

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LAUNCHES A NEW DEGREE

D.MIN. IN SUPERVISORY SPIRITUAL CARE EDUCATION

In August 2017, Union will launch its first Doctor of Ministry program, with a distinctive focus on *Supervisory Clinical Spiritual Care Education*. The first of its kind in the U.S., this program aims to enhance the practice of ministry among spiritual care practitioners serving in multicultural and interreligious health care contexts. This program builds on the strength of Union's interreligious engagement focus as well as its highly regarded program in Psychology and Religion. Union anticipates an initial cohort of 12 students.

The goal of the program is to offer additional depth and breadth to those enrolled in programs preparing them to become supervisors in Clinical Pastoral Education (C.P.E.).

Union alumnus Anton Boisen (Class of 1911) was instrumental in the development of hospital chaplaincy and clinical pastoral education. In the 1960s, Union pioneered a program in psychiatry and religion. Now Union will build upon this legacy with its Doctor of Ministry program. As Dr. Trace Haythorn, Executive Director of the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE), says: "Union Theological Seminary has been the leader in public theology for many years. This new program builds on that rich tradition in ways that capture the strengths of both organizations in service to the larger community."

Union's D. Min. program will provide supervisory education students with courses led by faculty specialists within a collaborative learning community, and with an array of resources. The course work will provide ample opportunity for the supervisory education students to "present" in varied modes and to interact with their peers. Moreover, Union's strength in interreligious engagement and in theological-cultural studies will contribute significantly to the need for supervisors to respond in learned ways to the complex realities of the diversity that is increasingly characteristic of clinical pastoral education groups.

This program is intended to:

- ✚ Develop a theologically informed, contextually attuned, and integrated understanding of the nature, purposes, theories, and practices of ministry in the specialized area of Supervisory Clinical Spiritual Care Education.
- ✚ Develop analytical, pastoral, and practical ministerial competencies and skills within multicultural, interreligious, and clinical contexts.
- ✚ Develop and appropriate a personal and professional ethic in keeping with sound organizational principles, high ethical standards, and mature conduct in the profession.

The program design aligns with the requirements for certification as a supervisor in Clinical Pastoral Education. Courses in theology, psychodynamic theory, adult education, systems and group theory, interreligious engagement, and social justice will strengthen the theory papers required for certification and deepen the learning of potential supervisors. Rev. A. Meigs Ross, a psychotherapist who served as a consultant on the design of Union's new D. Min., reflected: "I wish that this degree had been available twenty years ago when I was in supervisory education or even ten years ago when I first began supervising supervisory education students. It provides the in-depth academic education and support needed to complement the experiential mentoring model of clinical supervisory education."

This 42-credit degree is a hybrid degree, with intensive residency courses in August, online courses in the fall and spring terms, and a thesis or project. Courses constitute a total of 36 credit hours; a project or thesis will constitute the final 6 credits.

To apply for the program: [Doctor of Ministry Program Application](#)

To apply for the position of director, see the job description: [Director of Doctor of Ministry Program](#)