

Doctor of Ministry intensive at Barrytown August, 2015

Cabot W. Peterson
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BARRYTOWN – The Doctor of Ministry Program (D.Min.) completed its 10th year with a semi-annual intensive held August 3-14 at the Unification Theological Seminary in Barrytown. Eleven students took part in the program, which is designed to offer pastors and clergy the opportunity to receive their doctorate in a related ministerial field with a minimal amount of class time and related expenses.

Two-week intensive classes are held in February and August over a two-year period, for a total of 28 credits. Each student then presents a doctoral dissertation project in the third-sixth year for an additional 6 credits, for a total of 34 credits. The three-credit classes ran from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m.- 4:00 p.m, each week, with time off for lunch and breaks, followed by a one-credit course from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

The first graduate of the program, which was launched in 2006, was Dr. Michael Balcomb, current president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, USA, who received his doctorate in 2009.

Dr. Kathy Winings, Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Director of the D.Min Program at UTS, designed the program so that participants can fit it into their own schedules, allowing them to do most of the course work at home and at their own pace. Dr. Winings taught the first week of the August intensive for the continuing D.Min. candidates, a course entitled, *The Changing Face of Society: Diversity and Its Impact on Ministry*.

The first week course for the entering class was taught by Dr. Roderick McLean entitled: *Spiritual Formation and Integration*.

This year's second week program for the incoming students entitled *Theological and Ethical Perspectives of Ministerial Leadership*, began with a dilemma that turned into a godsend when the professor who was to teach the new students suddenly passed away only days before the start of classes. This left Dr. Winings scrambling for a replacement. She offered the position to Archbishop George Augustus Stallings, co-chairman of the American Clergy Leadership Conference and founder of the Imani Temple African-American Catholic Congregation..... who immediately declined.

"Dr. Winings sent me an urgent e-mail. She needed me to substitute for a substitute who was to substitute for the regular professor," Archbishop Stallings recalled with a laugh.

"I resisted her invitation. I wasn't going to take on another distraction. Our church is in the midst of a major renovation project and I would have to make a radical alteration of my schedule. At the same time, God speaks to us as other persons to get us to do what needs to be done. Also, Dr. Winings has such love and passion for UTS she just assumed I would do it.

"Finally, I just let go. With hindsight, very clearly God was speaking through Dr. Winings in challenging me to share my ministerial experience with others. Everything is going very well and I'm really enjoying the experience.



Archbishop John Paul James, first year D. Min. student and pastor of the Holy Christian Orthodox Church in Capitol Heights, Maryland, praised his mentor, and offered a recommendation as well.

"Archbishop Stallings has done an amazing job," said James. "He sees our work as a call back to true pastoral care, seeing clergy as a father and mother see themselves as caring for their children. I would recommend the D-Min program to every clergy."

Dr. Luonne Rouse, returning for his sixth year, taught the second week continuing class of seven on the subject of *Transformational Leadership in a Postmodern World*.

"This is a good time to not only reflect," said Dr. Rouse, "but to look at the current realities and changes taking place in the world. Students who leave here after this seminar will be able to make a greater contribution to the world. Projects here are of global proportions to affect the world. I can't think of any other program on that level to help the world. When they finish they can be impactful to a betterment in the world."

Dr. Rouse also shared a personal experience he had during the time Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder of UTS, was hospitalized and his subsequent passing into the spiritual world.

"One of the most transforming times was when Father Moon died. We were in session when he went into the hospital. Since that time the intensity of positivity has been so much stronger. The professors came more together and made sure the connectors were there to bring over the importance of the seminars.

"It was an epiphany. The program, from my point of view, took on a whole new intensity. Dr. Moon always had a positive message, and I always looked for that message from Dr. Moon. Now we have to do it. We have to bring that intensity to make the positive changes."

Incoming students must also begin to focus on what their doctoral project will be. This is where Dr. Andrew Wilson, UTS faculty member, steps in. Dr. Wilson has been guiding and tutoring the new students for each of the 10 years since the program's inception. His course is entitled, *Research I: Formulating the Question*. Dr. Charles Phillips worked with the continuing class on their dissertations, which should now be under way. His course is entitled, *Research III: Research Design Strategies*.

"I teach seminars that begin at the start of the program," explained Dr. Wilson. "I help students clarify what kind of project they can do and what they're doing their ministry in. I'm only involved in the first year, after that they'll get an adviser tailored to what they're interested in and the field they want to focus on."

Perhaps it was Dr. Rouse who best summed up the purpose and value of the program.

"When they're finished they will actually have something to offer in their ministry, their church, their community, whatever they're working in. But also to be very effective. However, the effectiveness is in the process, whether it works or fails.

"Whatever the results are, they will still have gotten something from God."