

**Title: Scholarship, Piety, and Justice in the New Student Experience**

**Institution: Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, TN**

**QEP Director: Gail D. Robinson – Associate Dean for IE, Planning and Research/Registrar – Email address: [grobinson@memphisseminary.edu](mailto:grobinson@memphisseminary.edu)**

Memphis Theological Seminary's mission statement, "to educate and sustain men and women for ordained and lay Christian ministry in the church and the world through shaping and inspiring lives devoted to scholarship, piety, and justice," names three core principles that guide its entire educational program. This seminary believes that effective ministry for the 21st-century church and world demands a high level of integration of scholarship, piety, and justice. Leaders who receive an education at MTS draw on the principles of scholarship, piety, and justice by engaging in creative, compassionate responses to the needs of the church and the world. The QEP includes a new course entitled: "Introduction to Theological Studies for Ministry." This course introduces these three core principles to students at the beginning of their seminary experience. Clarifying these principles within their first semester better prepares students to achieve the degree program outcomes. Students who understand the guiding principles within their educational experience can engage more deeply in their ministry formation and be better prepared to fulfill their vocational goals.

The purpose of the QEP is to raise students' awareness of their formation in scholarship, piety, and justice by a) introducing principles of theological education useful in discussing their learning plans with faculty advisors and b) providing an understanding of and focus on the outcomes in their degree programs. The QEP curriculum assists students in doing the integrative work that the practice of ministry requires. By launching students into a clear understanding of the principles and plan that informs their theological education, students are better prepared to reach their vocational goals.