

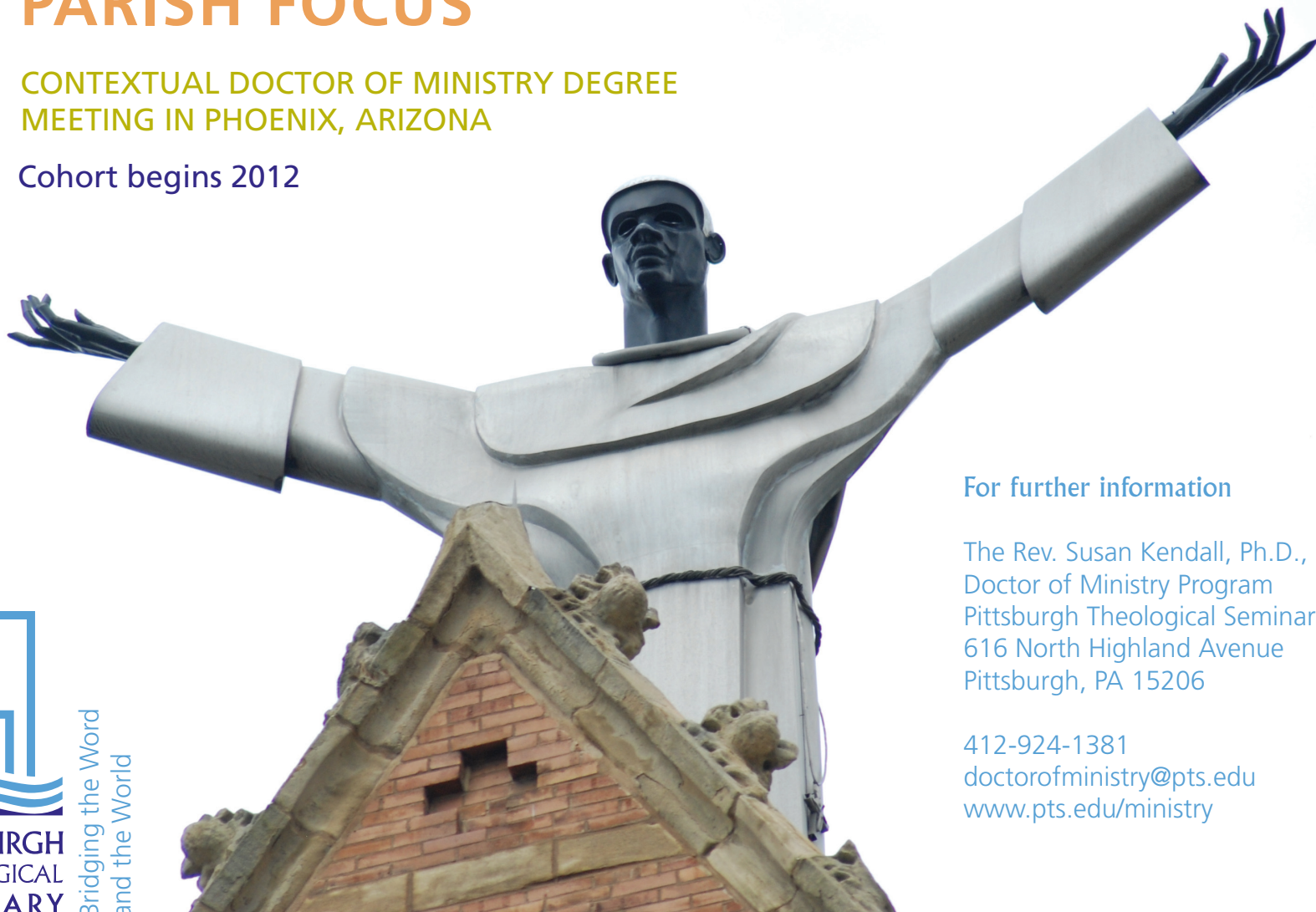
# DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

## Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

### PARISH FOCUS

CONTEXTUAL DOCTOR OF MINISTRY DEGREE  
MEETING IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Cohort begins 2012



#### For further information

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PITTSBURGH  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY

Bridging the Word  
and the World

The Parish Focus meets in Phoenix, Arizona. Particular attention is given to the distinctive contextual issues for ministry in the Western and Southwestern regions. Some seminars will take place along in the borderlands, while other site visits will focus on the critical locations in which churches seek to remain faithful in the midst of change. Such a unique opportunity provides a new way of seeing while in dialogue with professors, doctoral students, local leaders, and pastors.

While most candidates who elect the Parish Focus serve congregations, others in specialized ministries find it a flexible vehicle adaptable to their own situations. In every case the clergy person must intentionally involve his or her constituents in the program. This insures that the congregation or agency, as well as the student, benefit directly from the Doctor of Ministry Program.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### PHASE I

#### Introduction to the Doctor of Ministry Program and Pastoral Leadership

Designed to review the purpose and the distinctiveness of the degree, the writing and research guidelines, and how to plan and prepare to set aside the time necessary to do adequate research and writing. Students are expected to develop a "sixth sense" with regard to a dynamic definition and understanding of leadership that will be reviewed from time to time throughout the doctoral program. What differences and practices are necessary that form a well-lived life?

#### Theology of the Church and Ministry

Focuses on the theology of the Church, with special emphasis on implications for the practice of ministry. Theology is understood and applied in light of specific situations in the candidate's ministry.

#### Pastoral Care

Theological and psychological insights are related to the theory and practice of caring, with case studies furnished by the students.

#### Homiletics

An advanced course in the theory and practice of preaching in the context of worship, with student input central to the seminar.

#### Education

Designed to introduce clergy to contemporary discussions about the educational ministry of the Church and to provide disciplined ways of thinking about that ministry, particularly in the congregational setting.

#### Congregational and Community Issues

A case method is used to consider problems confronting the Church in society, with the discipline of Christian ethics as a major resource.

### PHASE II

#### Proposal Lab

Assists the student in designing a doctoral project in a particular area of ministry. Theoretical issues underlying the situation and a method for addressing these issues are clarified as the student develops the proposal in consultation with peers and faculty.

#### Biblical Seminar

Provides a study of basic themes and ideas that appear in both the Old and New Testaments, and of the ways in which these relate to issues in church and ministry. Discussion of these themes to the areas students are considering for their doctoral projects is a major component.

### PHASE III

Requires satisfactory completion of a doctoral project and paper which must demonstrate the candidate's ability to identify a problem, issue, or concern in his or her own ministry, integrate method for resolution. Two electives (six credit hours) must be taken during this phase, preferably focusing in the general area of the doctoral project.

The doctoral project/paper must reflect depth of theological insight and its positive integration with the practice of ministry. While the project normally concludes in the third year of study, the demands of professional work and study sometimes make it more practical to take two years to complete this project. The program is flexible and can accommodate each candidate's situation.

### ADMISSION

A Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school is required for admission. Applicants are also expected to have completed a minimum of three years in ministry following receipt of the M.Div. and to have an endorsement from their church board or agency, of an appropriate ecclesiastical official.

*Be prepared to change, to listen, and to learn*