

Revitalizing Congregations Track

Doctor of Ministry Degree



THE PURPOSE OF THE REVITALIZING CONGREGATIONS TRACK

There are many exciting, vital churches doing faithful and vigorous work for the Lord. What is the source of their power? How is the Holy Spirit operating in those churches? Why are they such transparent reflections of the incarnation of Jesus Christ? There are, of course, many answers to these questions and we intend to tap into them by inviting exemplary pastors, stimulating professors, and dedicated DMin students to come and reflect on what makes for invigorating leadership and pastoral work.

DEGREE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

As numerous denominations have recently noted, vital and vibrant churches are in the minority. Unfortunately, stories of flagging or failing congregations are much more common place than testimonies of thriving ones. United Methodists, Presbyterians, and Disciples of Christ, to name only a few traditions, have all recognized the need for the formation of new congregations as well as the transformation of current ones. This clarion call for congregational transformation is precisely the focus of the Revitalizing Congregations track.

We believe that if local churches are to become vibrant and transformed congregations, there must be a commitment to six core values:

- Sound, visionary leadership
- Ministry firmly based in context
- Community in the midst of diversity
- Commitment to social justice
- Vibrant and meaningful worship
- Relevant biblical preaching

SPECIAL FACULTY GUESTS:

We are inviting such faculty guests as: Dr. Marcia McFee, Dr. Joretta Marshall, Dr. Tom Long, Rev. Holly McKissick, Rev. Nanette Roberts, Dr. Hal Recinos, Dr. David May, and Dr. Myron McCoy.

LEAD FACULTY



Mike Graves

William K. McElvaney Professor of Preaching and
Director of Continuing Education/Saint Paul Institute
Mike.graves@spst.edu
816.245.4867



L. Shannon Jung

Franklin and Louise Cole Professor of
Town and Country Ministries
Shannon.jung@spst.edu
816.245.4862

THE DOCTOR OF MINISTRY IN REVITALIZING CONGREGATIONS

The goals of the Revitalizing Congregations track undergird the overall goals of the Doctor of Ministry degree with their commitment to theological reflection, contextualization, sound practices, and personal as well as professional growth. The track-specific goals are as follows. Upon completion, ministers will be able to:

- *Articulate* and demonstrate a commitment to sound leadership, including issues related to visioning, stewardship, and conflict resolution;
- *Consider* the contextual implications of place and people in shaping local ministries, including such things as thick sociological descriptions and preaching to one's context in rich and varied ways;
- *Name* and value the many kinds of diversity present in our society today, including cultural, religious, racial, and sexual expressions of diversity, while helping work toward the formation of community;
- *Recognize* and implement social justice ministries committed to caring for all of God's children, especially the marginalized;
- *Articulate* and implement approaches to worship that are diverse, meaningful, inclusive, and vibrant;
- *Articulate* and demonstrate vibrant preaching practices that are biblical in their foundation and relevant to congregants, including examining one's theology of preaching, various interpretive approaches to the Bible, and homiletical burnout.

OVERVIEW OF COURSE SCHEDULE

Term	Course	Credit Hour
January 2012	Orienting Seminar	(2)
	<i>Ministry Leadership</i>	(3)
June 2012	Prophetic Ministry	(2)
	<i>Contextualizing the Vital church</i>	(2)
January 2013	Theology and the Church's Ministry	(2)
	<i>Rethinking Biblical Preaching</i>	(3)
June 2013	Spiritual Traditions and Ministry	(2)
	<i>The Worshiping Church</i>	(3)
January 2014	<i>Locating Social Justice Ministries</i>	(3)
	<i>Models of Diversity and Community</i>	(2)
	Praxis Thesis Seminar	(1.5)
May 2014	Praxis Thesis Proposal Conference	(0.5)
May 2015	Praxis Thesis Conference	(4)
Total credit hours		(30)

CONTACT INFORMATION

To obtain more information about this exciting and innovative approach to doctoral education, please contact either lead faculty or the Office of Admissions & Financial Aid in person, by phone, or on the web. To apply for the Doctor of Ministry Revitalizing Congregations track, send a completed Doctor of Ministry Application to the Saint Paul School of Theology Office of Admissions & Financial Aid by the application deadline of October 1, 2011.

Office of Admissions & Financial Aid

Saint Paul School of Theology
5123 East Truman Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64127
admiss@spst.edu
800.825.0378