The gifts ... were that some would be apostles,
some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,
to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ,
until all of us come to the unity of the faith
and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity,
to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13
Teaching Ministry Program Overview

The Teaching Ministry program is a Field Education program designed for students who plan to teach either in higher education or in an adult teaching ministry in the church. Done part-time during the academic year, the placements are designed to help students bridge the gap between the academy and the parish. The Teaching Ministry program focuses on the Christian education of adults within the context of a congregation. We select churches with thriving adult ed. programs and a pastor (or C.E. director) willing to supervise a student devoted only to adult education.

While participating in the general life of a selected congregation, students will design, implement, teach and evaluate activities within the context of an effective adult education program. Working both independently (under the guidance of the supervisor and faculty mentor) and with others in the congregation, the student connects curriculum, methodology and resources to the faith development of adult learners.

It is the teacher’s mission... by sympathy, by example, and by every means of influence –
by objects for the senses, by facts for the intelligence –
to excite the mind of the pupils, to stimulate their thoughts...
The greatest of teachers said: “The seed is the word.”
The true teacher stirs the ground and sows the seed.

John Milton Gregory

The student, in consultation with the congregation’s Adult Education Committee and supervisor, may design work-shops, retreats, or series of classes. As an experienced teacher and expert in a given area, the faculty mentor serves as an academic resource and support person for the teaching ministry student. The student usually teaches a series during Advent and a series during Lent but may also do retreats or other projects with adults.

The Teaching Ministry program is currently open to no more than 10 students. Interested students must submit an application to the field education office and, based on the application, students will be selected for an interview. Selection for these placements is based on academic excellence, a vocational focus on teaching, availability of a faculty mentor, and availability of an appropriate church site. Students are strongly encouraged to take ED 101 prior to beginning a Teaching Ministry placement.

Upon selection, it is the student’s responsibility to identify an appropriate site (from a list of approved Teaching Ministry sites). After the placement has been finalized, the student and supervisor will determine appropriate areas of teaching emphasis based on the interests of the student and the needs of the congregation. When the area(s) of instruction have been agreed upon, the student will choose a faculty mentor.

General Field Education Course Requirements

This course involves part-time ministry done under the direction of an approved supervisor during the fall and spring semesters. The course is usually taken during the second year. Students must complete a minimum of three hundred hours on their field placements, spread over thirty weeks during the thirty-six-week academic year. Students are expected to be on site a minimum of eight hours each week; in addition, two or more hours should be spent in weekly preparation. The total experience should not exceed fifteen hours each week.

Students must complete a learning/serving covenant and two appraisals, one each semester, with their supervisors. Students and supervisors meet weekly to review the student's work and reflect theologically upon it. The faculty mentor assists the student with methodology, curriculum design and the expertise of his or her area of specialization. Attendance at specified events during the academic year is required for students, supervisors and mentors. The learning/serving covenant is due within two weeks of the internship start date,
but no later than **October 1**. Appraisals are due at the end of each term on the date designated by the field education office. Students receive two credits at the end of the spring semester and are graded on a pass/fail basis.

Teaching ministry is normally a specialized ministry placement. In order for Teaching Ministry to satisfy the requirement for a church placement, the student must in addition to the usual requirements participate in worship leadership regularly and preach at least once per semester. Students doing Teaching Ministry as church placement should expect to work 15 hours per week.

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**The true function of the teacher**

*is to create the most favorable conditions for self-learning. ...*

*True teaching is not that which gives knowledge,*

*but that which stimulates pupils to gain it.*

*One might say that he teaches best who teaches least.*

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**John Milton Gregory**

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**Specific Teaching Ministry Course Requirements**

In addition to the general requirements, students, supervisors and faculty mentors will meet on campus with PTS staff two times during the academic year (once each long term). Students are also required to participate in three additional lunch seminars. Supervisors and faculty mentors are invited, but not required, to attend. In addition, students will participate in a Blackboard discussion group over the course of the academic year. A common reading as well as the students’ insights, inquiries, and experiences will provide the foundation for this discussion. Based on prior educational preparation, students selected for the Teaching Ministry program may also be required to take ED101, Introduction to the Teaching Ministry, concurrently with their field education placement.

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**The Faculty Mentor’s Role**

The faculty mentor is primarily a consultant, a resource as the teaching ministry student plans a curriculum to be taught to adults in a church setting. We select churches with thriving adult ed. programs and a pastor (or C.E. director) willing to supervise a student devoted only to adult education. The student usually teaches a series during Advent and a series during Lent but may also do retreats or other projects with adults. Two times during the academic year (once each long term) *all the students, supervisors, and mentors* come together for meetings at the lunch hour in the Private Dining Room of the Mackay Center. There will be three additional Teaching Ministry Seminars required of the students. Supervisors and mentors are invited, but not required, to attend. Mentors are welcome to attend classes when the student is teaching and are encouraged to do so at least once during the student’s placement.

Most students meet once or twice a month with their mentor during the year although it varies and is up to the student to arrange. Mentors are encouraged to participate with the student and site supervisor as learning goals are developed for the placement. Appraisals are written by the student and supervisor, so the mentor does not have any evaluative responsibility. However, mentors are encouraged to offer ongoing feedback to the student to facilitate growth and deepen understanding of the educational process.

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**Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still;**

*teach the righteous and they will gain in learning,*

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,*

*and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

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*Proverbs 9:9-10*