

School of Theology and Christian Ministry



MASTER OF MINISTRY DEGREE PROGRAM Dr. Norm Shoemaker, Program Director Year-End Report 2010-2011

This is my seventh year to serve Point Loma Nazarene University and the School of Theology and Christian Ministry as the director of the Master of Ministry graduate degree program. The following report offers a brief summary of our work during the current academic year (2010-2011).

SENDING SOME OUT: This May the degree will be conferred on eight graduating pastor-students, which represents the largest number of graduates in the history of the program. They are:

Jeremy Bays	Missionary, Midwestern Native Ministries
Michael Beauchamp	Pastor, Conejo Valley Church of the Nazarene
Michael Gilson	Associate Pastor, Pathways Community Church
Dan Keeton	Pastor, Torrance Community Church of the Nazarene
Kyle Layne	Pastor, Zoe Community Church of the Nazarene
Rosita Nicolabo	Pastor, Wilmington Church of the Nazarene
Marvin Pounds	Pastor, Pittsburgh Church of the Nazarene
George Williamson	Director, Worship Ministries, Point Loma Nazarene University

Including the six pastors receiving the degree in the spring of 2010, we will have graduated a total of 14 in two years. Not long ago this number would have been a more accurate reflection of the active enrollment for the entire program.

SHAPING OUR EFFECTIVENESS: In an effort to evaluate the effectiveness of the program we have continued to follow our assessment strategy. Some observations from this process include:

Increased Diversity – As enrollment in the program has increased so has student diversity. We now have within the student demographic pastors representing African-American, Latino and Filipino congregations, as well as Anglo churches. Also, the various denominations served by our pastor-students has definitely increased. All of this indicates that the “reach” of the Master of Ministry program has broadened.

Seminar by the Sea – The opening up of the classroom instruction week as a continuing education opportunity has proven to be an effective way to recruit new degree-seeking pastor-students. Currently, a number of the pastors enrolled were introduced to the degree program by participating as a CEU attendee.

Course Preview – This year we have continued our “course preview” program whereby interested applicants-in-process may attend an initial Master of Ministry course at no cost, giving them the opportunity to “preview” a typical course, meet other pastor/students, and have a personal consultation with the program director. This has also proven to be fruitful.

Exit Interviews – During the commencement season, a personal exit interview and focus group feedback session was conducted with members of the graduating class. The interviews were recorded and transcribed (word-for-word) providing rich assessment and evaluative data.

Member Feedback – Each Master of Ministry student is asked to recruit a three-person advisory team from their church membership. This year we developed a student evaluation/progress form designed to provide personal observation assessment data from church members (see concluding “snapshots”).

TEACHING TO OUTCOMES: The faculty of the School of Theology and Christian Ministry carefully considered and approved the following Program Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria for the Master of Ministry program.

Students who successfully complete the Master of Ministry degree in the School of Theology and Christian Ministry will:

- **Understand the role of scripture and the Christian tradition as a resource for faithful and current pastoral ministry.**

Assessment Criteria: Graduates can discuss ministry implications from scripture and various streams of the Christian tradition, especially the Wesleyan-Holiness perspective.

- **Engage in practices that cultivate personal formation and well-being for the work of ministry.**

Assessment Criteria: Graduates can demonstrate the capacity to practice life patterns fostering personal growth and well-being.

- **Exhibit increased confidence and skills in the leadership of their local congregation.**

Assessment Criteria: Graduates can articulate ways they have improved their practice in ministry and leadership.

- **Demonstrate an increased contextual awareness of their ministry assignment.**

Assessment Criteria: Graduates can articulate new understandings for the demographic and cultural context of their local congregation and neighboring communities.)

- **Possess an awareness of and participate in wider reading resources for continuing ministerial education and practice.** ILO: Learning, Growing

Assessment Criteria: Graduates regularly access a wide variety of journals, books, conferences, and internet resources in the pursuit of lifelong learning.

In conclusion, here are a few “snapshots” reflecting outcomes for three of our students taken from the church member feedback forms:

Snapshot One: *“Our pastor has been challenged by the classes he has taken at PLNU. While it is difficult to balance school and ministry commitments, he has done a good job. I’m always excited to hear what he is learning since he “brings home” specifics that have a positive effect on our church body.”*

Snapshot Two: *He (the pastor) has a deeper appreciation for how the day to day work of the church is rooted in a solid theological framework. This is witnessed in how he constructs worship, contributes in staff meetings, and in his preaching.*

Snapshot Three: *The program is very helpful in the pastors preaching ministry. The books reach have been helpful, offering good theological content and the classes have offered good direction for ministry.*

Respectfully submitted,

Norman V. Shoemaker, D.Min.
Program Director
Master of Ministry
School of Theology and Christian Ministry

Master of Arts in Religion
Dr. Brad Kelle, Program Director

End of Year Report 2010-2011

This has been a year of both challenge and excitement for the Master of Arts in Religion program. Working as a vital part of the mission of PLNU, the program welcomed 11 new students to a strong group of returning students, working at various stages of course work and thesis writing. This produced a total of 21 students registered for units in the fall and 20 in the spring, with another 4 students currently in thesis “extension” status. The program’s continued success is the result of the excellent work of the faculty and staff in the School of Theology and Christian Ministry, especially the leadership of Dean Bob Smith, as well as our admissions counselor Claire Buckley and the rich character and diverse experiences of the students in the program. We have been successful in attracting both PLNU alumni as well as traditional and non-traditional students from other backgrounds. The program continues to have success in placing graduates into higher levels of graduate study, and this year saw two students move from our program to Duke Divinity School.

Some highlights from the M.A. Religion program this academic year include the following:

- The development of program learning outcomes for the M.A. program and the initial construction of a curricular map and outcome assessment matrix with signature assignments in major courses.
- The adoption of shared criteria for the additional assignments and evaluation of graduate students in cross-listed courses with both undergraduate and M.A. students.
- The meeting of a “program evaluation committee” made up of members within the department to consider the present and future state of the program, including its curriculum, marketing, philosophy, and goals. The group met several times throughout the fall semester.

Perhaps the biggest 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 (“The Search for Truth in Science and Theology,” November 14-17, 2010) brought to campus Rev. Dr. John Polkinghorne, noted physicist and theologian. The series was one of our most well-attended, including a sold-out event broadcast on UCSDTV entitled “An Afternoon with John Polkinghorne.” As is our custom, we were privileged to partner with other entities on campus (Wesleyan Center, Center for Pastoral Leadership, the science departments), as well as the Biologos Foundation, for the joint sponsorship of several events for students and faculty during the lectures.

Regrettably, however, our academic year ends on a negative note. Economic challenges resulted in the M.A. Religion program receiving a request for a “triggered review report” from the Graduate Studies Committee. This report asks for an assessment of the feasibility of continuing the program. In the case of the M.A. program, the report was triggered not by declining enrollment but by revenue concerns. The program was judged to be too far out of balance with regard to costs and revenue. After much deliberation (and consultation with the provost), the SOTCM has moved to place the M.A. Religion on “hold” and thus accept no new applicants for the 2011-2012 academic year. During that year, the SOTCM will use a portion of its regularly scheduled program review to evaluate the feasibility of revamping the program to move toward a more revenue neutral situation or the necessity of simply teaching out the program.

Respectfully Submitted,

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