



**Doctor of Ministry (DMin)
in Gospel Renewal and
Pastoral Leadership**

2023-24

Dear prospective doctoral student,

When tires are out of alignment on a car, the tread wears more quickly and other elements on the vehicle are affected. Not just ride and comfort but steering and control. Everything's affected. And not in a good way. The same dynamic is true for pastors and vocational ministry leaders. We continually need realignment—or we'll begin feeling the wear.

Tim Keller understands renewal is an ongoing process rather than a one-time fix. He also shows us the path, saying, "The key to renewal is a continual rediscovery of the gospel."

- What if a DMin program were designed to help you walk that path by consciously living all of life tethered to the cross of Jesus?
- What if such a course of renewal included a plan for increasing your leadership capacity with practical tools for effective ministry?
- What if the curriculum were built upon a cohort-based, life-on-life discipleship approach where each candidate experiences pastoral camaraderie and receives personal mentoring?
- What if the program not only was designed for the good of the pastoral leader but also crafted to bring revitalization and renewed purpose to local churches and ministries?

That is the *MAS Doctor of Ministry in Gospel Renewal and Pastoral Leadership*—an intentional realignment program aimed at equipping you for a lifetime of cross-tethered ministry, facilitating congregational renewal, and empowering kingdom mission into the wider community.

Courses meet in a full-day seminar format once a quarter, with required reading completed before seminar presentations and an integration paper due afterward. The one-day in-class format makes the program uniquely doable, allowing for unhurried reflection and processing of the course material outside of class as well as bandwidth for students to meet as cohorts and with mentors—an educational philosophy that cultivates a healthy rhythm of learning and growing in a doctoral context.

By the end of the program, students will have a solid grasp on the nature and dynamics of spiritual renewal, will be affected by the renewal process, and will possess the capacity to lead renewal in the local church and community.

If you think this program could benefit your life and ministry and are interested in learning more about a Metro Atlanta Seminary DMin, I would be honored to help you navigate any questions you may have.

Yours, by grace alone,

Dr. McKay Caston

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Program Overview

The MAS Doctor of Ministry in Gospel Renewal and Pastoral Leadership is designed to help each student experience personal, cross-tethered spiritual revitalization and to “upgrade” the leadership skills necessary for leading renewal in churches, ministry organizations, and communities.

This program is for pastors and ministry leaders who've been in full-time vocational ministry for at least five years post their master’s degree (MDiv or equivalent).

As a program requiring extensive reading and writing, each DMin course centers on one full-day seminar each quarter where students receive practical instruction, discuss the primary texts for the course, as well as share personal experiences and best practices.

In addition to the academic aspects of the program, each student meets monthly with a coaching cohort to process course material and with a personal mentor to more personally apply the principles of gospel renewal and pastoral leadership, helping each student live all of life tethered to the cross of Jesus.

*“We want the message of the cross to loom large
in every course in the DMin program.”*

At the conclusion of the program, the candidate produces a Cornerstone Dissertation that integrates what they have learned in the program into a foundational Ministry Manifesto of sorts that is intended to guide them into a life of ongoing gospel renewal and leadership.

MAS DMIN in GOSPEL RENEWAL & PASTORAL LEADERSHIP				
YEAR A	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	Exploring the Dynamics of Spiritual Renewal	Discovering Best Practices in Executive Leadership	Nurturing the Pastor's Personal Life and Family	Maximizing Skills for Organizational Management
YEAR B	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	Becoming an Emotionally Healthy Leader	Creating a Leadership Pipeline	Developing an Acts 2 Small-Group Ministry for Shepherding and Outreach	Cultivating Generosity
YEAR C	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	Recovering a Theology of the Kingdom	Catalyzing Renewal through Preaching and Worship	Leading through Change	Implementing a Micha 6:8 Ministry

Functional Cross-Tethered Leadership

While academic degrees focus primarily on what the student *knows*, professional degrees focus on what the student is equipped to *do*. We call it "functional knowledge." Knowledge is a critical component, but knowledge alone is insufficient to equip spiritual leaders. This is why the MAS DMin combines academic study with real-life application and mentored cohorts, as the objective of this degree program is to help the student grow as a *functional* cross-tethered leader. This objective begs the question: how to people grow and change? Best practices in the field of adult learning suggest there are several key dimensions to this process.

- 1) **LEARNING:** Students are exposed to the best available resources and guided in best practices concerning topics related to gospel renewal and pastoral leadership.
- 2) **PRACTICING:** Since knowledge that isn't used isn't retained, students will be required to implement what they have learned within their church and context.
- 3) **MENTORING/COACHING:** Since change is never a solo enterprise, students are assigned to a mentored cohort during which monthly meetings provide encouragement and accountability for the formative journey into a cross-tethered life and ministry.

Program Objectives

The MAS Doctor of Ministry degree is designed to enable the graduate to become a healthy and effective, distinctively cross-centered leader. Upon completion of the degree the graduate will:

1. Be able to articulate a theology of gospel renewal and help others experience renewal through preaching, teaching, and discipleship as the gospel applies to a variety of personal contexts such as the family, the church, and the wider community.
2. Be able to clearly articulate the shared vision and mission for their organization as well as how it is being executed.
3. Possess the leadership skills necessary to facilitate the renewal process.
4. Be able to objectively analyze and measure the progress being made in personal renewal and church revitalization in their ministry context.

Application Requirements

Applicants must possess an earned and accredited theological master's degree (MDiv or similar) as well as at least five years of post-master's, vocational ministry experience that enables each student to engage as a ministry peer with others pursuing a professional doctorate. The DMin application will look for applicants with a clear understanding of their ministry identity and calling, and a readiness to engage in ongoing personal and spiritual formation.

Tuition and Fees

Application Fee: \$100

Tuition: \$5,000 per year / \$1,500 per term (Scholarships are available for qualifying applicants)

Cohort/Mentoring Fee: \$1,600 per year / \$400 per term

Graduation Fee: \$200

Reading Fee: \$250

Extensions for the Cornerstone Integration Paper must be approved by the Dean of Doctoral Studies.

Extension Fees:

- 1st Extension - 60 days \$150
- 2nd Extension – an additional 60 days - \$250
- 3rd and Final Extension - an additional eight months - \$500

Retaking an incomplete course requires that the candidate pay the prorated tuition and cohort fee (based on costs at the time).