

NEW YORK SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Our standard educational and formational path toward ordained ministry
Revision 2024

This program is the educational and formational path for individuals discerning a call to ordained ministry. It is designed to be completed in 6 years. We administer this program for all NY Conference participants. We gladly work with Committees on Ministry and Conference staff when non-NY Conference participants take our courses and ministry practicum (we expect that the COM or the Conference will provide oversight of other elements of the program for their MIDs).

Pre-Requisites

1. High School Diploma or equivalent
2. A 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. Core Ministry Courses: Completion of the following fourteen 20-hour courses (offered in a 3-year cycle):
 - Old Testament I & II
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 - Introduction to Christian Theology
 - Introduction to Christian Ethics
 - History of the Christian Church: from Resurrection to Reformation
 - American Church History
 - UCC (Post 1957) History & Polity
 - Liturgy & Worship
 - Pastoral Care (Basic Counseling Approaches for Pastors or Theory and Practice of Embodied Pastoral Care)
 - Family Systems and Pastoral Leadership
 - Congregational Life
 - Introduction to Leadership Theory

Course Fees: The cost of each New York School of Ministry course for NY Conference participants is \$250. For participants outside the NY Conference, the cost for each course is \$345 (\$275 plus the Distance Learning Support fee of \$70). Financial aid is available.

2. Short Course: Skills for Program Success (to be taken in the first year of coursework)
3. Regular meetings with a mentor for discernment conversations during the program (6 sessions per year - one hour every other month – 36 compensated sessions total)
4. Participation for 4 years in a Community of Practice, with other MIDs or new ministers, for peer connection and support.
5. Completion of 2 six-month periods of supervised ministry. Each six-month period will have its own learning covenant. Each six-month period will have a different supervisor. At least one six-month period must be of a pastoral nature in a local church setting (rather than a specialized setting) except in rare circumstances approved by the Dean. Supervised Ministry must take place in a setting

other than the participant's home church (unless the participant, with licensed or lay ministerial standing, is leading the congregation). The Dean will consult with the MID and their COM chair to find appropriate supervisors.

6. Completion of 2 advanced intensive weeks or approved alternatives. Yale Divinity School's Summer Study offers a week each June, with morning and afternoon courses (2 intensive weeks would be required). Course choices should be made in conversation with the Dean to ensure breadth of study. Other seminaries' summer programs and appropriate online offerings, with contact hours equivalent to Yale's, may be approved by the Dean. Participants will also complete a project (roughly 10-15 pages) for each of the courses taken that 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.
7. Participation in and successful completion of the two-year NYSOM Ministry Practicum.

The NYSOM Ministry Practicum is a facilitated seminar, grounded in participatory, intentional learning, that reflects upon aspects of the practice of ministry (theology, ethics, preaching, and practical issues – pastoral care, leadership, and liturgical events) through engagement with new perspectives and discussion of participants' presentations. We seek to form pastoral leaders by building a community that nurtures brave space for honest feedback and transformative conversations.

MIDs and participating mentors will meet for a video-conferenced 5-6 hour facilitated seminar three times a semester – Spring 2026: Practical Issues in Ministry (liturgical events, pastoral and self-care, leadership); Fall 2026: Theology; Spring 2027: Preaching; Fall 2027: Ethics. Reading and writing components will be assigned for these sessions. At the end of each semester, 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 session, they are required to take it the next time it is offered. Participants can enter the Practicum at the beginning of each semester.

8. Completion of a Basic Unit of Boundary Awareness Training
9. Completion of the modules of Culturally Responsive Ministry Training that are offered during NYSOM enrollment.
10. Completion of one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (or equivalent approved by the participant's Committee on Ministry)
11. Participation in 10 NYSOM learning events (e.g., NYSOM Fall Learning Event, Continuing Education Institute, NYSOM short courses, NYSOM electives) or alternative ministers' educational events approved by the Dean
12. Attendance at 3 annual meetings of the New York Conference or equivalent wider church experiences (General Synod attendance and the MESA MID Event provide equivalent experiences)
13. A cross-cultural experience (a travel seminar or service-learning trip). Proposals for these broadening experiences in the US or internationally must be approved by the Dean. A 3-5 page

reflection paper on how the experience has shaped the participant as a minister (both in their current context and as they look to their future settings) should be submitted to the Dean after the trip.

Tuition: The tuition for the 2025-2026 academic year is \$1350 for NY Conference participants. As the program is designed to take a minimum of six years, annual tuition will be charged for only six years. The tuition is payable in annual or semi-annual installments. The cost for mentors, supervisors, and the NYSOM Ministry Practicum are included in the tuition. Financial aid is available. Tuition for Yale Summer Study 2026 is about \$800. CPE is to be completed at the participant's own expense. The cost of the NYSOM Ministry Practicum for non-NY Conference participants is \$225 per semester, for the 2025-2026 year.

Communication with Committees on Ministry

In the New York Conference, the Committee on Ministry will consider this standard educational and formational path and, in consultation with the Dean, make any appropriate adjustments, if warranted, depending upon the participant's previous education and experience. Then the Dean will send the MID and the COM the approved educational and formational path. The Dean will work with the MID and the Chair of the MID's committee to obtain an appropriate mentor. The committee can decide whether or not that mentor would also serve as the participant's MID Advisor.

Since all decisions about ordination are the responsibility of the MID's Committee on Ministry, NYSOM will share assessment information concerning the MID'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 MID's completion of the program, the Dean will notify the Chair of the MID's Committee on Ministry and provide a final transcript for the MID's file.

Committees on Ministry, outside of the New York Conference, are welcome to use our courses, Ministry Practicum sessions, and other elements as part of an educational and formational plan for any Members in Discernment whose life circumstances prevent them from pursuing an M.Div. in preparation for ordination.