

**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. It is designed to be completed in four to six years. We administer this program for NY Conference participants. We work with Committees on Ministry and Conference staff when non-NY Conference participants enroll in our Ministry Practicum (we expect that the COM or the Conference will administer other elements of the program).

Pre-Requisites

1. Completion of Christian Leadership Program with a focus on Pastoral Leadership
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 they are a Member in Discernment and that the committee has decided that this program is the appropriate educational and formational path for them.

Requirements

1. Attendance at 6 weeks of Yale Divinity School's Summer Study. Yale offers two weeks each June, with morning and afternoon courses. If an alternative is needed, other seminaries' summer programs, with contact hours equivalent to Yale's, may be approved by the Dean. Of the 12 required courses, at least one summer intensive course must come from each of the following areas: Bible, Worship, Christian Education, Pastoral Care. Participants will also complete a summer intensive project for each of the 12 courses taken. The project (roughly 20 pages) will include both a summary of what the participant learned and an application of that learning to their ministry context. Projects will be graded by NYSOM faculty.
2. Participation in and successful completion of the four year NYSOM Ministry Practicum. The Word and Sacrament participants and participating mentors will meet for a video-conferenced day-long facilitated seminar three times a year (fall, winter, and spring) -- 2020-21: Theology; 2021-22: Ethics; 2022-23: Preaching; 2023-2024: Practical Issues in Ministry (liturgical events, pastoral and self care, leadership). 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, their mentor, and their Committee on Ministry. If a participant arrives at a Practicum Session unprepared, 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, but not between the second and third. Participants enrolling after the second session must wait until the following fall to join the Practicum.
3. Participation in 2-3 video-conferenced peer gatherings each year, in which Word & Sacrament participants and graduates gather for spiritual centering and community building.
4. Participation for 4 years in a Community of Practice, with other MIDs or new ministers, for peer connection and support.
5. Completion of one year of supervised ministry

6. Four years of regular meetings with a mentor (six sessions per year: twenty-four sessions total)
7. Completion of one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (or equivalent approved by the participant's Committee on Ministry)
8. Attendance at six NYSOM learning events
9. Attendance at three authorized ministers' educational events
10. Attendance at three annual meetings of the New York Conference
11. 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 2020-2021 is \$1200 for NY Conference participants. 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 and video-conferenced peer gatherings are included in the basic tuition. Financial aid is available. Tuition for Yale Summer Study 2020, which does not include room and board, is about \$900. CPE is to be completed at the participant's own expense. The cost of the NYSOM Ministry Practicum (which includes the video-conferenced peer gatherings) for non-NY Conference participants is \$775 for the 2020-2021 year.

Communication with Committees on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry will consider the educational and formational path and make any appropriate adjustments, if warranted, depending upon the participant's previous experience. Then the Dean will send the participant a letter stating the requirements to complete the program (any adjustments to the program are included at that time). A copy of the letter will be sent to the participant's committee. 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. Additional adjustments to the program may be made, after consultation between the COM Chair and the Dean. Upon the participant's completion of the program, the Dean will notify the Chair of the participant's Committee on Ministry and provide a transcript for the participant's file.