Payne Theological Seminary

presents

Women and Men Working Together in Pursuit of Excellence in Church Leadership

A Doctor of Ministry Focus Group

led by

Dr. Ann F. Lightner-Fuller, Mentor
Dr. Anthony M. Chandler, Sr., Mentor

Fall. Semester begins

August 22-26, 2016
The Doctor of Ministry Program

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 *Women and Men Working Together in Pursuit of Excellence in Church Leadership*. The mentors of the cohort, Dr. Ann Lightner-Fuller and Dr. Anthony Chandler 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 *Women and Men Working Together in 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 *Women and Men Working Together in Leadership* 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 *Women and Men Working Together in Leadership*.

At the end of the three-year program, it is expected that a book on *Women and Men Working Together in Pursuit of Excellence in Church Leadership* will be published with Dr. Ann Lightner-Fuller and Dr. Anthony Chandler 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.

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Women and Men Working Together in Pursuit of Excellence in Church Leadership

This Doctor of Ministry Focus Group is designed to provide a vision of leadership that empowers gender neutral leaders to transform individuals, churches, and communities. The group will develop a two prong foci that engages the challenges and possibilities associated with women and men working together to achieve Excellence in Church Leadership. 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 while respectful of 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 without gender bias?
- How do women and men working together as 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 women and men working together for effective church leadership. The four Focus Group Electives are:

- Women Leaders in Church History
- Prophetic Preaching through a female hermeneutic as well as a male hermeneutic
- The appropriation and appreciation of female leadership attributes for effective church leadership
- The Future of the Church with Female and Male Leadership: A New Paradigm void of a male dominated hegemony.

Students will be exposed to the rapidly changing environment which demands a recognition of leadership characteristics void of gender preference. Students will be able to examine their own personal leadership characteristics and correct any gender bias they may have acquired during their formative years. Students will also explore ways to move the context beyond gender bias in leadership selection.
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 Ann Lightner-Fuller, D.Min.

The Reverend Dr. Ann F. Lightner-Fuller is the esteemed pastor of the Mount Calvary African Methodist Episcopal Church in Towson, Maryland. A native of Raleigh, North Carolina, her pastoral ministry began in April 1983 following her ordination as an Itinerant Deacon. Dr. Lightner-Fuller preached her initial sermon in 1981 at Bethel A.M.E. Church (Baltimore, MD) under the pastorate of her father in the ministry, now Bishop John R. Bryant. In over thirty (30) years of ministry, Dr. Lightner-Fuller has served in both rural and urban settings, and has preached globally.

Under her spiritual leadership, in 1997, the members of Mt. Calvary built a new sanctuary for the growing congregation, and liquidated a 1.5 million dollar mortgage in just five years. In September of 2003, Dr. Lightner-Fuller and her congregation purchased property adjacent to the church to construct a 20,000 square foot multimillion dollar Education and Family Life Center. The Family Life Center was completed in May 2012 and was dedicated on June 10, 2012 by Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson. To God be the Glory! This facility houses numerous programs aimed at strengthening families and making Mt. Calvary the Hub of the Towson community.

Dr. Lightner-Fuller is a woman of many “firsts”. She served as the first coordinator of Women in Ministry for the Second Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church; the first woman to preach the Annual Sermon in the historic Baltimore Annual Conference in 1991. She was elected the first woman to serve as President of the Baltimore A.M.E. Ministerial Alliance, in 1992. Dr. Lightner-Fuller was the first woman to preach at the Morning Worship Service at the historic Hampton University Ministers’ Conference, in 1996.

Dr. Lightner-Fuller was invited by President Barack Obama to speak at the White House for his annual Easter Prayer Breakfast on April 7, 2015. It was a great honor that was shared by the African Methodist Episcopal Connectional Church.

Dr. Lightner-Fuller attended Boston University where she received her undergraduate degree in communications. She holds a Master’s in Theology from St. Mary’s Seminary, the Ecumenical Institute, Baltimore, Maryland. She received her Doctorate of Ministry from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. She is the author of two books, And Your Daughters Shall Preach: Developing a Female Mentoring Program for the African American Church, and Desperate People: Sermons for Times Like These. Her sermons have also been featured in the African American Pulpit, the AME Reviewer, and several other publications. For over a decade her television ministry introduced her preaching gift to the world. A Pastor at heart, Dr. Lightner-Fuller’s new ministry, “Sitting at His Feet”, a pastoral mentoring ministry, will enlighten and encourage pastors nationwide as they seek spiritual wisdom and practical advice for ministry and feeding the flock of God.

Dr. Lightner-Fuller is married to Reverend Stanley Fuller, Executive Minister at Mt. Calvary, and former pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. Together, the Fullers have four children, one daughter-in-law, three granddaughters, Aliyah Brooke, Lawren Victoria, Laila Nicole and one grandson, Victor Amir.
The Reverend Anthony M. Chandler, Sr., D.Min.

Reverend Dr. Anthony Michael Chandler is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He is the son of Thomas Chandler and Queen Anderson Jones. He was educated in the Baltimore City Public School System, having graduated from the distinguished Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. He earned the Bachelor of Arts Degree from Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, the Master of Divinity Degree from Howard University, Washington, D.C. and the Doctor of Ministry Degree, focusing on Preaching and Leadership in the Black Church, from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. In May of 2014, Dr. Chandler earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. The African American Pulpit published in their fall 2009 edition his sermon entitled, “There’s a new kid on the block!” He is honored to serve as the Eastern Region Chaplain of his beloved fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. Dr. Chandler’s first book titled Blessed with a Burden was released in spring 2012.

In March 2000, Reverend Chandler was elected as the second pastor of the New Bethlehem Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. Within 7 years under his anointed leadership, the congregation grew from less than 50 members to well over 600. Numerous noteworthy facility enhancements, ministries and outreach opportunities were established during Dr. Chandler’s tenure at New Bethlehem.

In December 2007, the Cedar Street Baptist Church of God in Richmond, Virginia, after 52 years of being led by their former pastor, accepted God’s will to have Dr. Chandler serve and lead them as the tenth pastor in the history of the church. His charismatic, innovative and stellar leadership abilities have led this congregation of now 2000+ disciples to pursue a deeper relationship with God while renewing relationships, replacing religiosity with spirituality and leading them in reclaiming their God ordained destiny. During his first year, an additional Sunday morning worship service at 8:00 a.m. was established and in his second year, a total renovation of the sanctuary was completed by resources gained specifically for that project. The church also purchased and fully renovated an additional property adjacent to the current property which now provides additional meeting space and a conference room. Dr. Chandler has developed numerous ministries, increased outreach/volunteerism, enhanced educational, spiritual and social programs to develop holistic ministry opportunities for the church. The church also sponsors a 30 minute weekly broadcast aired locally each Sunday morning. Most significantly during Dr. Chandler’s leadership, souls have been saved, lives have changed, families have been restored and an atmosphere of “family and fellowship” has been instituted. Dr. Chandler is Building ANEW on a Good Foundation.

His greatest joy is being married to his high school sweetheart and “Delta dreamgirl”, Dr. Taleshia Lenshell. “Lady C”, as she is affectionately called, has a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. Their joy has been made complete sharing as the proud parents of Anthony Michael II, Alysha Michelle and Andrew Maxwell.