Ministry leaders often feel inadequately equipped for the challenges they face. A rapidly changing world only heightens that uncertainty, especially when diverse cultures and worldviews become commonplace in our own communities. Author Alan Roxburgh reminds us that “…many of the maps we have internalized about what it means to be the church and how to shape churches in our culture no longer connect with or match the dramatically changing environments in which we are living.” How then shall we lead? Rooted in a biblical perspective of God’s mission and cultural origins, Missional Context & Design provides insights and tools for understanding and addressing a variety of contemporary challenges. Specific attention will be given to equipping students with the needed skills to lead transformative ministries in their individual context.

With 28 years of pastoral experience in small Midwest communities as well as the Chicago suburbs, Dr. Dennison understands the need for contextualizing the Gospel for effective ministry. He then directed a denominational missions department for 20 years through which he ministered in various cultures around the world. Today he assists local churches in evaluating and strengthening their local and global outreach.

**DMin Program Purpose**

1– Personal growth and resilience that is augmented by emotional and spiritual health.

2– Professional development in specific areas of ministry research.

**Doctor of Ministry Financial Aid**

Recently, doctoral students at Winebrenner who are US citizens have been approved to receive Federal Direct Loans. A graduate student who is a United States citizen or permanent resident can borrow up to $20,500 per year. Interest begins to accrue immediately and the student is responsible for interest payments while in school, but students are not required to begin repayment of the loan until six months after graduation. Payment may begin prematurely, if the doctoral student drops below half-time status. The interest rate for an unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan is variable and capped at 8.25%. Contact Financial Aid Coordinator (financialaid@winebrenner.edu) for more information.
DM 840 Post-Seminar Reflections

James Wilhoit wrote, “Christian spiritual transformation refers to the intentional communal process of growing in our relationship with God and becoming conformed to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.”¹ This statement describes perfectly our Spring 2017 content course, “Formed in Christ in and for Community.”

We learned about the vital intentionality that must be embraced in order for spiritual transformation to take place. We learned that the community is the environment in which spiritual transformation is meant to occur. We also learned that becoming conformed to Jesus Christ is the ultimate goal, and the Holy Spirit is our ultimate guide and teacher.

There is still much to be learned about being formed in Christ in the context of community and for the benefit of that community, but our time together laid a firm foundation for continued discovery.


Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”
(Reduction 5:12b, NRSV)
My name is Arthur L. Butler, Pastor of Providence Missionary Baptist Church and Dean of the Northwest District Association.

I was born in Lima, Ohio. I am married to a gift from God, Michele R. Butler, and we have a blended family of eight children.

I have a Diploma in Pastoral Counseling and a Master of Arts in Practical Theology from Winebrenner Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from the University of Findlay. I am also a licensed electrician in the city of Lima and the State of Ohio.

I selected Winebrenner for my DMin program because Winebrenner has enhanced my potential to pastor and exemplify ministries in the church.

I commenced my doctoral studies in the spring of 2017. My dissertation is to provide information on how to start or plant a church in the Black Baptist Association.

I feel that Winebrenner will prepare anyone for their spiritual walk and spiritual life in Jesus Christ.
Doctor of Ministry Program Overview

Program Foundations:
- Program is designed for persons holding the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree or its equivalent and are engaged in Christian ministry.
- Practical focus is intentionally formatted to increase professional ministry competency.
- Ministry practitioners are equipped for advanced levels of theological reflection and praxis of leadership, missiology, biblical theology, and worship.
- Spiritual formation emphasis fosters personal development to become more like Christ, which impacts all dimensions of one’s journey and service to others.
- Four-year in-service degree, the DMin permits students to complete the program while remaining in full-time ministry.
- Professional and personal development (16 credits) plus research and writing the doctoral project (16 credits) comprise the curriculum.

Program Distinctive: Doctoral students launch their research project from the very beginning of the program in order to integrate new insights from seminars and cohort class sessions during the entire 4-year study process.

Program Components:
1) Intensive One-Week Seminars—January & July
2) Individual Self-directed Learning—Before and after each intensive seminar
3) Community Peer Learning—Cohort learning experience
4) Doctoral Research Project—Research focus is determined by the doctoral student’s ministry context.

follow his call

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Doctor of Ministry Director
Rev. Dr. M. John Nissley has served for 17 years as the Professor of Spiritual Formation & Pastoral Theology at Winebrenner Theological Seminary. Since 2008, he has served as the Doctor of Ministry Director.

Contact Dr. John Nissley (419) 434-4247 or (800) 992-4987, ext. 4247