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Focus Areas



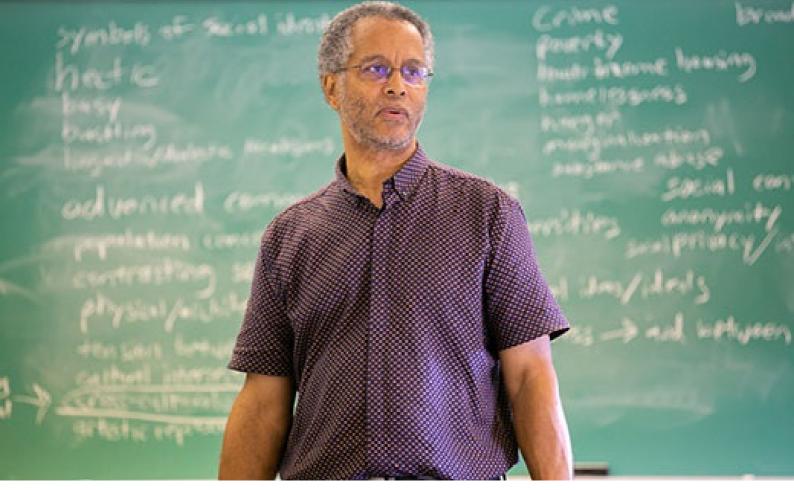
Black ministry contexts, forms, and cultures are rapidly changing—at times actively incorporating and innovating upon previous trajectories, and at times pressing forward into uncharted 'ministry' territories. This program facilitates cross-generational and cross-sectoral assessments of established traditions and emerging expressions of collective black faith and its relationship to social context.

- The Rev. Dr. R. Drew Smith, Henry L. Hillman Professor of Urban Ministry

JOIN THE NEXT INTERGENERATIONAL BLACK CHURCH STUDIES COHORT

Grounded in the rich and sustaining history of the Black church in the United States and attentive to liberatory movements formed in faith orientations sometimes transcending church bounds, the Intergenerational Black Church Studies Focus brings together an intergenerational cohort of ministry leaders to explore past, present, and future trajectories of Black church life. Emphasizing ecclesial pressure points, expressions of social unrest, and creative spaces generating new formulations of Black life, this focus will equip people for contemporary ministry by reaching deep within the history of traditions of the Black church while venturing out to learn from practices in design, arts, communications, and community organizing.

The Intergenerational Black Church Studies Focus assumes two distinct but intertwining streams in expressions of the Black church: ecclesial expressions of church, and a form of church expressed and experienced in larger social movements. In this focus we seek to learn about, learn from, and be formed by coordination and conflict between these two streams. We also seek to give attention to the promise and the challenge created by both cooperation and conflict within these two streams of spiritual expression. Topics to be covered will include but not be limited to these: (1) tensions between conventional



and non-conventional approaches to formation and practice; (2) institutional and non-institutional constructions of whiteness; and (3) new virtual capacities for organization and communication. Instructors will include both academics and practitioners and, when possible, individuals who are both. The mentors will work with class participants to plan and design courses together in response to the experience and gifts within the group.

WHEN AND WHERE DO THE CLASSES MEET?

This cohort will meet according to the two-week January and June schedule. Some of the weeks will be in Pittsburgh and some will be at the ministry sites of participants. The focus will have two mentors who work in tandem: a faculty mentor and a practitioner mentor. In addition, a cohort facilitator will gather the cohort online every month. The 2025 cohort will first gather June 9-13 and June 16-20.





6/25 ANTICIPATED LAUNCH DATE

APPLY NOW

Apply online!

Priority Deadline: Dec. 3, 2024
Final Deadline: March 12, 2025
Apply for Financial Aid

WHAT WILL WE BE EXPLORING IN THE INTERGENERATIONAL BLACK CHURCH STUDIESÂ FOCUS?



LEARN MORE ABOUT PITTSBURGH SEMINARY'S D.MIN. PROGRAM

Connect with the Doctor of Ministry Office to learn more about our next Intergenerational Black Church Studies cohort. We'd love to have you join us! Apply now to reserve your space in a future focus. Financial aid and scholarships are available for those who qualify. Please note that applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Apply early, and before the priority deadline, for best consideration given a limited number of spots are available. If all spots in a particular cohort are filled, you can apply to be placed on a waitlist.

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* When would you like to begin your studies?

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