



# UNIVERSITY of DUBUQUE

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## THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

### Doctor of Ministry

## Leadership in a Changing Context

*Discerning Context. Cultivating Community. Joining God.*


Across the nation, pastors and church planters are encountering the reality that the church is in the midst of a season of dramatic cultural and religious shifts. These shifts have profound implications for ministry and mission. Led by Dr. Christopher James and Dr. Alan Roxburgh, this Doctor of Ministry Cohort will go on a journey of discerning the unique character of our emerging context, learn what kind of faithful leadership it requires and develop the critical spiritual and missional practices that equip us to join God's mission in the midst of our communities and neighborhoods.

### Cohort Faculty



**Dr. Christopher B. James** | Assistant Professor of Evangelism and Missional Christianity at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Author of the forthcoming book with Oxford University Press, *New Churches in the None Zone*, based on his research among church plants in Seattle, WA | [www.chrisbjames.com](http://www.chrisbjames.com) |  @chrisbjames



**Dr. Alan J. Roxburgh** | Founder and Consultant at *The Missional Network*, Author of numerous books including *Missional Map-making*, *Introducing the Missional Church* (with Scott Boren), *Missional Leadership* (with Scott Romanuk), *Missional: Joining God in the Neighborhood*, and, most recently, *Structured for Mission and Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of the Church in Our Time* |  @alanjroxburgh

### Program Highlights

- *Community*: Cohorts form significant friendships and a network of fellow practitioners from across the country.
- *Year Round Interaction*: This program combines three annual one-week residencies, with fall and spring online interaction. Participants have access to the faculty members throughout the year as both instructors and mentors. First intensive: May 24-30, 2017.
- *Theological Depth*: The program guides participants in careful study and biblical reflection on the nature and practical significance of missional ecclesiology.
- *Spiritual Renewal*: In addition to being academically rigorous, this journey is a deeply spiritual one involving shared practices of prayer, Scripture, and discovering God in everyday life.
- *Practically-oriented*: Participants work closely with their congregation, ministry, and local community throughout, culminating in a doctoral project that serves to equip the people of God for faithful ministry in your local context.
- *Faithful Guides*: Unlike many D.min programs composed of various seminars and instructors, our cohort faculty—themselves scholar-practitioners committed to following Jesus in their own contexts—will see you through the program from start to finish.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are the qualifications for admission to this program?**

In order to form a rich community of learning and practice, we seek applicants with:

- Theological training—typically a Master of Divinity—with a “B” average or higher.
- Experience in a full-time ministry context for three years or six years part-time, post-training.
- A current ministry context and commitment to remain engaged in ministry throughout.
- English fluency, indicated by a TOEFL score 550+ for non native English speakers.
- A prospect for success based on demonstrated discipline and recommendations.

### **How much does this D.min cost?**

While tuition rates tend to change slightly from year to year, right now an intensive year in the Dmin costs \$4015, plus roughly \$300 for intensive housing. The annual continuation fee beyond year three is currently \$550. At current rates, the whole program start-to-finish with all the fees included is under \$16,000. The total anticipated cost of assigned books is less than \$1000.

### **What level of time commitment is involved?**

In addition to the on-campus eight-day intensives during the last full week of May 2017, 2018, and 2019, participants will invest an average of 5-10 hours a week throughout the year reading, writing, experimenting and corresponding with cohortmates and faculty.

### **How long does this D.min take to complete?**

We anticipate that most students will complete the program in five years, though it is possible to finish in four and some will probably take six years.

### **What would this mean for my congregation?**

If you're pastoring a congregation, this D.min is not only a great opportunity for you but also for your church! They will directly benefit and be intimately involved in the journey as you share what you're learning about our changing context, cultivate new community practices of discernment, and foster fresh, local experimentation and innovation. With this in mind, it is important that church leadership not only support you as you pursue this degree but express openness to how the church will benefit in the process. You will invite several members from your congregation to be on your 'resource team,' a small group that will commit to journey with you throughout the program as you develop and share new habits and practices of leadership.

### **What if I'm in a non-traditional ministry context?**

That's great! We are hoping to have a wide diversity of contexts and roles represented on the cohort. Regardless of whether you're a church planter or in a bi-vocational or tent-making situation, or in some other paid or unpaid role, you will need to be grounded in a ministry context of some kind and have others around you willing to join you on the journey.

### **What kind of project would I do?**

While variety is expected, the projects for this D.min cohort will all emerge from your work in your ministry context and local community, exploring in practical ways what it looks like to faithfully lead the people of God in the midst of your missional context. Project proposals will be developed leading into our final intensive in May 2019. Proposals are approved by cohort faculty and the Director of the D.Min. Once approved, you will work with your assigned faculty advisor through completion.