Payne Theological Seminary

presents

Effective Church Leadership and Prophetic Preaching in the 21st Century

A Doctor of Ministry Focus Group

led by

Dr. Keith Donaldson D. Lawrence, 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 of Effective Church Leadership and Prophetic Preaching in the 21st Century. The mentor of the cohort, Dr. Keith Donaldson D. Lawrence will serve as moderator of the focus group and the DMin students will serve as the participants. Each participant will approach his or her context through an Effective Church Leadership and Prophetic Preaching in the 21st Century 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 Effective Church Leadership and Prophetic Preaching in the 21st Century but approached through different 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 Effective Church Leadership and Prophetic Preaching in the 21st Century.

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At the end of the three-year program, it is expected that a book on *Effective Church Leadership and Prophetic Preaching in the 21st Century* will be published with Dr. Keith Donaldson D. Lawrence serving as the editor 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.

**Effective Church Leadership and Prophetic Preaching in the 21st Century**

This Doctor of Ministry Focus Group is designed for pastor and leaders who need to answer the question of how to retain members/partners after the Word of God has been preached, proclaimed, or pronounced. It is a known fact that prophetic preaching will attract people, but it requires effective church leadership to keep them. We will explore effective discipleship, evangelism and hospitality as ways in which churches retain members/partners and stop the revolving door syndrome.

Students will deal with four elective courses that look at *Effective Church Leadership and Prophetic Preaching in the 21st Century* by means of the following subject matter:

- Role of the prophetic preacher
- Leadership and church administration
- Leadership and worship
- Leadership and church growth

This cohort will focus on principles intended to build up the body of Christ, empower leaders and transform communities. The cohort will engage in intentional dialogue around the need for *Effective Church Leadership and Prophetic Preaching* across the diaspora. Prepared didactic lectures based on cohort themes will be presented and from time to time, case studies will be used to examine homiletically stimulating topics that may surface during the course of this program.
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 Keith Donaldson Lawrence, D.Min.

An infectious smile, a calm outward disposition, a fiery demeanor in the pulpit, a willingness to help everyone, a man truly called by God…all of these descriptors fit Keith Donaldson D. Lawrence, who was called to ministry and ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church at the young age of 18. Lena Simeon Lawrence, his late mother, who was also an ordained minister, is largely responsible for Dr. Lawrence’s exposure to ministry and spiritual nurturing. A native of Trinidad, West Indies, he knew that he could reach emPOWERing heights by relocating to the United States to further his education.

Dr. Lawrence landed in Atlanta, Georgia, where he attended Morris Brown College and Georgia State University. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy from Georgia State. Dr. Lawrence continued his education and theological training at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, where he received his Master of Divinity degree. His preaching and his willingness to mentor other Candler seminary students lured many of them to his church in Fairburn, Georgia, south of Atlanta, earning the church the nickname, “Candler South.” Continuing to follow God’s leadership, Dr. Lawrence continued his quest for knowledge and academic excellence when he went on to earn the Doctor of Ministry degree at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Lawrence is now a mentor at United Theological Seminary, where his Doctor of Ministry focus group is “Effective Church Leadership and Prophetic Preaching in the 21st Century.”

Dr. Lawrence’s visionary leadership and guidance have been shared with Rita’s Memorial AME, Trinidad, West Indies; St. Paul AME Church, Madison, Georgia; St. John AME Church, Fairburn, Georgia; and New Bethel AME Church, Lithonia, Georgia. His magnetism and passion for emPOWERing others through Christ are evidenced not only in his church but also in his home: Cheryl Nelms-Lawrence, his wife, has answered the call to ministry and joins Dr. Lawrence in kingdom building. His daughter Keshona is also involved in the ministry.

Through situations, circumstances, and solid preparation, God gave Dr. Lawrence a vision that he would place him in an interdenominational setting where he could use his preparation, personality and preaching to do more for God’s kingdom building. In 2003, Dr. Lawrence planted the seed in fertile ground for this interdenominational ministry and named it Global EmPOWERment Ministries (GEM), “A Ministry without Limits.” GEM is committed to ministering to the complete person by sharing Christ through the promotion of spiritual growth and maturity, physical health and wellbeing, and economic vitality. God has not only blessed Dr. Lawrence with extraordinary skills when it comes to preaching and helping others, but God also blessed him with superlative business acumen. Under Dr. Lawrence’s leadership, many areas of ministry are currently under development, such as GEM Bible Institute powered by Regent University, a children’s academy, an athletic program and other relevant services to empower the community.

Dr. Keith Donaldson D. Lawrence is committed to accomplishing his mission to further God’s kingdom by “Empowering the world Spiritually, Physically and Economically through Liberation”.