

Doctor of Ministry Newsletter

Community of Learners

The Association of Theological Schools Standards for Accreditation note, “Theological schools are communities of faith and learning...” In the Winebrenner Theological Seminary Doctor of Ministry program an intentional community of learners is established within the curriculum

The Community of Learners meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm EST. Students are required to attend 80% of the gatherings across their entire program as a requirement for graduation. Students from the pre-2020 program are also invited to participate.

Gatherings take on a variety of themes with some focused on upcoming course work, introduction of new adjunct instructors or guest lecturers, program wide announcements and other ‘housekeeping’ elements. Other gatherings focus on a time of devotion or worship with communal prayer or give opportunity for students to network regarding their DMin research areas and ministry settings. In future, DMin graduates will be invited to return and to share the long term impact of their research on their role in ministry both past and present.

Perspectives on Crisis, Grief, and Trauma-Redux

In the Fall 2020 trimester incoming students in the Doctor of Ministry program took the course, “Perspectives on Crisis, Grief, and Trauma.” The course was designed to co-mingle students at the Doctoral level with students in various MA programs including Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Practical Theology, and Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling. The course was designed to host a variety of guest lecturers who brought expertise in Grief Counseling, Community Trauma and Trauma Theory, Old Testament Lament, and Ministry Resilience. These guest lectures were interwoven with theological reflection on crisis, grief, and trauma with a particular focus on the current pandemic.



Photo by [Andrik Langfield](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Inside this issue

- Community of Learners
- Perspectives on Crisis, Grief, and Trauma-Redux
- Transformational Communication
- 2020 DMin Graduate Dr. Art Butler
- Recommended Reading
- Program Description

Important Dates

- Spring Trimester Start Date: January 4th
- Spring Trimester End Date: March 26th
- Summer Trimester Start Date: May 3rd
- Summer Trimester End: July 23rd
- Commencement Saturday July 24th



Dr. Brent C. Sleasman PhD

Transformational Communication Spring 2021

This spring, Dr. Brent Sleasman will teach Transformational Communication. This course anchors human communication within the broader scriptural paradigm of Jesus as Word. Students will situate and analyze their entire ministry, beyond preaching, within a broader model that views human communication as transformational rather than simply transactional.

Dr. Sleasman is originally from southwest Pennsylvania and a gradu-

ate of The University of Findlay (BA, Speech), Winebrenner Theological Seminary (MDiv), and Duquesne University (PhD, Rhetoric). He has served as a pastor in Ohio and Pennsylvania as well as a tenured faculty member at Gannon University in Erie, PA. He is married to Julie, also a UF graduate, and the father of three children with our youngest two adopted from Haiti. He has held the role of President at Winebrenner Theological Seminary since December 2015.

“Winebrenner has prepared me to move into new seasons of ministry, stretched me theologically, and challenged me philosophically.”

Populi Help

Beginning in the fall of 2020 Winebrenner began using Populi as its student information system and course management system.

DMin students are able to register for courses, view current courses, make tuition payments, request transcripts, and communicate with advisors and course instructors within the Populi system.

Populi's Knowledge Base has a section specific to student questions.

You can access this information here:

<https://support.populiweb.com/hc/en-us/categories/203333527-For-Students>

Students who need additional training should contact Lauren Coats, Student Success and Records Coordinator for assistance.

2020 DMin Graduate-Dr. Art L. Butler

Dr. Art L. Butler is a 2020 graduate of the Doctor of Ministry program. Currently he serves Lima Providence Missionary Baptist Church as shepherd and pastor.

When asked to reflect on his Doctor of Ministry experience and how it has impacted his ministry, Dr. Butler shared, “In an ever changing world, the DMIN Program at Winebrenner Theological Seminary has inclined me to think creatively, cultivate new skills, and nurture my heart to pursue my calling with excellence and passion. Winebrenner has prepared me to move into new seasons of ministry, stretched me theologically, and challenged me philosophically. The DMIN Program provided combined online learning, on campus learning, and one-week intensive program which were personalized to meet my ministry goals. I offer my thanks to the Winebrenner faculty and staff for preparing me in ministry to be prolific during these pandemic times.”



Dr. Kathryn L. Helleman, DMin, serves as the interim Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Winebrenner Theological Seminary.

Dr. Helleman earned her Master of Divinity degree from Winebrenner in 2006 and her Doctor of Ministry degree in 2015.

Dr. Helleman has served congregations in Ohio as the associate pastor, and interim senior pastor. She is ordained in the United Church of Christ.

From 2015-2020 Dr. Helleman served Winebrenner in administrative capacities, including Assistant Academic Dean and Director of Institutional Assessment and Planning. Currently, she is the Assistant Professor of Church Ministries and Director of Organizational Assessment and Planning.



Contact Information:
kathryn.helleman@winebrenner.edu
419-346-1510
Or 419-434-4200

Recommended Reading

Boers, Arthur. *Servants and Fools: A Biblical Theology of Leadership* Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2015. 1426799780

Bolsinger, Tod. *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015. 9780830841264

Wright, N.T. *God and the Pandemic*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020. ISBN 978-0310120803

Brueggemann, Walter. *Virus as a Summons to Faith*. Eugene: Cascade Books, 2020. ISBN 978-1725276734

Garrett, Greg. *Stories from the Edge: A Theology of Grief*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008 ISBN 978-0664232047

Beaumont, Susan. *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2019. ISBN: 978-1538127681

Jones, Serene. *Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2019. ISBN 978-0664264772



Photo by [Thought Catalog](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Program Description

The Doctor of Ministry is an advanced, professionally-oriented degree that prepares people more deeply for religious leadership in congregations, para-churches, non-profits, denominations, and other settings, including appropriate teaching roles. The focus of the program is on integrating critical thinking and theological reflection, effective leadership skills, and personal development in order to create contextualized applications of the student's research in service of the church and the world.

Winebrenner Theological Seminary's Doctor of Ministry is a 31-credit program intended to be completed in 3 years with optional writing continuation in years 4-6. The program is primarily online with week-long intensive requirements in the summer trimesters (pending final accreditation approval). The doctoral project is written in the second half of the program upon successful completion of research and writing methods requirements.

Program Elements

- * Research and Writing Methods courses provide practical and theoretical frameworks for the doctoral writing project.
- * Contextualized Learning Experiences provide exposure to diverse contexts and increased contextual competency.
- * Learning Threads aid in theological integration, leadership skills, and personal development.
- * Monthly cohort video-conference meetings are hosted by the Program Director