

**NEW YORK SCHOOL OF MINISTRY
MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT PROGRAM**

This program is for persons who discern a call to ordained ministry in the UCC, when their Committee on Ministry decides that NYSOM provides the appropriate educational and formational path for them. This program is designed to be completed in four to six years.

Pre-Requisites

1. Completion of Christian Leadership Program with Pastoral Leadership Area of Interest
2. Letter of Recommendation from home church
3. Member in Discernment with home association
4. Letter from the Chair of the individual's Committee on Ministry, stating that s/he is a Member in Discernment and that the committee has decided that the Word & Sacrament Program is the appropriate educational and formational path.

Requirements

1. Attendance at 6 weeks of the Summer Academy at Lancaster Theological Seminary or Yale Divinity School's Summer Study. Lancaster offers one week each summer, and Yale offers two. If an alternative is needed, other seminaries' summer programs, with contact hours equivalent to Lancaster's and Yale's, may be approved by the Dean.
2. Completion (with grade of Pass) of six morning courses at Lancaster's Summer Academy or both the morning and afternoon courses for each week at Yale's Summer Study. At least one course must come from each of the following areas: Bible, Worship, Christian Education, Pastoral Care. Participants should take the workshops and evening courses at Lancaster's Summer Academy as well. Papers are to be written for both morning and evening courses at Lancaster and for both morning and afternoon courses at Yale. Participants may take two Lancaster evening courses in one area to meet the distribution requirement for that area, although a morning course (at Lancaster) and morning and afternoon courses (at Yale) will still be required for each of the six weeks of attendance.
3. Participation in and successful completion of the four year NYSOM Ministry Practicum. The Word and Sacrament participants and participating mentors will meet for a day-long facilitated seminar three times a year (fall, winter, and spring). 2015-16: Practical Issues in Ministry (liturgical events, pastoral and self care, leadership); 2016-17: Theology; 2017-8: Ethics; 2018-19: Preaching. Reading and writing components will be assigned for these sessions. At the end of each year, the instructor's narrative assessment will be sent to each participant, his/her mentor, and his/her Committee on Ministry. If a participant arrives at a Practicum Session unprepared, that session will not count (the participant will need to retake that session). If participants don't fulfill the expectations of the Practicum year, they are required to take it the next time it is offered.

Participants can enter the Practicum sessions between the first and second ones (and be required to do the work to catch up on the session they missed) but not between the second and third. Participants enrolling after the second session must wait until the following fall to join the Practicum.
4. Completion of one year of supervised ministry

5. Four years of regular meetings with a mentor (six sessions per year: twenty four sessions total).
6. Completion of one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (or equivalent approved by the participant's Committee on Ministry).
7. Attendance at three NYSOM fall learning events and three NYSOM spring learning events
8. Attendance at three authorized ministers' retreats
9. Attendance at three annual meetings of the New York Conference
10. An international experience (a travel seminar or service-learning trip). Proposals for international experiences or equivalent broadening experiences in the US (e.g. Disaster Response Team trips, NYHelp Honduras) must be approved by the Dean. A 3-5 page reflection paper on the experience should be submitted to the Dean after the trip.

Tuition

The annual tuition for 2015-16 is \$950 for NY Conference participants (\$975 in 2016-17). As the program is designed to take a minimum of four years, annual tuition will be charged for only four years. The tuition is payable in annual or semi-annual installments. The cost for the NYSOM Ministry Practicum is included in the basic tuition. Financial aid is available. Tuition must be paid in full before a Ministry of Word and Sacrament Certificate is granted. Tuition for Lancaster's Summer Academy 2015, which includes course fees, room, and board, is \$900/week. Tuition for Yale Summer Study 2015, which does not include room and board, is \$700. CPE is to be completed at the participant's own expense.

Communication with Committees on Ministry

When a participant enrolls, the Dean will send him/her a letter stating the requirements to complete the program. At that time, any adjustments to the program (if warranted, depending upon the participant's previous experience) will be made in writing. A copy of the letter will be sent to the participant's committee. The committee will then approve that recommendation, or, if there are concerns, communicate them through the Chair to the Dean.

The Dean will work with the participant and the Chair of the participant's committee to obtain an appropriate mentor. When the mentor is chosen, the committee can decide whether or not to use that mentor as their liaison with the Member in Discernment.

Since all decisions about ordination are the responsibility of the participant's Committee on Ministry, NYSOM will share assessment information concerning the participant's preparation and formation for ministry, as well as annual reports of progress in the program. Upon the participant's completion of the program, the Dean will notify the Chair of the participant's Committee on Ministry.