The Parish Focus is designed to involve the student’s ministerial setting in all phases of the program. These include:

- **SEMINAR PHASE**, consisting of six seminars in which various areas of ministry are reviewed;
- **COLLOQUIUM PHASE**, in which the nature of the doctoral project is developed and a Biblical Seminar is taken;
- **PROJECT PHASE**, involving two elective courses, the implementations of the project, and the writing of the doctoral paper.

While most candidates who elect the Parish Focus serve congregations, others in specialized ministries have found it a flexible vehicle adaptable to their own situations. These have included denominational posts; ecumenical agencies; military, prison, college, and other institutional chaplaincy; and various school ministries. In every case, however, the clergy person must intentionally involve his or her constituents in the program of study. This insures that the congregation or agency, as well as the student, benefit directly from the Doctor of Ministry Program.

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The **Doctor of Ministry Program** at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary also offers four other focuses:

- **Reformed Focus**
- **Eastern Christian Focus**
- **Reformed Christian Spirituality Focus**
- **Science and Faith**

**Practical theology and leadership in the church and world**
PHASE I

Theology of the Church and Ministry focuses on implications for the practice of ministry. Theology is understood and applied as it relates to specific situations in the candidate’s ministry.

Pastoral Care studies theological and psychological insights as related to the theory and practice of caring, with case studies furnished by the students.

Homiletics is an advanced course in the theory and practice of preaching in the context of worship, with student input central to the seminar.

Pastoral Leadership reviews issues in church administration, including planning, stewardship, budgeting, and the development of lay leadership in relation to theological criteria and administrative theory. Case studies and student presentations are featured.

Education is designed to introduce clergy to contemporary discussions about the educational ministry of the Church and to provide disciplined ways of thinking about that ministry, particularly in the congregational setting.

Congregational and Community Issues uses a case method to consider problems confronting the Church in society, with the discipline of Christian ethics as a major resource.

COURSE OUTLINE

Classes are scheduled in two-week blocks of concentrated study, meeting in January and June, at

Pinnacle Presbyterian Church
Scottsdale, Arizona

PHASE II

Proposal Lab assists students in designing a doctoral project in a particular area of ministry. Theoretical issues underlying the situation and a method for addressing these issues are clarified as the student develops the proposal in consultation with peers and faculty.

Biblical Seminar provides a study of basic themes and ideas that appear in both the Old and New Testaments, and of the ways in which these relate to issues in church and ministry. Discussion of these themes to the areas students are considering for their doctoral projects is a major component of the course.

PHASE III

Phase III requires satisfactory completion of a doctoral project and paper which must demonstrate the candidate’s ability to identify a problem, issue, or concern in his or her own ministry, integrate method for resolution. Two electives (six credit hours) must be taken during this phase, preferably focusing in the general area of the doctoral project.

The doctoral project/paper must reflect the candidate’s theological insight and its positive integration with the practice of ministry. While the project normally concludes in the third year of study, the demands of professional work and study sometimes make it more practical to take two years to complete this project. The program is flexible and can accommodate each candidate’s situation.

ADMISSION

A Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent from an accredited seminary or divinity school is required for admission. Applicants are also expected to have completed a minimum of three years in ministry following receipt of the M.Div and to have an endorsement from their church board or agency, of an appropriate ecclesiastical official.

You may request an application packet or e-mail the director from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary web site, www.pts.edu.

Financial aid is available for qualified applicants.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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