

Am I called for such a time as this?

Is ministry my calling? While **no pastor has all qualities needed**, ministry requires a willingness to grow in certain personal characteristics.

Ask yourself:

- Is faith in Jesus Christ central to my life? Am I willing to commit to a life of discipleship and regular spiritual practice?
- Have I sensed a call from God? Have others affirmed this?
- Am I willing to study and to challenge my thinking about God and scripture? Am I willing to respect others who may disagree?
- Do I have qualities of character, integrity, responsible personal financial management, and stewardship? Am I pledged to continued development of these qualities?
- Am I willing to commit to spiritual, physical and emotional wellness sufficient for healthy ministry?
- Am I willing to extend care and compassion to all people? Do I seek to understand others who are very different?
- Am I willing to acquire skills and abilities for effective ministry?

Again, no one can say “yes” to all these questions, but fruitful ministry is based in continued growth.



Rev. Jeremy Harbin, pastor of First Christian Church, Hartselle, Alabama.

“Missouri School of Religion has done a wonderful thing. It has allowed me to do full time ministry and also complete my ministerial training while serving the church. Through MSR I have studied things like The History of the Christian Church, Preaching, Evangelism, Global Mission and Outreach and also Worship and Music. Each day, because of my MSR classes, I feel that I am prepared to do what God has called me to do.”

Cover photo: Rev. Donna Scott, pastor of First Christian Church, Paris, MO. Graduate of MSR Certificate of Pastoral Ministry program, 2000.

Missouri School of Religion

The Missouri School of Religion has a long and treasured relationship with the Disciples of Christ and has provided religious education for more than 115 years. Our offices are housed in the Regional Mission Center of the Christian Church of Mid-America in Jefferson City.



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Called

for such a time as this



Exploring Second-career and Bi-vocational Ministry

Missouri School of Religion
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For such a time as this

Today, many congregations within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and other mainline denominations cannot afford full-time pastors who invest in graduate seminary degrees.

For such a time as this

At the same time, there are within our congregations many talented, gifted individuals who love the church and who have a heart for the gospel, a capacity for learning and a potential for pastoral leadership.

These individuals may find seminary education impractical because of distance, expense, lack of an undergraduate degree, and/or family obligations. They may not realize there are alternative educational paths.

For such a time as this

We must awaken and echo God's call to these gifted persons. Pastors are needed! But without encouragement, potential pastors may not consider ministry to be the wonderful opportunity it is. They may miss the joy and satisfaction of serving as a second-career or bi-vocational pastor.

For such a time as this

The Missouri School of Religion's Certificate of Pastoral Ministry program (CPM) offers training at a reasonable cost and in convenient schedules for those who are called to serve as bi-vocational or second-career ministers.

Many of these students are preparing to serve as commissioned ministers. In some cases, with proper approval of judicatory officials, they may be pursuing the new competencies-based apprenticeship track to ordination.

The three-year Certificate of Pastoral Ministry includes 18 courses. All courses are offered in two formats: **online** classes for those at a distance and **onsite weekend** classes at the Rickman Center, Jefferson City, MO.

All classes are taught by experienced pastors who hold graduate degrees.

The faculty is currently aligning the curriculum to address the *Sixteen Areas of Ministerial Practice and Learning Outcomes* outlined by the General Commission on Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Our goal is to provide outstanding under-graduate level education in ministry.

Certificate of Pastoral Ministry student Theresa Hamilton and CPM Graduate Russ Hamilton, First Christian Church, Gallatin, MO.

You may be called for such a time as this

The biblical Queen Esther was in a position to intercede with King Ahasuerus on behalf of the Jewish people. She was fearful, but her guardian Mordecai reminded her that "perhaps you were brought to a royal position for **such a time as this.**"
Esther 4:14

If you are a local church leader, perhaps your whole life experience has been a preparation **for such a time as this**, when pastoral leadership is greatly needed in our churches. If you have ever heard God's call, if trusted friends have encouraged you to ministry, if you have ever found joy in church leadership, perhaps you are called **for such a time as this.**

The Missouri School of Religion is ready and willing to help you develop personal qualities, skills and abilities necessary for ministry.

