



**THE ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS
DOCTOR OF MINISTRY IN PREACHING PROGRAM
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**

Please check the school to which you are applying:

- _____ **Chicago Theological Seminary (United Church of Christ)**
- _____ **Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (United Methodist Church)**
- _____ **Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)**
- _____ **McCormick Theological Seminary (Presbyterian Church/USA)**
- _____ **North Park Theological Seminary (Evangelical Covenant Church)**
- _____ **Northern Baptist Theological Seminary (American Baptist Church)**
- _____ **Seabury-Western Theological Seminary (Episcopal Church/Anglican)**

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

1. Full Name _____
(first) (middle) (last)
- E-mail Address _____ Fax _____
2. Home Address _____ Home Phone () _____
(number and street) (city, state, zip)
- Church Address _____ Church Phone () _____
(name)
- _____ (number and street) (city, state, zip)
- At which address do you prefer to receive mail? Home _____ Church _____
3. Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
4. Social Security Number _____ 5. Citizenship _____

CONTEXT OF MINISTRY

6. Denomination _____
Date of Ordination _____

7. Professional Experience: Beginning with your present location of ministry, list all parishes or ecclesiastical bodies or agencies served.

| Church or Institution | Location | Position | Dates |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|-------|
|-----------------------|----------|----------|-------|

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

8. Briefly describe the congregation you serve. If you are not a parish pastor, please describe your context of ministry.

9. This program is centered on the practice of preaching. Students must be able to preach at least once a month. If you are an associate pastor or your context of ministry is not a local church, please indicate how you will arrange your preaching schedule to meet this requirement.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

10. List the schools attended and the degrees earned in chronological order.

| Name and Location | Dates of Attendance | Major Degree of Institution |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|

11. **Please arrange to have transcripts from all the colleges/universities and seminaries you attended sent to the school to which you are applying. Original transcripts are required.**

12. List any prizes, fellowships or awards you have received, particularly those related to the areas of preaching and worship/liturgy. Indicate the nature of the most recent awards, the conditions under which they were awarded and who conferred them.

Are your seminary grades an accurate indication of your academic abilities and motivations? If not, please explain.

OTHER EXPERIENCES

14. In order to more fully evaluate your candidacy, list other jobs and/or outside activities in which you participate that are relevant to your preaching ministry. Please note the activities involved and your role in them.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM

15. Please indicate how you first learned about the ACTS D.Min. in Preaching Program, how your interest developed and why the program appeals to you.

_____ Seminary Publications

_____ Brochure

_____ Advertisement (if so, note where)

_____ Other (if so, indicate)

FINANCIAL PLAN

16. Briefly explain what financial resources will be available to you to pay for the program.

Please note: Payment and financial aid policies vary from school to school. Check with your school if you have questions.

Submitting Your Application

All of the following documents, assessments and fees must be received before an application is considered.

- 1. Transcripts: College, university and seminary transcripts should be sent directly to the school through which you are applying. If the seminary from which you were graduated used a pass/fail system, recommendations on your academic abilities are required from three (3) faculty members.**

- 2. Send the following with this form to the school through which you are applying:**
 - a. Personal Statement**
 - b. Ministry Context Board Assessment**
 - c. Preaching Assessment**
 - d. \$50 Non-refundable Application Fee payable to the school you are applying to.**

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? _____ If yes, please provide details. _____

In connection with evaluating my application for admission, I understand that the seminary to which I apply may perform a criminal background check to verify my social security number, and determine if I have a criminal history. By signing this application, I freely and voluntarily authorize the seminary to which I am applying and/or its agents to perform a criminal background check.

By signing this application, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above statements.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form is correct and complete.

Signature of the Applicant

Date

ALL DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR APPLICATION BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE SEMINARY TO WHICH THEY ARE SUBMITTED AND ARE NOT TRANSFERRABLE TO A THIRD (OUTSIDE) PARTY UNLESS PERMISSION IS RECEIVED FROM THE CANDIDATE.

See Written Essay Portion Below

Written Additions to Application



ACTS Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program

PERSONAL STATEMENT

In an effort to gain an awareness of your journey as a preacher, please respond briefly to the questions below. **Please focus your thoughts in a statement of no less than four but no more than seven, typed double-spaced pages.**

MY JOURNEY AS A PREACHER

1. Who are you as a preacher? What particular experiences, concerns, and personal characteristics do you bring to the pulpit that identify you as a distinctive, even unique preacher of the Gospel? Who have been your models (both positive and negative) for preaching?
2. Where do you preach? Say something about the denomination, the community, the ministry context, and the social setting in which you preach.
3. How do you preach? Describe the way you prepare to preach, the general focus/direction, and the normal style of your preaching.
4. Why do you preach? In your own words, articulate in no more than a paragraph or two, your “theology” of preaching.
5. What is a “growing edge” in your preaching? What is one specific way in which you feel that God may be calling you to develop new skills, sensitivities, or strategies as you move more deeply into the adventure of your preaching life?
6. What particular hopes and expectations do you have regarding participation in the ACTS D. Min in Preaching program?



ACTS Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program

PREACHING ASSESSMENT

(Please copy for all participating in the assessment)

Instructions: The Preaching Assessment is part of the admission process for the Association of Chicago Theological Schools' Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program. This assessment is to be completed by a group of **four to five members of the ministry context** who are familiar with the applicant's preaching. **Gather as a group with the applicant for the assessment process.** Please respond to the questions as a group. Useful insights into the particular gifts and needs of the preacher are more readily identified through collaborative assessment.

Purpose: The purpose of the program is to help pastors grow in their ministries and become more effective preachers. The successful candidate in the program must have a desire to improve his or her preaching. This assessment process seeks candid appraisal of the pastor's preaching to assess his or her strengths as well as to suggest those areas for further growth. Describing areas in which the pastor's preaching needs improvement will not weaken his or her candidacy. Should your pastor be admitted to the program, your assessment will assist him or her in developing learning goals.

This assessment will also indicate the context's level of support for the pastor's participation in this program. It is the expectation of this program that members of the ministry work closely with and support the pastor's work in the program. Should your pastor be admitted to the program, it is important that members be aware that your pastor will attend a three-week summer residency in Chicago for three consecutive years. Significant reading, writing, and studying is required to successfully complete the program. It is expected that the members of the ministry will relieve the pastor of some duties in order to make time for program work. Finally, the program involves the interest and support of small groups in the context to reflect on your pastor's preaching ministry. It is important that the entire ministry context respect and support the work of this reflection group.

Thank you for your willingness to assist your pastor in this important step.



ACTS Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program

PREACHING ASSESSMENT MEETING cont.

Please designate one member of the group to lead the discussion and another member to record the discussion. The applicant should not serve in either of these roles. Please type your responses to the questions and **include the names of those who participated in the discussion.**

Please discuss and provide written answers to the following questions:

1. What strengths as a preacher do you identify in this person?
2. Recognizing that an effective preacher takes the specific ministry context very seriously, what areas of growth would you identify in her/him?
3. What skills, knowledge and/or experience would you prescribe for this person which might increase his or her effectiveness as a preacher in this context?
4. How does the applicant's preaching relate to his or her other pastoral responsibilities, such as, handling conflict, dealing with social issues, offering pastoral care, and administering contextual programs?

Please return this assessment *directly* to the applicant. This assessment must be submitted with the full application.

Signatures of the participants:

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Date of the meeting: _____

12/05



ACTS Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program

CONGREGATIONAL / MINISTRY CONTEXT BOARD REFLECTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

(Please copy for all Board members)

Your pastor is applying for admission to the Association of Chicago Theological Schools' Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program, a program sponsored by six theological schools in the Chicago area. The attached questionnaire, indicating the ministry context board's support of the candidate's participation in this program, is a required component of the application process.

Through increased understanding of and developing skill in preaching, this program seeks to transform the pastor and the ministry context as they engage the Gospel together. To achieve this goal, the successful candidate in this program must have a desire to grow and be challenged in his or her preaching. Equally important is the willingness of the members to work with and support the pastor during the growth process. Only through collaboration among the pastor, the board, and members can the fullest benefits of this doctoral program be realized.

The context's board sets the groundwork for member support for the pastor throughout the program. Participation in this doctoral program involves attending summer residencies, reading, writing papers, meeting in small groups and developing projects. It is essential that the participant's responsibilities be reduced during the program in order to have time to complete the program requirements. **Most ministry contexts find that the benefits of their pastor's participation in this program far out weigh any inconvenience.** Relationships between members and the pastor are deepened and strengthened, and the vision of God's call to the community is renewed.

Please note *The Congregational/Ministry Context Board Assessment* asks for areas for improvement in the pastor's preaching ministry. Your honest response will not hinder the admission of your pastor into the program. It is expected candidates in the program will be open to receiving and responding to honest feedback. **Your careful assessment will assist your pastor in identifying areas for growth.**

Thank you for your careful consideration and response to the questions on the attached form. **It is important to work together when answering the questions since more helpful wisdom regarding the pastor's gifts, needs as a preacher and the context's needs for preaching are often best identified in group discussion.**

CONGREGATIONAL / MINISTRY CONTEXT BOARD ASSESSMENT cont.

On a separate sheet, please provide one group response to the following questions. Your candid response is important for the congregation and the pastor to realize the full benefits on the program. **Please give your completed and signed assessment to your pastor for submission with the application.**

The presiding board member at this meeting should date and sign the board's assessment and indicate his or her position on the board. Please include the percentage of the board members participating in the meeting.

THE PREACHING SITUATION IN YOUR MINISTRY CONTEXT

1. List at least four strengths of your context, which are valued by the board. How does your pastor's preaching relate to these strengths?
2. Describe at least four areas of your community's life and ministry in which growth and strengthening are needed. How does your pastor's preaching relate to these needs?

HOPE FOR YOUR PASTOR'S DEVELOPMENT AS A PREACHER

3. In light of the strengths and needs of your ministry context, what skills and knowledge do you hope your pastor will gain through participation in this Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program?
4. Please note any questions or concerns you have regarding your pastor's participation in this Doctor of Ministry program.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR PASTOR'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM

5. Indicate ways the membership will support your pastor in his or her growth through this program. (Suggestions for support include, but are not limited to, taking interest in what your pastor is learning, keeping him/her in prayer, shifting some responsibilities to other members or staff, working with your pastor to ensure adequate time is provided to complete assignments, supplying financial assistance.)

7/04