

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN FOR  
MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**“FORMATION FOR MINISTRY”**

The Memphis Theological Seminary (MTS) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is designed to create Formation for Ministry groups (FFM) to replace the current covenant group experience. The Formation for Ministry groups will consist of six to eight students from intentionally diverse backgrounds (racially, denominationally, geographically and by gender), led by a “formation group facilitator” who is an MTS faculty member or an experienced minister and by a “student intern leader.” Students will be required to participate in FFM during their first two semesters and their last semester in seminary. Each semester’s participation will earn one credit hour toward the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Religion degree.

The formation process in the FFM has been designed to build on and extend what we have learned from our “Sustaining Pastoral Excellence” Program, from faculty and student evaluations of the current covenant groups, and from ongoing faculty discussions, all of which have led us to seek a new model of spiritual formation for Memphis Theological Seminary students that will integrate scholarship, piety, and justice. It is our hope that these groups will be a first step toward a greater integration of formation for ministry within the entire academic program.

The Formation for Ministry groups at Memphis Theological Seminary invite students to engage in a process of spiritual formation that integrates scholarship, piety, and justice as foundational for the practice of ministry. They bring together students, faculty members, and experienced ministers in discussion groups centered upon covenants of accountability that integrate shared readings, spiritual practices, reflection papers, and engagement in social justice.

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