneutics for Relevant Preaching and Ministry (3 hrs)
- DM 802 Transformational Preaching (3 hrs)

Fall-Winter Term (with joint intensive seminars in January)

- DM 803 Sacramental Spirituality and Disciple-Making Leadership (3 hrs)
- DM 804 Holistic Renewal of the Church (3 hrs)

Spring-Summer Term (with joint intensive seminars in June)

- DM 805 Wesleyan Practices in Community Formation and Social Transformation (3 hrs)
- DM 806 Wesleyan Theological Vision for Community Formation in the Post-Modern Context (3 hrs)

Fall-Winter Term (with joint intensive seminars in January)

- DM 807 The Gospel as Truth in a Multi-Religious World (3 hrs)
- DM 808 Secular "isms" that Challenge the Faith and Confront the Church (3 hrs)

Ministry Research Project courses

- DM 809 DMin. Project Research Orientation (0 hrs)
- DM 810 Ministry Research Project (6 hrs)

Doctor of Ministry Course Descriptions

DM801 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

DM802 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 grace for creating and building Christian community around the Gospel's focus upon discipleship, holy living and transforming servanthood in the world. The course rigorously examines the theological purposes, hermeneutical principles, and communicative skills that are essential to biblically sound and effective preaching. 3 hours

DM803 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. 3 hours

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. 3 hours

DM804 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

DM805 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

DM806 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

DM807 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

DM808 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 “postmodern” perspectives on truth, meaning, and moral values. 3 hours

DM 809 Project Research Orientation

Students may enter the DM809 Project Research Orientation as soon as they are admitted to the degree program. However, they must enter the course site during the second term intensive to begin looking at materials there. In this non-credit course, the student learns to create a prospectus document, which is a substantial, detailed, overview of her/his dissertation project with extensive bibliography. The DM809 course site has instructive videos and prospectus examples available. The Director of Research will help each student on an individual basis. The student is re-enrolled in this course until he/she has a prospectus approved by the faculty. At the next term after prospectus approval, the student moves up to DM 810. 0 hours

DM 810 Ministry Research Project

The DM 810 is the intensive writing phase of the dissertation project. After having a prospectus approved, the student is given two faculty advisers and begins writing the dissertation. Students are enrolled in this course until they successfully defend their dissertation. Details about style and presentation of the dissertation are found in the *WBS Handbook for Writing Theses and Dissertations*. 6 hours

D. Min. Research Timeline

Task	Resources/Point Person
Acquaint yourself with research videos and documents in D.Min. Project Research Orientation (DM 809)	Populi course DM 809. Primary faculty Dr. Becky Luman
Intensive #1	Populi/faculty
May begin work on your prospectus.	Dr. Becky Luman, Director of Research
Literature review	Dr. Luman; see also Grace Andrews, Director of Library Services, for list of potential resources
Intensive #2	Populi/faculty

Create your prospectus and present it to full faculty.	Consult with Dr. Luman as to date to present
Enter DM 810 Begin writing dissertation	Keep consulting videos and documents in the Populi course. Consult with primary advisor and Dr. Luman.
Intensive #3	Populi/faculty
Intensive #4	Populi/faculty
Write your dissertation	Your assigned primary advisor, with input from second reader
Defend your dissertation	Organize this with your primary advisor
Revise your dissertation	Advising committee
Return all borrowed books to library	Grace Andrews
Complete TREN release form	Grace Andrews
If you opt in to the TREN copyright registration, pay the \$75 fee to WBS	Grace Andrews; Peggy Price, Director of Business Affairs
Email completed TREN form to gandrews@wbs.edu	Grace Andrews
Email final approved copy of dissertation to gandrews@wbs.edu in MS Word format	Grace Andrews
Commencement!	Diploma will only be granted when all tasks are complete and bills are paid.

Creating and Writing the Dissertation

The Ministry Research Project is a research dissertation which stands as the doctoral student's culminating work. The dissertation 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 research methodology component in order to ensure that students are adequately prepared and supervised. The Director of Research gives individual support and instruction until the student presents an acceptable prospectus. Afterward, two faculty advisers guide the student toward completing the dissertation and the oral defense.

A Writing Year Plus.

Included in the four-year Doctor of Ministry degree program is one academic writing year and a summer in which the student is expected to finish her/his dissertation project. After completing the academic courses in a normal two-year span, the student has fourteen

months in which to focus on dissertation completion. Of course, a student may begin writing the dissertation once the prospectus is approved even before the required academic courses are done. Within this space of time, the student should perfect his/her dissertation, defend it successfully, and complete revisions. If the dissertation (including revisions requested by the Committee) is not fully finished within the fourteen months of the writing period, the student must request an extension from the Academic Dean. The student will pay a continuation fee for extension status.

Working with the Director of Research.

The John Case Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership is a **LEADERSHIP**-oriented degree. The Director of Research is NOT responsible to suggest a subject or strategy for the dissertation nor to prompt the student to finish the dissertation project. The student, as an emerging leader, demonstrates her/his enhanced leadership abilities by discerning and developing a dissertation project appropriate for the student's context of ministry and for local pastoral leadership in general. The Doctor of Ministry dissertation is not mainly an academic pursuit, such as the Ph.D. dissertation tends to be. The dissertation confirms the student's ability to advance effective ministry in the local church.

The John Case Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership is a degree oriented toward **PASTORAL** ministry. The dissertation aim is not to develop a theological topic, but to design a local church ministry or analyze a relevant local church-related case study that has significant implications and principles for the local church context. The dissertation will require a substantial academic core of research resources as a credible basis for the dissertation, but the goal of the project is practical and pastoral.

The Ministry Design and Case Study Models for Dissertation.

Wesley Biblical Seminary supports two dissertation designs: (1) Ministry Design or Program Development and (2) Case Study.

MINISTRY DESIGN. In the first model, the student discovers a need or opportunity in a local church or denominational context, designs a strategy to improve the problem or utilize the opportunity, and then evaluates the effectiveness of the strategy. This model is called Ministry Design (or Program Development).

CASE STUDY. In the second model, the student chooses a relevant event, person, or situation which affects the health of the local congregation, and critically analyzes the key factors of the case to discern significant principles for advancing the local church. This model is called the Case Study.

Dissertation Committee

The Director of Research will appoint two WBS faculty members as advisers for each student dissertation. This is the student's Committee. The primary adviser will work with the student through the first draft of the full dissertation. The second adviser will help the

student revise the full draft with a fresh “eye” toward fine-tuning the project. Both advisers will guide the dissertation defense.

Editorial Assistance

Unless the student is an expert in Turabian or APA format, he/she should hire an editor to help with style and format issues. Check with the Director of Research or the Director of Library Services about options for a style editor. This service is NOT covered by the D.Min. degree cost.

Dissertation and Graduation Date

A student must submit his/her dissertation in final form with proper citations and bibliography by January 1 of the year in which the student wants to graduate. The dissertation defense must be passed by March of that same year in order for the student to graduate in the coming May. The student will NOT receive her/his degree diploma until all revisions are complete and the finalized dissertation is submitted to the Director of Library Services.

Continuation Fee

A student who requires more time than the fourteen months allotted to writing the dissertation must request an extension from the Academic Dean. Extension status will require payment of a continuation fee. See the current academic catalog for the cost.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Doctor of Ministry students maintain good academic standing by having a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 with no course grade below a B minus. D.Min. students will not receive credit for any course for which they receive a grade lower than B minus. Failure to maintain these standards will result in dismissal from the program.

Time Limits for Completion of Degrees

In order to maintain academic continuity, the Doctor of Ministry degree must be completed in five years. Exceptions to this limit may be sent to the Academic Dean as a written request. Extensions for the Doctor of Ministry degree entail a continuation fee.

Graduation Requirements

Graduation from WBS will be determined by the completion of a comprehensive assessment rather than the mere accumulation of a designed number of credit hours and a certain Grade Point Average. To graduate from WBS with a Doctor of Ministry degree, students must:

- Complete the prescribed course of study with at least a GPA of 3.00 having no grade lower than B minus.
- Satisfactorily complete the writing and oral defense of a Ministry Research Project (dissertation).
- Demonstrate the achievement of the published goals and competencies related to the chosen degree and concentration.

- Pass the dissertation defense and make the required revisions recommended by the Committee.
- Clear all financial obligations to the seminary.
- Receive a vote of recommendation by the Faculty and approval by the Trustees.
- Be present for graduation exercises. Only in extreme circumstances will degrees be awarded *in absentia*.

Payment Options for D.Min. Students

Full Payment each term—Check, cash, or credit card payment must be received in the business office by the first day of the D.Min. term (April 1, October 1) for \$3,300, the total tuition for each term. Students should check with the office of admissions for D.Min. scholarships.

Deferred Payment Plan—For an annual fee of \$50 the student may arrange with the business office to pay \$550 per month for the six months of each term, totaling \$6,600 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 Financial Aid Office will endeavor to quickly confirm eligibility for a loan when the FAFSA application is completed and the student is accepted to the seminary.

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.

For information about the **Mississippi United Methodist Case Scholarship**, contact the Registrar or consult the WBS Academic Catalog.