

CATALOG
2020 – 2021

1306 N. Highland Street | Arlington, Virginia 22201 | 703.812.4757
www.leland.edu

*The mission of The John Leland Center is
to serve in the Kingdom of God
through accessible, accredited
theological education that equips
transformational leaders for the
global ministry of Jesus Christ.*

*We are committed to bringing together
scholars, practitioners, and students
from our area and around the world,
who are called to this task.*

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

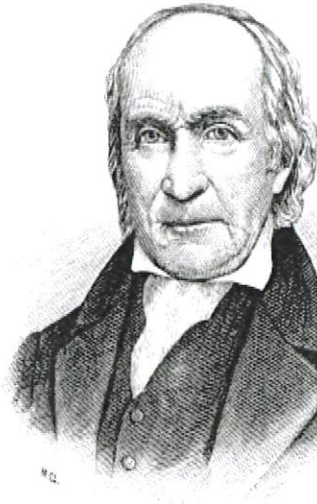
God worked a modern-day miracle in 1998 when he persuaded a small group of dedicated Baptist leaders to launch this new seminary inside the beltway of one of the world's most important cities—Washington, DC. Nurtured by Columbia Baptist Church and led by founding President Randel Everett, Dean Jeff Willetts, and a handful of other visionary leaders, Leland was developed as a seminary to prepare leaders for the new world of the 21st century.



We are committed to preparing transformational Christian leaders for ministry by simultaneously grounding them in the Bible, helping them develop a biblical worldview, and also challenging them to reach out to the wide range of people God has sent to live in this “international” city. Churches that refuse to try new approaches to minister to their new neighbors write their own obituaries. Yet churches that abandon the truths of Scripture in a vain attempt to “become modern” also find themselves dying, because they have severed themselves from Christ, who gives all true life. How do churches know what changes to try and which ones would lead to disaster? What traditions are still relevant and which ones can be safely jettisoned? The John Leland Center for Theological Studies is helping men and women of all ages respond to the call of Jesus Christ, “Come follow me,” and to learn to become the leaders for churches that will reach a wide diversity of people for Christ in decades to come.

We invite you to become part of the Leland experience in this endeavor of faith. This catalog will give you a broader understanding of what Leland is all about and how you can be a part of this community of Christian ministers. Please contact us by telephone, e-mail, or in person to learn more about this opportunity to develop your God-given gifts into ministry.

Dr. Bill Smith
President



The John Leland Center for Theological Studies is named for the famous 18th century pastor, John Leland.

An acquaintance of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, Leland's passion for religious liberty led to his ardent plea that the religious liberty clause in the Bill of Rights be included in the United States Constitution. His persuasive appeals culminated in the religious freedom and the separation of church and state from which we all continue to benefit. Leland also opposed slavery and promoted evangelism. Today our school honors John Leland by defending religious freedom, promoting evangelism, and developing leaders from many racial and ethnic groups.

This engraving originally appeared in the Encyclopedia of Baptists by William Cathcart (1880) and is provided courtesy of the Virginia Baptist Historical Society

HISTORY

Dating back to the 19th century, pastors and church leaders in Washington, DC. have recognized the need for a Baptist institution of higher learning in this community. Luther Rice returned from the mission field in the early 1800's to raise money for missions. Because he realized there was a need to train pastors, his missionary vision led him to start several Baptist colleges, the first being Columbian College in Washington, DC. The school, located in the shadow of the White House, became George Washington University in 1903.

Throughout the years discussion has continued concerning the need for a seminary. When searching for a new site, interested parties were often encouraged to consider the Greater D.C. area as a strategic location for theological education.

In July of 1997, while attending an international meeting of the Baptist World Alliance, five area leaders discovered a mutual burden to meet the educational and training needs for ministry in the evangelical community in greater Washington, DC. Not only is metropolitan Washington a strategic and multi-cultural community, it is also home to many ministry groups with unique commitments. With these enormous resources in its own backyard, the dream of an innovative center for theological education appeared to be finally coming to fruition.

In the fall of 1997, an exploratory committee of approximately fifty ministers and lay leaders formed to determine God's will regarding this sense of mission. This group consisted of leaders representing numerous Baptist churches and organizations including the Mount Vernon Baptist Association, the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, and the Baptist General Association of Virginia. BGAV concluded that the time was right to move forward with the creation of a new seminary.

Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church provided a building for the offices and classrooms for Leland and much of the early leadership and financial resources. As the school grew, larger facilities were needed, and the school moved in August 2002. It is housed at 1306 N. Highland Street in Arlington, Virginia in the Church at Clarendon. As word of Leland spread, church leaders from Fredericksburg, Hampton Roads, Richmond, Mineral, and Roanoke, Virginia invited the school to offer classes in their community. In 2003 Leland created an extension site at the First Baptist Church of Newport News. This has evolved into a partnership between Leland and the BGAV in making theological education accessible to local churches. Today, Leland offers classes in Arlington, Newport News, Charlottesville, Culpeper, Staunton, and Roanoke and plans to expand to additional locations in 2021.

The cherished vision has moved from dream to reality.

STATEMENT OF THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES

What follows is neither a creedal statement nor an exhaustive treatise of Christian doctrine. It simply expresses the major emphases of faith and life that define The John Leland Center as seeking to be within the great biblical, apostolic, and orthodox traditions of faith.

- I. We believe that God who is One exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that God's perfection is revealed through divine holiness and love. As Holy Scripture attests, everything and every person is God's creation.
- II. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's eternal son, fully God and fully human, who lived, suffered, died, and was raised from death to life, and is seated at the right hand of God as our advocate with the Father. Those who receive God's gracious gift of salvation in Christ through repentance and faith find assurance of new life in him.
- III. We believe in God the Holy Spirit who is active in regeneration, sanctification, and discipleship and who empowers the people of God to use their gifts to bring honor and glory to God through Jesus Christ.
- IV. We believe that Holy Scripture is the inspired Word of God, reveals the divine will for the salvation of the world, and is totally truthful in all it intends to affirm. Scripture is the true and authoritative rule of faith for all Christian belief and practice, and Jesus Christ is the interpretative principle of the Scriptures. We further believe that the Holy Spirit, through the Scriptures, reveals to fallen humanity its sinful character and its need to discover faith in Jesus Christ.
- V. We believe that the Church is the gathered community of believers in Jesus Christ called together by God's Spirit as an agent of reconciliation in the world. It has its visible expression in the local community, which is called as a body to worship God with Christ as its head and is the universal Body of Christ throughout the world.
- VI. We believe that by following the example of Jesus, all Christians are called to servanthood, worship, prayer, the study of Scripture, faithful witness, and obedience to the commandment of the resurrected Christ and the urging of the Spirit to go into all the world and make disciples.
- VII. We believe that a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who is the only way to salvation, ensures acceptance by the Father through the Spirit for prayer, fellowship, and to receive the blessing of God's grace. This acceptance is a precious inheritance and means that the believer needs no intermediary with God except our great high priest, the Lord Jesus.

- VIII. We believe that salvation is for the redemption of the whole person and is given freely to all that repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This salvation prepares and the Holy Spirit empowers every obedient disciple to be an evangelist, priest, and prophet.
- IX. We believe that Scripture teaches us that God, who is love, has concern for the poor and oppressed and that Christians are called to respond to God's mercy by acts of love and grace toward all people, by promoting justice, working for peace, and reaching out to everyone in need.
- X. We believe in baptism of the repentant believer and in the Lord's Supper. Jesus, in his days on earth, identified with us in his baptism, commanded us to be baptized, and instituted the communion meal. In both baptism and the Lord's Supper, the Good News is proclaimed, and we experience anew, the love of the Father, the presence of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- XI. We believe that freedom in Christ gives freedom from the oppression of sin, death, and demonic power. While governmental, ecclesiastical, and worldly forces may seek to compel and coerce the conscience of the believer and may even deprive the believer of life and liberty, in Christ we are always truly free.
- XII. We believe the Kingdom of God is both here and now and will find ultimate completion when Jesus Christ returns to judge between those who are in Christ and those who have rejected him. The Christian hope that sustains the believer is that Jesus Christ will usher in an everlasting reign of peace, justice, and eternal joy.

INTRODUCTION

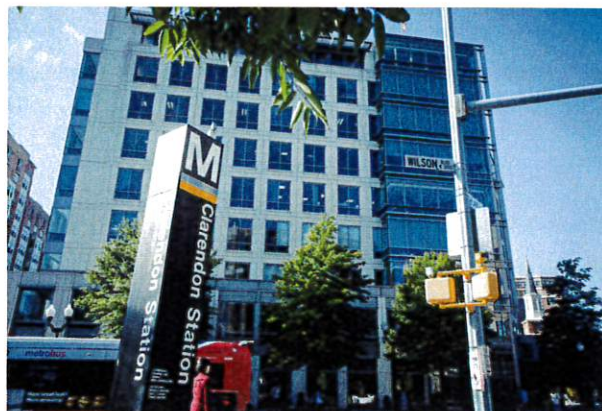
The John Leland Center for Theological Studies is a seminary of Baptist tradition that welcomes students and teachers of all church denominations. Leland's purpose is to serve in the Kingdom of God through accessible, accredited theological education that equips its students to become transformational leaders in the global ministry of Jesus Christ. Leland is accountable to its supporting churches and institutional partners in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. region and the state of Virginia. Leland's goal is to educate and form students in Christ-like character, spiritual discipline, compassion, biblical knowledge, and skills which produce pastors and lay leaders who can serve in diverse ministry settings. While providing a high-quality online instruction capacity to supplement and extend its mission, Leland puts its priority on in-person, community building instruction which enables Leland to implement its motto to its seminary constituency, "Leland: Your Local Seminary."

As a community of faith and learning, the school has prepared a theological curriculum that seeks to develop leaders who possess the competency, confidence, contextual vision, and connectedness, necessary to bring theological transformation to their vocational settings. The John Leland Center understands these characteristics of a transformational leader in the following ways:

1. Competence – is the ability to be a reflective, theological practitioner, who engages in ministry through the exegesis and interpretation of tradition, text, and culture in ways that are intentional, coherent, and deliberative.
2. Confidence – is the ability to trust God and one another, acting with integrity and purpose so as to engender the trust of others.
3. Contextual Vision – is the ability to interpret and understand the meaning of one's vocation and context expressed locally, against the broad horizon of its global role and significance.
4. Connectedness – is the ability to access and communicate with God, others, and the world in ways that are informed, reflective, and integrative.

The degree programs and certificates offered through The John Leland Center are designed to meet the contexts within which its students do and will serve. These include 1) settings for ordained congregational or denominational leadership; 2) settings for competent leadership in congregations or other ministry settings outside the local church; and 3) settings in which leadership takes place in the context of religious schools, universities, or seminaries.

LOCATIONS



Arlington

The Arlington location at 1306 N. Highland Street is the main campus. The offices, library, and classrooms are housed in the Church at Clarendon, which sits in the center of a community adjacent to the metro. Clarendon is a thriving, walkable area with a mix of shops, multi-ethnic restaurants, office buildings, parks, and residences. It is filled with young adults with the median age of 34. Vitality and excitement are expressed through the arts and entertainment nearby. Stationed in the heart of the Greater DC area of some six million residents, close proximity to Washington, DC, (1.5 miles) makes it the ideal location for students who wish to be involved in theological education. Graduate and diploma classes are taught at the main campus.

Hampton Roads

Surrounded by water, the Hampton Roads area includes dozens of cities, counties, and towns for a combined population of approximately 1.7 million people. Steeped in over 400 years of American history, visitors from around the world are drawn to this area every year. Hampton Roads is home to several distinguished institutions of higher education, including The College of William and Mary, Christopher Newport University, Hampton University, and Old Dominion University. This area boasts of the nation's largest naval base and the premier shipbuilding industry. It also is known for the world's largest physics laboratory, Jefferson Lab, in Newport News. NASA, the Navy, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard provide the area with a significant work force. Leland graduate and diploma classes are held at First Baptist Church of Newport News.

Central Virginia/Charlottesville

The Central Virginia/Charlottesville metropolitan area is located in the foothills of the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains. The University of Virginia, based in Charlottesville, has been consistently ranked as one of the nation's best public universities, and the University Health System is a renowned academic medical center. Charlottesville has also been rated in the top five U.S. communities for well-being. The area offers an abundance of outdoor and other tourist activities, including the Virginia Film Festival and Virginia Festival of the Book, and easy access to the Appalachian Trail, Shenandoah National Park, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Leland diploma classes are held at Broadus Memorial Baptist Church in Charlottesville.

Culpeper

Culpeper is centrally located between Washington, DC, and Charlottesville in the beautiful Piedmont River Valley. The area provides many opportunities to enjoy outdoor adventures, agritourism, arts and culture, and historical landmarks. Leland teaches Spanish language diploma classes at Culpeper Baptist Church, where John Leland was an early pastor.

Staunton

Staunton is a picturesque small town that has won awards as one of “America’s Favorite Mountain Towns” and one of “America’s Best Main Streets.” It is located in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains. Residents and visitors enjoy an array of art, cultural, and historic venues, including the American Shakespeare Center, the Heifetz International Music Institute, the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum, and the Virginia Hot Glass Festival. Staunton also offers a variety of outdoor recreation activities. Leland diploma classes are taught at Memorial Baptist Church in Staunton.

Southwest Virginia

Southwest Virginia is a large, mountainous region, covering 26 counties. The local economy remains rural, and coal mining has major economic significance. Southwest Virginia is home to several institutions of higher education, the largest of which is the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (better known as Virginia Tech) in Blacksburg. Leland graduate and diploma classes are offered at Bonsack Baptist Church Roanoke.

ADMINISTRATION ANDSTAFF

Office of the President

William Smith, President
Mike Hines, Provost
Belinda Barnett, Director of Special Projects
Abbie Tolbert, Executive Associate

Academic Dean

John Lee, Academic Dean

Admissions and Recruitment

Katie McKown, Director, School of Ministry
Mindy Stewart, Director of Recruitment
Abbie Tolbert, Executive Associate

Alma Hunt Library

Monica Leak, Librarian
Janet Owen, Library Assistant
Tarmo Toom, Director of Acquisitions

Finance Office

Mel Harris, Director of Finance
Jonathan Rider, Accountant/Student Billing

Registrar's Office

Belinda Barnett, Registrar

School of Ministry

Katie McKown, Director
Susan Quinn, Administrative Assistant

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MDiv and PhD, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

John Lee

Academic Dean

MDiv, Gordon Conwell Theological
Seminary STM, Yale Divinity School
PhD, Claremont Graduate University

Daniel Carro

Professor of Divinity

Lic en Teologia, Seminario Internacional Teologico
Bautista Lic en Filosofia, Universidad del Salvador
DMin Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Daniel S. Dapaah

Professor of Divinity

MA, Andrews University, Michigan
MPhil, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, U.K.
PhD, Coventry University (in association with Wycliffe Hall, Oxford), U.K.

Andrey Shirin

Director of Transformational Leadership/Associate Professor of Divinity

MDiv, Palmer Theological Seminary
ThM, Princeton Theological Seminary
PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary

Tarmo Toom

Teaching Fellow

MDiv, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond
PhD, The Catholic University of America

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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Director, Institute for Justice Formation and Adjunct Professor, Spirituality and Law Enforcement

MDiv, The John Leland Center for Theological Studies
JD, Wake Forest University School of Law

Katie McKown

Director, School of Ministry

MDiv, George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University

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PhD, Tennessee Temple University

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MDiv, Campbell University
PhD, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Ethan Brown

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MDiv, George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University

Jeff Cranford

Adjunct Professor, School of Ministry
PhD, Baylor University

Troy Cudworth

Adjunct Professor, Biblical Languages
PhD, Oxford University

Robert Davis

Adjunct Professor, School of Ministry
MTS, John Leland Center for Theological Studies

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PharmD, University of Florida

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Southern Methodist University

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PhD, University of Notre Dame
JD, University of Chicago

Habacuc Diaz Lopez

Adjunct Professor, School of Ministry
DMin, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond

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Adjunct Professor, School of Ministry
MDiv, Howard University School of Divinity
DMin, United Theological Seminary

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MDiv, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
DMin, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond

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MA, The Catholic University of America
PhD Candidate, The Catholic University of America

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MDiv, Duke Divinity School

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MDiv, Boston University School of Theology
DMin, Northern Baptist Seminary
PhD Candidate, Christian Theological Seminary

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La Verne Wilson-McLaughlin

Adjunct Professor, School of Ministry
DMin, Wesley Theological Seminary

Mary Elizabeth Withers

Adjunct Professor, School of Ministry
MDiv, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond

Edward Yager

Adjunct Professor, Religious Freedom

MS, The London School of Economics and Political Science

PhD, University of California at Santa Barbara

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

*Theologia a Deo docetur, Deum docet, et ad Deum ducet.
Theology is taught by God, teaches of God, and leads to God.*

The John Leland Center for Theological Studies seeks to equip “transformational leaders for the global ministry of Jesus Christ.” The school understands a transformational leader as one “whose influence brings fundamental change in people and organizations, both in thought and behavior.” The theological curriculum is the vehicle by which this equipping takes place.

Our curriculum articulates four primary characteristics that mark the emergence of a transformational leader in the context of Christian service. A transformational leader is one who “possesses the competency, confidence, contextual vision, and connectedness, necessary to bring theological transformation to his/her vocational setting.” The Leland Center understands these characteristics of a transformational leader in the following ways:

- 1) Competence – is the ability to be a reflective, theological practitioner, who engages in ministry through the exegesis and interpretation of tradition, text, and culture in ways that are intentional, coherent, and deliberative.
- 2) Confidence – is the ability to trust God and one another, acting with integrity and purpose so as to engender the trust of others.
- 3) Contextual Vision – is the ability to interpret and understand the meaning of one’s vocation and context expressed locally, against the broad horizon of its global role and significance.
- 4) Connectedness – is the ability to access and communicate with God, others, and the world in ways that are informed, reflective, and integrative.

Within the Leland Center’s theological curriculum there are three principal contexts of ministry for which a student may be prepared: 1) settings for ordained congregational or denominational leadership; 2) settings for competent leadership in congregations or other ministry settings outside the local church; and 3) settings in which leadership takes place in the context of religious schools, universities, or seminaries. Corresponding to these three contexts are the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Christian Leadership, and the Master of Theological Studies. The John Leland Center also provides non-degree options for students that can serve as a stepping stone to further education as well as provide a foundation for a lifelong pursuit of transformational living.

Thank you for your interest in The John Leland Center for Theological Studies. We look forward to meeting you and learning together the great riches of God’s mercy and mission for the world.

John Lee, PhD
Academic Dean

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity degree is the flagship program of study at The John Leland Center for Theological Studies. The Master of Divinity program is designed for students who intend to enter full-time ordained vocational ministry in a congregational or denominational setting. Graduation requirements: Successful completion of 75 semester credit hours in the prescribed curriculum, Master's Sermon, community event participation, and full payment of all tuition and fees. This degree is designed to be completed in five to six years part-time or three to four years full-time.

Master of Theological Studies

The Master of Theological Studies degree is a program of study designed for students who wish to obtain a general theological education. The course of study is not designed to provide the qualifications for ordained ministry. The Master of Theological Studies degree is normally completed in four to five years part-time or two to three years full-time. Graduation requirements: Successful completion of 50 semester credit hours in the prescribed curriculum, MTS Thesis, community event participation, and full payment of all tuition and fees.

Master of Christian Leadership

The Master of Christian Leadership degree is a program of study designed to prepare students for competent leadership in congregations, where the calling is not to senior ordained pastoral leadership, or other ministry settings outside the local church. Students may choose a Congregational or Public Life emphasis in their coursework to support their intended ministry context. Graduation requirements: Successful completion of 36 semester credit hours in the prescribed curriculum, Leadership Practicum, community event participation, and full payment of all tuition and fees. The degree is designed to be completed in three to four years part-time or two to three years full-time.

Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies

The Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies is a non-degree, master's-level program that permits students to achieve a basic introduction to the major theological disciplines. This certificate requires successful completion of 18 credit hours. Graduate certificate students also will be required to attend the specified number of community events each year and fully pay all tuition and fees to graduate. The program requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. The program is designed to be completed in two years part-time or one year full-time.

Graduate Certificate in Christian Leadership

The Graduate Certificate in Christian Leadership is a non-degree, master's-level program of study that is ideal for ministers and lay persons who wish to enhance their leadership skills in order to exercise theologically integrated leadership in congregational and other public life settings. The program requires a student to have finished their bachelor's degree. This certificate requires successful completion of 18 credit hours. Graduate certificate students also will be required to attend the specified number of community events each year and fully pay all tuition and fees to graduate. The program is designed to be completed in two years part-time or one year full-time.

Graduate Certificate in Biblical Justice Formation

The Graduate Certificate in Biblical Justice Formation is a non-degree, master's-level program of study designed for students who are passionate about exploring biblical justice and designing and implementing worship, education, and/or advocacy initiatives that promote such justice. The program requires a student to have finished their bachelor's degree. This certificate requires successful completion of 18 credit hours. Graduate certificate students also will be required to attend the specified number of community events each year and fully pay all tuition and fees to graduate. The program is designed to be completed in two years part-time or one year full-time.

Diploma in Theology

The Diploma in Theology is a non-degree program of study for students seeking to gain theological knowledge and practical skills for ministry. This program is for both laity and ministry candidates who have completed a high school degree or equivalent, but not yet received a bachelor's degree. The curriculum is taught on the undergraduate level. Completion of the diploma requires successful completion of 36 semester credit hours (12 courses) and full payment of all tuition and fees.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Accreditation

The John Leland Center for Theological Studies awards the Master of Divinity, the Master of Theological Studies, and Master of Christian Leadership degrees. In June of 2006 ATS granted The John Leland Center full accreditation. In 2012, ATS reaffirmed our accreditation through 2022.

The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada
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Pittsburgh, PA 15275
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SCHEV Statement

The John Leland Center for Theological Studies is a religious institution exempt from the requirement of state certification in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Advanced Standing

Students who have taken comparable courses within the last three years and/or achieved competence related to an area of graduate study may bypass certain foundational courses and substitute advanced courses or electives to complete the required number of hours. The applicant must make a written request to the Academic Dean. No more than 12 hours credit may be bypassed with advanced standing. In some cases, advanced standing may be granted on the basis of work completed within the Diploma in Theology program.

Transfer of Credit

The John Leland Center will consider graduate-level transfer credits earned from institutions accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, regional accreditation associations, and/or recognized specialized agencies toward degree programs of students enrolled in the Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, or Master of Christian Leadership and toward the Graduate Certificates in Theological Studies, Christian Leadership Studies, and Biblical Justice Formation. The John Leland Center will consider undergraduate-level transfer credits earned from institutions accredited by regional accreditation associations and those accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) and/or recognized specialized agencies toward the Diploma in Theology program. Each course considered for transfer is required to have a grade of at least C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and must be substantially parallel to a course offered in the Leland Center curriculum. A student may transfer a maximum of 48 credit hours for the Master of Divinity degree, a maximum of 33 credit hours for the Master of Theological Studies degree, a maximum of 24 hours for the Master of Christian Leadership degree, a maximum of 6 credit hours for the Graduate Certificate programs in Theological Studies, Christian Leadership, and Biblical Justice Formation, and a maximum of 12 credit hours for the Diploma in Theology. Up to one half of the credits from a previously earned master's degree will be considered for transfer if they meet the above criteria. The other institution(s) must provide Leland with official transcripts that include the student's credit amounts, course names, and grades for the credits requested to be transferred. In some cases, descriptions of the courses may also be required. Leland will maintain these official transcripts and a written record of credit given for previous education and training. When appropriate credit has been given for previous education and training, the

student's required curriculum of Leland courses will be shortened proportionately, and the eligible student notified. If the student is receiving VA benefits, Leland will also notify the VA.

Transient Credit

The John Leland Center accepts students who are enrolled in other institutions of higher learning. The primary school must approve all course work. Application can be made through the Admissions Office.

Full-time Status

Nine hours per semester, or 18 hours annually, is considered full-time status for all students.

Attendance

Regular attendance in class is required of all students. A student may not have more than three unexcused absences from a Fall or Spring semester class or more than one unexcused absence from an intensive class. Excused absences include illness, injury, military service, and certain travel. Request for an excused absence should be submitted to the professor if at all possible before the missed class. Class attendance and participation are essential components of learning and understanding course materials. Regardless of whether an absence is excused or unexcused, the absences may interfere with a student's comprehension of course materials. Any student who is absent from more than 25 percent of his/her class sessions cannot expect to pass the course. The faculty is responsible for determining whether an absence is excused and enforcing this policy. In some cases, the professor may assign extra work because of absences.

Withdrawal

A student seeking to withdraw from class(es) at The John Leland Center must submit a written request to withdraw to the office of the Registrar. It must be validated by the Registrar. If a student drops out of class without permission from the school, the permanent record will show a grade of "F." The student who withdraws officially within the period allowed on the Academic Calendar will show no academic penalty on the permanent record.

Advisement

During the mid-semester advising periods in the Fall and Spring semesters, students are expected to meet with their advisor to assess their progress and discuss future course work. Each student is assigned an advisor at the beginning of his/her program of studies.

Supervision

The academic supervision and guidance of students is conducted by the Academic Dean through the interview process. Students also receive academic and professional guidance through faculty advisors who with the student assess each student's goals and academic progress each Fall and Spring semester. The Academic Dean and the faculty are regularly available for appointments.

Counseling and Referral Services

Counseling resources are available through the Academic Dean. Some issues may be addressed in short term counseling with the Dean or an appropriate faculty member. Other life situations may require more in-depth counseling. In such cases referrals will be provided.

Reinstatement Following Service in the Armed Forces

Students who withdrew from Leland as a result of military deployment, mobilizations or duty changes are entitled to return at the same academic status he or she had attained prior to such service without having to

requalify for admission so long as the (a) the student (or an appropriate officer of the military or official of the Department of Defense) gives advance written or verbal notice of such service to the registrar of Leland unless such notice is precluded by military necessity such as: an active or pending mission, operation, exercise, or requirement that is classified or may be compromised or otherwise adversely affected by public knowledge; (b) the cumulative length of the absence and of all previous absences from Leland by reason of service in the Armed Forces does not exceed five years except as provided in 20 U.S.C. § 1091c(c)(3); and (c) the student submits a to the Admissions Office and registrar of Leland notification of intent to reenroll at Leland not later than three years after the completion of the military service obligation or not later than two years after the end of a period necessary for recovery from an illness or injury incurred in or aggravated during the performance of military service. Advance notice is not required if the giving of such notice is precluded by military necessity such as: an active or pending mission, operation, exercise, or requirement that is classified or may be compromised or otherwise adversely affected by public knowledge. A student (or appropriate officer of the military or official of the Department of Defense) who did not give advance written or verbal notice of an absence due to service in the Armed Forces to the registrar of Leland may submit at the time the student seeks readmission, an attestation to Leland's registrar that the student performed military service that necessitated the student's absence from Leland. A student who seeks readmission at Leland after an absence due to service in the Armed Forces shall provide to Leland's registrar documentation to establish that he or she has not exceeded the service limitations in 20 U.S.C. § 1091c and the student's eligibility for readmission has not been terminated due to an exception in 20 U.S.C. § 1091c(d). The student shall submit this documentation along with the notification of intent to reenroll within the deadline set forth above for that notification.

The student may return to Leland in the same program of study. Leland will provide counseling for the student to determine the impact of absence from the program on the ability to resume study and to advise the student of his or her options when a program is no longer available or suitable. With the consultation of an advisor, a comparable program of study may be chosen for discontinued programs. The dean's office shall make any determinations regarding any readmission requirements.

Deferral of Enrollment due to Service in the Armed Forces

The above reinstatement policy will also apply to a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or the Commonwealth of Virginia who has been admitted to a program at Leland but who did not begin attendance because of his or her service in the Armed Forces. Leland will make every effort to ensure that such a student is allowed to complete the program of study. The dean's office shall make any determinations regarding any readmission requirements.

ACADEMIC WORKLOAD

Preparation

Graduate-level students should expect to prepare 3.5 hours per hour in class, which includes activities such as reading, writing, discussion among classmates and instructor outside of class, and reflection.

Texts

Graduate-level students should expect 200-300 pages of reading per hour of credit. This approximation will vary to some extent based on the difficulty of the readings required.

Style Manual

The SBL Handbook of Style is the required style manual for all classes. Students are expected to become familiar with the Handbook, and all papers and writing assignments will be formatted according to SBL guidelines.

Exams

Examinations are administered at the discretion of the professor. Classes will meet during the final examination period. The professor may choose to use this time for lecture, examination or other summary and evaluative activity. Exam periods are part of regular class attendance. Make-up examinations are for illness or other reasons approved by the professor, and they are scheduled with the professor.

Students whose service in the Armed Forces of the United States or Commonwealth of Virginia requires their sudden withdrawal or prolonged absence from Leland and who are thus subject to conditions described in Code of Virginia, Section 23.1-207 may be given the option of taking their examinations prior to regularly scheduled times in accordance with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Guidelines on Tuition Relief, Refund, and Reinstatement.

The Scholastic Grading Policy

A+	98-100	(4.3)	the student has demonstrated outstanding mastery of the
A	95-97	(4.0)	material and its application
A-	93-94	(3.7)	
B+	90-92	(3.3)	the student has demonstrated above average mastery of
B	87-89	(3.0)	the material and its application
B-	85-86	(2.7)	
C+	82-84	(2.3)	the student has demonstrated the required mastery of the
C	79-81	(2.0)	material and its application
C-	77-78	(1.7)	
D+	74-76	(1.3)	the student has demonstrated below average mastery of
D	71-73	(1.0)	the material and its application
D-	69-70	(0.7)	
F	68-below	(0.0)	the student has failed to master the material and its application
P	Passing		
I	Incomplete		
W	Withdraw		
WP	Withdraw Passing		
WF	Withdraw Failing		

Incompletes

Incomplete grades are issued at the sole discretion of the Professor of Record and only due to extreme circumstances. Assignments to resolve incomplete work must be submitted within 90 days of the end of the term unless the professor has granted an extension for an additional specific period due to the extreme circumstances. In the case of Summer term courses, assignments to resolve incomplete work must be submitted before the first day of classes for the Fall term unless the professor has granted an extension for an additional specific period due to the extreme circumstances. If assignments to resolve incomplete work are not submitted within the time allowed by the professor, the incomplete grade will be converted to an F.

Students whose service in the Armed Forces of the United States or Commonwealth of Virginia has required their sudden withdrawal or prolonged absence from Leland and who are thus subject to conditions described in Code of Virginia, Section 23.1-207 and who do not wish to withdraw have the opportunity to receive an incomplete grade ("I") until released from active duty (for reservists) or mobilization (for active military personnel). All course requirements shall be completed within one year from the date of release from active duty or mobilization. These students may be given the option of taking their examinations prior to regularly scheduled times in accordance with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Guidelines on Tuition Relief, Refund, and Reinstatement.

Academic Probation/Suspension/Dismissal

The student will be evaluated through assessment instruments approved and appropriate for each course of study, including homework assignments, research papers, case study analysis, class presentations, examinations, etc. Students who fail to maintain a grade point average of 2.00 after 9 credit hours will be placed on academic probation not to exceed two consecutive terms. Students who fail to maintain a grade point average of 2.00 after the lesser of the next two terms or taking one-third of their required credit hours will be suspended for a minimum of one full semester (not including the summer). Students who fail to maintain a 2.00 grade point average in courses attempted after suspension will be required to withdraw. Students who have been required to withdraw will not be permitted to apply for re-admission until one full semester has elapsed. No student achieving less than an overall 2.00 grade point average will be permitted to graduate.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Spiritual Life

Spiritual growth is essential in the life of every student. Leland provides foundational support through class, community worship, covenant groups, and student activities. Each student is responsible for his/her own Christian growth. At Leland, we encourage personal daily prayer and Bible study. It is expected that all students participate weekly in corporate worship and service with a local Christian congregation.

Code of Ethics

The John Leland Center affirms the worth of every individual. In order to be a Christian community, each student is expected to maintain exemplary behavior with moral, ethical, and academic integrity. Self-discipline and mutual respect are regarded as fair principles of conduct.

A student's participation in the Leland Center may be subject to formal review if any of the above expectations are not met. A student may request a formal review and action by the Academic Dean concerning issues of conduct or academic integrity. If upon formal review, a student's conduct is found to be in violation of the above stated expectations, the student may be subject to probation, suspension, or dismissal. A student may request that the matter be referred to an Appeals Committee, whose decision is final.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The John Leland Center for Theological Studies is committed to providing equal opportunity for all student applicants, enrolled students, employees, and faculty without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

Student Record Rights

In 1974 the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) was established. FERPA guidelines prohibit institutions from releasing student data to anyone without expressed written permission from the student.

Resolution of Unacceptable Conduct

Individuals who believe there has been a breach in conduct by someone in the Leland community should follow the process outlined in the Conflict Resolution and Grievance Process, which is printed in full in the Appendix of the Leland Student Handbook.

Academic Complaints

Any student who has a concern about his/her program of study should address these concerns in writing to the Academic Dean for consideration and remedy. If the student disagrees with the remedy provided by the Academic Dean, the student may follow the grievance procedure outlined in the Conflict Resolution and Grievance Process policy published in the Leland Student Handbook.

Complaints Related to ATS Standards

The John Leland Center for Theological Studies is accredited through the Association of Theological Schools and operates according to its published standards. These standards are available in the Alma Hunt Library, online at www.ats.edu, or by contacting ATS at:

The Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada
10 Summit Park Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15275
(412) 788-6505 phone

In the event any person believes that The John Leland Center is not meeting the standards required by ATS, he/she is encouraged to address concerns in writing to the President or the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The President or the Board Chair will determine an appropriate means to investigate the concern, to judge its validity, and to provide remedial action if warranted. The President and the Board Chair will keep records of all correspondence and subsequent actions related to any ATS concern.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND COMMUNITY LIFE

An essential aspect of fulfilling Leland's mission to "equip transformational leaders for the global ministry of Jesus Christ" is nurturing spiritual growth in students. Leland seeks to provide a structure and atmosphere that helps students to have the support and accountability necessary for both individual and corporate spiritual growth.

Like anything, building community that encourages this kind of growth takes time and intentionality. To this end, Leland has set in place specific expectations for our students. In particular, master's degree and graduate certificate students are required to participate in the spiritual formation class and attend at least four community events each year. Master's degree students are also required to participate in covenant groups. All students are strongly encouraged to participate in and benefit from as many of these opportunities as they can.

Spiritual Formation Class

All master's degree and graduate certificate students are required to take MF4301- Spiritual Formation during their first semester at Leland. Besides acquainting students with basic aspects of the history and practice of Christian spiritual formation, this class provides a model for the practice of spiritual disciplines within the context of a covenanted small group.

Covenant Groups

After the Spiritual Formation class has been completed, every master's degree student is required to continue participating in a covenant group each term they are enrolled in classes until they have obtained three credit hours for covenant group participation. Each covenant group is comprised of four to seven students, and they meet a minimum of seven times per semester during the fall and spring semesters. The group typically reads a spiritual classic together and encourages one another in their spiritual practices.

Orientation/All-School Fellowship and Blessing

Prior to the start of each Fall and Spring semester, Leland holds an orientation for new students. This is an opportunity for them to obtain valuable information regarding their time of study at the Leland Center. Prior to the start of each Fall and Spring semester, all students and their families are invited to participate in a ceremony of blessing for the new semester, along with a chance to share a meal together and get to know fellow students as they embark on a new semester of study together.

Advent Celebration

The Advent celebration is held the last Sunday evening of November or the first Sunday evening of December. It is a festive time of worship and fellowship, often led by students.

Lenten Service

The Lenten service provides an opportunity for the Leland community to participate in a contemplative time of worship during the season when the church spiritually fasts in preparation of the Holy Week. This service is often led by students.

Theological Society

These meetings are open to students, faculty, and local clergy and are designed to engage the participants in a high level of academic and professional reflection on the issues and challenges facing the contemporary church today. Often noted theologians and scholars from our region are invited to present a topic to the group and facilitate a conversation related to that topic.

Ministry Forum

The Ministry Forum is designed to be a gathering of Leland students, alumni, and local clergy, who have ministerial responsibilities in local churches or ministry organizations. Participants will have the opportunity to analyze and discuss issues related to ministry, and to seek solutions to problems and challenges that arise in ministry settings. Led by experienced Leland faculty, the intent of the forum is to serve as a resource for ministerial students and graduates for advice, collaboration, and exploration of ministry.

President's Forum

The President's Forum is an informal fellowship meeting where students can express their opinions and concerns openly with the president, staff, and faculty. These forums are held between classes one week each Fall and Spring semester.

Conversations with a Professor

The Leland Alumni Association hosts informal presentations by professors on practical theological topics for graduates and students throughout the year.

Guest Lectures and Conferences

From time to time Leland is able to sponsor noted speakers to speak to our community and the local public on topics of interest and importance to the church.

Graduation

Graduation is a time for Leland students, faculty, staff, trustees, family, and friends to gather in celebration of the completion of degrees, diplomas and certificates earned by Leland students. This is a celebratory event with a worship service and a featured speaker. A reception follows.

Prayer Room

Leland has set up a room at our Arlington campus specifically for individual and corporate prayer. This meditative space is available whenever the campus is open to anyone who would like to spend time in prayer, reflection, and worship. Informal prayer services may be organized throughout the term, as well.

THE ALMA HUNT THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY



The John Leland Center for Theological Studies considers it a great honor for our library to be named for Alma Hunt whose name is synonymous with missions. In nine decades, she traveled in 93 countries to share her love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Though a native of Virginia, Miss Alma was a citizen of the world.

Miss Hunt received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Columbia University before she was called to serve as Dean of Women at William Jewell College in Missouri. She also served as a teacher and principal in the Roanoke school system. A model teacher, she was a captivating storyteller of her mission adventures. Miss Hunt was most noted for her work as Executive Secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union.

Miss Alma Hunt passed away in June 2008 at the age of 98.

The Alma Hunt library contains over 15,000 volumes and periodicals as well as electronic research resources. The books available are chosen to support the curriculum taught at Leland.

ADDITIONAL LIBRARY RESOURCES

The Washington Theological Consortium

The Washington Theological Consortium (WTC) is a community of theological institutions of diverse Christian traditions, and Leland as a member has access to its library collections. Together, the WTC libraries contain over one million volumes in theology and related disciplines. To borrow items, students should obtain a WTC Borrowing Form from their home library, which must be presented at all WTC libraries when borrowing items. An active student ID card is also required. For a listing of the WTC libraries, go to <http://www.washtheocon.org/libraries.html>.

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress, located in Washington, DC, is an excellent resource for academic research.

ACADEMIC

CALENDAR

FALL TERM 2020

July

15 Early-bird discount deadline for Fall 2020

August

8 Virtual New Student Orientation, 10-11:15 am
13 Last day to resolve Incomplete from Spring 2020 term
22 Virtual All-School Gathering, 6-7:15 pm,
24 Fall 2020 term begins
28 Fall tuition payment due in full
Last day to add class without instructor permission

September

4 Last day to add class with instructor permission
Last day to change from credit to audit
Last day to drop class without it appearing on transcript
Last day for full tuition refund
7 Labor Day; office closed and no classes
18 Last day to change from grade to Pass/Fail
Last day for 50% tuition refund

October

2 Last day to withdraw without a WP/WF designation
11 Virtual Chapel, 5-5:45 pm
12 Columbus Day
12-16 Reading Week; no classes
19 Advising period for January/Spring 2021 terms begin

November

1 Leland scholarship application for current students due for Jan./Spring 2021 terms
2 Registration for Jan./Spring 2021 terms opens
11 Veterans Day; classes held
24-27 Thanksgiving break; no classes
29 Virtual Advent chapel, 5-5:45 pm

December

1 Early-bird discount deadline for Jan./Spring 2021 terms
Deadline for Spring 2021 master's degree admission applications
Deadline for new master's degree students' scholarship applications
7-11 Last week of classes
14-18 Final exam week
25 Christmas Day; office closed

JANUARY TERM 2021

January

1 New Year's holiday; office closed
4 Fall 2020 grades due from instructors
Deadline for Spring 2021 graduate certificate admission applications
Deadline for new graduate certificate students' scholarship applications
8 January 2021 term begins
Fall 2020 grades available
18 Martin Luther King Day; office closed

SPRING TERM 2021

January

- 19 Virtual New Student Orientation
- 23 Virtual All-School Gathering,
5-6:00 pm
- 25 Spring 2021 term begins
- 29 Last day to add class without instructor permission
Spring 2021 tuition payment due in full

February

- 5 Last day for full tuition refund
Last day to add class with instructor permission
Last day to drop class without it appearing on
transcript
Last day to change from credit to audit
- 15 President's Day; classes held
- 19 Last day to change grading of class to
Pass/Fail
Last day for 50% tuition refund
- 21 Virtual Lenten worship, 5-6:00 pm

March

- 1 Last day to withdraw without a WP/WF
designation
- 18 Last day to resolve Incomplete from Fall
2020 term
- 23 Advising period for June/Fall 2021 terms begins
- 29-2 Holy Week/Reading Week; office open, no classes

April

- 1 Leland Scholarship application for current students
due for June/Fall 2021 terms
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 5 Registration for June/Fall 2021 terms opens
- 15 Early-bird discount deadline for June 2021 term
- 30 Deadline for MTS Thesis and Master's Sermon

May

- 4-7 Last week of classes
- 10-14 Final exam week
- 14 Grades due for graduating students

JUNE TERM 2021

May

- 14 June 2021 Term Begins
- 24 Grades due from instructors for Spring 2021
- 31 Memorial Day; office closed and no classes

June

- 1 Deadline for Fall 2021 master's degree
admission applications

Deadline for new master's degree
students' scholarship applications
Grades available for Spring 2021

- 5 Graduation, 11:00 am (subject to change due to the COVID-
19 pandemic)

July

- 15 Early-bird discount deadline for Fall 2021

August

- 1 Deadline for Fall 2021 graduate certificate
admission applications
Deadline for new graduate certificate students'
scholarship applications
- 12 Last day to resolve Incomplete from Spring 2021

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Student's Financial Responsibility

Preparation for seminary should include a determination of financial needs and resources for meeting those needs. It is the student's responsibility to understand the costs involved in attending Leland. The following gives information regarding those costs for the 2019-2020 Academic Year.

Diploma Tuition

Tuition per credit hour.....	\$220 (\$660 per 3-credit class)
Early-Bird Discount (Note 1)	\$40 per credit hour for credit students
Audit tuition	\$330 per class

Master's and Graduate Certificate Tuition

Tuition per credit hour for metro-DC students.....	\$550 (\$1650 per 3-credit class)
Tuition per credit hour for non-metro-DC students (Note 1)	\$500 (\$1500 per 3-credit class)
Early Bird Discount (Note 2)	\$90 per credit hour for credit students
Audit tuition for metro-DC students	\$825 per class
Audit tuition for non-metro-DC students	\$750 per class

Fees

Application fee: Master's Program (one-time, non-refundable).....	\$100
Application fee: Diploma Program (one-time, non-refundable)	\$25
Graduation fee (all graduating students, non-refundable unless candidacy not accepted for 2021 or student formally withdraws graduation application in writing by April 1, 2021)	\$150
Late payment fee (Friday of the first week of the term) (Note 3)	\$50
Returned check fee	\$30
Transcript fee (per copy).....	\$10

Refunds for Credit Balances

Refunds are made for credit balances from student payments upon request.

Scholarships

As scholarship payments are received, they will be credited to the student's account. Disposition of scholarship funding after withdrawal from a course or in the case of a credit balance will be determined by Leland and/or the external scholarship awarding entity. If the student withdraws from a class in time to receive a refund after a scholarship is received, the student will only receive a refund in proportion to the percentage paid per credit by the student.

NOTE 1 - NON-METRO DC STUDENT

A non-metro DC student is a student who lives over 50 miles from the Arlington campus.

NOTE 2 - EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

An Early Bird Discount will be given to any student who registers and has his/her account paid in full (or Leland has been notified by a scholarship donor that the student will receive a scholarship to cover the balance due) by July 15 for the fall term, December 1 for the January

and spring terms, and April 15 for the June term. Audit students are not eligible for the early-bird discount.

NOTE 3 - LATE FEES

A \$50.00 late fee is charged on student accounts with unpaid balances on the Friday of the first week of the term. Each full month that the account remains unpaid after the due date, an additional late fee of 1.5% of the unpaid account balance will be charged.

Tuition Payment

Tuition is due and payable on the first day of each term. Students who have not registered and paid their tuition balance in full on the Friday after the first day of the course will be charged a \$50 late fee, and an additional late fee of 1.5% of the unpaid balance will be assessed each full month later until the balance is paid. In the case of an intensive class added after the start of the term, payment for that class is due the first Friday of the class, and after that due date late fees will apply. A student who has a past-due balance on his or her account will not be able to receive grade reports or transcripts, or complete registration for the following term, until the balance is paid. No balance due will be carried over into a new academic term.

Payment Methods

Students may pay online using a credit card (MasterCard, Visa or Discover) or ACH (electronic check) at <https://www.leland.edu/make-a-payment> or through NetClassroom. Students may also pay by check or money order by mailing or hand delivering the check/money order to Leland.

Tuition Refund Policy

- Last day for full tuition credit for a dropped class is the second Friday of the semester.
- Last day for fifty percent (50%) credit is the fifth Friday of the semester.
- For intensive courses, requests for withdrawal made through the first day of class will receive full tuition credit. No credit will be given for withdrawals made after that date.
- All withdrawal requests must be provided by the student in writing (letter or email) to the registrar to receive the appropriate credit. The date of the email will constitute the date of request. If a letter is not postmarked, the date of receipt will be used as the date of request.
- Should a student be ordered to active duty (for reservists) or be mobilized (active military) as described in the Code of Virginia, Section 23.1-207, and he/she requests to be withdrawn from The John Leland Center after the drop/add date, tuition and required fees will be refunded to the student or to the appropriate governmental agency that provided the payment. Leland offers the option for such refunds to be retained and to be applied to tuition and fees charged in the semester or term in which the student returns to study.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Each student is responsible for identifying, applying for, and securing his or her own financial aid. Students who want to receive Leland Scholarship funding must submit an application each term they wish to be considered. The application can be found at www.leland.edu/scholarship-services. The scholarship application deadlines for current students are November 1 for January/spring terms and April 1 for June/fall terms. The scholarship application deadline for new students is the deadline for their admission application. Information on other outside scholarships can also be found on this webpage. This list is not exhaustive, and students are encouraged to research other possible avenues of funding as well. In order for scholarships and financial aid arrangements to count towards early-bird discounts and payment deadlines, the Finance Office needs either actual payment or a written promise to pay (email is acceptable) from the financial aid provider by the applicable deadline dates.

Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits

The John Leland Center is approved to offer GI Bill® educational benefits by the Virginia State Approving Agency. Graduate students who intend to take advantage of their VA benefits at Leland are encouraged to contact the Registrar's Office as early as possible for information about establishing a file and verifying their enrollment to the VA. Eligible students must provide a copy of the VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to the Registrar's Office no later than the first day of the inaugural semester in which they wish to enroll. If the student cannot provide a COE, they must provide the information necessary for Leland's VA Certifying Official (Registrar's Office) to verify the student's eligibility and process their certification. In each subsequent semester of enrollment, the student should submit a written notification to the Registrar's Office after they have registered and no later than the first Friday of the semester confirming their intent to use their entitlement for the semester. An email from the student's Leland email address is acceptable. For Chapter 31 and 33 benefit recipients, once notification is received and eligibility is confirmed, the student's account will be credited for the amount of that semester's entitlement, and no penalties, including late fees or denial of access to classes, libraries or school facilities, will be assessed to the student based on when the funds are actually disbursed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. In addition, the student will not be required to borrow additional funds due to the inability to meet his or her financial obligations to The John Leland Center as a result of delayed payments for education assistance under Chapter 31 or 33, unless the student is less than 100% covered. The John Leland Center may require additional payment or impose a fee for the amount that is the difference between the amount of the student's financial obligation and the amount of the VA education benefit disbursement.

When a student has failed to maintain prescribed standards of progress that warrant academic probation, suspension or termination, The John Leland Center will inform the VA promptly so that benefit payments can be discontinued in accordance with the law. A school's standards of progress must include specific conditions a Veteran or eligible person is required to satisfy to permit recertification for VA benefits after being terminated (for benefit purposes) because of unsatisfactory progress or conduct. Before The John Leland Center recertifies a student's enrollment to the VA after a termination due to unsatisfactory progress or conduct, the student must meet the academic conditions outlined in the Academic Probation/Suspension/Dismissal policy on page 24 above and establish that there is a reasonable likelihood that he or she will be able to maintain satisfactory progress and conduct in the future. The student must continue to meet those conditions in order to receive continued certification to the VA.

The Virginia State Approving Agency (SAA) is the approving authority of education and training programs for Virginia. The SAA investigates complaints of GI Bill beneficiaries. While most complaints should initially follow the school grievance policy, if the situation cannot be resolved at the school, the beneficiary should contact this office via email saa@dvs.virginia.gov.

For more information on VA benefits, visit the VA's website at <https://www.va.gov/education/>.

MASTER'S PROGRAMS

ADMISSION POLICIES

The John Leland Center for Theological Studies is committed to providing equal opportunity for all student applicants without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. The decision for admission rests with the Admissions Committee. Admission is based on the following considerations:

1. Attested commitment to the Christian faith manifested by a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ, membership and participation in a church, and recommendation from Christian leaders.
2. Attested commitment to ministry indicated by a written statement of vocational or ministry objectives and church endorsement.
3. Demonstrated academic ability by a bachelor's degree or equivalent from a recognized institution with an overall grade point (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Students for whom English is a second language must score a minimum of 550 on the TOEFL examination. (See Provisional Admission)
4. Attested moral character evidenced by a life consistent with Christian principles and recommendations from Christian friends and leaders.

Procedure for Admission

1. Interview with the Academic Dean
An interview is required of each prospective student prior to admission. Appointments should be scheduled in advance.
2. Complete an Application Portfolio
Applications with instructions may be found on our website at www.leland.edu/apply.
3. A full portfolio should include: a completed application form, \$100 non-refundable application fee, an official transcript from each college or university attended, essay(s) specified in application form, recommendation forms specified in application instructions, and a current resume. Official transcripts bearing the institution's seal must be mailed directly to The John Leland Center for Theological Studies by the issuing institution.

The applicant will not be considered for admission until all the items mentioned above have been received.

MASTER OF DIVINITY

The **Master of Divinity degree** is the flagship program of study at The John Leland Center for Theological Studies. The Master of Divinity program is designed for students who intend to enter full-time ordained vocational ministry in a congregational or denominational setting. Graduation requirements are successful completion of 75 semester credit hours in the prescribed curriculum, a Master's Sermon, community event participation, and full payment of all tuition and fees.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

In order to bring students' formal studies to a summative conclusion and obtain a degree from The John Leland Center, there is a final requirement for all MDiv students - a Master's Sermon. Instead of a thesis or a comprehensive exam, all MDiv students must deliver a public sermon/presentation on a given text. In accordance with the field or area in which a student is or wants to be engaged, the faculty will choose a scriptural text on which the discourse will be delivered. Preparing and presenting the Master's Sermon is the student's opportunity and obligation to shine homiletically, didactically, exegetically, pastorally, and theologically. The delivery of the Master's Sermon will be assessed on the basis of its content, relevance, exegetical/theological insights, and rhetorical strength. A candidate must submit the written text one week in advance of the public delivery of the Master's Sermon.



Degree Program Goals:

1. **Theological Understanding:** To demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of Christian Scripture, tradition, history, and practice that is substantial and relevant to the purposes of pastoral ministry.
2. **Contextual Vision:** To gain insight and awareness in the understanding of diverse communities and contexts for global ministry, toward a robust exegesis of and apologetic toward the reigning culture or subculture.
3. **Leadership Preparation:** To develop skills and abilities to lead and work effectively with others in diverse settings, both ecclesial and other publics.
4. **Spiritual Formation:** To make evident the spiritual integration of prayer, worship, study, and experience toward a God-centered life and ministry.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Divinity Program requires 75 semester credit hours, as follows:

Ministry Formation Studies (15)

MF 4301 Spiritual Formation (3)
MF 4201 Covenant Group (3 hours - 6 semesters of .5 credit each)
MF 4501 Pastoral Theology and Ministry (3) OR MF 4511 Pastoral Care and Counseling (3)
MF 4905 Theology and Practice of Leadership (3)
MF 4105 Worship and Homiletics (3)

Biblical and Language Studies (15)

B 1105 Biblical Hebrew (3)
B 1106 Biblical Greek (3)
B 1305 Interpreting the Old Testament (3)
B 1505 Interpreting the New Testament (3)
B 1705 Biblical Hermeneutics and Exegesis (3)

Theological and Philosophical Studies (15)

TP 2101 Introduction to Theological Studies (3)
TP 2105 Modern and Post-Modern Theology and the Church (3)¹
TP 2501 Philosophy for Theology (3)
TP 2701 Historical Theology I (3)
TP 2703 Historical Theology II (3)

Ethics and Historical Studies (9)

EH 3101 Global Church History (3) OR EH 3305 Global Christianity and World Religions (3)
EH 3121 Baptist History and Identity (or other denominational tradition) (3)
EH 3201 Introduction to Christian Ethics (3) OR EH 3205 In Search of Biblical Justice (3)²

Integrated Seminars (6)

Two of the following courses (one from each set):
IS 5121 Who is God? (3) OR IS 5123 Who is Jesus? (3) AND
IS 5125 What is Salvation? (3) OR IS 5127 What is the Church? (3) OR IS 5129 What is the Mission of the Church? (3)

Ministry Experience and Internship (6)

MF 4505 Church Administration OR MF 4545 Christian Education (3)
MF 4921 Supervised Ministry (3)
MF 4131 Master's Sermon (0)

Free Electives (9)

75 Total Credit hours

¹ Prior to Fall semester 2020, this course was known as Modern and Contemporary Theology.

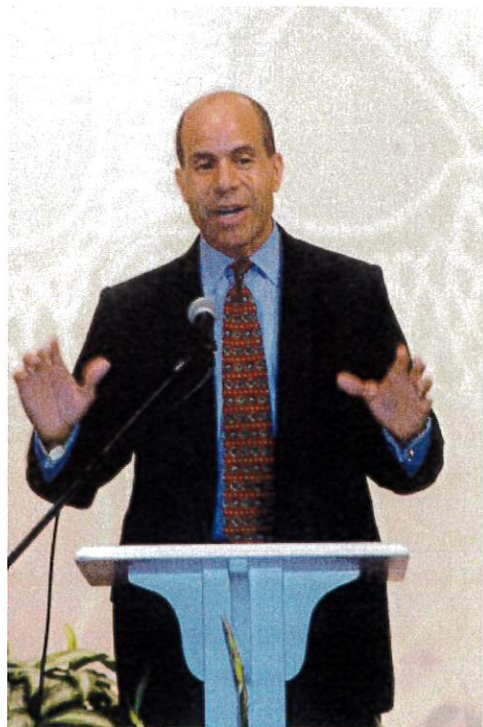
² Prior to Spring semester 2021, these courses had course IDs TP 2301 (Introduction to Christian Ethics) and TP 2305 (In Search of Biblical Justice).

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The **Master of Theological Studies degree** is a program of study designed for students who wish to obtain a general theological education. The course of study is not designed to provide the qualifications for ordained ministry. The Master of Theological Studies degree is normally completed in three to four years. Like the Master of Divinity degree, the courses for this degree are scheduled so that students who are working full-time may pursue their studies without significantly compromising their employment. Graduation requirements: Successful completion of 50 semester credit hours in the prescribed curriculum, MTS Thesis, community event participation, and full payment of all tuition and fees.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

In order to graduate with an MTS degree, students are required to submit an MTS Thesis. It is a 30-page research paper intended to demonstrate competence in the research and presentation of a graduate thesis and the integration of learning between various theological disciplines. It must be formatted according to The SBL Handbook of Style. Each MTS student will have an appointed Thesis Supervisor, who is responsible for providing guidance in research. After submission, the thesis will be read by the Thesis Supervisor and by an appointed reader. Students are expected to fulfill the MTS Project requirement within the last year of their course work prior to graduation.



Degree Program Goals:

1. **General Theological Comprehension:** To attain a general knowledge of the various theological disciplines, including biblical studies, theology, philosophy, and ethics.
2. **Advanced Theological Research:** Develop a capacity for advanced theological understanding and communication.
3. **Spiritual Formation:** To engender the spiritual integration of prayer, worship, study, and experience toward a God centered life and ministry.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Theological Studies requires 50 semester credit hours, as follows:

Ministry Formation Studies (6)

MF 4301 Spiritual Formation (3)

MF 4201 Covenant Group (3 hours - 6 semesters of .5 credit each)

Biblical Studies (9)

B 1105 Biblical Hebrew (3) OR B 1106 Biblical Greek (3)

B 1305 Interpreting the Old Testament (3) OR B 1505 Interpreting the New Testament (3)

B 1705 Biblical Hermeneutics and Exegesis (3)

Theological and Philosophical Studies (15)

TP 2101 Introduction to Theological Studies (3)

TP 2105 Modern and Post-Modern Theology and the Church (3)

TP 2501 Philosophy for Theology (3)

TP 2701 Historical Theology I (3)

TP 2703 Historical Theology II (3)

Ethics and Historical Studies (6)

EH 3101 Global Church History (3) OR EH 3305 Global Christianity and World Religions (3)

EH 3201 Introduction to Christian Ethics (3) OR EH 3205 In Search of Biblical Justice (3)³

Integrated Seminars (6)

Two of the following courses (one from each set):

IS 5121 Who is God? (3) OR IS 5123 Who is Jesus? (3) AND

IS 5125 What is Salvation? (3) OR IS 5127 What is the Church? (3) OR IS 5129 What is the Mission of the Church? (3)

Summative Studies (2)

MF 7101 MTS Thesis (2)

Free Electives (6)*

*Students enrolled in the MTS program may not take Supervised Ministry as an elective.

50 Total Credit hours

³ Prior to Spring semester 2021, these courses had course IDs TP 2301 (Introduction to Christian Ethics) and TP 2305 (In Search of Biblical Justice).

MASTER OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

The **Master of Christian Leadership degree** is a program of study designed to prepare students for competent leadership in congregations, where the calling is not to senior ordained pastoral leadership, or other ministry settings outside the local church. Students may choose a Congregational or Public Life emphasis in their coursework to support their intended ministry context. Graduation requirements: Successful completion of 36 semester credit hours in the prescribed curriculum, Leadership Practicum, covenant group and community event participation, and full payment of all tuition and fees.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Students in the MCL program will cap off their specialized leadership study with a two-hour Leadership Practicum in their specialization. This practicum must be approved by the Director of the MCL program and offer practical opportunities to implement the student's learning from the program.



Degree Program Goals:

1. **Theological Conceptualization:** To engender critical and constructive theological reflection regarding the content and processes of leadership, primarily in the context of one's vocational setting.
2. **Leadership Understanding:** To assist students in articulating and understanding the theologically informed concept of transformational leadership.
3. **Leadership Skills:** To prepare students for leadership roles by developing the skills and capacities needed for exercising theologically informed transformational leadership in the context of their vocations.
4. **Spiritual Formation:** To make evident the spiritual integration of prayer, worship, study, and experience toward a God-centered leadership.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Christian Leadership requires 36 semester credit hours, as follows:

Ministry and Leadership Formation Studies (12)

MF 4301 Spiritual Formation (3)
MF 4201 Covenant Group (3 hours - 6 semesters of .5 credit each)
MF 4903 Modern Theories of Leadership (3)
MF 4905 Theology and Practice of Leadership (3)

Biblical Studies (6)

B 1305 Interpreting the Old Testament (3) OR B 1505 Interpreting the New Testament (3)
B 1705 Biblical Hermeneutics and Exegesis (3)

Ethics and Theological Studies (6)

TP 2101 Introduction to Theological Studies (3)
EH 3201 Introduction to Christian Ethics (3) OR EH 3205 In Search of Biblical Justice (3)⁴

Focused Leadership Studies (9)

MF **** Focused Leadership Electives (9)

Leadership Experience/Internship (3)

MF 4931 Leadership Practicum (3)

36 Total Credit hours

⁴ Prior to Spring semester 2021, these courses had course IDs TP 2301 (Introduction to Christian Ethics) and TP 2305 (In Search of Biblical Justice).

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR MASTER'S PROGRAMS

BIBLICAL STUDIES (B 1000)

BIBLICAL LANGUAGES (B 1100)

B 1105 - Biblical Hebrew

For beginners, an introduction to the vocabulary, grammar and syntax of the Hebrew language and an introduction to the methods and resources for exegesis.

B 1106 - Biblical Greek

For beginners, an introduction to the vocabulary, grammar and syntax of Biblical Greek and an introduction to the methods and resources for exegesis.

OLD TESTAMENT (B 1300)

B 1305 - Interpreting the Old Testament

This course is a general introduction to the Old Testament literature, methods of interpretation, and various questions of critical study. It is designed to introduce students to the contents of the Old Testament and the literary artistry of the text. Students are exposed to the various critical approaches to the study of the Old Testament. Prerequisites: TP 2101 for Master's, GCTS, and GCLS students and B 1105 - Biblical Hebrew for MDiv and MTS students.

NEW TESTAMENT (B 1500)

B 1505 - Interpreting the New Testament

This course is a general introduction to New Testament (NT) literature, methods of interpretation, and various questions of critical study. It focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus as portrayed in the four canonical Gospels and the growth of the church in Acts of the Apostles. Students will also be introduced to some of the extra-canonical Gospels. Prerequisites: TP 2101 for Master's, GCTS, and GCLS students and B 1106 - Biblical Greek for MDiv and MTS students.

B1532 - Advanced Biblical Study/Revelation

A study of the book of Revelation that considers the nature and purpose of ancient apocalyptic literature; studies the book in its social, historical, literary, and religious contexts; and investigates how Revelation has been interpreted (and misinterpreted) in contemporary thought. Prerequisites: TP 2101 and B1505.

HERMENEUTICS (B 1700)

B 1705 - Biblical Hermeneutics and Exegesis

An introduction to modern principles of biblical hermeneutics, with special emphasis on contributions by contemporary philosophy and biblical scholarship, and biblical exegesis, with special emphasis on interpreting selections from the biblical text. Prerequisites: MF 4301 and TP 2101.

THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES (TP 2000)

THEOLOGY (TP 2100 and TP 2700)

TP 2101 – Introduction to Theological Studies

A general overview of the various tasks and disciplines of theology, including historical, systematic, pastoral, and biblical theology. This course is prerequisite for all subsequent courses of study in theology.

TP 2105 – Modern and Post-Modern Theology and the Church⁵

A historical survey of the major figures and intellectual movements shaping theology from Schleiermacher to Wittgenstein in the Modern period and contemporary theologies, such as Postmodern theology. Prerequisites: TP 2101 and TP 2501.

TP 2701 – Historical Theology I

Historical Theology I investigates Christian beliefs and practices in the order of their historical unfolding during the first twelve centuries or so. It includes theological issues, such as Trinitarian theology, Christology, soteriology, and ecclesiology; historical events, such as councils, controversies, and creeds; and persons and movements, such as Gnosticism, Origen, Augustine, Donatism, “semi-Pelagianism,” Boethius, and Gottschalk. Prerequisites: TP 2101, TP 2501, and EH 3101 or EH 3305.

TP 2703 – Historical Theology II

A continuation of TP 2701 starting in about the thirteenth century, with special emphasis on Christian theology from the Lutheran Reformation to the beginning of the Baptist movement from the sixteenth to the seventeenth centuries. Prerequisites: TP 2101, TP 2501, TP 2701, and EH 3101 or EH 3305.

PHILOSOPHY (TP 2500)

TP 2501 – Philosophy for Theology

An introduction to the history and problems of philosophy, with special emphasis on the questions of philosophical theology and their implications for theology. Included, the contributions of the following figures: Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Heidegger, Wittgenstein. Prerequisite: TP 2101.

TP 2503 – Philosophy of Religion: God’s Existence and the Problem of Evil

This course examines the various arguments against the existence of God based on the fact that evil and suffering exist. Theistic and Christian responses to these arguments will also be considered, including responses appropriate to a pastoral setting.

ETHICS AND HISTORICAL STUDIES (EH 3000)

HISTORICAL STUDIES (EH 3100)

EH 3101 – Global Church History⁶

A historical survey of the spread and development of the Christian Church in Africa, Asia, Europe, America, and Australia. Prerequisites: MF 4301 Spiritual Formation and TP 2101 Introduction to Theological Studies.

EH 3105 - Foundations of Religious Freedom

This course introduces the student to a broad foundational survey of religious liberty themes, such as religious liberty in church history, religious liberty and America, religious liberty as a human right, and international religious liberty.

⁵ Prior to Fall semester 2020, this course was known as Modern and Contemporary Theology.

⁶ Prior to Spring semester 2021, this course had course ID HC 3101.

EH 3121 – Baptist History and Identity⁷

An introduction to the history and heritage of Baptists from their origins to the present day, with special attention given to the major theological emphases among Baptists, as well as their literature and institutional heritage.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS (EH 3200)

EH 3201 – Introduction to Christian Ethics⁸

A course designed to introduce the student to the basic terminology and methods of Christian ethical decision-making. Some of the issues considered may include but are not limited to issues in sexual ethics, aspects of medical ethics, civil disobedience, and environmental ethics.

EH 3205- In Search of Biblical Justice⁹

This course introduces the student to God's love of justice as revealed from Genesis to The Revelation of John. Students will engage in critical reflection about how behaving as agents of Jesus' radical justice—Biblical Justice—would influence the formation of the moral life according to the Christian faith.

CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE (EH 3300)

EH 3305 - Global Christianity and World Religions¹⁰

This course explores the various Christian movements around the globe and their interactions with other major world religions, with a special focus on non-Western cultures. Prerequisites: MF 4301 Spiritual Formation and TP 2101 Introduction to Theological Studies.

MINISTRY FORMATION (MF 4000)

PREACHING (MF 4100)

MF 4105 – Worship and Homiletics

An introduction to the theological foundations, history, and practice of Christian worship, exploring various forms and practices. The second half of the class will focus particularly in equipping the student in the preparation and delivery of sermons, with emphasis on the practical application of biblical truths in a timely, relevant, and informational format

MF 4131 – Master's Sermon

A sermon or presentation given by a senior MDiv student. on a scriptural text chosen together with a faculty supervisor. Preparing and presenting the Master's Sermon is the student's opportunity and obligation to demonstrate his or her competence homiletically, didactically, exegetically, pastorally, and theologically. This is the summative requirement for the MDiv program. No credit hours awarded.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION (MF 4200 and MF 4300)

MF 4201 - Covenant Group

Students will engage in spiritual formation practices in the context of a covenanted group. Activities include reading a selected classic book on spiritual practice and journaling about one's personal spiritual practices. This group is .5 credits per semester. Prerequisite: MF 4301.

⁷ Prior to Spring semester 2021, this course had course ID HC 3121.

⁸ Prior to Spring semester 2021, this course had course ID TP 2301.

⁹ Prior to Spring semester 2021, this course had course ID TP 2305.

¹⁰ Prior to Spring semester 2021, this course had course ID HC 3305.

MF 4301 – Spiritual Formation

The purpose of this course is to prepare students holistically in relational and character formation. Students will examine and apply spiritual disciplines in and outside of class. Students will also review recent studies in brain science that stress the importance of attachment for character growth. Through these studies, students will understand how the disciplines shape our thinking, feeling, and relating as Christ followers and how we change into the image of Christ as a result of the Holy Spirit and our attachment to God and others.

MF 4333 – Justice, Church, and Society

This course will challenge students to bring the transformational potential of the biblical texts to bear on critical contemporary justice contexts as regarding the distribution of social benefits and penalties; the exercise of legitimate power, fairness, and balance; and honoring the rights or entitlements of people made in the image of God. Reflecting upon and contrasting what we love and what God loves, students will critique ongoing Christian behaviors that are either congruent or incongruent with biblical justice. Prerequisite for GCBJF students: EH 3205.

MF 4335 – Critical Engagement with Biblical Justice

This course is designed to guide the student's search for biblical justice through critical engagement with a contemporary justice theorist. Students will compare and contrast the ideology of a contemporary justice theorist with the course's information. The successful student will demonstrate the capacity to synthesize salient principles from selected theorists on their way to articulating a paradigm for justice formation. Prerequisites: EH 3205; MF 4333.

MF 4339 – Justice Formation Externship

After completing the prerequisites, students will complete one of the following initiatives: 1) develop an inclusive worship service praising God for the responsibility to be agents of his justice and righteousness; 2) conduct an education course to encourage communities and governments to do what is just and right; or 3) initiate or continue an advocative initiative intended to redress or dismantle a structural or systemic injustice that is incongruent with God's love. Prerequisites: EH 3205; MF 4333; MF 4335.

THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY (MF 4500)

MF 4501 – Pastoral Theology and Ministry

This course provides an in-depth analysis of the personal and professional life of the pastor and other Christian leaders and will help students develop a vision of pastoral ministry.

MF 4511 – Pastoral Care and Counseling

An introduction to the basics of pastoral care and counseling, providing students with a foundation for effective ministry and basic skills.

MF 4505 – Church Administration

This course provides students with a broad overview of the theory and practice of effective administration for the church and its programs. Special attention is paid to planning, staffing, financial management, and organizational development and operations.

MF 4545 – Christian Education

This course assists students in developing a theologically sound, practical approach to engaging in the ministry of education in the local church and other ministry settings. Special attention will be given to four broad topics: 1) the biblical, theological, and philosophical foundations of Christian education; 2) curriculum and instructional design; 3) educational administration; and 4) the analysis and design of Christian education ministries. Assessment is done by portfolio. Prerequisite: TP 2101.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (MF 4700 and 4900)

MF 4721 – Leadership in Missions

This course will help leaders gain a theological understanding of their vocational callings, will examine current leadership approaches in missions, and enable leaders to construct, articulate, and implement theologically transformative leadership strategies in their callings.

MF 4903 – Modern Theories of Leadership

This course will introduce leaders to modern theories of leadership and enable them to integrate current leadership paradigms into their theological practice.

MF 4905 – Theology and Practice of Leadership

The course will enable leaders to explore themselves, those whom they lead and the overall context of their leadership theologically. In addition, the course will equip leaders to design approaches fitting their callings.

MF 4921 – Supervised Ministry

This course is normally pursued in the third or fourth year of a students' program. Students are placed in a ministry setting where they are engaged in the opportunities and demands of their chosen area of ministry. This is a formative period for students when they test their calling and ministry gifts in a supervised ministry setting. Beginning in July 2021, the course will be a twelve-month program.

MF 4923 - Leading from the Second Chair

This course will focus on the unique relationship that exists on a church staff, specifically related to the Lead Pastor with an Associate Pastor. Leading vs. managing from a second-tier ministry position will be addressed.

MF 4927 – Leadership in Context

The course will enable leaders to exegete the context of their leadership with particular attention to identifying adaptive challenges. In addition, this course will equip leaders to design and implement effective adaptive interventions fitting their contexts.

MF 4931 – Leadership Practicum

The course will enable leaders to further develop their theologies of leadership by implementing these theologies in leaders' vocational settings. Prerequisite: MF 4905 Theology and Practice of Leadership.

INTEGRATIVE SEMINARS (IS 5000)**BIBLICAL, SYSTEMATIC, AND APPLIED THEOLOGY**

Prerequisites: TP 2101; TP 2501; TP 2701; TP 2703; and EH 3101 or EH 3305

IS 5121 – Who is God

An integrative seminar designed to explore the philosophical questions related to the concept of God, with special emphasis on developing a contemporary apologetic for the Christian understanding of God.

IS 5123 – Who is Jesus?

An integrative seminar designed to explore the question of the identity of Jesus. Students will explore the biblical, theological, and cultural dimensions of this issue, while developing a vision for communicating the results of their inquiry with persons outside the Christian faith.

IS 5125 – What is Salvation?

An integrated seminar designed to investigate the biblical foundations of soteriology, the historical unfolding of the implications of biblical soteriology and the contemporary developments in soteriology.

IS 5127 – What is the Church?

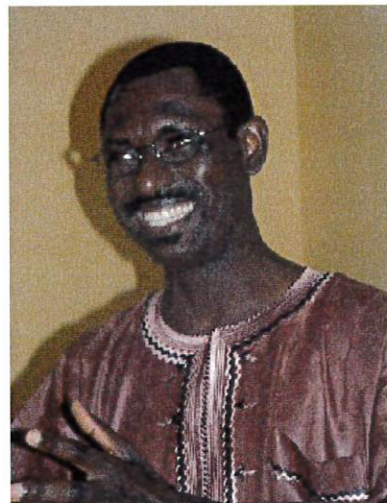
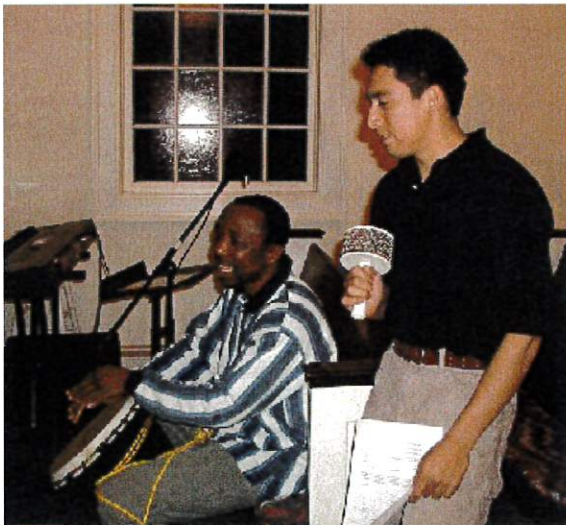
An integrative seminar designed to provide a holistic vision of the church of Jesus Christ. Through an analysis of Scripture, theology, and contemporary church life, the student develops his/her own understanding of the "true" church and its place in the world.

IS 5129 – What is the Church's Mission?

An integrative seminar designed to develop a global vision of the Church's mission in the world, with special emphasis on shaping a global vision for the local church.

NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS

The John Leland Center recognizes that within the Church there is great diversity in both the callings of individuals and the range of circumstances within which they will respond to these calls. To meet the needs of those for whom the MDiv, MTS or MCL may not be the most suitable, Leland offers a range of options for those seeking advanced theological training. As with our graduate degrees, these programs are designed to present an integrated curriculum that emphasizes knowledge, skills, and practice. In addition, courses are scheduled so that students who are working full-time may pursue their studies without significantly compromising their family life and employment.



GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies is a non-degree, master's-level program that permits students to achieve a basic introduction to the major theological disciplines. This certificate requires 18 credit hours. In addition to the curricular requirements, Graduate Certificate students will be required to attend the specified number of community events each year and fully pay all tuition and fees to graduate. The program requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

This program is ideal for you if:

- You are serving in a ministerial capacity that requires a broader background in theology, but you do not wish to pursue a graduate degree.
- You have professional training and experience in another area but find yourself with ministerial responsibilities at a managerial level in a local church, mission, or faith-based nonprofit organization.
- You wish to prepare yourself for a more focused area of ministry.
- Your educational and spiritual backgrounds are such that graduate-level study would provide you with a sufficient challenge to promote your own spiritual growth.

RECOMMENDED CURRICULUM

MF 4301 Spiritual Formation (3)

TP 2101 Introduction to Theological Studies (3)

B 1305 Interpreting the Old Testament (3) OR B 1505 Interpreting the New Testament (3)

TP 2501 Philosophy for Theology (3)

EH 3201 Introduction to Christian Ethics (3) OR EH 3205 In Search of Biblical Justice (3)¹¹

EH 3101 Global Church History (3) OR EH 3105 Global Christianity and World Religions (3)

18 Total Required Hours

¹¹ Prior to Spring semester 2021, these courses had course IDs TP 2301 (Introduction to Christian Ethics) and TP 2305 (In Search of Biblical Justice).

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP STUDIES

The **Graduate Certificate in Christian Leadership Studies** is a non-degree, master's-level program of study that is ideal for ministers and lay persons who wish to enhance their leadership skills in order to exercise theologically integrated leadership in congregational and other public life settings. The program is designed to be completed in two years part-time or in one year with full-time studies. Like the other programs at The John Leland Center, courses are scheduled so that students who are working full-time may pursue their studies without significantly compromising their family life and employment.

Graduation requirements include successful completion of 18 semester credit hours in the prescribed curriculum, community event participation, and full payment of all tuition and fees. The program requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

RECOMMENDED CURRICULUM

MF 4301 Spiritual Formation (3)
TP 2101 Introduction to Theological Studies (3)
B 1305 Interpreting the Old Testament (3) OR B 1505 Interpreting the New Testament (3)
MF 4903 Modern Theories of Leadership (3)
MF 4905 Theology and Practice of Leadership (3)
MF **** Focused Leadership Elective (3)

18 Total Required Hours

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL JUSTICE FORMATION

The Graduate Certificate in Biblical Justice Formation is a non-degree, master's-level program of study designed for students interested in what the Bible has to say about justice, and what relevance that has for people, particularly Christians, today. The program is ideal for people across all vocations who wish to point ways forward for everyone seeking to think and act in harmony with God – a community of equals pursuing biblical justice in the world today. The program is designed to be completed in two years part-time or one year full-time. Like the other programs at The John Leland Center, courses are scheduled so that students who are working full-time may pursue their studies without significantly compromising their family life and employment.

Graduation requirements include successful completion of 18 semester credit hours in the prescribed curriculum, community event participation, and full payment of all tuition and fees. The program requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

RECOMMENDED CURRICULUM

MF 4301 Spiritual Formation (3)
B 1305 Interpreting the Old Testament (3) OR B 1505 Interpreting the New Testament (3)
EH 3205 In Search of Biblical Justice (3)¹²
MF 4333 Justice, Church, and Society (3)
MF 4335 Critical Engagement with Biblical Justice (3)
MF 4339 Justice Formation Externship (3)

18 Total Required Hours

¹² Prior to Spring semester 2021, this course had course ID TP 2305.

DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

The **Diploma in Theology** is a non-degree program of study for students seeking to gain theological knowledge and practical skills for ministry. This program is for both laity and ministry candidates who have completed at least a high school degree or equivalent. The curriculum is taught on the undergraduate level and is designed to acquaint students with the practices of study and reflection in three main areas: Bible, theology, and practical ministry. Graduation requirements: 36 semester credit hours and full payment of all tuition and fees. Diploma students should discuss the sequencing of their courses with their advisor, who is typically their site director.

Admission

Students wishing to be admitted to the Diploma in Theology program must submit an admissions application and have achieved a high school diploma (G.E.D. or equivalent).

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

The Diploma in Theology requires 36 semester credit hours, as follows:

BIBLICAL STUDIES (12 hours)

- BS 110 Introduction to the Bible
- BS 120 Introduction to the Old Testament
- BS 130 Introduction to the New Testament
- BS 140 Interpreting the Bible for Preaching and Teaching

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (12 hours)

- TS 210 Christian Theology I
- TS 220 Christian Theology II
- TS 230 History and Theology of the Church
- TS 240 Theology and Ethics for the Church

MINISTRY STUDIES (12 hours)

- MS 310 Formation for Ministry
- MS 320 Theology and Practice of Ministry I
- MS 330 Theology and Practice of Ministry II
- MS 340 Public Ministry of the Church

36 Total Required Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FOR DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY PROGRAM

BIBLICAL STUDIES

BS 110 Introduction to the Bible

A study of the nature and function of the Bible as Scripture in the Christian church. Students learn about the historical formation and translation of the Bible, its various types of literature, theories of authority and inspiration, methods of interpretation, and uses in worship, education, spiritual formation, pastoral care, and moral decision-making.

BS 120 Introduction to the Old Testament

A general survey of the literature and theology of the Old Testament, including the history and religion of ancient Israel.

BS 130 Introduction to the New Testament

A general survey of the literature and theology of the New Testament, including the life and ministry of Jesus and the earliest Christian communities.

BS 140 Interpreting the Bible for Preaching and Teaching

A workshop on how to exegete and theologically interpret biblical texts for preparing and delivering a sermon, teaching a Sunday School class, and facilitating a small-group Bible study and discussion.

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

TS 210 - Christian Theology I

A study of the foundations and contents of the systematic theology of the Christian church, examining the doctrines of God, revelation, the Bible, creation, humankind, and sin.

TS 220 - Christian Theology II

A continuation of Christian systematic theology, examining the doctrines of Jesus Christ, the eschatological Kingdom of God, salvation, the Holy Spirit, the church, and the consummation of God's mission in history.

TS 230 History and Theology of the Church

An historical survey of the Christian church, focusing on its major theological movements, issues, controversies, and developments. While attention is given to significant events, personalities, and dates, the primary interest is the role and functions of theology in the formation of the church's faith and life.

TS 240 Theology and Ethics for the Church

An examination of the contemporary theological and ethical issues the church is facing in the postmodern world.

MINISTRY STUDIES

MS 310 Formation for Ministry

An in-depth study of the vocation of Christian ministry, and of the individual person who is called to live and practice it. The focus is on how this unique vocation is discerned and exercised by the minister, as well as how it forms and shapes the minister.

MS 320 Theology and Practice of Ministry I

A study of the local Christian congregation and its core ministries of worship, preaching, education, spiritual formation, fellowship, pastoral care and counseling, evangelism, and social ministry. Practical training is provided in each of these ministry areas, enabling the minister to carry out the various roles and responsibilities of Christian ministry, thus serving the church faithfully.

MS 330 Theology and Practice of Ministry II

A study of the local Christian congregation's hidden emotional, spiritual, and political dynamics, as well as its organization and administration. Special attention will be given to the challenges and opportunities of leadership in this complex, often confusing and conflicted, setting.

MS 340 Public Ministry of the Church

An examination of how the church exists, functions, and is viewed and treated in the public square. Emphasis is given to the expression and application of Christian beliefs, doctrines, and values through the practices called "missions," social ministry, outreach, and evangelism. How does the Christian community relate to the state, engage in culture, and address matters of society and culture at large? Students are equipped to develop a public theology, and to serve the world as public theologians.

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