

OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

GRADUATE PROGRAM GUIDE



on purpose.



Our mission is to educate, equip and resource the Church and her leaders and to bear faithful witness to the Kingdom of God through the work of ministry and theological reflection.



TESTIMONIALS



“Our church was growing so quickly, and I needed a connection point to help me determine my next level of leadership,” says Pastor Phillip Modlin ’24 M.A. “At probably the busiest time in my life, after 20 years in ministry and with five kids at home, I enrolled in the Master of Arts in Missional Multiplication degree program at Olivet Nazarene University. That turned out to be one of the best things I’ve ever done.”

Phillip is the lead pastor for Amplify Church in North Carolina. Amplify seeks to equip people to live out their God-given purpose and amplify the beauty of Jesus to a broken world. Founded in 1939, the church relocated to a new neighborhood in 2020 — with Phillip’s leadership — and grew from 300 to 1,300 people in five years.

What are the distinctives of ONU’s degree program for you?

This was my first experience with online learning, and I really liked it. The program is well organized and designed to pull the students together well. Dr. Jeff Stark of ONU continually challenged us as our professor. He is an academic who also serves churches in the real world. His vulnerability and ability were unexpected benefits for me.

How has this degree program influenced your life and ministry?

In my studies at ONU, I learned how to prioritize my responsibilities and activities, how to lead well, and how

to take care of myself in the process. The rhythms I built for success in my degree program continue to be the rhythms for the other areas of my life. Now, I’m much better at leading my congregation in what we care about. I also do a better job of learning from people I don’t always agree with.

What is becoming clearer to you as a person and a professional?

Mission and passion to serve well can outpace reality. What I want to do can overtake what I should do or need to do. Through ONU’s program, I learned a lot about how to make sure that what God is doing around me doesn’t eat away at what He is doing in me.



“I had enrolled two other times at other graduate schools, but the timing just wasn’t right for me,” says Dylan Robinson, lead pastor and co-founder of The Well Church in Missouri. “While I was at a conference, I asked God to give me a connection for pursuing my master’s degree. I met Dr. Jeff Stark at the ONU booth and called him the next week. He became my trusted source and gave me the peace I needed to start the Master of Arts in Missional Multiplication degree program at ONU.”

Planted in 2017 with Dylan and Pastor Selena Freeman as founders, The Well Church now has two campuses in Springfield and Marshfield, Missouri. A church for all people, this is a church where people are found by the grace of God, filled by the power of the Holy Spirit and freed to love like Christ. Today, there are more than 1,400 people who call this their church home.

What are the distinctives of ONU’s degree program for you?

ONU’s program has allowed me to achieve my education as I minister. After we planted The Well Church, I knew there was more I needed to know. It’s been helpful to deepen my education and learn as much as I can along the way.

How has this degree program influenced your life and ministry?

I’m applying what I’m learning in my local context with a theological framework. This program is more than just completing assignments and

classes. We’re evaluating what we’re doing in real-life applications and getting better as we’re doing that.

What is becoming clearer to you as a person and a professional?

I don’t know as much as I think I do, and I haven’t done as much as I think I’ve done. God radically transformed my life when I was 16. The Holy Spirit keeps revealing to me that we need to get back to the basics and be a light to the neighbors around us. That is a surprisingly convicting process.





“I wanted to pursue an advanced degree without putting a strain on my family and ministry,” says Melony Paulus, co-pastor of Valley Mission Church of the Nazarene in Indiana. “With ONU’s generous discount for pastors, I enrolled in the Master of Arts program in August 2022. I quickly became aware that Missional Multiplication was the emphasis I needed for my ministry.”

Valley Mission Church is a place where people can be more, do more, love more. As a Great Commission church and part of the global community of faith, this church takes the Good News of life in Jesus Christ to people everywhere. Melony co-pastors this church with her husband, Pastor John Paulus.

What are the distinctives of ONU’s degree program for you?

The Master of Arts in Missional Multiplication is not offered by very many universities. In the program we still have face-to-face conversations, discussions and debates. Interacting with humans rather than with an electronic device is a blessing.

How has this degree program influenced your life and ministry?

I’m passionate about reaching out to our community, and that is a gift I’ve received from this degree program. I didn’t understand the importance of that before now. Our churches need an in-filling of what it means to love well inside and what it means to love well outside, and how to bring both worlds together. Every pastor should go through this program because its content is important for every ministry.

What is becoming clearer to you as a person and a professional?

During my time at ONU, I have learned the value of mentoring children and adults, of coming alongside people and helping them understand new ways of thinking. I currently mentor eight women in their areas of ministry. In addition, our church is in our third year offering what we call Wiggly Wednesday. During Wiggly Wednesday, we provide meals, activities and a Bible lesson. We have seen over 100 different children, with a weekly attendance of up to 50 children. Our Wiggly Wednesday has recently expanded to include tutoring for up to 25 children from our local elementary school. My studies at ONU are shaping, refining and challenging me in ways that are immensely impacting my ministry. I have a deeper understanding of the value of learning, growing and being challenged.



Mission Focused

Graduate programming at Olivet's School of Theology and Christian Ministry centers on the *missio dei*—the mission of God. The in-breaking Kingdom of God is proclaimed in word and witnessed in action through the Church, requiring firm commitment to God's "good-making" of the world, the redemption of all things. We serve the mission of God through the Church by preparing leaders biblically, theologically, spiritually, morally and practically for the sake of partnering with God in His pursuits.

Praxis Oriented

Graduate programming prepares students with the practical skills and competencies necessary to flourish in their respective fields and ministries through a commitment to "praxis" — practical application with subsequent reflection. Students ensure that the practice of ministry is always understood within a robust theological/biblical framework and authentic to one's participation in the local church/missional setting. The model of learning, evaluating, critically reflecting, applying, assessing, discussing and learning again — embedded in the regularity of instructor engagement and feedback — builds this process as a habitual practice of ministry.

Theological Integrity

Graduate programming of the STCM is committed to a Wesleyan/Arminian/Holiness theological tradition. Coursework assumes student openness to engage with material through (or in critical reflection of) this tradition. Tradition is not static but demands each successive generation take up the tradition's claims, reflect, assess, challenge and clarify in light of changing cultural assumptions and worldviews. The graduate faculty is committed to providing a theological framework and interpretive lens through which students develop the capacity to discern the trajectory of the tradition in a faithful manner. To avoid a theological echo-chamber, the broader Christian tradition and its many theological voices are considered necessary conversation partners to enhance robust theological identity and appreciate the texture and richness of Christian theology. Graduate studies demands students learn to think critically and assess generously the variety of voices represented in the programming.

Spiritually Formative

Christian ministry and leadership requires a holistic approach to well-being. In a rapidly changing environment with increasingly complex and contentious terrain, ministers of the Gospel must be provided spiritually formative practices and relationships to sustain longevity in bearing a faithful and credible witness to God's Kingdom. The faculty intends that students emerge from programming with a deep and abiding sense of virtue, a commitment to spiritually enriched rhythms, and confidence that they've been mentored by a faculty as concerned with how they've been formed as they are with how well they've been informed.

LIFE MANAGEMENT AND PERSONAL RENEWAL

One of the core classes in all graduate programming is Life Management and Personal Renewal. This course reflects our commitment to the spiritual renewal of students. This course explores the significance of spiritual development and personal renewal in the life of a leader, with attention to practice and implementation, as well as strategies for modeling and teaching healthy patterns as leaders.

Intellectually Challenging

Graduate programming at Olivet Nazarene University demands a high level of commitment to both the quantity and quality of work commensurate with advanced degrees. Students demonstrate proficiency in research, critical reflection, clarity of argumentation, and integration of course material into their practice of faith and ministry. Students read and write at higher levels of Bloom's Taxonomy, addressing higher levels of thinking, evaluation and creation. Consistent with that expectation, students engage and cite source material reflective of their grasp of critical contributions to their field from academically suitable sources.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

- M.Div. (all concentrations): 2.75 GPA in fully accredited undergraduate degree program
- M.A. in Christian Ministry: 2.75 GPA in fully accredited undergraduate degree program
- M.A. in Family Ministry/Missional Multiplication/ Ministerial Studies/Urban Ministry: 2.75 GPA in fully accredited undergraduate degree program, with completion or equivalency to STCM undergraduate programs, core curriculum
- M.A. in Pastoral Leadership: 3.0 GPA in fully accredited undergraduate degree program, must be currently serving in official pastoral leadership role recognized by a local congregation (can be full-time, part-time or volunteer; lead or any staff capacity)
- Master of Ministry: 2.75 GPA in fully accredited undergraduate degree program

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

A number of scholarships are available through the ONU Foundation to graduate students in the School of Theology and Christian Ministry. These scholarships are awarded based on academic merit, to selected students who are either currently enrolled or who are admitted into a graduate program.

STUDENT LOAN

The primary form of financial assistance available to graduate students is the student loan. All questions regarding this type of financial assistance and the necessary forms that must be completed and submitted to determine eligibility are available from the following office:

Office of Financial Aid

studentfinance@olivet.edu
(815) 939-5245

ONU PASTOR'S SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship applies to all of the STCM graduate programs. It is available to full-time, part-time or volunteer lead and staff ministers in the Church of the Nazarene. This scholarship is 50% of the tuition per semester as long as the student maintains enrollment with an acceptable GPA in their program. There is also a 30% minister's discount/scholarship for non-Nazarene pastors; all of the other qualifications still apply.





DEGREES

PRACTICAL DEGREES

These degrees are designed to prepare leaders for specific ministry contexts while addressing pertinent cultural issues:

MASTER OF ARTS IN PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

A two-year program, the Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership is designed for serving pastors who desire to integrate theory and praxis to develop a strong “practiced theology” of pastoral leadership. The entirely online courses are six-weeks long, completed one at a time, and taught by pastoral leaders who have demonstrated effective leadership in their own ministries. **36 HOURS**

MASTER OF ARTS IN MISSIONAL MULTIPLICATION

A two-year program, the Master of Arts in Missional Multiplication is for ministers who desire to build a culture that produces and sends out missional leaders. The program includes entirely online courses and mentorship to provide students with experiential learning through the local church in an ever-changing culture. **36 HOURS**

MASTER OF ARTS IN URBAN MINISTRY

A two-year program, the Master of Arts in Urban Ministry is designed to prepare students for specialized ministry in an urban context. The accelerated format is structured for online courses and field experiences to provide students with experiential learning through the local church in an urban setting. **36 HOURS**

MASTER OF ARTS IN FAMILY MINISTRY

A two-year program, the Master of Arts in Family Ministry provides a specialized focus on ministry to the whole family, including children and youth. The accelerated format is structured for online courses, and a mentored ministry experience in a family ministry context the second year. **36 HOURS**

PREPARATORY DEGREES

These degrees are designed to provide students with a comprehensive and robust theological, Biblical and practical application:

MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTERIAL STUDIES

An online program, the Master of Arts in Ministerial Studies is for candidates seeking an option for a degree on a path toward the educational requirements for ordination in the Church of the Nazarene at a graduate level. **54 HOURS**

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

A two-year program, the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry prepares students for ministry in a wide variety of contexts. Combining biblical, theological and practical ministry courses, the program is designed for students who do not have an earned undergraduate degree in ministry, theology or bible. **36 HOURS**

MASTER OF DIVINITY

A four-year program, the Master of Divinity is the traditional graduate degree for professional ministry in the local church. The M.A./M.Div. track allows students the opportunity to earn a Master of Arts degree on their way to a full Master of Divinity degree. **72 HOURS**

MASTER OF MINISTRY IN SPANISH

A two-year program, this Master of Ministry program is taught completely in Spanish and is designed around four key components of ministry: biblical knowledge, theological knowledge, analysis and design of ministry practices in Hispanic contexts, and personal spiritual formation through online and one-week intensive courses. **30 HOURS | DISTANCE LEARNING HYBRID**

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

The Ed.D. in Ethical Leadership gives students the expertise to lead with integrity and create lasting change. Through real-world case studies, direct access to thought leaders and hands-on learning, students will master ethical decision-making, strategic leadership and cultural transformation. Be prepared to lead ethically, influence change, solve complex problems and inspire ethical leadership in others. **72 HOURS**

ALL PROGRAMS ARE ONLINE



CERTIFICATIONS

ONU's Graduate Certificates in Ministry offer great flexibility and impact in pursuing continued education or to start working on a graduate degree. If you don't feel ready to start a full program, Certificates in Ministry count towards graduate credits and can be stacked to get you on your way to earning one of our graduate degrees in the School of Theology and Christian Ministry.

BIBLICAL STUDIES

BLIT 652 Biblical Interpretation
BLIT 604 Old Testament Introduction
BLIT 609 New Testament Introduction
BLIT 632 Cultural and Historical influence of Biblical Interpretation

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

THEO 613 Systematic Theology
THEO 652 Historic Christian Thought
THEO 611 Theology of the First 4 Centuries
THEO 682 Wesleyan Holiness Theology

URBAN MINISTRY

CMIN 634 Issues in Poverty
CMIN 681 Issues in Urban Ministry
CMIN 644 Compassionate Ministry Development
CMIN 639 Community Assessment and Development

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP

CMIN 648 Missional Theology
CMIN 675 Christian Neighboring
CMIN 629 Developing a Reproducing Leadership Culture
CMIN 669 Understanding Competing Worldviews

FAMILY MINISTRY

CMIN 665 Issues in Family Ministry
CMIN 672 Biblical Teaching for Families
CMIN 616 Theology and Philosophy of Family Ministry
CMIN 617 Dynamic of Children and Youth Ministry

PASTORAL MINISTRY

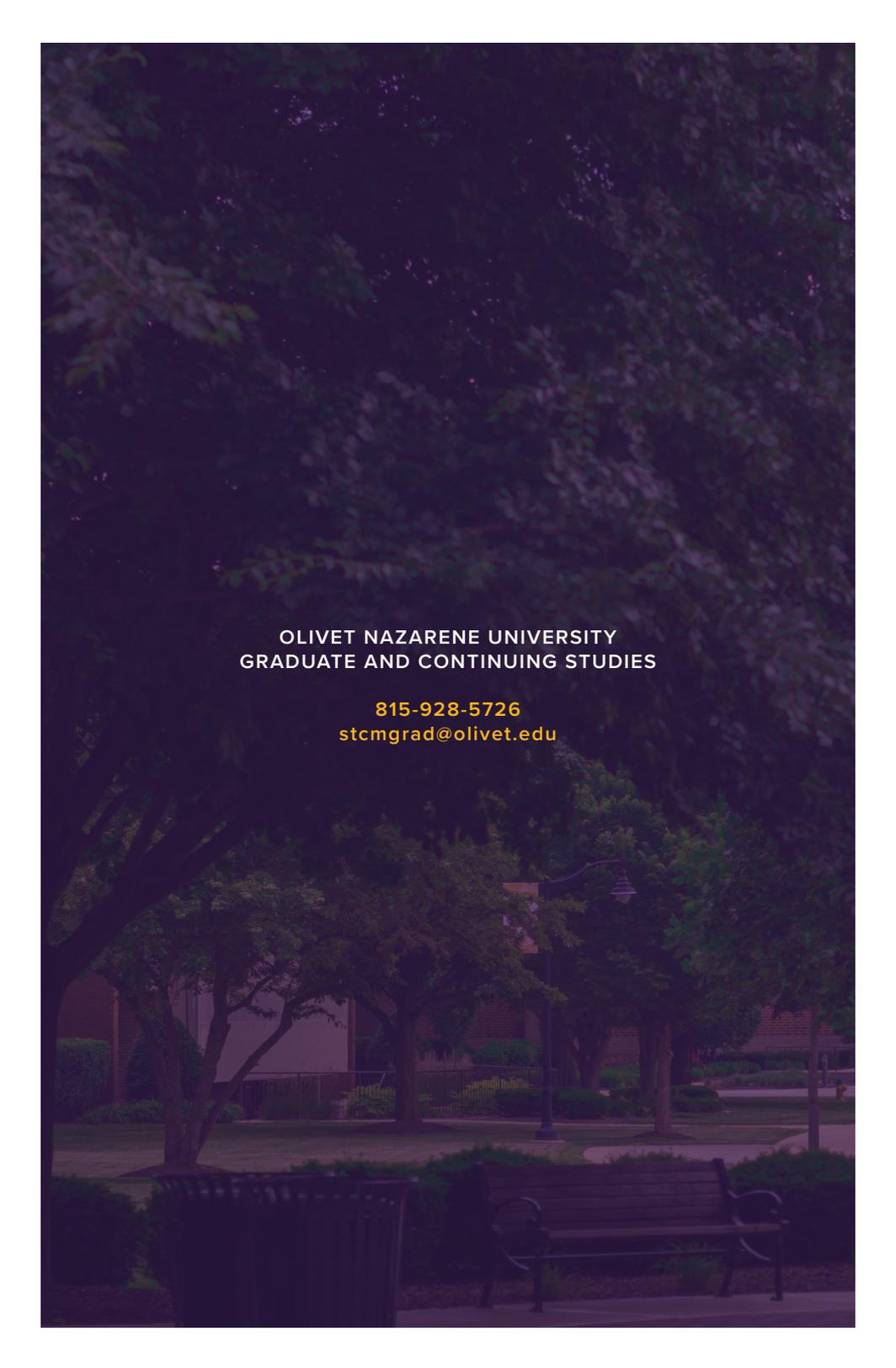
CMIN 602 Preaching and Worship as Congregational Formation
CMIN 674 Pastoral Care and Counseling
CMIN 648 Missional Theology
CMIN 635 Leadership in Christian Ministry

“ The students I've had the opportunity to work with already present with a love for the Lord and His mission. They have already proven themselves to be powerful ministers of the gospel of Christ, yet also have a strong love for learning and a burning curiosity for their cities and community development. With each lesson, students are given resources and insight that can be used immediately in their ministries. As a former student myself, I remember this hope and excitement that I felt with each lesson knowing that my education was immediately applicable for my ministry.”

DR. TODD KELLER
adjunct faculty

“ Over the last 20+ years I have enjoyed working with students and ministerial colleagues who have a passion for serving Christ and His Church. They have challenged and sharpened me in my pastoral leadership. Helping equip motivated students for Kingdom mission is a blessing for which I am grateful.

DR. CRAIG DILLMAN
adjunct faculty

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a university campus. The scene is dominated by the dense, dark green foliage of large trees in the foreground and midground. In the lower portion of the image, a wooden bench with metal armrests is visible on a paved walkway. To the left of the bench is a dark, cylindrical trash can. In the background, a brick building and a street lamp are partially visible through the trees. The overall lighting is very low, creating a moody and serene atmosphere.

OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE AND CONTINUING STUDIES

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