A new view of theological education

- The new M.Div. program at LTS provides students with a holistic approach to pastoral development in which the intellectual, practical and spiritual are fully integrated throughout the curriculum.
- This curriculum is not simply for pastoral knowledge, pastoral skills or even the Christian life, but for the fullness of the pastoral life.
- In partnership with pastors and congregations throughout the program, the seminary will apprentice students into ways of thinking, doing and being that are central to the vocation of a pastor.
- Students will serve in an accountable ministry in a congregational setting and participate in a covenant group of seminarians led by a faculty member and a pastor.

A FLEXIBLE NEW PROGRAM

Many ministerial students cannot move or commute to a seminary without significant hardship.

Response: Our new M.Div. program offers flexibility for full and part-time students:

- Courses: 2/3 online; 1/3 short intensives
- Full degree divided into smaller units
- Shorter course units, replacing a traditional 13-week semester commitment
- Traditional, non-traditional and non-degree students (including bi-vocational ministers, pastors & laity seeking continuing education)

(859) 252-0361
(866) 296-6087-toll-free
631 South Limestone
Lexington, Kentucky
40508
Apprenticeship

Learning the basic craft of the pastoral life
51 credit hours

MODULES
What:
• Serve a congregation
• Study eight elements of the primary areas of the pastoral life
• Non-graded, short, intensive, courses, some required, some optional

How:
Students must pass a certain number of modules in each area and the competency exercises for that area.

Where:
Online, onsite, and offsite.

Who:
Experienced pastors and faculty lead classes as conversation partners for the students.

COMPETENCY EXERCISES
What:
A rite of passage into the Journeyer stage of the M. Div. program

How:
Integrate four pairs of interpreting areas and leading areas through an exercise located in and directed to the congregational setting (see chart below).

Who:
Competency exercises are evaluated by faculty, clergy, laity, and the student.

Grades on exercises are applied to the whole area.

Grades will be assigned by the faculty.

The eight areas of the pastoral life covered in the modules and competency exercises are:

Interpreting the Past for the Church
Interpreting the Faith of the Church
Interpreting the Behavior of the Church
Interpreting the Scriptures for the Church

Leading the Church in Worship
Leading the Church into Mission
Leading the Church in Formation
Leading the Church through Care

Journeyer

Learning various approaches to the art of the pastoral life
19 Credit Hours

ELECTIVES
What:
Nine two-hour electives which integrate basic competency work

• More complex pastoral and social issues
• Deeper theological learning
• Better appropriation of ministerial and spiritual skills and practices

How:
Characteristics of electives:
• Graded upper level courses
• Directly connected to students’ ongoing congregational work
• Taught through partnership of faculty and church pastor

CAPSTONE EXERCISE
What:
A multi-layered strategy which addresses a significant issue facing the congregation.

How:
Using theological, spiritual and practical learning of the program and in consultation with a seasoned pastor-mentor, the student develops a portfolio including:

• a biblical, theological and ethical foundation for analyzing the issue
• a range of liturgical, educational, programmatic, and missional approaches for addressing it
• a bibliography of helpful resources related to the issue
• records and evaluations of ways the strategy is applied in the church

Master

Discovering one’s unique gifts for the pastoral life
6 Credit Hours

Learning through serving

Learning the basic craft of the pastoral life
51 credit hours

The eight areas of the pastoral life covered in the modules and competency exercises are:

Interpreting the Past for the Church
Interpreting the Faith of the Church
Interpreting the Behavior of the Church
Interpreting the Scriptures for the Church

Leading the Church in Worship
Leading the Church into Mission
Leading the Church in Formation
Leading the Church through Care

Apprenticeship

Learning the basic craft of the pastoral life
51 credit hours

MODULES
What:
• Serve a congregation
• Study eight elements of the primary areas of the pastoral life
• Non-graded, short, intensive, courses, some required, some optional

How:
Students must pass a certain number of modules in each area and the competency exercises for that area.

Where:
Online, onsite, and offsite.

Who:
Experienced pastors and faculty lead classes as conversation partners for the students.

COMPETENCY EXERCISES
What:
A rite of passage into the Journeyer stage of the M. Div. program

How:
Integrate four pairs of interpreting areas and leading areas through an exercise located in and directed to the congregational setting (see chart below).

Who:
Competency exercises are evaluated by faculty, clergy, laity, and the student.

Grades on exercises are applied to the whole area.

Grades will be assigned by the faculty.

The eight areas of the pastoral life covered in the modules and competency exercises are:

Interpreting the Past for the Church
Interpreting the Faith of the Church
Interpreting the Behavior of the Church
Interpreting the Scriptures for the Church

Leading the Church in Worship
Leading the Church into Mission
Leading the Church in Formation
Leading the Church through Care

Journeyer

Learning various approaches to the art of the pastoral life
19 Credit Hours

ELECTIVES
What:
Nine two-hour electives which integrate basic competency work

• More complex pastoral and social issues
• Deeper theological learning
• Better appropriation of ministerial and spiritual skills and practices

How:
Characteristics of electives:
• Graded upper level courses
• Directly connected to students’ ongoing congregational work
• Taught through partnership of faculty and church pastor

CAPSTONE EXERCISE
What:
A multi-layered strategy which addresses a significant issue facing the congregation.

How:
Using theological, spiritual and practical learning of the program and in consultation with a seasoned pastor-mentor, the student develops a portfolio including:

• a biblical, theological and ethical foundation for analyzing the issue
• a range of liturgical, educational, programmatic, and missional approaches for addressing it
• a bibliography of helpful resources related to the issue
• records and evaluations of ways the strategy is applied in the church

Master

Discovering one’s unique gifts for the pastoral life
6 Credit Hours

Learning through serving

Learning the basic craft of the pastoral life
51 credit hours

The eight areas of the pastoral life covered in the modules and competency exercises are:

Interpreting the Past for the Church
Interpreting the Faith of the Church
Interpreting the Behavior of the Church
Interpreting the Scriptures for the Church

Leading the Church in Worship
Leading the Church into Mission
Leading the Church in Formation
Leading the Church through Care