



## MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM ADMISSION'S ESSAY

*Please submit a 2 page writing sample on the subject "What is the value of a theological education to me?" Include your motives for entering the Christian Ministry and those persons, influences, and religious experiences that led you to choose a church-related vocation.*

### ACADEMIC HISTORY

*Please list all colleges and graduate school attended in chronological order.*

Name of Institution (Include City/State)	Dates of Attendance (Start Date/Yr. – End Date/Yr.)	Degree	Date Graduated or Expected Date

List Undergraduate Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for choosing: \_\_\_\_\_

List any academic honors, awards, fellowships, scholarships, etc. you have received during your undergraduate or graduate work:

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### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Please list chronologically your activities not listed under Academic History or Church Activities (e.g. employment, military service, etc.)

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## HOUSING

Do you plan to live on campus?  Yes  No      Do you need housing for your family?  Yes  No

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION

Denomination Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are part of the African Methodist Episcopal Church please answer:

Episcopal District: \_\_\_\_\_ Conference: \_\_\_\_\_

Bishop: \_\_\_\_\_ Presiding Elder: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Minister's Name/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Activities? (i.e. Sunday School Teacher, member of church board or organization, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you licensed?  Yes  No

Are you ordained?  Yes  No

What preaching experience have you had, if any? \_\_\_\_\_

If not preparing for pastoral ministries, for what type of full-time professional religious work are you preparing? Please be specific. \_\_\_\_\_

## REFERENCES

Payne requires three letters of recommendation from all applicants. One recommendation should be from your pastor and/or a denominational official. Two recommendations may come from other persons, preferably college professors who are familiar with your academic ability. For students who have been out of school for more than five years, one letter of recommendation should be from a supervisor from the place of employment or the supervisor's equivalent. Give the names and addresses below.

Name of Reference	Address and Telephone Number
1.	
2.	
3.	



# MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE RECOMMENDATION FORM

## RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

This section is to be completed by applicant:

- I waive the right to access this reference form. This reply will be kept confidential.
- I do not waive the right to access this reference form. I may request to view the material.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

## REFERENCE

This section is to be completed by remitter:

\_\_\_\_\_ has applied for admission to Payne Theological Seminary, a graduate professional school affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.) and has indicated that you could provide us with a recommendation. Your honest evaluation of this individual's capabilities for graduate studies and work within the church would be greatly appreciated. Your response is one of several that will be utilized in making the decision regarding admission to Payne. Where there are options, please check only one (1) box. Thank you for your input.

How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In your estimation, what is the applicant's greatest strength?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do you feel are areas of opportunity/growth for the applicant?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How are the applicant's people skills?

- Relates very well with others. Is thoughtful and considerate.
- Is polite and amicable. Usually demonstrates concern for others.
- There is reason to believe that the applicant has difficulties relating to others.
- This person has difficulty accepting people who have different views.

Please comment on the applicant's ability to communicate with people of different ages and backgrounds.

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How well does this person deal with authority, whether in a position of leadership or not?

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In your estimation, how emotionally mature is the applicant?

- Mature and emotionally stable. One can count on individual.
- Usually mature; usually stable.
- There is reason to believe the individual may not be able to handle moderate stress.
- Applicant seems to have serious emotional problems.

How is the applicant's faith made manifest? *(Check all that apply)*

- Patterns life after the teaching of the church.
- Peacemaker
- Seeks to build bridges of hope and trust.
- Has a desire to help others.
- Enjoys discussing issues of faith.
- Respects the belief of others.
- Attends church regularly.
- Interested in learning more about own religious tradition.
- Can sometimes be abrasive or offensive in attempting to communicate beliefs.
- Uncomfortable with those who believe differently.
- Self-centered

What evidence in the applicant's life leads you to believe that this person is deeply committed to the church?

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In your estimation, how will this person handle the academic requirements of a graduate school?

- Mature and emotionally stable. One can count on individual.
- Will exert more effort than in past and will probably do very good work.
- Will provide adequate work.
- May have some difficulty in graduate work.
- May not be able to handle graduate work.

**Overall Evaluation:**

- I recommend this applicant without reservation as an excellent prospect for graduate theological education. Applicant demonstrates excellent promise as a church leader.
- Overall, I would recommend this individual as a good prospect for graduate theological education and church leadership.
- I have some reservations, but I feel the applicant has a reasonable chance for achievement in graduate school and as a church leader.
- I have substantial doubts about this applicant.
- I have additional comments that I would like to communicate with the Admissions Director/Academic Dean confidentially. I would like to request a phone conversation.

Please use the space provided to share any other information you feel we should know about the applicant.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Telephone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cellular Number

THANK YOU FOR LEGIBLY AND COMPLETELY FILLING OUT THIS FORM.

Return form to:  
Payne Theological Seminary  
ATTN: Office of Admissions  
1230 Wilberforce-Clifton Road, P.O. Box 474  
Wilberforce, OH 45384-0474

Or Fax: 937.376.2888