**University of Dubuque Theological Seminary**

October 2023 Updates

**UDTS’s mission has been supported and extended by several major grants in recent years.**

* In 2019, UDTS received a $1 million “Thriving in Ministry” grant from the Lilly Endowment to support pastors and church leaders. This grant project, titled “Clergy Coaching in Community and Context” includes three distinct initiatives: Missio Madison led by Dr. James ([www.missiomadison.org](http://www.missiomadison.org)), a new DMin with clergy coaching and competency-based assessments led by Dr. Colyer, and cohorts for new alumni with Rev. David Rohrer.
  + In 2023, UDTS received a non-competitive $500,000 matching grant to sustain and expand our “Thriving in Ministry” efforts. A network facilitator has been hired in west central Florida, which is rich in UDTS alumni and students, and is a potential additional DMin clergy coaching cohort site.
* In 2020, UDTS partnered with three other organizations on a successful “Thriving Congregations” grant from the Lilly Endowment, a $1 million project is called “Awaken Dane” ([www.awakendane.org](http://www.awakendane.org)) and supports churches in Dane County, WI. The partner organizations are Wisconsin Council of Churches (grant recipient), Collaboration Project and Upper House. Dr. James is on the steering committee for this project.
* In 2021, UDTS received a $1 million “Pathways for Tomorrow” grant from the Lilly Endowment. The project, titled “Being There: Local Ministry Leadership in a Networked Age,” is supporting the seminary’s efforts to develop new partnerships, innovate, and make theological education more accessible. Bright spots thus far include the Madison Learning Community ([www.madisonseminary.org](http://www.madisonseminary.org)) and partnership with Theology Matters on a new MART degree which held its first class during the August campus residency. Involved faculty include Dr. James, Dr. Colyer, Dr. Longfield, and Dr. Forshey.
* In 2021, UDTS received a $75,000 Science for Seminaries grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program, in partnership with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). This grant project, titled, “Attention and Connection: Engaging Brains, Bodies, and Ecologies for Ministries,” draws from the sciences to prepare students for ministry in the changing contexts of the 21st century.
* In May 2023, we applied for a second “Thriving Congregations” grant of up to $1.25 million to develop an equipping program for clusters of congregations without full time clergy support.

**Our new initiatives have led to promising new partnerships.**

* We have partnered with ***Theology Matters*** on a new Master of Arts in Reformed Theology degree: [www.theologymatters.com](http://www.theologymatters.com)
* We have partnered with ***Collaboration Project*** (Madison, WI) to sustain the Missio Madison cohorts while we form cohorts in another city: [www.collaborationproject.us](http://www.collaborationproject.us)
* We have partnered with ***Upper House*** (Madison, WI) to make some of their program offerings eligible for credit-by-portfolio: [www.upperhouse.org](http://www.upperhouse.org)
* We are collaborating Dr. Matt Bloom (*Flourishing in Ministry Assessment*), Dr. Rick DeShon (*EM360 Effectiveness Assessment*), Holy Cow Consulting (*Congregational Assessment Tool*), and Take Flight Learning (*DiSC Assessment*)
* We are partnering with ***Synod of Rocky Mountains*** for a co-branded/taught CRE cohort which will pilot our CRE program in redevelopment with CapEd support.
* Developing Partnerships: Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, Fellowship of Preachers (Dubuque), Tampa Bay Presbytery, Peace River Presbytery, East Oklahoma Presbytery, National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.
* Beginning with the fall semester the seminary is holding chapel jointly with undergraduate campus ministry every other Monday. Half of these services are collaboratively planned and led.