

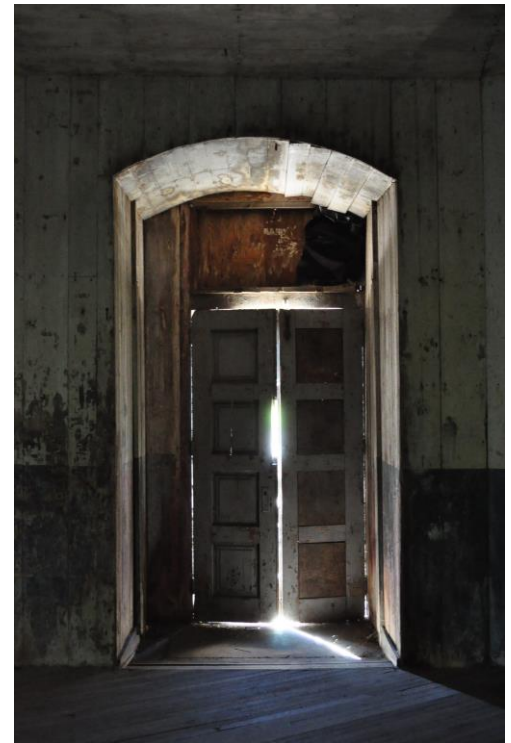
## Renewal for Pastors and Congregations: *Prayer, Liturgy, and Discipleship*

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### Cohort Description

Renewed pastors lead renewed ministries. Renewed communities encourage and support joyful discipleship in Jesus Christ--loving God, neighbor and self--for the life and healing of the world. For renewal to be lasting and vital, it must address the personal and corporate worship life, education in the faith, and practices of discipleship. This UDTs Doctor of Ministry program will offer students the opportunity to explore the relationship between renewal, prayer, liturgical formation, and practices of discipleship, both personally, as pastors, and within their parishes, congregations, or faith communities. At the end of the three-years, students will complete a culminating project or thesis, 80-120 pages in length, based on the readings of the Doctor of Ministry and allied topics, and research in their context of ministry.



### Three-Year Prospectus

#### Year 1: Personal Discipleship Renewal & Practices of Prayer

The first year will focus on the Christian minister's own personal renewal, and the deepening of personal discipleship so as to permeate all of life and practice. A key aspect of this exploration will include the rich tradition of spiritual practices within the Christian tradition, modern cognitive approaches to habit formation, and reflection on the influence of consumerism, social technologies, and cultural formation on the life of prayer.

#### Spring Semester

- The readings begin by forming a common language of renewal, theology, and traditions of spiritual practice, followed by readings exploring challenges to personal prayer and worship.
- Student assignments will include writing a pre-Residency spiritual autobiography, book summaries, engagement in weekly space for God, reflection on challenges to renewal, and crafting a Rule of Life.

## May Residency

- Methods of learning will include reflective readings, art, movies, poetry, music, story, discussion, and offer students an immersive retreat experience in personal renewal.
- Models of practical contextual reflection
- Issues related to ministerial burn-out and renewal.
- Primary text readings on the spiritual life
- Looking ahead to project or thesis topics

## Fall Semester

- The readings explore the importance personal renewal in the ministerial vocation, followed by texts on Sabbath, personality and spirituality, spiritual traditions, and prayer.
- Student assignments will include contextual analysis of their community's life of prayer, book summaries, Rule of Life, and engagement in weekly personal space for God.

## Year 2: Corporate Discipleship Renewal - Liturgy and Discipleship

The second year will focus on liturgy and catechesis as essential ways ministers exercise leadership and invite others into discipleship. Corporate liturgical practice will be explored as the central location for Christian education and formation, the locus of renewal. Challenges to corporate renewal will be explored in readings and presentations.

## Year 3: Renewal for the Life of the World - Incarnating the Faith as a Renewed Church

The third year will focus on the role of a renewed Church in God's redemptive mission for Creation, building upon the readings, discussions, and assignments from the previous years, and supporting students in crafting their own research project or thesis toward personal, pastoral, or parish renewal, for the life of the world.

## Spring 2024/May Residency Course Syllabus

### Requirements

1. Participation in online forums and discussions in residence showing a diligent reading of course texts (20%)
2. Summaries of course texts (40%)
3. Renewal Rule of Life and Reflection (10%)
4. Pre-Residency spiritual autobiography (20%)
5. Pre-Residency paper on one renewal challenge (10%)

### Assignments

1. **Course texts summaries** – The foundation of doctoral studies is a reading list that introduces students to a wider scholarly conversation on particular topics. With

this in mind, a close reading of texts (knowing what they say) is important in order to join in the on-going discussion and contribute new ideas. Each book for the reading list is chosen for a specific reason, either to provide a shared language for our cohort or to broaden our personal experience of the topics.

- a. Write a 600-700-word summary on each text using this format:
    - o State the author's thesis in your own words
    - o Summarize the content of the book (without offering any critique)
    - o Explore one need or question the text attempts to answer
    - o Share one way the text influences your approach to personal discipleship renewal
  - b. Single space, 12 point font, 1 inch margins
  - c. Upload summaries **as one document** in the designated Moodle dropbox, with a file named: "StudentLastName-BookAuthorLastName"
  - d. Summaries are due at intervals during the semester to encourage consistent reading and writing over the course of the semester (see *Due Dates At A Glance*)
    - o **Books 1-5: March 4;**
    - o **Books 6-9: April 8;**
    - o **Books 10-13: May 6**
2. **Rule of Life and Reflection** – A detailed description of the assignment will be posted on Moodle.
- a. After reading *The Little Monk* and *The Resilient Practitioner*, write a 300-word description of your Rule and why you selected your practices.
  - b. Upload your Renewal Rule of Life and Reflection to the designated Moodle dropbox **by February 12**. Use your last name as the file name, and include your name in the document itself.
  - c. You will be asked to periodically review and update your Rule this semester and throughout the Doctor of Ministry. This Rule is not set-in-stone, but will develop over time.
3. **Renewal Challenge in Your Context** – While we are focusing on personal renewal this first year, our ministry contexts are ever-present and the place in which we work out our own experience of renewal. Using the course texts, Residency lectures, and discussions as a reflective lens, explore one challenge to personal spiritual renewal in your specific context.
- a. Write a 1000-word description of your context and challenge, offering at least 2 next steps for further exploration in meeting this challenge.
  - b. Upload the assignment to the designated Moodle dropbox **by May 13**.

4. **Spiritual Autobiography** - Drawing inspiration from *The Little Monk*, reflect on your own life of following God. Craft a spiritual autobiography, using course texts and materials for your reflection on your personal experience of God, and experience of (or longing for) renewal. The medium for the final product your choice. It may be a written, text-based, narrative reflection; a graphic map, timeline with written commentary; a work of art or poetry with additional written commentary; an allegory or extended parable; an extended reflection on a movie or novel that captures elements of your own story; etc. The final product should be 5-8 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font, if in a text-based medium. Works of art should be the fruit of at least 10 hours of creative labor. **It will only be read by the instructors.** Upload the assignment to the designated Moodle dropbox **by May 13.**

## A Word about Due Dates

The Doctor of Ministry requires a commitment to scholarly study and reflection. Assignments and due dates are structures to help make reading and digesting the required 5000 pages a year manageable. That said, life happens and there is grace! Please notify Susan Forshey, [sforshey@dbq.edu](mailto:sforshey@dbq.edu), if you need an extension **before** the due date, along with a plan for completion. An unexcused missed due date will result in a full grade reduction *on the assignment* for each week past the due date.

## Attendance

Participation throughout the semester via reading the texts, attending three 90-minute Zoom gatherings (TBD by the cohort), completing written assignments, and attending the May Residency.

## Due Dates at a Glance

1. **Renewal Rule of Life and Reflection – February 12**
2. **Course Text Summaries - March 4**
  - The Little Monk
  - The Resilient Practitioner
  - Theology: The Basics
  - Exploring the Spirituality of the Gospels
  - Streams of Living Water
3. **Course Text Summary - April 8**
  - Peak
  - You Are What You Love
  - Christian Proficiency
  - Liturgy of the Ordinary

#### 4. Course Text Summary - May 6

- The Shallows
- Irresistible
- Addiction & Grace
- Try Softer

#### 5. Renewal Challenge in Your Context – May 13

#### 6. Spiritual Autobiography – May 13

## Residency

This cohort will meet in Dubuque for Tuesday dinner, May 14, to Wednesday breakfast, May 22, at Shalom Spirituality Center, Dubuque, Iowa. Students are expected to be *in residence*, and attend all classes and events related to the program. More details about the May Residency will be forthcoming. The cost for the May Residency (8 nights lodging in single bedroom/shared bathroom and all meals) is approximately \$850 per student. Zoom participation in the May Residency is not possible. The Residency integrates the scholarly life with the life of prayer. We will be reading primary texts on prayer and the spiritual life, as well as exploring what it means to be a scholar in service of the Church. Class time will be balanced with personal time for rest and reflection, and the opportunity walk the trails around the retreat center. We will gather for the daily office (Morning, Noon, Compline) and Eucharist.

## Doctor of Ministry Curricular Goals

"In order to serve the one God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — and prepare women and men for faithful, compassionate, and effective pastoral ministry, the DMin curriculum will enable students to:

- Define 'congregational revitalization' and show evidence of renewal within their particular ministry setting.
- Think theologically by integrating learning from the classical disciplines (Bible, history, theology, and ministry) into the life of the local congregation.
- Identify significant theological and social issues in their congregations as well as within the church catholic.
- Develop lay congregational leaders by identifying leadership gifts and skills within the congregation and by demonstrating the function of these lay gifts/skills in congregational revitalization.

In these ways, the seminary seeks to strengthen the ministry of experienced pastors and to promote the revitalization of congregations. Through this process the seminary will continue to advance the ministry and mission of the Church of Jesus Christ." (2015–17 UDS Catalog, p. 30)

Week	Week (starts Tuesdays)	Title	Author	ISBN
1	January 23	The Little Monk	Harry Farra	PDF or 978-0809133567
2	January 30	The Resilient Practitioner: Burnout and Compassion Fatigue Prevention and Self-Care Strategies for the Helping Professions (3rd Edition)	Thomas M. Skovholt, Michelle Trotter-Mathison	978-1138830073
3	February 6	Theology: The Basics	Alister E. McGrath	978-1119158080
4	February 13	Exploring the Spirituality of the Gospels	Patrick J. Hartin	978-0814633175
5	February 20	<i>Reading Week</i>		
6	February 27	Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith	Richard J. Foster	978-0060628222
7	March 5	Peak: Secrets from the New Science of Expertise	K Anders Ericsson	978-1531864880
8	March 12	You Are What You Love	James K. A. Smith	978-1587433801
9	March 19	Christian Proficiency	Martin Thornton	978-1608996636
10	March 26	<i>Holy Week</i>		
11	April 2	Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life	Tish Harrison Warren	978-0830846238
13	April 9	The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains	Nicholas Carr	978-0393339758
12	April 16	Irresistible: The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping Us Hooked	Adam Alter	978-0735222847
14	April 23	Addiction & Grace	Gerald G. May	978-0061122439
15	April 30	Try Softer	Aundi Kolber	978-1496439659

### **ADA Compliance Statement**

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify Dr. Forshey during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. Confidentiality of all requests will be maintained. All requested accommodations must be approved through the Academic Success Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Myers Library (563-589-3262 or [ASC@dbq.edu](mailto:ASC@dbq.edu)).

### **Title IX and Jeanne Clery Act Policy Information**

Title IX: The University of Dubuque is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex; which includes all forms of sexual misconduct. More information may be found at <https://www.dbq.edu/AboutUD/TitleIX/>

Jeanne Clery Act: The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act requires the distribution of an Annual Security Report and Annual Fire Safety Report to all current faculty, staff, and students and notice of its availability to prospective students, faculty, and staff no later than October 1st of each year. More information may be found at <https://www.dbq.edu/SafetySecurity/JeanneCleryAct/>