

Doctor of Ministry

Ministry/theological foundations assessment

Our Doctor of Ministry program is designed to ‘integrate structured theological reflection and critical thinking on ministerial practice.’

This means that participants will need to have an adequate foundation of biblical and theological knowledge and reflection skills, on which the content of the program will be built. Of course, we will help participants to sharpen their abilities in this area, but we need to assess the current ability of applicants, too, to ensure they enter the program confidently.

Thus, there are two items applicants are required to prepare and submit as part of the DMin application process.

A. ‘My present theology of ministry’

Write an essay in which you outline **your present theology of ministry** – and its implications for your ministry practice.

In your essay, include these elements:

- Phase 1: The key elements/features of your theology of ministry.
- Phase 2: What has shaped, and is shaping, your theology of ministry to what it is now. Identify key books – theological and from other disciplines – and input from other sources (e.g. significant conferences, life events) which have shaped your views over the last five years. Don’t simply list the books/resources; make sure you discuss how they have shaped your perspectives.
- Phase 3: Identify specific ways in which your theology of ministry impacts on how you practice ministry, and how you understand yourself as a ministry practitioner. Again, don’t simply list the ways, but reflectively discuss the interaction of the elements.

Draw on insights and perspectives from different disciplines (e.g. theology, the social sciences, education).

(Note you are writing on your ‘present theology of ministry’. We recognise that any theology is a dynamic and developing entity, and not least your theology of ministry.)

Length/format: This paper should be up about 1800-2000 words (5-6 pages of single spaced text). Phase 1 will likely be about 25-30% of the paper, phase 2 about 40-50%, and phase 3 the remaining 20-30%.

Make sure that you acknowledge (both in the text of your paper and as a reference list at the end of the paper) insights you draw from various sources.

B. Christian thinking about issues

Another important skill in the DMin program is to be able to 'think Christianly' about the issues that arise as you move through the program.

This task requires you to identify and discuss a ministry-related issue that is relevant to, and being discussed in, your context (e.g. in your ministry/organisation and/or culture) and about which opinion is divided. Examples could be a pastoral care matter, an ethics issue, an inter-religious matter, or a social matter.

- Phase 1: Write a short case study relating to the issue you have identified.
- Phase 2: List the steps of the process you would go through to determine a Christian ministry response to the issue.
- Phase 3: Use the steps from Phase 2 to
 - discuss the differing approaches to the issue;
 - highlight 1-2 key biblical passages you would draw on, and comment on any significant exegetical issues in those passages;
 - suggest an appropriate Christian response(s) for dealing with the issue, and
 - propose several recommendations for the context of your case study setting.

Draw on insights and perspectives from theology and other disciplines (e.g. history, the social sciences, education).

Length/format: This paper should be about 1800 words (4-5 pages of single spaced text). Phase 1 will likely be 15-20% of the paper, and phases 2/3 the remaining 80-85%.

Make sure that you acknowledge (both in the text of your paper and as a reference list at the end of the paper) insights you draw from various sources.

Submission

When you have completed both these items, email your responses as an attachment to asstdmindirector@agstalliance.org

After we have all your application papers in hand, we will have an interview with you (face-to-face or Zoom), to get to know you better, and to chat through aspects of your application, including this ministry/theological foundation assessment.

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