## Interview Summary Form

We want to capture **stories**, **themes**, **ideas**, and **great quotes**. Below, provide a summary of your interview that captures these elements.

*(As you enter the results of your interviews on your computer, the table cells will expand)*

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| Date: | 10/27/21 |
| Interviewer Name: | Mary Emily Duba |
| Interviewee Name & Title/Organization  (if any): | Emmy Kubatzke, Children and Family Minister at St. Luke’s UMC, Dubuque, IA |
| Interviewee relationship: | o Current student, program: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  x Alumni, program: \_BA: Theology \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  o Faculty  o Pastor or denominational leader  o Other |
| Do we have this interviewee’s **permission** to use their name alongside their comments? Yes  What **great stories** did you hear about **UDTS** (questions 1 & 2)? **Great quotes?**  Her high-point experience with UDTS/Theology Department was the Theology in Place class with the Seminary. “I felt like what I was learning was valuable and applicable to the real world.” It was her last semester in the program before graduating, and she said she had a sense that “yes, this is where I’m supposed to be.”  She mentioned how much she loved taking courses with the Seminarians. She worried that she wouldn’t be at their level, but quickly discovered that her undergrad classes had prepared her well. She loved NT with Dr. Elder. “I discovered that I wasready and prepared. I wanted to learn.” The lower-level Theology courses were good, but she talked about show she really flourished personally, intellectually, and vocationally when she got to take courses with other students who were invested in the material. | |
| What **important** **themes** did you hear in questions 1 & 2 about the forces and factors that enable UDTS to thrive?  Several times she mentioned the importance of **scholarships**. She was grateful to have gotten to take so many Seminary courses as an undergraduate because she was covered by UD Scholarship opportunities, without which none of it would have been possible for her.  She loved the wide range of theology courses that were available to her, including opportunities to think about social justice and how that relates to theology and ministry.  **Women as professors and ministers.** She talked about coming from a background where she only had male pastors and teachers. “Finally, I felt like I see myself in leadership.” This led to further reflections on the importance of diversity and representation among faculty. She identifies as a queer woman (and said I could share that) and it meant a great deal to her to be taken seriously as a student of theology and person with a call to ministry.  **Professors’ personal connection.** She talked about how the professors she had were personable, taking her sense of vocation seriously, and helping her set goals for what she wanted to get out of each course. She told the story of one professor who talked with her about the Confirmation curriculum that she was doing and helped her to find church history resources to use with the youth. She felt this as a deep affirmation of her work at the church and support of her calling. | |
| What does the interviewee **anticipate for the future**? (question 3)  She told the story of working in a downtown church. “I didn’t know what downtown ministry would be like – how different it would be.” She described how a majority of her Jr. High and High School youth group students are living below the poverty line. Many of them are first generation immigrants. One student had formerly been living in a detention facility in Texas. “Frankly, I wasn’t prepared for this.”  She reflected on how her theological education may have helped her recognize that part of the Christian life includes concern and advocacy for the poor, but it didn’t help her actually to work with kids who are hungry and poor. She described the difference between feeling prepared to talk about social justice issues with middle-class, white people, but not how to talk about Jesus’ being “with us” among poor, immigrant, hungry kids. “I didn’t realize how practically different this would be.”  She went on to say that “this is the reality of what the church looks like right now.” And she anticipates that it will continue to be part of the future of the church. “How do I do ministry with these folks? How do I build community among diverse families? How do I create a space where kids can feel safe and be kids?”  She notes that the immigrant population is increasing in Dubuque and elsewhere. And the youth group is the point of connection between the immigrant families and the long-term members of the congregation. Youth ministry is being asked to do more than she understood at first. It’s the first point of contact for these families with the church. She sees God at work in this! | |
| What **visions of the future** does this person have for a strategic, unified, and faithful future at UDTS? (question 4)  He expressed the hope that we’ll continue to produce biblical literate, historically grounded, and theologically centered students.  He hopes that the seminary of the future will be “open to the world, but not driven by the world.”  He hopes that UDTS will be less denominationally constrained. “I want to honor our fathers and mothers, but not tied by their apron strings.” He expressed some concern with the language of “ecumenical” because it sounds to him too easily confused (even, he admitted, in his own mind) with “interfaith,” which represents a trajectory that he finds troubling. He expressed a possible preference the language of “post-denominational.” | |
| What does this person believe arethe **most important strategic opportunities** for 2022 and beyond? (question 5)   * + Diversifying courses to break us out of a privilege bubble and into the world. More courses at the intersections of theology and other things.   + Diversifying faculty and staff along racial, cultural, gender lines   + Continued public witness of women in pastoral and professorial leadership   + Increased emphasis on social justice, but not just the ideals of it – where the rubber hits the road in ministry | |
| Have you learned **anything else** (or had a new thought yourself) during the interview that you want to share?  I am reminded how important robust continuing education and communities of support are for our graduates, *including* our BA Theology majors. Once they have some experience in ministry, questions arise for them that they couldn’t have anticipated when they were students. We don’t have many BA Theology graduates yet, but my conversation with Emmy is making me think that it’s important to do alumni relations work with them too – checking in on their thoughts about Seminary, their continuing education needs, etc. | |
| **Please send this completed Interview Report Form by email to Jill Dodds by November 24.**  **jdodds@dbq.edu** | |