

**SUMMER 2017  
UPDATE**



**UNIVERSITY of DUBUQUE**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## **Faithful and relevant theological education**



## **Serving Christ and the church**



**We are a Christian seminary dedicated to forming God's people for servant leadership in ministry and mission:**

- **Gathering in gratitude and faithfulness to be reformed according to the Word of God.**
- **Growing in the Church's biblical faith in the Triune God.**
- **Excelling in theological education and scholarship.**
- **Living as faithful stewards of God's Gifts.**
- **Engaging the changing needs of the Church and World.**



## A New Day Dawning

### *Greetings from UDTs!*

Three years ago, the University of Dubuque's Board of Trustees commissioned a review of the seminary. The review's purpose was to address the changing landscape of theological education and its projected impact on UDTs. The result of that review was 1) board reaffirmation of the central role of theological education in the identity of the University of Dubuque, and 2) a plan, titled "A New Day Dawning," for positioning the Seminary as a leader in addressing the changing context for Christianity in North America.



We have been privileged to work with the entire University community in enacting this vision for the Seminary's future. What has become clear is that the essential commitments and ethos of the Seminary are not changing. Rather, the context and opportunities for ministry are what is changing:

- The model for theological education is changing from one in which individuals first pursue a seminary education and then pursue opportunities for ministry to one in which individuals find themselves called to ministry and then pursue theological education to support their calling. Our long-standing distance MDiv and our new residential MDiv format, which allows students the opportunity to serve and study at the same time, designed to address this new model.
- As mainline denominations are aging, there is a new generation that will be the future of the church: young adults with very diverse experiences of, and expectations about, Christianity and the church. Our opportunity is to make this laboratory an integral part of the UDTs experience and to increase the influence of UDTs on the undergraduate experience at the University. Our new program that provides Seminary students with a Fellowship in Young Adult Ministry is one of several efforts to make us a center for forming a new generation of believers.

We are committed to being at the forefront of faithful and relevant theological education that serves Christ and His church. Our central focus remains on educating students for service. We hope that this update communicates the good things that are happening at UDTs and encourages you in your avenues of service.

Dr. Annette Bourland Huizenga

*Assistant Dean of the Seminary and Associate Professor of New Testament*

Dr. Mark Ward

*Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty*



**“We believe that God has given us an opportunity be very impactful in this new missional environment.”**

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey F. Bullock, *President*

# Seminary Programs at a Glance

## MA, Mission and Discipleship

This 40-credit degree provides broad instruction in the Christian heritage, Christian formation, and understanding cultural context as well as focused study of Christian mission and discipleship. The degree trains Christian leaders to empower others to join in God's mission in education, congregational ministry, outreach, or caring ministries. It can be earned in residence or in a combination of online coursework and August residencies.

## Master of Divinity

This degree roots Christian leaders in the Scriptures, tradition, and practices of the church with a focus on building missional communities that form fervent disciples. The MDiv prepares people for ordination in most Protestant communions. The residential program, designed for working adults, can be completed in four years. By creating hybrid classes that marshal the best in pedagogy, the residential MDiv can be earned by coming to campus for two concentrated learning periods each year and one day a week for the fall and spring semesters. UDTS also offers the Master of Divinity in distance format which can be completed in three years. This program brings students to campus for a two week August intensive learning experience. The remainder of the work is completed in an enriched online learning format.

## MA, Christian Leadership

This entirely online master's program is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. It is a 30 credit degree that can be earned in one year. It grounds students in the knowledge of the Christian Scriptures and the Church's theological tradition, and equips women and men for missional service and leadership in their chosen vocations. The first graduates crossed the stage at the May 2017 commencement ceremony.



## Doctorate of Ministry

This program is unique with its emphasis on congregational revitalization and the leadership role of the pastor. It is both practical and theoretical: practical in that it is based in the local congregation and attempts to identify concrete leadership tools for the pastor; theoretical in that it is rooted in the classical theological disciplines of the church. Each entering class becomes a cohort group that will remain together throughout the duration of the program. Two faculty members organize and provide the leadership for the three years of seminar work.

**LAY  
EDUCATION:  
CHRISTIAN  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAM**  
Online

**MASTER OF  
ARTS  
CHRISTIAN  
LEADERSHIP**  
Online through  
UD Graduate  
School

**MASTER OF  
ARTS  
MISSION &  
DISCIPLESHIP**  
Residential and  
Online

**MASTER  
OF DIVINITY**  
Residential and  
Online

**DOCTOR  
OF MINISTRY**

**PASTOR  
DEVELOPMENT:  
CHRISTIAN  
LEADERSHIP  
PLUS**  
Online

*Providing Life-Long Opportunities for Theological Education*

### Christian Leadership Program

This non academic credit program is intended to nurture lay leaders, and church teachers, as well as provide theological insight for interested laity. Our curriculum is intended to nurture lay leaders, and church teachers, as well as provide theological insight for interested laity. The current program consists of eight core courses offered in the fall and spring of each academic year. We have had more than 4200 course registrations from across the country and have offered over 200 classes.

### Christian Leadership Plus

These five-week sessions are designed to inspire, engage, and sustain ordained pastors in their ministry. Spring 2017 offerings included "Preaching the Passion Narratives" with Dr. Timothy Slemmons and "Christianity and Islam: Getting to Know Your Neighbors" with Dr. Bonnie Sue Lewis.



# What Our Graduates Are Reporting

## Association of Theological Schools Graduating Student Questionnaire 2016 UDTS Graduates Report

Each year, UDTS administers the ATS Graduating Student Questionnaire to all of our graduates.

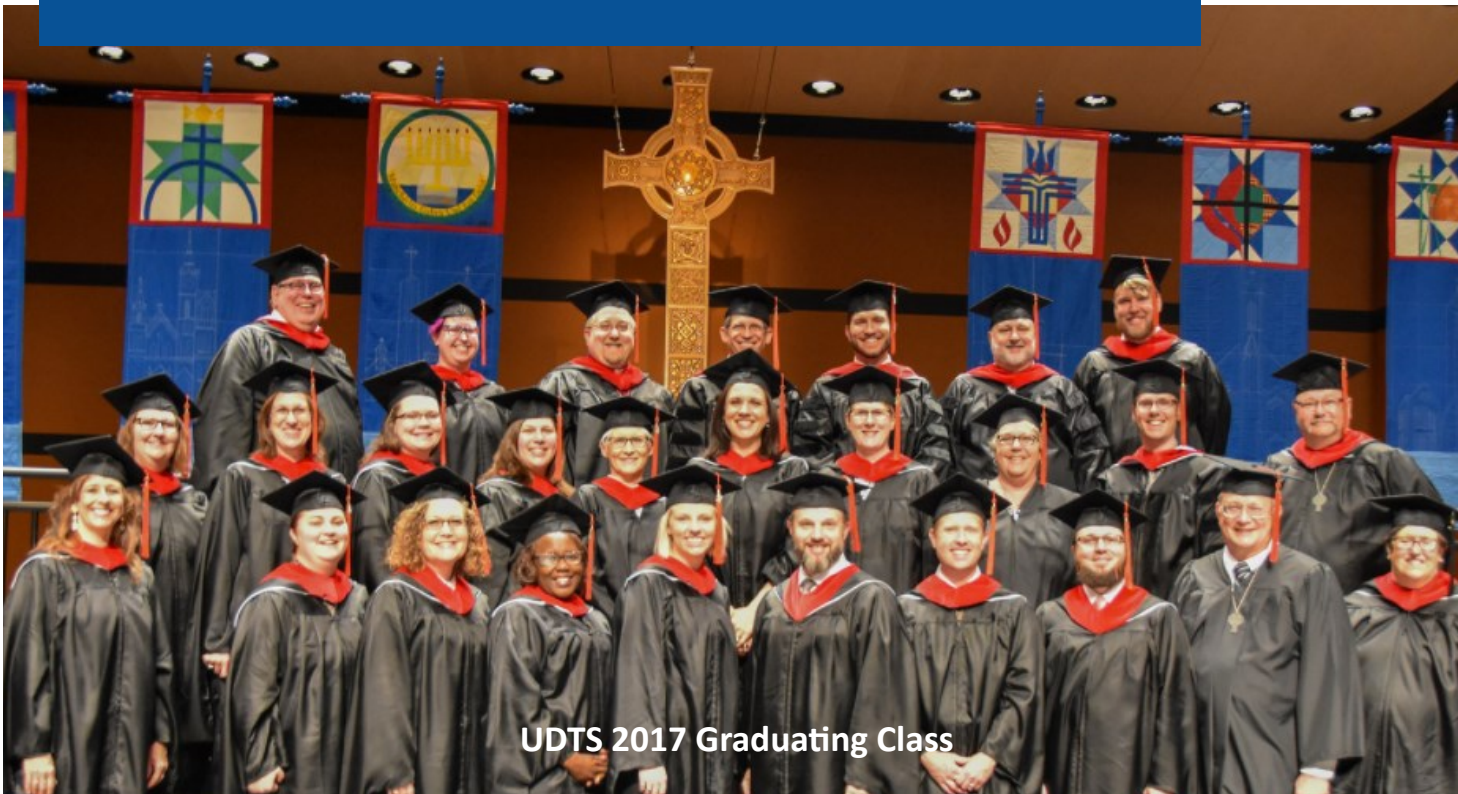
The table displays areas of strength for UDTS, relative to all other seminaries.

	All ATS Schools	UDTS Residential	UDTS Distance
<b>Measures of Personal Growth</b>			
Ability to Pray	3.5	4.2	4.5
Strength of spiritual life	3.9	4.4	4.5
Self-discipline and focus	4.0	4.4	4.3
Empathy for poor and oppressed	4.1	4.2	4.6
Trust in God	4.1	4.2	4.5
<b>Progress in Skills Related to Future Work</b>			
Knowledge of church doctrine/history	4.2	4.5	4.7
Ability to use & interpret scripture	4.5	4.8	4.6
Ability to administer a parish	3.4	3.8	3.5
Ability to give spiritual direction	3.8	4.0	4.2
Ability to preach well	4.1	4.3	4.3

Scores are on a 5 point scale with 5 being the most positive.

Of 11 PC(USA)-related Seminaries, UDTS is **#3** in preparing leaders for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Over the last five years (2012-2016), 220 candidates have entered ministry in the PC(USA):

- 103 Commissioned Ruling Elders
- 117 (MDiv) Teaching Elders



UDTS 2017 Graduating Class

# Campus Life in the Residential Program

Our residential programs (Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Mission and Discipleship) are designed to encourage Christian formation through an intentional schedule of learning, community and faith building experiences.

## SUNDAYS

5:30pm **UNIVERSITY-WIDE WORSHIP SERVICE** *followed by a shared meal*

## MONDAYS

8:15pm **WELCOME**

*Continental breakfast is provided.*

8:30pm **MORNING PRAYER**

*Ten minutes of quiet meditation leads into Morning Prayer*

9:00am **CLASSES**

*Lectures are pre-recorded and viewed before class so that the time is used for discussion and interaction. On-line assignments and discussion occur throughout the rest of the week.*

11:00am **CHAPEL**

*Services are led by faculty and student preachers. Distance students are involved in the planning process and the service is streamed live for accessibility to entire seminary community.*

11:45am **CATERED LUNCH**

*Approximately half of the semester students meet in denominationally-focused groups. For the other half, students share lunch together in Severance with common programming on topics of encouragement to all.*

1:00pm **CLASSES**

3:00pm **CLASSES**

4:45pm **EVENING PRAYER**

*This is a brief time of reflection before students leave.*

Evenings **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

*Varied fellowship opportunities are provided, such as a light meal, movie, service project, retreat, lecture, or engagement with activities in the wider university.*

## WEDNESDAYS

### “WEDNESDAY WORD”

*This five minute devotional, created by members of the seminary community, is sent out as video or podcast.*

## FRIDAYS

### “FRIDAY FOREWORD”

*This five minute devotional and community update is sent out as video or podcast to entire seminary community. Once per month, the students host a live video linked time of discussion and fellowship.*

“Mondays in the seminary community have become a rich day - full of learning, but also nourishing offerings like prayer times, worship (streamed live to find us wherever we are), and shared lunch on campus. It reminds me of some of the nurturing dynamics of retreats or conferences.”



Rev. Dr. Beth McCaw,  
Pastor to Seminary Students





# Young Adult Fellowship Program

Each year, a select number of UDTS seminary students are appointed as Young Adult Fellows, a structured program that provides students with knowledge and experiences for meaningful young adult ministry. As the students progress through their program of study, they assume increasing responsibility for elements of student life, academic, and campus ministry programming to first-year students, under the mentorship of faculty and staff. By graduation, these students have a rich set of experiences and coursework in young adult ministry/faith formation to bring to the church, parachurch, or higher education. The experiential components of the program include:

- First year: The focus is on building administrative skills such as data collection, report building, and facilitating large scale programming. Fellows also mentor first-year students and teach sections of a common first-year course, known as World View Seminar I. This class centers on concepts of students’ personal strengths, character and integrity, the Christian story, and worldview development.
- Second year: Builds on knowledge gained in the first year. Fellows make program improvements, train new assistants, help plan and implement large scale programming efforts, as well as mentor students and teach World View Seminar I.
- Third and Fourth year: Fellows work with service learning protocol for courses, creating media presentations for large first-year student audiences, leadership within the team, as well as mentoring students and teaching World View Seminar I.



“The Young Adult Fellowship Program is a unique experience offered by the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary that is focused on the exploration of community in the collegiate setting. In this program, fellows are embedded into particular aspects of campus life such as campus ministry, student life, and international services. Fellows develop a wide variety of skills in these different areas, and serve as witnesses of Christ. In this program, fellows serve both as mentors and mentees: they are mentors to college students in their campus involvement and are mentees to supervisors and each other, furthering the ministry of the seminary to the campus.” Logan Ellis, *MDIV student*

# Dominican Republic Service Experience

What is God doing in the world? In May, four college students, three seminary students, and two staff members engaged with the Foundation for Peace and the church in the Dominican Republic to witness God’s compassion and Christian hope. UDTS alumna Kristin Hamner ('14) served as field facilitator for the group which worshipped in the evenings and served with the church and community of rural El Batey. The UD team saw hope in the face of challenges as the village shored up a crumbling



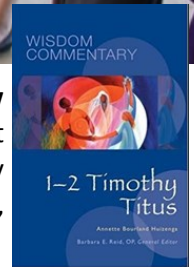
access road in light of their main bridge washing out this spring. They celebrated life in facilitating vacation Bible school, during which children received Operation Christmas Child boxes. They saw God’s beauty reflected in the church’s liturgical dance group, which crafted new dresses out of fabrics gifted from UDTS. And in facilitating a medical clinic they witnessed the healing of Jesus in the presence of half a dozen doctors giving up their Sunday to care for over 50 families. God is busy in El Batey and in the D.R., and it has been UD’s privilege to join in God’s mission.



## Recent Faculty Scholarship



**Dr. Annette Huizenga, Assistant Dean of the Seminary and Associate Professor of New Testament.** Annette's book *1-2 Timothy, Titus*, a commentary on the New Testament Pastoral Letters, was published by Liturgical Press as part of the Wisdom Commentary Series. She was also elected Vice-President of the Chicago Society of Biblical Research, an association of biblical scholars that publishes the journal *Biblical Research*.



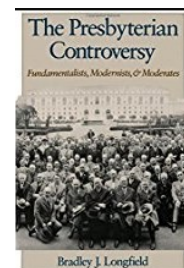
**Dr. Christopher James, Assistant Professor of Evangelism and Missional Christianity.** Chris gave a lecture titled "New Churches in the None Zone: Missional Wisdom from the Frontier of Faith and Culture," for Fuller Seminary's Institute for Theology and Northwest Culture. He hosted a panel on "Urban Church Planting in the Pacific Northwest" at the Christ & Cascadia Conference. Chris has been interviewed by several print, web, and media outlets about his research.



**Dr. Sue LeFeber, Director of Seminary Vocation, Field Education, and Placement.** Sue co-authored an article entitled "Engaging the Dynamics of Pastoral Imagination for Field Education" in *Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry*.



**Dr. Bradley Longfield, Professor of Church History.** Brad was recognized at the Presbyterian Scholars Conference on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the publication of his book, *The Presbyterian Controversy*.



**Dr. Matt Schlimm, Associate Professor of Old Testament.** Matt presented a paper entitled, "Jesus Christ among Diego Rivera's Miners: A Biblical Interpretation of *Entering the Mine*, *Exiting the Mine*, and *The Embrace*" at the Bible and Visual Arts section of the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. He has begun work writing a commentary on the book of Numbers for the *Wesleyan One-Volume Commentary on the Bible*. He also gave a presentation on "Hebrew Words Every Christian Should Know" to the Iowa Northeast Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

## News From Across the Campus

The March 2107 Spring Renewal conference brought two Christian leaders to campus:

- **Dr. Mary Hulst**, Calvin College Chaplain and author of *A Little Handbook for Preachers* presented “Five Questions for Better Sermons” and “Preaching is a Team Sport.”
- **Dr. Alan Roxburgh** of The Missional Network and author of *Joining God, Remaking the Church, Changing the World*, presented “Modernity’s Wager and the Mission of God in the Contemporary West”

**Dr. Lyle Vander Broek** retired following the Fall 2016 semester, after 34 years of service to UDTs. The University board recognized his achievement by granting him the rank of Professor Emeritus. Dr. Vander Broek was the speaker at the May 2017 commencement ceremony.



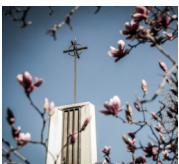
In October and March, the **Seminary Council of Advisors** met on campus. The Council reviewed the changes in the Seminary’s programs and provided assistance in advancing the mission of UDTs. While on campus in March, members participated in a Monday residential experience and in Spring Renewal events

**Dr. Jordan Ryan** will be joining the UDTs faculty as Assistant Professor of New Testament in August of 2017. Dr. Ryan is a graduate of McMaster University, St. Michael's College, and the University of Toronto. He is currently teaching at Wheaton College (Illinois). His research interests include the Gospels, historical Jesus, early synagogues, and the archaeology of Roman Galilee and Judea.



A new collaboration between UDTs and St. Luke’s College in Sioux City, Iowa, created a pilot online UDTs Clinical Pastoral Education program. In this program, a representative of St. Lukes will work with **Dr. Susan LeFeber** on three face-to-face classes. The students, when not in class, will work in care facilities near their ministry settings and complete online classes. The pilot CPE program is nationally accredited with the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education and the U.S. Department of Education.

**Dr. Phil Jamieson**, President/CEO of the United Methodist Foundation for Memphis and Tennessee Conferences and former UDTs faculty member, will be presenting on his recent book, *The Face of Forgiveness: A Pastoral Theology of Shame and Redemption*, on August 8 and 9, 2017, as part of the August residential experience.



On Saturday, May 13, 2017, 31 individuals crossed the stage to receive their UDTs degree/certificate. In addition to the Commencement ceremony, celebrations included a Baccalaureate service and Dinner celebration.



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