



PAYNE THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

Payne Theological Seminary

presents

*The Practical Theology of
Christian Discipleship:
Regenerating and
Developing 21st Century
Models*

A Doctor of Ministry Focus Group

Led by

Dr. Melonie A. Valentine, Mentor

Dr. James C. Wade, Mentor

Fall Semester 2017



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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 Learning¹ 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.

¹ Edward Taylor, Patricia Cranton, and Associates, *Handbook on Transformative Learning Theory, Research, and Practice*, (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2012).

² Peter Reason and Hilary Bradbury, eds., *The Sage Handbook on Action Research: Participative Inquiry and Practice*, 2nd Edition, (Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2008).

³ Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (New York: Continuum, 1993).

⁴ Vivien Burr, *Social Constructivism*, 2nd Edition, (New York: Routledge, 2003).



The PTS DMin Peer Focus Group

A Focus Group¹ 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 *The Practical Theology of Christian Discipleship: Regenerating and Developing 21st Century Models*. The mentors of the cohort, Dr. Melonie A. Valentine and Dr. James C. Wade, 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 *Practical Theology of Discipleship* lens to address a praxis of discipleship development within the context. It is therefore anti but will be approached through different contexts and perspectives relevant to each environment and location. In this way, the student will be able to explore his or her passion for ministry, while at the same time providing new and different perspectives on *The Practical Theology of Christian Discipleship: Regenerating and Developing 21st Century Models*.

At the end of the three year program, it is expected that a book on *The Practical Theology of Christian Discipleship: Regenerating 21st Century Models* will be published with Dr. Melonie A. Valentine and Dr. James G. Wade 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 this program.

The Practical Theology of Christian Discipleship: Regenerating and Developing 21st Century Models

This Focus Group will feature Christian Discipleship development through church or parachurch ministry contexts. Peer members will research and model processes to address the overarching need to follow the mission, teachings, purpose, and strategies of Jesus Christ to make disciples today in consideration of current domestic and world views. The practical theology of Christian Discipleship is to be theologically and theoretically researched, but then analyzed empirically and pragmatically for some intended application. Emphasis will be upon the relevancy of Jesus Christ and his mission of salvation for today's issues and needs.

¹ David L. Morgan, *Focus Groups as Qualitative Research*, 2nd ed., (Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1997).



Learners will be encouraged to regenerate, promote and develop concepts for and from the church that are purposely designed to function and promote growth and development in the midst of social diversity, modern multicultural thought, changing environments, and technological advances.

Students will take elective courses that support Christian Discipleship as a Practical Theology through the lens of:

- Spiritual Formation
- Christian Education
- Evangelism/ Kingdom Building
- Organization Development, Effectiveness, and Change Management

The group will focus on ministries intended to have an impact on local church and parachurch settings and community evangelistic outreach. Special emphasis will be devoted to transforming congregations to become commissioners of Christian Discipleship through personal and group development. The Focus Group will be exposed to current ministries, churches, and diverse settings for gathering lessons learned and new perspectives.

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.



Payne's Doctor of Ministry degree is designed to train church leaders in many areas of ministry. It is a three-year (six consecutive semesters) program. Each semester begins with a one-week DMin Intensive followed by Peer Focus Group webinar sessions. Web support is a vital part of the program. Through webinars, students are able to remain in their context of ministry on a full-time basis while earning their degree.

How Much Does This Program Cost?

Application Fee:

Non-refundable (\$75)

Semester Fees:

Intensive Registration (\$375)

Tuition (\$4350)

Technology (\$160)

Other Fees:

Candidacy Review (\$350)

Graduation (\$750)

DMin Project Continuation (\$2500)

Matriculation Maintenance (\$550)

Deadline

The cut-off date for Fall 2017 applicants is July 15, 2017.



About the Mentors



The Reverend Melonie Ann Valentine, DMin

Rev. Dr. Melonie A. Valentine is the Presiding Elder of the Dayton District in the Ohio - South Ohio Annual Conference of the Third Episcopal District under the leadership of the Rt. Rev. Bishop McKinley Young.

She has previously served as Senior Pastor at Bethel AMEC in Middletown, Ohio, Quinn Chapel AMEC in Ironton, Ohio, St. Paul AMEC in Circleville, Ohio, Bethel AMEC in Frankfort, Ohio, and as an associate at Quinn Chapel AMEC in Chillicothe, Ohio.

She has written and presented several church development workshops pertaining to Church Administration, Church Financial Stewardship, Church Officers Training, Class Leaders Training, Evangelism, Women in Ministry, and Christian Discipleship. Her published book is entitled, *Quit Waiting to See Who Shows Up: Discipleship Development for the Local*

Church.

Dr. Valentine has served as a core class instructor of *Final Document Preparation* for the Doctor of Ministry program at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. She also worked as an Organization Development Consultant for Insolves, Inc. in Piketon, Ohio and was a member of the adjunct faculty in the College of Business at Ohio University, Chillicothe Campus.

She retired from the Uranium Enrichment Plant in Piketon, Ohio as the Senior Manager of the Customer Service and Product Scheduling Organization and has thirty years of combined experience in Organization Development, Human Resources and Staffing, Training, Strategic Planning, Group Facilitation, Team Building, and Business Process Re-engineering.

She has a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, a Master's in Divinity from Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, Ohio, and a Doctorate in Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Her passion for ministry is in helping churches develop into healthy disciple-making entities within the Kingdom of God.

She and her husband Richard E. Valentine are residents of Chillicothe, Ohio. The Valentines have one daughter, Courtney (Valentine) Bratcher of Louisville, Kentucky. Elder Valentine has one step son, Matthew Valentine, Sr. of Chillicothe, one step daughter, Tracie (Valentine) Burgess of Pickerington, Ohio, and four grandsons (Kendall, Matthew Jr., Aaron, and Xavier). She clings to the words coming from Jeremiah 29:11 -*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.* NRSV



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The Reverend James C. Wade, DMin

Elected for a fourth consecutive term as the Executive Director of the Department of Church Growth and Development, during the 50th Session of the General Conference in July 2016, James Carter Wade has been an ordained Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church for more than forty-two (42) years. He has served congregations as Senior Pastor in the 4th Episcopal District.



His spirit-led ministerial career has encompassed the following appointments: Gaines Chapel, East Moline IL (1973-1976); Allen Chapel, Rockford, IL (1976-1988); Wayman Chapel, Racine WI (1988-1990); St. Paul-Downtown, Detroit, MI (1990-1993); and Ebenezer, Evanston, IL (1993-2004). Under Rev. Wade's leadership, each congregation experienced tremendous spiritual and numerical growth. With a passion for Christian Education, Evangelism and Youth, Dr. Wade has continuously worked to open doors that allow youth and youth delegates to come to the forefront in African Methodism.

Before his election as a General Officer, Dr. Wade was named Director of Christian Education, Chicago Annual Conference (1986-1994); 4th Episcopal District Director of Evangelism (1994-2004); Western Regional Director of Evangelism, Department of Church Growth and Development AME Church (1992-1994), and Dean of Seminars, Department of Church Growth and Development AME Church (1994-2004).

Dr. Wade has engaged in a number of national and international evangelistic excursions and crusades throughout the Connectional AME Church prior to and subsequent to his election. Compassionate and sensitive to the continual temporal needs of persons who live in abject poverty, Dr. Wade has obtained numerous donations from various churches, other entities, and individuals throughout the United States to present to the people in the country where he was asked to serve.

Continually seeking the next move of God for this Ministry, Dr. Wade developed and presented a proposed Evangelism Certification Curriculum which was accepted at the 2007 General Board Meeting. In 2013 he introduced a Chaplaincy Certification Program as part of the Annual Seminar on Church Growth and Evangelism. In the 2016 Seminar, Pastoral Care was added as a programmatic piece. Dr. Wade believes that an emphasis on spiritual growth amongst clergy and laity serves to connect the theoretical and practical aspects of the work of evangelism and discipleship in any context. All of the materials and resources produced by the Department, under his direction, have been translated into the language of those whom he has served internationally. The *Basic and Advanced Street Ministry Manuals* were developed by twelve to fifteen persons selected by Dr. Wade and published in 2005 by the Department. *Teaching the Congregation to Pray for the Spiritually Lost* began in South Africa with Bishop Wilfred J. Messiah. Dr. Wade facilitates this particular lesson "Order of the Flame" annually at the World Methodist Council on Evangelism where he serves as Herald.



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Moreover, he has authored and published a number of Evangelism and “How To” booklets. Among them are “How to Pray for Your Children,” “Sunday School Evangelism at its Best,” and “Praise is What I Do.”

He holds earned Bachelor of Arts degrees from Great Lakes Bible College and Logos University; Masters of Divinity degrees from Faith Grant College and Aiden University, and a Doctor of Ministry from Logos University.

In addition, Dr. Wade serves as a Stakeholder on the Board of NAATEN; Board Member, Visitors Board, Lincoln University, Lincoln PA; and Guest Lecturer, The Mid-South Delta Initiative of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. He is also a 32nd Degree Prince Hall Mason.

The Rev. Dr. Wade is married to Dr. Julia M. Wade and has two adult sons and six grandchildren.