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*There are three parts to the student's experience of Practice in Ministry and Mission:*

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**1) Covenant Discipleship Groups**

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An intentional, weekly, peer-led setting for spiritual growth and mutual support. This is where the student learns to focus on the basic disciplines of the Christian life, acts of — *compassion, devotion, justice, and worship.*

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**2) Teaching Congregation Practicum**

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The student will be part of the life of your congregation for two years. They will study, teach, preach, visit, meet, lead and follow as part of a weekly ministry within the life of your church community.

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**3) Cross-Cultural Immersion Experience**

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Each cross-cultural experience will be different from anyone else's — and whether the student chooses to do a year, a semester, a month or two weeks here in the U.S. or internationally — it is a unique opportunity look at how faith can be expressed in a radically different context from their own.

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**What are the obligations of a Teaching Congregation in PMM?**

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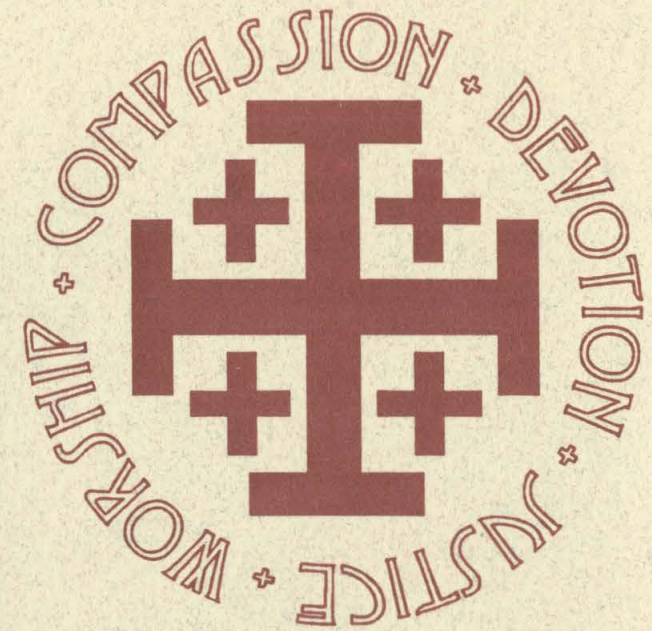
During the two years of a PMM placement, the teaching congregation agrees to:

- ❖ Welcome the student as a colleague in mission and ministry.
- ❖ Do everything you can to help the student prepare to be a pastoral leader of the church.
- ❖ Form a Covenant Discipleship Group, comprising the pastor, the student, and five laypersons. This group meets weekly for one hour to be mutually accountable for the Christian walk.
- ❖ Form a PMM Partnership, comprising the pastor, the student, and one layperson. This group meets monthly to discuss and facilitate the student's pastoral learnings.
- ❖ Assist the student with a series of Pastoral Learning Activities in as many areas as possible of mission and ministry in and beyond the congregation.

**To Have Questions Answered or To Receive Complete Details**

Contact the Office of  
Practice in Ministry and Mission  
Dr. David Lowes Watson and  
Dr. V. Sue Zabel  
(202) 885-8666

Wesley Theological Seminary  
4500 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016



**WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**invites you to become a**

**TEACHING  
CONGREGATION**

by helping to prepare future  
pastoral leaders of the church  
through

**PRACTICE IN  
MINISTRY AND  
MISSION**





### **Comments from Teaching Congregations in the Pilot Program of Practice in Ministry and Mission:**

*"It is very helpful for our congregation to feel that we can have a small part in the training and preparation of future ministers . . . Through our seminarians we receive some of the most current theological thinking of the church, and this is most stimulating."*  
— Virginia

*"Our student has helped us to focus on accountability for the spiritual life of our congregation. Relationships have deepened as devotions in prayer and scripture have reawakened at the center of our congregation. We also have new insights and motivation for acts of justice in the workplace."*  
— Washington, DC

*"Joining with our seminarian in a Covenant Discipleship Group has been a new experience for which we are grateful. It gives us a sense of our tradition as we apply the learnings of our spiritual forebears to the church of today."* — Maryland

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*For just as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.* — Romans 12:4-5.

*God has so arranged the body . . . that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.* —I Corinthians 12:25-26.

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### **What is Practice in Ministry and Mission?**

Theological education is one of the most important tasks of the church. This is how its future pastoral leaders are prepared and trained to answer their call to mission and ministry.

At Wesley Theological Seminary, this preparation is twofold. On the one hand, there is a rigorous course of academic learning in the Christian tradition. On the other hand, students apply their academic learning through a process of action and reflection known as Practice in Ministry and Mission (PMM).

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### **What is the Purpose of PMM?**

The purpose of this practical dimension of theological education is for students to gain pastoral experience and to provide them with an interaction between their academic work and the Christian life. The deepest truths of the Christian faith are learned best when the teachings of Christ are followed and not merely studied.

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### **What is the role of a Teaching Congregation in PMM?**

A teaching congregation agrees to receive a student for a period of two consecutive years. During that time the student spends two sessions a week (approx. 6-8 hours) at the church engaged in a wide range of activities related to pastoral leadership.

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### **Does a Teaching Congregation have to be a congregation?**

While most PMM placements are in local congregations of the church, alternative settings for mission and ministry are welcomed, as long as there are ties with a local congregation to facilitate some of the Pastoral Learning Activities.

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### **What are the financial obligations of a Teaching Congregation?**

There are none. Students do not receive a stipend for the time they spend in teaching congregations.