The Ministerial Leadership pathway is designed for students pursuing ministry within traditional religious contexts. Students seeking to work in ordained ministry, chaplaincy, or other ecclesial ministries are advised to choose this pathway. Ministerial Leadership students complete a range of courses in five fields of study: Bible, History, Systematic Theology/Ethics, Practical Theology, and Interreligious Engagement.

While the Ministerial Leadership program is designed to equip students in the traditional areas of pastoral expertise, instruction itself is anything but conventional. In Bible courses, seminarians learn at the cutting edge of critical biblical scholarship, empire-critical theory, and receive a deep grounding in the historical realities that undergird and inform Scripture. Church history courses are geared towards understanding the historical tension between liberatory Christian movements and times in which Christianity made itself complicit to evil. Instruction in systematic theology and ethics is as robust as it is contemporary, fusing ancient wisdom with cutting-edge anti-racist, feminist, LGBTQ and postcolonial social theory. Students have ample opportunity to lead Union’s daily chapel services, where worship expresses the variety of Union students’ many faith traditions. Exploration is encouraged, and service elements range widely; from fire-dancers to high liturgy.

**OPTION B:** Students who feel called to work in secular settings can alter their coursework accordingly. These students are exempt from some traditional M.Div. coursework less applicable to non-ecclesial contexts. Instead, students take a comparable array of classes designed to develop leadership skills, public speaking, and the ability to address injustice through the rhetoric of moral values.