Supervised Clinical Ministry: Description and Goals

The seminary requires that each student complete and receive a Pass for an approved program of Supervised Clinical Ministry in order to graduate. The normative program to meet this requirement is a unit of Basic Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE). Alternate programs and equivalencies shall be evaluated and approved by the seminary in consultation with the student's Candidacy Committee and the Congregational & Synodical Mission's unit of the ELCA.

Normally, a full-time program of eleven to twelve weeks in length and the unit of CPE must be completed before the student's internship. Most students complete CPE during the summer following their first year of academic study at the seminary at any one of a number of sites throughout this country.

CPE provides an opportunity for students to learn about ministry and about themselves as ministers in a clinical setting under trained and certified pastoral supervisors. Pastoral practice, written case studies, verbatim reports, individual supervision, seminar participation, and related reading are the primary means of learning during CPE; the person as minister and her/his pastoral relationships become the major learning documents in the CPE process.

The seminary's goals for Supervised Clinical Ministry are as follows:

- 1. To foster theological understandings of pastoral ministry with particular focus on the relationship of systematic theology to the theology evident in one's practice of ministry.
- 2. To foster self-awareness, especially of how one's personality, attitudes, values, and assumptions affect both others and the use of one's self in ministry.
- 3. To foster self-evaluation in ministry.
- 4. To foster the formation of one's personal and ministerial identity.
- 5. To foster the use of pastoral supervision for personal and professional growth.
- 6. To foster the use of a peer group for personal support and evaluation in ministry.
- 7. To foster pastoral and interprofessional functioning in clinical settings.
- 8. To accomplish the above within an experiential and process conception of learning that:
 (a) uses the clinical (case) method and an action-reflection model of education; (b)
 focuses on the person and relationships of the participant; (c) provides theological as well
 as psychodynamic and sociodynamic conceptual frameworks for reflection upon, and
 analysis of ministry; and (d) includes a variety of ministerial functions, with the primary
 mode of praxis being pastoral visitation and interpersonal relationships.

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The following policies apply to the Supervised Clinical Ministry (SCM) requirement:

- 1. SCM shall normally be completed in a full-time summer CPE program following the completion of at least nine courses at the seminary.
- 2. Students shall not engage in earning academic credit while participating in "full time" CPE programs. Employment during this period is strongly discouraged.
- 3. Students shall not normally engage in concurrent CPE programs during their first or second academic semesters at the seminary.
- 4. Students who do engage in a "concurrent" CPE program in a given semester shall reduce that semester's class load to one below the normal maximum for each full day spent weekly in CPE. Students must work with their Advisor and Registrar to make sure the dropped course is picked up at another time to fulfill graduate requirements.
- 5. The seminary reserves the right to deny satisfactory completion of the CPE graduation requirement to those who violate the above policies.
- 6. It shall remain the policy of the seminary that CPE must be successfully completed prior to the start of internship.
- 7. Exceptions to any of the seminary's policies on CPE shall be made only by the Enrollment Services and Field Education Committee.

Adopted by the Faculty of LTSG on 5/93

Amended by the Field Education Committee 12/93

Amended by the Field Education Committee 5/97

Amended by the Field Education Committee 4/19/99

Amended by the Enrollment & Field Education Committee 9/24/12

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