Payne Theological Seminary

presents

Transformational Church Leadership for a Digital Society

A Doctor of Ministry Focus Group

led by

Dr. JT Roberson, Jr., Mentor
Dr. Sherri Arnold-Graham, Mentor

Fall Semester begins

August 22-26, 2016
The Doctor of Ministry Program at Payne Theological Seminary

THE PTS DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM

The Doctor of Ministry program at Payne Theological Seminary is a process model of adult continuing education that is heavily influenced by Transformative Learning\(^1\) and Action Research\(^2\). The educational philosophy undergirding the program is a student-centered approach to transformative learning defined with a dialogical approach to a problem-posing curriculum as suggested by Paulo Freire\(^3\). The process uses Social Constructivism\(^4\) so that learning takes place best as students are actively engaged in a perpetual movement of discovery and invention.

The epistemological assumptions underlying the PTS Doctor of Ministry Program are that learning takes place through experience in context, through action/reflection within a peer group of learners, and also through theoretical understanding. For this reason, the PTS student will engage in collaborative learning with a Program Learning Committee from within the context of ministry, through action/reflection with members of the Peer Focus Group seminars and through readings and discussion from the academy. To implement this approach to learning, the PTS DMin program uses a three-tier curriculum for the DMin program.

The PTS DMin Peer Focus Group

A Focus Group\(^5\) is generally thought of as a qualitative research technique whereby a small (normally 6 to 12) group of participants are led by a moderator to explore the success of a particular commodity. The moderator would guide the participants through a series of questions to explore nuances of the commodity. Payne Theological Seminary will use this technique in exploring ministry issues in Transformational Church Leadership for a Digital Society. The mentors of the cohort, Dr. JT Roberson, Jr. and Dr. Sherri Arnold-Graham will serve as moderators of the focus group and the DMin students will serve as the participants. Each participant will approach his or her context through a Transformational Church Leadership lens to address church leadership issues within the context. It is therefore anticipated that the DMin projects the students will work on will fall under the aegis of Transformational Church Leadership but approached through different

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context and from different perspectives. In this way, the student will be able to explore his or her passion while at the same time, providing new and different perspectives on Transformational Church Leadership.

At the end of the three year program, it is expected that a book on Transformational Church Leadership for a Digital Society will be published with Dr. JT Roberson, Jr. and Dr. Sherri Arnold-Graham serving as the editors and the DMin students serving as contributors to the book. This, of course, means that the work of the student must be of publishable quality. It also means students will be published when completing the program.

**Transformational Church Leadership for a Digital Society**

This Doctor of Ministry Focus Group is designed to provide a vision of leadership that empowers leaders to transform individuals, churches, and communities. The group will develop a two prong foci that encompasses salvation and liberation. The program will introduce students to the concept of Transformative Learning as a tool for Church Leadership Development. Students will grapple with such questions as:

- What is the role of church leadership in fostering transformation as well as conserving tradition?
- What practical wisdom, qualities of leadership, skills, and experiences are necessary for the praxis of faithful and effective leadership?
- How do we effectively educate and mentor clergy and laity for effective church leadership?
- How do church leaders help the congregation fulfil its historic mission of effectively responding to the social crisis of our communities?
- How can the praxis of church leadership be transformed so that congregations better fulfil their mission in oppressed local communities?

Students will take four elective courses that will expose them to various aspects of church leadership including Servant Leadership, Charismatic Leadership, Visionary Leadership, Adaptive Leadership, Situational Leadership, and Transformational Leadership. Various leadership theories will be explored to help the student arrive at a style that resonates with his or her personality. Students will also be exposed to the rapidly changing environment which demands a change in leadership styles. Students will be able to examine their own personal leadership characteristics as well as that of their ministry context. The role of technology and its impact on decisions will be explored from a local and global perspective.
Who should be in this Group?

The Doctor of Ministry program represents formal preparation for and enrichment of the practice of ministry. It presupposes a Master of Divinity with three years of ministry experience. The goal of the Doctor of Ministry degree is to provide a level of knowledge, theoretical clarity, and competence of practice commensurate with the highest earned degree for the profession and practice of ministry. Persons seeking to enter into a Doctor of Ministry program must have a clearly definable context of ministry. The degree is designed to deepen the basic knowledge, skill, and research in ministry, so that one can engage in the practice of ministry with increasing professional, intellectual, and spiritual integrity. The Doctor of Ministry degree at Payne is designed to train leaders for the Church in various areas of ministry. The expected time of study is three years or six semesters. Students attend the one week Intensives and peer seminars. Additionally, web support is a part of the program. Through Blackboard and webinars, students are allowed to remain in their context of ministry on a full time basis while earning their degree.

Cost

Application Fee
   non-refundable ($75)

Semester Fee
   Intensive Registration ($375)
   Tuition ($4350)
   Technology ($160)

Other Fees
   Candidacy Review ($250)
   Graduation ($750)
   DMin Project Continuation ($2500)
   Matriculation Maintenance ($550)

Deadline

The cut-off date for fall 2016 applicants is July 15, 2016
About the Mentors

The Reverend James T. Roberson, Jr., Ph.D.

Dr. James T. Roberson, Jr. serves as the Director of the DMin Program at Payne Theological Seminary. He has served as past Dean of the Divinity School of Shaw University and also dean of the Doctoral Studies Program at United Theological Seminary. Dr. Roberson brings a rich and diverse background to the academic enterprise as a preacher, theological educator, mathematician, researcher, and computer analyst.

He was a pioneer in distance education for the black church and academy by developing the Black Religious Studies Network, Inc. (BRSNET) which connected the local church and theological education in the early 1990’s. His passion for theological education and church leadership has inspired him to develop innovative and inclusive programs for church leadership using the tool of distance education. His leadership and participation in professional groups such as the Association of Theological School (ATS), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), The Society for the Study of Black Religion, and ECUNET has allowed him to shape the conversation about the direction of church leadership in the 21st century.

Dr. Roberson was employed for many years as a Systems Programmer/Project Manager for International Business Machines. He holds a BA degree in Mathematics from Millsaps College, the MS degree in Mathematics/Computer Science from New York University, the MDiv in Biblical Studies from New York Theological Seminary, and the PhD degree in Administration and Supervision/Church Leadership from Fordham University.

Dr. Roberson currently serves as the pastor of the New Bethel Baptist Church, Macon, NC. He and his lovely wife, Beverly, reside in Cary, North Carolina.
About the Mentors

The Reverend Sherri Arnold-Graham, D.Min.

Reverend Dr. Sherri Arnold-Graham is the Director of Development for Shaw University Divinity School, Raleigh, North Carolina. She is the immediate past Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Woman’s Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina, an Auxiliary to the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. She used the culmination of her corporate knowledge in management and finance and her innate love for executive servant leadership in, “Missions and Stewardship,” to serve over 1700 Baptist churches (over 500,000 Baptists) of North Carolina. She is the former pastor of the historic Oberlin Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, were she became the first female pastor of a mainline Baptist church in the history of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Dr. Arnold-Graham earned a B.B.A. in Personnel and Enterprise Management from Emory University in 1984, and a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Homiletics from Shaw University Divinity School in May 2007 and is listed in Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities from both Emory and Shaw. She served as Graduate Research Assistant for the renowned Reverend Dr. Gardner C. Taylor from 2005-2007 and continued as an aide to him until he departed this life on Easter Sunday 2015. After seminary graduation, she also served as Associate Professor for his seminary class at Shaw Divinity: The Preaching of Gardner C. Taylor. Dr. Arnold-Graham is the Founder & President of “The Sherri Arnold-Graham Foundation: A Ministry for Breast Cancer Awareness & Support.” Her Foundation has quietly served women and families throughout the United States, Caribbean Islands and England providing FREE Mammograms and Free Baskets of Blessings at the point of diagnosis to help calm the storms of breast cancer.

Dr. Arnold-Graham earned her Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in 2012. Her doctoral research chronicles the power of Christian preaching to transform people and communities. She successfully defended her project after seven years of serving and shadowing Dr. Taylor: “Prophetic Preaching to Postmodern Listeners: A Case Study of Gardner Calvin Taylor and the DNA of Preaching.” Dr. Arnold-Graham has devoted herself to the study of homiletics beyond U.S. borders to include Oxford University, Oxford, England in 2010 and at the American University of Paris in 2012. Dr. Arnold-Graham is a dynamic international conference presenter who speaks on the Transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ, Community Empowerment Strategies, Health Disparities, Health & Spirituality, and Faith-based Health Care Mission Collaborations. She perceives herself as a servant leader called to exemplify the power of humility in ministry.

She is married to Dr. Ernesto Graham, OB/Gyn and they have two children: Faith Sheree and Ernesto, II.