

School of Theology and Christian Ministry



MASTER OF MINISTRY DEGREE PROGRAM

Dr. Norm Shoemaker, Program Director

Dr. Ron Benefiel, School Dean

Year-End Report 2011-2012

I. Name of the program and year the program began

Master of Ministry, 1986

II. Number of students currently, 2011-2012 AY:

	<u>FA 11</u>	<u>SP 12</u>	<u>SU 12</u>
Head Count:	23	23	TBD
Credit Hours:	75	84	TBD

III. Number of Students last year 2010-2011 AY:

	<u>FA 10</u>	<u>SP 11</u>	<u>SU 11</u>
Head Count:	18	24	20
Credit Hours:	54	81	99

IV. Number of students who have defended their thesis/completed their project in 2011-2012 AY

Five (5) students will graduate with the MMin degree in May 2012.

V. Number of students who have defended their thesis/completed their project in 2010-2011 AY

Eight (8) students received the MMin degree in May 2011.

VI. Total number of students who have graduated from the program since its inception:
Forty-nine (49) students have graduated from the MMin program since its inception in 1986.

VII. Student scholarship

This year four of the MMin students receiving the degree completed a major Pastoral Practice Project during the Spring 2012 semester.

- John Paul Harris-Webster—Family Ministry (A programmatic model for family ministry at the Community Covenant Church, Lenexa, Kansas).
- Ron Lewis—Member Engagement Action Plan (Two congregational research assessments resulting in the development of a member engagement growth strategy/plan for The Bridge Church of the Nazarene, Bloomington, California).
- Michael Seewald—Faith Worship Practices of the Early Church (An exploration of the worship life in the Early Church and its application for worship expressions at The Bridge Church of the Nazarene, Bloomington, California).
- Nathan Wells—Intergenerational Youth Ministry (A youth ministry model designed to foster intergenerational community and participation at the Las Flores Church of the Nazarene, Carlsbad, California).

VIII. Program Changes

Over the course of the current academic year a program assessment process has been developed for the Master of Ministry degree including:

- Program and course learning outcomes
- Curriculum assessment map
- Key assessment assignments
- All MMin students subscribed to LiveText
- Two key assignments (PLO 1/PLO 3) assessed on LiveText

By the end of the spring semester a focus group (current graduates) will meet to review and evaluate the MMin program. Also, congregational representatives (three per church) will be surveyed to provide additional program assessment data.

Currently, the School of Theology and Christian Ministry is engaged in program review and there are ongoing, substantive discussions focusing on the creation and development of a re-visioned graduate theological degree program.

School of Theology and Christian Ministry



MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGION **Dr. Brad Kelle, Program Director** **Dr. Ron Benefiel, School Dean** **Year-End Report 2011-2012**

- I. Name of Program and year program began**
Master of Arts in Religion, 1935
- II. Number of students currently, 2011-2012 AY**
Head Count: Fall 2011: 14 Spring 2012: 13
Credit Hour Count: Fall 2011: 43 Spring 2012: 50
- III. Number of students last year 2010-2011 AY**
Head Count: Fall 2010: 23 Spring 2011: 21
Credit Hour Count: Fall 2010: 84 Spring 2011: 78
- IV. Number of students who have defended their thesis/completed their project in 2011-2012 AY**
3 students, counting those expected to do so before the end of the spring 2012 semester
- V. Number of students who have defended their thesis/completed their project in 2010-2011**
5 students
- VI. Total # students who have graduated from program since its inception**
100 students

VII. Student Scholarship

The most significant scholarship event of our year was the organization and implementation of the annual H. Orton Wiley Lectures in Theology (sponsored jointly with the Master of Ministry Program). This year's lectures ("*Missio Ecclesia, Missio Dei: A Wesleyan Perspective on the Church in Mission*") featured Dr. Ron Benefiel, Dean of the SOTCM. As is our custom, we were privileged to partner with other entities on campus (Wesleyan Center, Center for Pastoral Leadership, the CJR) for the joint sponsorship of several events for students and faculty during the lectures.

VIII. Program Changes (Program Review, Accreditation, Program Closure, etc.)

This year the SOTCM was asked to give a response to the triggered review of the M.A. Religion program requested by the Graduate Studies Committee. The request given to the SOTCM specifically identified financial/revenue viability (as opposed to declining enrollment, which has been steady or good) as a "trigger" for the review. The requested review called for a response that would address issues related to market demand, financial revenue, delivery method, advertisement, and curricular practices. *In short, the SOTCM responded to the triggered review by implementing a plan to gradually phase out the M.A. Religion degree program as it is currently constituted, yet reconfigure that program (along with the currently existing Master of Ministry degree program) over the 2012-2013 academic year in order to incorporate it into a new, integrated, masters degree program to be offered by the SOTCM, with potential supporting elements from Nazarene Theological Seminary.*

In response to the triggered review's primary concern of financial viability and market demand, the SOTCM has reviewed the nature of the program, currently available delivery options, potential market demand, and price structure and concluded that the M.A. Religion program is not sustainable in its current form. Specifically, the residential nature of the program, current academic configuration of the curriculum, limited delivery options, and small market for such a degree among PLNU's current and potential constituencies do not allow the program to be competitively priced and attract the students needed for financial viability. The SOTCM proposes to phase out the program in its current form by refashioning both the current M.A. and M.Min. degree programs into an integrative masters program in theology/pastoral ministries (the exact nature of this program to be determined). The program will be independent of Nazarene Theological Seminary, but work also with an articulation agreement with the seminary's M.Div. program, allowing students to transfer credit toward that degree. Other kinds of collaboration with NTS may also be possible. The SOTCM proposes to undertake this redesign as a part of the SOTCM's general program review to be conducted in earnest during the 2012-2013 academic year.