DOCTOR OF MINISTRY—SINGAPORE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS
(IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, SINGAPORE)

Purpose Statement
The Doctor of Ministry program emphasizes advanced level preparation in expository preaching and equipping for effective leadership. The student also gains expertise in research and developing new insights into their current ministry field through the doctoral dissertation.

Program Emphases
The emphasis of the Doctor of Ministry is in equipping students to research and develop appropriate new insights and expertise into their current ministry field through their doctoral dissertation. The D.Min. program seeks to advance God's kingdom in churches around the world by preparing pastors and other leaders with the highest professional skill in ministry.

Calendar
The Doctor of Ministry is delivered in two semesters per year. Courses are offered in January and Summer/Fall as directed by the Baptist Theological Seminary, Singapore. Post-seminar assignments are to be completed and courses graded by the end of the semester in December and May. Faculty will announce deadlines for post-seminar assignments in course syllabi to meet the published semester grading period.

Admissions Requirements

Application Foundations
Applicants must be employed by or hold a recognized position in vocational Christian ministry at the time of their application. Preference in admission is given to students who have advanced preparation in biblical languages. The following are the minimum levels of education and experience that an applicant must fulfill before beginning seminars.

• A Master of Divinity or its equivalent from a regionally accredited seminary. See below for information regarding the “Academic Foundation,” i.e., the “Master of Divinity Equivalency.”
• A grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale throughout all master’s-level studies.
• Three full years of vocational Christian ministry after completion of master’s study.

Prospective students are requested to contact the Baptist Theological Seminary, Singapore if they have questions about whether they have established an adequate foundation the Doctor of Ministry study as indicated above.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes
• Students will have a deeper understanding of the nature and purpose of ministry.
• Students will gain advanced competency in the preparation and delivery of expository sermons.
• Students will demonstrate professional growth in related ministry dimensions, such as biblically balanced ministry, church renewal and revival, and evangelism and global missions.
• Students will produce an original contribution to the practice of ministry through a doctoral dissertation or project.

Academic Foundation
The standard academic preparation for the Union University Doctor of Ministry is a Master of Divinity from a seminary, university, graduate school of religion, or divinity school. (These are collectively referred to below as “accredited graduate divinity schools.”) Preference is given to applicants whose master’s work includes at least 6 semester hours of biblical Greek and 6 semester hours of biblical Hebrew.

Union University recognizes that many prospective students have enrolled in accredited graduate divinity schools in programs of study other than the Master of Divinity. Such degrees include the Master of Christian Studies, the Master of Religious Education, or the Master of Arts in a discipline such as Old Testament. We therefore have established that “Master of Divinity Equivalency” also meets the academic requirement for admission to the Doctor of Ministry. Each applicant in this category will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. However, such applicants should have received a master’s degree from an accredited graduate divinity school and they must have earned a minimum of 72 semester hours of master’s-level credit in accredited graduate divinity schools before they will be admitted to our Doctor of Ministry program of study. Guidelines for meeting requirements for each category of study are as follows.

Biblical, Theological, and Historical Studies
1. Old Testament, 9-12 hours, including at least 6 hours of survey
2. New Testament, 9-12 hours, including at least 6 hours of survey
3. Theology, 6-9 hours, including at least 6 hours of survey
4. Church History, 6-9 hours, including at least 6 hours of survey
5. Hermeneutics (Interpreting the Bible), 3-6 hours
Languages and Preaching Studies
6. Biblical Greek, 0-9 hours
7. Biblical Hebrew, 0-9 hours
8. Homiletics (Communicating the Bible), 6-9 hours

Ministry Studies
9. Leadership or Religious Education, 3-9 hours
10. Christian Ethics or Christian Apologetics, 3-9 hours
11. Christian Counseling or Pastoral Care, 3-9 hours
12. Evangelism and/or Missions, 3-9 hours

For each of these 12 categories, the first number is the minimum number of semester hours required in that category to meet Master of Divinity Equivalency. Thus, 51 of the 72 required semester hours are specified. The remaining 21 hours may be gained in a number of ways, including courses that fit in categories not mentioned above, such as spiritual formation or philosophy of religion. Thus, for example, all students must have earned at least 6 church history hours in order to meet Master of Divinity Equivalency. The second number is the maximum number of hours that students should complete in that category as they seek Master of Divinity Equivalency. Thus, for example, once prospective students have completed 9 hours in church history, they should broaden their preparation by selecting courses from the other categories. Working in conjunction with the Baptist Theological Seminary, Singapore, the Doctor of Ministry Program Director provides case-by-case assessment of each student seeking Master of Divinity Equivalency. Applicants will be informed in writing when Master of Divinity Equivalency has been established only after Union University and the Baptist Theological Seminary, Singapore have received official transcripts from all accredited graduate divinity schools the student has attended.

Application Requirements
• The completed official application form along with a $50 non-refundable application fee.
• Official transcript(s) showing all course work, completion of baccalaureate degree(s), and all graduate credit previously attempted. Even if withdrawal occurred prior to earning credits and even if those credits do not apply to the current degree being sought, official transcripts must be sent from each institution. Many institutions make it possible to request this via the internet.
• A ministry endorsement letter, showing that the applicant’s church-related employer supports the applicant’s intention to pursue doctoral study. If a student moves from one church or ministry to another during the time he or she is enrolled in seminars, the student must submit a new ministry endorsement letter within six months of beginning the different ministry.
• Three evaluative references. Applicants are responsible for signing the waiver on each form and providing each reference an envelope and postage for returning the reference directly to the Baptist Theological Seminary, Singapore.
• A personal history essay describing significant influences in life, particularly conversion and spiritual growth, call to ministry, important ministry experiences, and current understanding and practice of preaching. This essay should be 8-10 pages, double spaced, using 12-point font and one-inch margins.
• A research paper that demonstrates the prospective student’s ability to research, organize, and write on a topic from one of the content areas of the Master of Divinity. This paper may be based on or developed from a paper previously written at the graduate level. This is to be a complete paper, with 10-15 pages of body (not counting title page and bibliography page), using standard footnotes, and significant bibliography of at least twelve resources. The manuscript should be double spaced, using 12-point font and one-inch margins.

Application Deadlines
Applicants must complete all elements of their application file and be officially accepted into the program before they can enroll in their first seminars. The size of each entering class is limited, and preference is given to students who apply early. The deadline for receiving the application and application fee is March 1. The deadline for receiving all other application materials is May 1.

Transfer of Credit
Up to six hours (two seminars) may be considered for transfer of doctoral level credit from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning, provided the grades are B or higher. Applicants must request this in writing from the Program Director, who advises the student in writing at the time of the official acceptance of the program.

Financial Information
Application Fee ...................................................... $50
Tuition per semester hour ..................................... $435
General Student Fee ........................................... $435
Dissertation Publication and Binding Fee .............. $100

Payment is expected in full upon enrollment.
All financial information is subject to change without notice.

Financial Assistance
The Doctor of Ministry does not qualify for Federal Direct Loans. However, the student may contact the Student Financial Planning Office about private alternative loans.
**Curriculum Requirements**

DMIN 612, Leadership in a Congregational Church .............................................................................. 3 hours
DMIN 619, Leadership in Pastoral Care ..................... 3 hours
DMIN 620, Ministry Research Seminar ..................... 3 hours
DMIN 624, Missions, Evangelism, and Ministry ... 3 hours
DMIN 629, Strategic Planning ................................. 3 hours
DMIN 630, Expository Preaching and New Testament Texts ................................................................. 3 hours
DMIN 635, Expository Preaching and Old Testament Texts .................................................................... 3 hours
DMIN 636, Spiritual Formation of Minister and Congregation .............................................................. 3 hours

**Doctoral Processes**

**Phase 1: Ministry Research Seminar (DMIN 620).**
1. Pre-seminar week: students prepare at least three possible problems/projects that could become the focus of the DMin dissertation/project.
2. During the seminar week: students decide on a project topic, determine the research model/process they will follow, and begin developing a bibliography.
3. During the post-seminar period:
   a. Students refine their topic and complete a proposal for their dissertation/project.
   b. The professor of the research seminar has responsibility for assigning the grade for the DMIN 620 seminar.

**Phase 2: From the completion of the Ministry Research Seminar to the completion of all seminars.**
1. The dissertation chair works with the student in research and further development of the project.
2. The dissertation chair works with the student and with the IRB (Institutional Review Board) to gain any necessary IRB approval.
3. The dissertation proposal is submitted to the DMin Committee of the STM faculty, a committee appointed annually by the Dean of the School of Theology and Missions. The DMin Committee works with the dissertation committee and the student until the DMin Committee approves the proposal.

**Phase 3: From the completion of all seminars to graduation.**
1. After DMin Committee has given formal approval of the proposal and after the successful completion of all eight DMin seminars, the DMin program director will notify the student of official candidacy status. If a student moves from one church or ministry to another after the student has achieved candidacy status, but before graduation, the student may take a one-semester leave of absence from the program in order to develop a new proposal. This new proposal must be submitted to the DMin Committee for approval. In addition, the student must submit a new ministry endorsement letter within six months of beginning the different ministry.
2. The student must register for DMIN 800 the next semester after completing all eight seminars. Enrollment in DMIN 800 must continue for at least two consecutive semesters. During this time, the dissertation chair will work closely with the student to bring the dissertation to final form. It is during these two semesters ONLY that the dissertation chair will get teaching load credit (or financial consideration) for chairing a dissertation.
3. The student may register for DMIN 800 for up to four consecutive semesters. No break in registration will be permitted. In exceptional circumstances, the student may appeal to the Director of the Program for a break in this continuous enrollment requirement or for extension beyond four semesters.
4. The dissertation in final form must be submitted to the dissertation chair not later than Friday of the first week of the regular semester (fall or spring) at which the student expects to graduate. The chair will have one month to work with the student to make any further revisions.
5. A formal dissertation defense before the entire dissertation committee must occur not later than the beginning of fall break or spring break of the semester of graduation.
6. Any revisions must be finalized not later than one week before graduation. Three final copies of the dissertation must be submitted not later that one week before graduation.

**Graduation Requirements**

- Complete required semester hours for the degree with a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Complete all required seminars.
- Complete and successfully defend the dissertation as defined in “Doctoral Processes.”
- File the Application for Graduation with the Doctor of Ministry Office. The deadline is March 1 for candidates who plan to complete requirements by the May Commencement and October 1 for candidates who plan to complete requirements by the December Commencement.
- Pay in full the student’s account in the Business Office.
- Discharge all other obligations (fines, dissertation processing fees, etc.) at the University.
- The approval of the faculty.
Course Descriptions: Doctor of Ministry (DMIN)

612. Leadership in a Congregational Church (3) F
A seminar on leading a local church in the areas of church staff and ministerial relationships.

619. Leadership in Pastoral Care (3) W
A seminar on helping a minister understand and implement pastoral care.

620. Ministry Research Seminar (3) W
Prerequisite: DMIN 610.
An introduction to methods of research necessary for completion of the DMinEP dissertation or project.

624. Missions and Evangelism (3) S
An in-depth examination of the mission of the church emphasizing evangelism and ministry.

629. Strategic Planning (3) S
A workshop on the strategic planning process in the context of ministry with a biblical and theological critique.

630. Expository Preaching and New Testament Texts (3) Su
Prerequisites: DMIN 610 and 615.

635. Expository Preaching and Old Testament Texts (3) W
Prerequisites: DMIN 610 and 615.
An in-depth study of the genres of literature in the Old Testament, focusing on hermeneutical and homiletical issues related to preparing expository messages from the Old Testament.

636. Spiritual Formation of Minister and Congregation (3) F
An in-depth examination of the relationship between personal and congregational spiritual development.

800. Project and Dissertation (3 each) W, Su
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all eight DMIN seminars and permission of the Doctor of Ministry Program Director.
The writing of an original dissertation that contributes significantly to the understanding and implementation of Christian ministry.

Other Variable Credit and Variable Content Courses

655. Independent Study (1-3)
Individual research and study under the guidance of a Doctor of Ministry professor.

785, 786, 787. Doctoral Elective Seminar (3)
Group seminars which do not appear in the School course offerings.