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Catalog

2024-2025

thirdmillseminary.org

Thirdmill Seminary

Catalog 2024-2025

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Seminary for the Third Millennium

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Part One - Academics

Reimagining Seminary

A Theological Curriculum and Training Network for the Church in the Third Millennium

If the Holy Spirit continues to bless the global Church, such that its current growth rates continue, *The Atlas of Global Christianity* estimates that the church will grow on the African, Asian, and Latin American continents by 505 million, 243 million, and 145 million, respectively, between now and 2050.¹ With a conservative ratio of 1 pastor for every 100 Christians, Latin America will need 1.5 million pastors and Asia will need 2.5 million pastors by 2050. Where the numbers are twice as high, Africa will need a minimum of 5 million pastors. In North America and Western Europe, where theological education resources are concentrated, a new kind of pastor is needed—missionary pastors who can lead their congregations and their neighborhoods into a missionary encounter with the gospel and the world of the Bible.

Almost two decades ago, Ralph Winter called for “a revolution in pastoral training” by pointing to the obvious—current business models and delivery systems of theological education cannot scale to meet the global church’s need for trained pastors.² The answer is not fewer Bible colleges and seminaries, but a different configuration of networked ministry training programs, that can equip leaders with exponentially greater capacity. Can theological educators deliver a deep engagement with the Bible on the field? The apostle Paul not only thought so, he did so. His correspondence models the importance of both depth and scale, both quality and quantity, both theological reflection on Scripture and its embodied practice in congregations of witness.

The greatest obstacles, which restrict the flow of the Spirit’s ample provisions for training, are financial, linguistic, and geographic. The Holy Spirit is raising up leaders *where* the church is growing rapidly. *We believe that most of these leaders are called to study Scripture deeply, where they have been deeply planted, nurtured, and continue to bear much fruit.*

¹ Todd M. Johnson and Kenneth R. Ross, *Atlas of Global Christianity 1910-2010* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2009), 9.

² Ralph Winter, “The Largest Stumbling Block to Leadership Development in the Global Church: Needed: A Revolution in Pastoral Training,” *International Journal of Frontier Missions* 20.3 (2003): 86-94.



A Seminary for the Third Millennium
(Thirdmill Seminary)

Our Mission

Thirdmill Seminary provides affordable access to a quality, multilingual theological education by distance learning, so Christian leaders can study Scripture deeply and communicate its teachings clearly where they serve Christ and His Church.

Our Vision

Thirdmill Seminary is developing a global network of Christian leaders who interpret and apply the scriptures in their local churches and disciple the nations in their local communities.

Our Goals

To provide affordable access to a high-value, biblically-faithful, and contextually-fitting theological education to students of culturally diverse backgrounds by:

- utilizing digital technologies to provide distance education in multiple languages.
- offering accredited certificates and degrees to students at minimal financial cost. *Thirdmill Seminary* does not charge for access to *Thirdmill* curriculum or e-learning platforms, but charges students assessment fees to cover the cost of supervising and evaluating their course work for academic credit.
- regular learning outcome assessments, self-study and external reviews by accreditors that enhance curricular and co-curricular development.

To cultivate a global network of scholars, pastors, deacons, evangelists, and other Christian leaders by:

- recruiting core faculty, adjunct faculty, and visiting fellows from diverse disciplines and cultural backgrounds who share our doctrinal commitments and philosophy of education.
- establishing partnerships with Bible colleges, seminaries, missionary training institutes, equipping church networks, and regionally influential churches.

To build and support a strong connection with local churches, where our students serve, by

- providing guidance, educational resources, and an evaluative framework to supervising pastors and mentors for their work with our students.

- maintaining balanced emphases on communicating biblical and theological content, practicing spiritual disciplines, and developing the interpersonal and intercultural skills needed both for their personal discipleship and ministry to others.
- providing practicums and a means of evaluating ministry activities in those practicums that fit with the primary functions and purpose of the local church, namely worshipping God, spiritually nurturing its members, and loving its neighbors.

To ensure institutional financial stability and growth by:

- nurturing a community of committed prayer and financial supporters.
- maintaining highly efficient, fiscally responsible and accountable processes.
- prayerfully and skillfully planning our growth.
- utilizing volunteers for administrative, academic, and advancement work, when possible.

Our Philosophy of Theological Education and Unique Approach

While print remains necessary, oral and visual cultural contexts in the global church call for elegant video graphics and sound adult learning activities in a gospel-centered theological curriculum where teachers facilitate more than the transfer of content to learners.³ We believe the church's transgenerational, cross-cultural mission of disciple-making requires three fundamental equipping tasks from the church's teachers and pastors:

- *The interpretive task*: the constant re-reading and clear, robust interpretation of the Bible's Story both in summary and in its constitutive covenantal episodes in relation to every arena of human endeavor under the reign of God. This is the practice of *Sola Scriptura* and the task of *orthodoxy*.
- *The relating task*: the cultivation of 'habits of heart' necessary to form and strengthen Christian character that binds together love of God, love of neighbor and self, and love of place. These are the established *practices of spiritual formation* and the task of *orthopathos*.

³ Richard L. Pratt, Jr., "Opportunities and Challenges for Theological Education at the Beginning of the Third Christian Millennium," *RPM* Vol. 15, No. 38.

(http://thirdmill.org/magazine/article.asp/link/http://thirdmill.org/articles/ric_pratt/ric_pratt.ATA.html/at/Opportunities%20and%20Challenges%20for%20Theological%20Education). Viewed October 14, 2017.

→ *The implementing task*: the regular practice of relational and organizational skills that are necessary to identify, equip, and support Christian leaders who foster the values and practices of God's kingdom. These are the *practices of pastoral or congregational leadership* and the task of *orthopraxis*.⁴ These practices are established in supervised practicums and assessed in a summative Capstone portfolio and project.

Reframing the structures of theological education for the global church requires its leaders to re-imagine how those structures will support learning communities where students are formed spiritually as ministers with kingdom values and practical wisdom. Our curriculum integrates spiritual disciplines taught by the church across generations and cultures with new technological tools to share those traditional resources more widely. This offers more students opportunities to learn from leaders in other parts of Christ's global church.

This partnership between the online classroom and the lab of local ministry is the heartbeat of Thirdmill Seminary. If faculty, mentors or students are full of their own cultural knowledge, but lack love for brothers, sisters, and neighbors from other cultures, then we are like noisy gongs and clanging cymbals. We may have a lot to say about Jesus, but we will not know Him as the Head of his global church, a body in which Jews and Gentiles are being reconciled.

Of course, it is important for any seminary or Christian school to realize that the family and church are vital contexts for spiritual formation. How can a seminary "teach everything Christ commanded" while fostering love for God, neighbor and the world? How does an online seminary equip students to know and walk in Jesus's ways?

Thirdmill Seminary students engage spiritual formation activities in each course of study, whether taking time to journal, pray, sing, confess, fast, meditate on Scripture, participate in the sacraments, or practicing hospitality and visiting the weak.⁵ Practice makes perfect. It makes us skillful and mature in activities that sustain life. The spiritual practices are means of grace the Holy Spirit uses to fashion disciples in the image of Christ.

Students are called upon to identify and recruit a mentor who will walk with them in all or part of their seminary education. Faculty, local pastors, and mentors will evaluate the student's progress through the spiritual formation portion of the curriculum.

Lastly, the communal nature of theological education must be planned intentionally if we are to read together and learn from one another across cultural distances. To that end, *Thirdmill Seminary* facilitates ministry workshops that are open to members of partnering churches.

⁴ The language of orthodoxy, orthopathos and orthopraxis is from Richard Pratt, see *Ibid*. The language of the interpretive, relating and implementing tasks is from Mark Lou Bransen and Juan F. Martinez, *Churches, Cultures and Leadership: A Practical Theology of Congregations and Ethnicities* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011).

⁵ See Richard Pratt, "TGC Asks: What is One Thing You Would Change About Seminary?," <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/tgc-asks-what-one-thing-you-would-change-about-seminary-education>. Viewed October 20, 2017, and John Frame, "Pratt's Boot Camp," in *For the World: Essays in Honor of Richard L. Pratt, Jr.*, ed. Justin Holcomb and Glenn Lucke (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2011), 145-157.

These workshops keep our academic work grounded in the ministry activities of the local church. Therefore, they often take the form of a “hybrid class” that connects local members with our students and leaders from other parts of the global church. Using “breakout rooms,” students collaborate with church members to apply what they are learning to the challenges and opportunities of local ministry. By offering this shorter, intensive workshop format within the framework of an 8-week course, new people are introduced to the seminary and offered an opportunity to gain academic credit.

Regular Mentor Meetings and our Discipleship Practica form two strong rails that connect our online classroom with supervision under local pastors and mentors. During the first six or seven weeks of each course, students alternate weekly meetings between “live” online faculty tutorials and mentor meetings. The faculty tutorials present some new material and introduce a rubric for the next assessment and allow plenty of time for questions and answers. Six questions guide mentor discussions with their students. The mentor selects at least three of the six questions which are taken from viewings, readings, and the spiritual formation activities. These conversations are designed to open a window for mentors to see how students are applying their learning to their own life and ministry.

Discipleship Practicums, which explore three areas of local church ministry, are required of students in our Master of Christian Studies program. In his important book on The Church, Ed Clowney identified worship, nurture, and outreach as the three primary activities of congregational life. Each receives focused attention in its own practicum.⁶ These practicums interface with the activities of worship, nurture, and outreach the student’s local congregation already has planned. Readings and instruction in these areas provide a framework for theological reflection on these ministry practices.

Having completed these three practicums, each student in our Master’s program is required to compile a Capstone portfolio and present their Capstone project. In their portfolio, students revisit assessments from past courses that were designed to demonstrate mastery of each program learning outcome. Each of the five learning outcomes is focused on one of five primary resources for sustainable, Christian ministry: 1) Scripture, 2) Theology, 3) Christian Practices as a Member of the Church, 4) Local Ministry Context, and 5) the Minister’s Identity, Calling, Gifts, and Weaknesses. By revisiting their assessments, students reconsider them in the light of what they have learned throughout the curriculum. Would they do anything differently now with this assessment? More importantly, how do they now summarize what they have learned in relation to this vital resource for ministry? Having summarized their learning outcomes from these revisits, students must incorporate these findings into their Capstone project. This final project both celebrates the student’s learning and casts a vision for their future ministry. Each student writes and presents their final project to faculty and peers as a philosophy of ministry and strategic plan for their current ministry role or one they have committed to in the immediate future. This philosophy of ministry and strategic plan must identify and apply key themes and learning outcomes from the Master’s program.

⁶ Edmund P. Clowney, *The Church*, Contours of Christian Theology (IVP, 1995), 209.

The Role of Faculty in Thirdmill Seminary

By cultivating a global network of trained scholars, pastors, deacons, evangelists, and Christian leaders from all corners of the global church, Thirdmill brings together knowledge of the interpretive, relating, and implementing tasks of ministry from a variety of cultural contexts. The faculty of Thirdmill Seminary serves two constituencies: the students and other faculty members, and the pastors and mentors of our students.

Our primary focus is to equip those who are in a position to equip others as disciple-makers for Jesus Christ. This means we are not so much training *for ministry* as we are training *in ministry*.⁷ Therefore, our core and adjunct faculty and visiting fellows must not only possess academic credentials in an area of biblical studies and/or theological reflection, they must also have significant experience in Christian ministry and remain active in its practices. These reflective-practitioners not only communicate content, but use contact hours to pray with and for students, discuss their questions, and evaluate case studies and ministry projects to appropriate the themes of the curriculum in the present tasks of ministry.

Student contact hours with our faculty are provided in synchronous online tutorials, as well as asynchronous discussion forums, email exchanges, and graded assignments. These contact hours are supported by pastors and other mentors in the student's context.

By providing a mediated curriculum, Thirdmill enables its seminary faculty to use techniques of adult teaching and learning like the 'flipped-classroom' seminar style discussions, spiritual formation activities, ministry workshops, and integrative practicums to equip students in the interpretive, relating, and implementing tasks of ministry.⁸

Each faculty member is expected to instruct, advise, serve, and grow pursuant to the educational goals of Thirdmill Seminary.

Instruct

Facilitating learning at Thirdmill Seminary requires effective adult-centered approaches particular to Christian education, implementing the best practices of online learning, and our partnership with local pastors and mentors who are supervising our students in the field. The Online Faculty Orientation and Development course is designed to support faculty educational endeavors and to encourage success in three distinct areas:

⁷ See Gregory R. Perry, "New Wineskins: Relocating and Restructuring Theological Education," in *For the World: Essays in Honor of Richard L. Pratt, Jr.*, ed. Justin Holcomb and Glenn Lucke (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2011), 170-184, and Robert Banks, *Reenvisioning Theological Education: Exploring a Missional Alternative to Current Models* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999), 108-109, 111.

⁸ See the discussion of multi-dimensional learning and its relation to curricular and course design in Perry Shaw, *Transforming Theological Education: A Practical Handbook for Integrative Learning* (Carlisle, UK: Langham Global Library, 2014).

1. *Content expertise*: Create a bridge from their own enthusiasm of acquired knowledge to the transference of that knowledge.
2. *Instructional delivery skills*: Invite student participation through the provision of a hospitable learning environment, allowing educational inquiry and vulnerability.
3. *Instructional design skills*: utilizing techniques, methods, and organizational tasks that encourage learning through effective course management. That is,
 - Teaching by creating conditions that facilitate learning
 - Informing the program Dean when course content needs updating or editing
 - Communicating needs for maintaining/updating website
 - Developing instructional materials to enhance learning
 - Assessing students through use of rubrics and testing for measuring learning outcomes at the course and program level
 - Selecting materials in consultation with the Director of Instructional Design
 - Effectively using technology such as discussion boards and tutorials to enhance the learning process by responding to students in a timely manner
 - Keeping accurate and timely grade records
 - Arranging for guest speakers and other supplemental course resources
 - Encouraging and disciplining students according to Student Handbook policies
 - Preparing students for their assessments and for their mentoring meetings
 - Informing students of trends in their field of study

Advise

- Advise students about any questions they have about the course.
- If a student has questions about vocational calling of ministry, the faculty member is encouraged to share their personal experience and knowledge but is not expected to direct a student's career path. Encourage the student to contact the Dean or Registrar in English, and Rosalia Sanchez in Spanish, for additional academic advising.
- If a student exhibits undue anxiety or other mental health issues, pray with them, encourage them to seek pastoral support within their local community.

Serve

Faculty Services that enhance the seminary's educational mission will include:

- Serving on committees and attending departmental meetings
- Working collaboratively with colleagues
- Sending and/or answering email and voice messages in a timely manner
- Recommending faculty or potential students
- Maintaining program accreditation

Grow

- Developing and/or improving skills, knowledge, and/or technology
- Participating in staff development activities
- Taking the opportunity to write for the Seminary blog and/or other publications

Our Faculty



Bob Brumley, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Practical Theology
Academic Dean of the English Program

Dr. Brumley has his Master's in Ministry Leadership from Rockbridge Seminary and his Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Southern Illinois University. He has been involved in theological and professional education work throughout Latin America and the Caribbean for nearly 30 years. He is Academic Dean for the English program at Thirdmill Seminary, serves as our Compliance Officer, and is also an Associate Pastor at Lifted Church in Miami. He is especially thankful for the opportunity to further equip ministry leaders who are already sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in places he will likely never visit... to people that we will never meet this side of Heaven!



Jeff David, D. Min.

Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and Spiritual Formation
Academic Dean of the Spanish Program

Dr. Jeff David and his wife Barbi have been missionaries to Latin America since 1992. Jeff began with a church planting team in Mexico City and Tapachula, Chiapas. He served for 4 years as the director of the *Centro de Estudios Bíblicos de Monterrey*, in Monterrey, Mexico. In Costa Rica, he served 15 years as professor of New Testament at *Seminario ESEPA* in San Jose. Dr. David began working with online theological education as a course writer for an M.A. program called ProMETA (*Programa de Maestría de Educación Teológica Accesible*). In 2013, Dr. David helped develop a theological extension program in Cuba using Third Millennium materials. Jeff is an ordained minister and has served various congregations in the state of Washington. He earned his M.Div. from Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia, and his D.Min. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. His interests include Christian leadership, mentoring and discipleship.



J. Christopher Hatch, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Missiology and Director of Partnership Development

Dr. Chris Hatch brings both practical experience of intercultural ministry and academic accomplishments that demonstrate his deep love of both scripture and the local church. After finishing his M.A. with an emphasis on contemporary culture at Covenant Theological Seminary in 1995, he served as the Executive Director of a church-based Christian community development organization for eight years in Chattanooga, TN. During this time, Chris also taught as adjunct faculty at Covenant College. In 2005, Chris and his family moved to London, England, with the mission agency Serge to join a church in the South Asian community of Southall before planting a

multicultural church in the community of Shepherd's Bush. After thirteen years in London, the Hatches moved to Chicago where Chris earned his Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies (Missiology) at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.



Ra McLaughlin, M. Div.

Associate Professor of Theology

Ra McLaughlin began serving with Third Millennium Ministries in 1998. A native of Los Angeles, California, he earned a B.A. in English at UCLA and an M.Div. from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida. He currently oversees the technical aspects of Third Millennium's content delivery systems. Ra's publications include the NLT Discover God Study Bible (Tyndale, 2007; ECPA Christian Book Award winner), for which he was both a contributor and an editor; and the NIV Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible (Zondervan, 2003; ECPA Gold Medallion nominee), for which he served as Associate General Editor. Ra is author of "The Life and Work of Jesus," and "The Nature and Work of the Holy Spirit" in the Christian Essential series published in 2022 by P&R Publishing.



Andrew Parlee, M.Div., Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Systematic Theology

Before **Dr. Drew Parlee** joined Thirdmill Seminary faculty, he first served on Third Millennium's Faculty Board of Approval. Prior to that, he spent 9 years with Greater Europe Mission training Europeans to evangelize, make disciples, and plant churches. He taught Systematic Theology and New Testament Greek at the Protestant Theological Seminary in Novi Sad, Serbia and prior to that, he taught short intensive courses in the Ukraine and Czech Republic. From 1986-1992, he was a campus pastor with the Navigators at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. There he disciplined American students and evangelized atheists from the US and Asia. In 1990, Dr. Parlee was a missionary in Asia. He earned his M.Div. from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida, where he completed a pastoral internship. He earned his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. His research interests include Eastern Orthodox theology, Roman Catholic theology, epistemology, apologetics, evangelism, disciple-making, church-planting, and theological education.



Gregory R. Perry, M.Div., Ph.D.

Associate Professor of New Testament

President of Thirdmill Seminary

Prior to becoming a full-time member of the Third Millennium family, Dr. Perry was on the Third Millennium Board of Directors for 20 years. He also served as a faculty advisor and has been a featured professor on multiple

video series. Greg taught at Christ College Sydney before teaching New Testament and missions at Covenant Theological Seminary from 2003 to 2017. He continues to serve on the adjunct faculty of the Missional Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona. Greg is an ordained minister and earned his M.Div. from Reformed Theological Seminary, his Th.M. from Columbia Seminary, and his Ph.D. in New Testament from Union Seminary in Virginia. He has published several journal articles and reviews. His first book, *The Drama of Discipleship*, was published by Cascade Books in 2022.



Richard L. Pratt, Jr., M.Div., Ph.D., Th.D.

Professor of Old Testament, President and Co-Founder of Third Millennium Ministries

Dr. Pratt taught at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS, and Orlando, FL, for 21 years. He also chaired the Old Testament Department in Orlando. He received a BA from Roanoke College, his M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary, and his Th.D. from Harvard University. Dr. Pratt has traveled extensively throughout the world to evangelize and lecture, including Australia, China, Czech Republic, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and throughout the United States.

Dr. Pratt served as the General Editor for the NIV Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible. Dr. Pratt's books include *Every Thought Captive*, *Pray With Your Eyes Open*, *Designed for Dignity*, and *He Gave Us Stories*, as well as two commentaries: one on *I and II Chronicles* and the other on *I and II Corinthians*. His books have been translated into several languages including Chinese (Mandarin), Russian and Spanish. Dr. Pratt is also a contributor to the Complete Literary Guide to the Bible and has authored numerous journal articles.



Scott Simmons, M. Div.

Director of Instructional Design, English Program

Rev. Simmons serves as Director of Instructional Design for Thirdmill Seminary and Third Millennium Ministries overseeing the development of online courses for our Learning Management System (LMS) from the video lesson series covering biblical and theological studies. Scott has been an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America since 2001. Before coming to Thirdmill, Scott was the Pastor of Missions and Spiritual Formation at Chapelgate Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, MD from 2001 to 2009. While serving in Maryland, Scott also taught several courses at Chesapeake Reformed Theological Seminary: Old Testament Foundations, New Testament Foundations, Systematic Theology, and Biblical Ethics. Scott earned his M.Div. from Reformed Theological Seminary and his B.S. from James Madison University in Geology. Scott's theological interests include hermeneutics, literary approaches to Scripture, and Biblical perspectives on creational stewardship.

Adjunct Faculty and Thirdmill Fellows

Thirdmill Seminary develops professional relationships with adjunct faculty to serve our students in both English and Spanish. This affords us the opportunity to engage the expertise and experience of scholars and other ministry leaders in the wider global church. Thirdmill Fellows donate their time on sabbatical from their primary callings as pastors, faculty or administration of partnering colleges and seminaries, or are seconded to us from partnering mission agencies. Adjunct Faculty and Thirdmill Fellows plan and administrate courses, teach, conduct online tutorials, and engage students on our e-learning platforms through forums, email, video-conferencing tools, and grading. They do not vote as faculty members or serve ongoing administrative, planning or evaluation functions of the faculty, except by invitation where opportunity and expertise converge. Faculty and Fellows are required to sign our basic statement of faith.



David Correa, M.Div., D. Min.

Adjunct Faculty – Spanish Part-time

Dr. David Correa is serving as minister of the Word in the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico. He has been Pastor of the “Jesus” Presbyterian Church in Progreso, Yucatán in Mexico for more than 25 years. He earned a Bachelor of Theology from San Pablo Presbyterian Theological Seminary, a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies, a Master of Divinity Equivalency, and Doctorate of Ministry from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida. He is a professor of Old Testament and Practical Theology at the San Pablo Seminary, and Director and Professor at the Next Mexico Institute for Youth Ministry. He lives in Progreso with his wife Grace Grissel and has 3 children: David, Abner and Joel.



Richard Crane, M.Div.

Adjunct Faculty – Spanish and English

Richard Crane grew up as the son of missionaries in Chile and later, he and his wife Robyn served under the Mission to the World (PCA) in Chile for 23 years. Richard has his M.Div. from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, and his Certificate in Competence in Pastoral Counseling from CCEF (Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation) from Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. He is certified as a Family Therapist from the *Instituto Chileno de Terapia Familiar* in Santiago, Chile.

What has been most rewarding and exciting to them has been their leadership training in Cuba since 2003. The gospel in Cuba is spreading rapidly and the church is in great demand for providing trained leadership and healing of broken families. At present Richard and Robyn are in the process of creating a movement of counselor training at the local church level, and teaching Christian family counseling at a seminary in Cuba.



Manuel Gallardo, M.Th., Ph.D. candidate

Adjunct Faculty – Spanish and English

Manuel Gallardo is a Ph.D. candidate in Systematic Theology at Calvin Theological Seminary. In his background, both the pastoral ministry and the administration of education and theological teaching in Cuba are intertwined. He holds a Master's degree in Theological Education from Kingston, Jamaica, and a Master's degree in Intercultural Reformed Theology from Kampen, Netherlands.



Andrew Halbert, M.Div., Ph.D. candidate

Adjunct Faculty – Spanish and English

Andrew Halbert received his M.Div. at Covenant Seminary and is currently pursuing a PhD in Theological Studies at Columbia Biblical Seminary. His area of study is the use of intertextuality among evangelical scholars. He currently serves as the Pastor of Global and Local Missions at Christ Covenant Church in Knoxville, TN. Previously, he served as a mission in Costa Rica at ESEPA Seminary for over 10 years. During his time at ESEPA, Andrew worked as the Academic Dean for 5 years and then the President for 3 years.



Guillermo Llanos, M.A. Pastoral Leadership

Adjunct Faculty – Spanish and English

Guillermo Llanos has served as a missionary, preacher, teacher and coach for *Las Acacias Evangelical Church* in Caracas, Venezuela. He graduated from the *Universidad Central de Venezuela* with a B.A. in sociology, from *Seminario ESEPA* in San Jose, Costa Rica with a M.A. in Pastoral Leadership, and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Ministry from Kairos University. Professor Llanos is certified in professional coaching and has experience in executive management of Christian organizations focused on leadership, education and technology, consulting, supervision and training in the design and evaluation of social development projects, as well as in regional coordination for the execution of projects for the protection of children and adolescents.



Sebastián Romero, M.Ed., Th.M.

Adjunct Faculty – Spanish Part-time

Rev. Sebastián Romero lives in the beautiful country of Chile where he earned his bachelor degrees in Education in 2007 and Theology in 2010. Due to his interest in educational development, he continued his studies and earned his Master's degree in Education with a specialty in Educational Management from the Metropolitan University of Education Sciences in 2011. He is currently the director of a secondary school in Santiago, Chile. In addition, he is a professor of Old Testament at the José Manuel Ibañez Theological Seminary and at Thirdmill Seminary. Sebastian is presently completing a Master's degree in Theology with a specialty in Old Testament at the Andrew Jumper Postgraduate Center in São Paulo, Brazil. He is co-author of the book "Theological Education in the 21st Century" published by Editorial Kerigma.

Rev. Romero is serving as pastor in the Presbyterian Church of Chile and is currently planting the *Dulce Refugio* (Sweet Refuge) church in the Maipú community, where he lives with his wife Denisse and his son Tomás.



Dr. Gabriela Tijerina-Pike, Ph.D.

Adjunct Faculty – Spanish and English

Dr. Tijerina-Pike earned her Ph.D. from the University of Aberdeen with an emphasis in Exegesis of the New Testament (Lukan Christology). She has served as President of *Seminario Todas Las Naciones* in Mexico and written commentaries for layman and children in Spanish. Dr. Tijerina-Pike is committed to equipping church leaders with Thirdmill Seminary and by serving as Director of Latino/a Ministries at Calvin Theological Seminary. Dr. Tijerina-Pike is married to Sky, who is a researcher and biomolecular scientist teaching at a university in Michigan.



Dr. Gary Waldecker, M.Div., D.Min., E.D.

Adjunct Faculty – Spanish and English

Dr. Waldecker has a Masters of Divinity degree from Covenant Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Ministry in missiology from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and a Doctor of Education from The George Washington University. He was a church planter with Mission to the World in Latin America for 35 years, and has been working with Third Millennium Ministries since 2015. His areas of interest include Biblical theology, the Kingdom of God, culture and personality, apologetics, homiletics, prayer, learning and organizational development. He has published *Future Power Now: Prayer in the Kingdom*, and is about to publish *Covenantal Learning: Becoming an Effective Kingdom Agent*. He has also written a soon-to-be published monograph reframing Myers-Briggs from a Christian perspective. He enjoys woodworking, gardening, and racquetball.

The Role of Assessments in a Seminary for the Third Millennium

Content acquisition and retention is tested objectively with automated, online quizzes that are associated with each part of each lesson. The student's synthetic integration and critical appropriation of course content is developed through note-taking in study guides, peer interaction in discussion forums, and final papers. Ministry skills and increased competency is honed with case studies, collaborative projects, and supervised ministry activities.

Spiritual formation practices of prayer, daily scripture readings, fasting, diaconal service, pastoral visitation and hospitality, regular corporate worship, and evangelism are woven into the course activities.

Rather than preparing for ministry, our approach is training-in-ministry. We believe that biblical and theological education occurs most effectively in the midst of, not separate from, the call to worship and to witness as members of Christ's social body.

Therefore, there is an immediacy to our learning. We aim to form interpretive, relational and implementing skills in ourselves and our students that mimic those same skills in biblical authors who were re-appropriating past promises, covenantal stories, laws, letters and poetry into new generational and cultural contexts.

Indeed, as the gospel broke new cultural ground throughout the history of God's Mission it raised new questions about how to bear God's image, that is, to learn Christ, on that soil and in that moment. In addition to ongoing peer and faculty evaluation of ministry activities, each student will design, implement, reflect and report on a final, integrative capstone ministry project. The student's final evaluation will reflect on ways the ministry activities and capstone project form Christ in the student personally and socially in ways that are faithful to Scripture and fitting to the challenges and opportunities for gospel ministry on the student's local stage.

Credit Hour Policy

We follow the Carnegie hour with 45 hours of activity per credit hour during each eight-week term. We are able to provide the time allocation for all activities in all courses to show how they equal 135 hours for a 3-credit course, 90 hours for a 2-credit course, and 45 hours for a one credit course.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students must maintain an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 to maintain their good standing and eligibility for graduation. Should students fall below a 3.0 GPA, they must meet with their Academic Advisor to develop a plan of study that provides the student with the best possibility of achieving academic success, which may include recommending a reduced course load, taking a term off, or a leave of absence. The faculty will review the student's academic performance and the circumstances of their learning. This may result in a change of the student's status to "academic probation," which must be remediated before a student

can graduate. A student’s failure to restore their good standing by remaining on academic probation for two 8-week terms or more may result in their dismissal from their program by the faculty.

Grade point average (GPA) is calculated by the total number of grade points earned on a 4.0 scale multiplied by the number of course credits to determine the total number of quality points.

Academic Credit Policy

The threshold for academic credit to be awarded is a final course grade of 70% or higher. No credit will be granted for a course grade lower than 70%. If a student does not reach this minimum standard for final course assessments as well as final grades, he or she will have to repeat an assessment and/or the course and achieve a grade of 70% or higher in order to gain the required credit.

Grading Policy

Thirdmill Seminary grades on a 100-point grading scale and is designated with a plus/minus system:

Percentage	Letter Grade	4.0 Scale for GPA	Course work is assessed using a 100-point grading system. Corresponding letter grades indicate A = Excellent, B = Good, C = Satisfactory, D/F = Failing. The minimum passing grade for each course is 70%. Grade point average (GPA) is calculated by the total number of grade points earned on a 4.0 scale divided by the total number of credit hours attempted. For satisfactory academic progress, students must maintain an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. No credit will be granted for a course grade lower than 70%.
95 - 100	A	4.00	
90 - 94.99	A-	3.67	
87 - 89.99	B+	3.33	
84 - 86.99	B	3.00	
80 - 83.99	B-	2.67	
77 - 79.99	C+	2.33	
74 - 76.99	C	2.00	
70 - 73.99	C-	1.67	
67 - 69.99	D+	0	
64 - 66.99	D	0	
60 - 63.99	D-	0	
below 60	F	0	
Incomplete	I	n/a	
Withdrawn	W	n/a	

As was discussed above in Part One about the role of assessments, this grading scale is applied to objective quizzes, mid-term exams, and final exams. Discussion forum posts are graded on the basis of a weighted scale that is posted in the online classroom and here:

- Content Knowledge (35%)
- Critical Engagement (25%). *Note that critical thinking is different from criticism.*
- Communicating Clearly and Effectively (25%)
- Approach to Application (15%)

While we value content and want to validate its transfer, we are just as interested in assessing how students use knowledge in their personal lives and ministry.

Assessments which require students to analyze, synthesize, and prioritize the material such as research papers, exegetical papers, or ministry projects are graded with the use of rubrics. These rubrics are introduced and explained in faculty tutorials and posted in the online classroom.

All quizzes, tests, discussion forum posts, and other assessments have clear due dates that are printed in the class syllabus and posted in the online classroom. Students are expected to meet those deadlines. If unforeseen circumstances occur, students may submit a request for an extension to their professor who will evaluate their request and respond with a decision.

Incomplete Grade

If a student experiences unforeseen, life-disrupting circumstances, they may apply for an “Incomplete” grade with their professor and the Dean of their program. If granted, an “incomplete” grade allows a student to submit unfinished work at a deadline set by the professor and Dean. To seek permission, the student must obtain and use the form provided by the Registrar and send it with an email to their professor and Dean. The professor and Dean will notify the student and Registrar of their decision in writing within a week of their receipt of the student’s request for permission.

Please note that granting a request for a grade of “incomplete” is rare. Because our Seminary operates on 8-week academic terms with one to two weeks between terms, the maximum timeframe for completing and grading incomplete course work is four weeks. This is in the interest of both the student and our faculty, who must manage work from prior and current terms simultaneously in rare cases where an “incomplete” is granted.

Withdrawal Policy

A student may withdraw from a course with no impact on their GPA after the Add/Drop date. To withdraw from a course, students must inform the Registrar. If a student withdraws during Week 1 (up to 11:59pm ET on Sunday of the first week), the student will be refunded 100% of the assessment fees paid, not including the application fee and book costs incurred by the student. If the student withdraws during Weeks 2-8, refunds will be applied in accordance with the Refund Policy.

Grading Policy for Late Work

Some work, like quizzes and exams, cannot be submitted late without special permission, requested and granted, ahead of time. Work submitted past the deadline will be penalized 2 points per day (except Sundays). No work will be accepted in a class after the last day of the academic period, unless an “incomplete” has been requested and granted.

2-point penalty for each day late	8 days late	-16 points
2 days late -4 points	10 days late	-20 points
4 days late -8 points	12 days late	-24 points
6 days late -12 points	14 days late	-28 points

Programs of Study

1. Graduate Certificate – 18 credits
2. Master of Arts in Christian Studies – 52 credits

Course Requirements

Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies

This 18-credit certificate requires admission into and completion of the program under the supervision of faculty and with the encouragement of fellow students and mentors. The Graduate Certificate is designed to provide a substantial introduction to Christian Scripture (the Old and New Testaments), the most important resource for sustainable ministry. After completion, students may continue their studies with all credits of the Certificate applied towards the completion of a 52-credit MA in Christian Studies.

Course Requirements for Graduate Certificate

BIB501	2 Credits	Kingdom, Covenants and Canon of the Old Testament
BIB502	2 Credits	Kingdom and Covenant in the New Testament
BIB515	3 Credits	He Gave Us Scripture, Part 1
BIB516	3 Credits	He Gave Us Scripture, Part 2

Electives: 8 Credits chosen by the student

Total Credit Hours: 18

Master of Arts in Christian Studies

The master's program is designed to provide foundational resources for a sustainable Christian ministry by engaging the biblical story, building a theological framework for ministry, and forming disciples of Christ.

Course Requirements for Master of Arts – 52 credits

20 Credit Hours - Engaging the Biblical Story as a Subject of God's Reign

BIB501	2 Credits	Kingdom, Covenants and Canon of the OT
BIB502	2 Credits	Kingdom and Covenant in the NT
BIB503	3 Credits	The Pentateuch, Part 1
BIB517	3 Credits	The Pentateuch, Part 2
BIB505	3 Credits	The Gospels
BIB504	2 Credits	The Book of Acts
BIB513	3 Credits	He Gave Us Prophets
BIB514	2 Credits	The Heart of Paul's Theology

17 Credit Hours - Building a Theological Framework for Ministry

THE501	2 Credits	Building Your Theology
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THE502	3 Credits	The Apostles' Creed
THE508	2 Credits	We Believe in God
THE509	3 Credits	We Believe in Jesus
THE505	2 Credits	We Believe in the Holy Spirit
THE510	3 Credits	What is Man?
THE511	2 Credits	Your Kingdom Come: Eschatology

15 Credit Hours - Forming Disciples of Christ in Ministry

BIB515	3 Credits	He Gave Us Scripture, Part 1
BIB516	3 Credits	He Gave Us Scripture, Part 2
THE513	3 Credits	Making Biblical Decisions
MIS501	1 Credit	Discipleship Practicum in Worship
MIS502	1 Credit	Discipleship Practicum in Nurture
MIS503	1 Credit	Discipleship Practicum in Outreach
MIS603	3 Credits	Capstone Portfolio and Project

52 Total Credit Hours: Master of Arts in Christian Studies

Student Fees

All payments are made in USD

\$20 Application Fee

\$150 Student Assessment Fee per Credit hour

\$2,700 Total Student Fees for the Graduate Certificate* (18 credit hours)

\$7,800 Total Student Fees for the Masters in Christian Studies* (52 credit hours)

** Our pay-as-you go policy means students pay course fees per term.*

** Cost-of-living discounts by country of residence are applied automatically.*

** The cost for required books is additional and averages between \$30 - \$50 per course or \$300 - \$500 per academic year for full-time students.*

Time to complete the Program

Students who take up to six credits per term can complete the program in 2 years and students who take up to four credits per term can complete the program in 4 years.

Course Descriptions

Christian Theology

The Apostles' Creed (THE502 – 3 credit hours)

There are many denominations, divisions and theological disputes in the modern church. Despite these types of disunity, there is a common core of belief that all faithful Christians have affirmed throughout history. For almost two millennia, this doctrinal core has been summarized in the Apostles' Creed. This course explains the history and use of the Apostles' Creed, as well

as the details and significance of each of its twelve articles of faith. Utilizing the lecture series, *The Apostles' Creed*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries, this course integrates graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to explore the connection between the Bible and theology, and the usefulness of doctrinal summaries for discipleship today.

Building Your Theology (THE501 - 2 credit hours)

For many, theology seems complicated, dry, abstract, and disconnected from the practices of everyday life. This spiritual dryness indicates a lack of spiritual health, and a way of practicing theology that misses the mark of its true aim—applying Scripture to all of life. As an introduction to theological method, this course will help you build your theology on the sure foundation of Scripture for the purpose of forming the mind, affections, and practices of a follower of Jesus Christ. Based on the lecture series, *Building Your Theology*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and presented by Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr, this course employs graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials and engagement with a local mentor to explore resources for doing theology from general and special revelation with the aim of equipping local churches for its mission of discipling the nations.

We Believe in the Holy Spirit (THE505 – 2 credit hours)

Practically speaking, the Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity who is most involved in the daily lives of Christians and the practical ministry of congregations. But many Christians know far more about the Father and the Son than they do about the Holy Spirit. In this course, students will discover how different traditions in the Church emphasize various dimensions of the Spirit's work in creation and redemption. Utilizing the lecture series, *We Believe in the Holy Spirit*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Ramesh Richard, this course requires graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to explore the Spirit's dynamic work in the world, in the church, and in the lives of individual believers.

We Believe in God (THE508 – 2 credit hours)

This course briefly surveys what theologians call theology proper or the doctrine of God. It deals with questions such as: Who is God? What are his attributes? What is his eternal plan? What are God's works in history? At the most fundamental level, the Scriptures were given to teach us about who God is and what he has done for us. In fact, knowing God is essential for us to understand ourselves and our world. Based on the lecture series, *We Believe in God*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Rev. Dr. Thurman Williams, this course employs graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to explore the being, attributes, and actions of the Triune God.

We Believe in Jesus (THE509 - 3 credit hours)

This course investigates the biblical accounts about Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah of Israel and Lord of all. The canonical witness of the prophets and apostles provides the core content translated, interpreted, summarized, and developed in the doctrine of Christology. In this course, students will see how the teachings of Scripture about Christ have been applied as the

gospel has entered new cultures and as its peoples have raised new questions about Christ and his kingdom. Employing the lecture series, *We Believe in Jesus*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Dan Doriani, this course requires graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to understand and apply the three offices of Christ in local ministry. How does Christ continue to reign as King, intercede as Priest, and speak as Prophet?

What is Man? (THE510 – 3 credit hours)

This course is an introduction to theological anthropology - the doctrine of humanity. In every culture throughout history, people have asked fundamental questions of human identity and vocation: “Who are we? Why are we here? What went wrong? How can we heal and flourish?” The Bible tells us that human beings, both male and female, are God’s images, created to rule over and care for creation on God’s behalf. Though sin has defaced and deformed humankind, diminishing our identity and compromising our vocation, God sent Christ, his Son and True Image to restore us to our true selves and work. This course combines the lecture series, *What is Man?*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Gregory R. Perry, with graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to explore these fundamental questions of human identity and vocation.

Your Kingdom Come: Eschatology (THE511 – 2 credit hours)

The topic of eschatology, or the end of history, has fascinated people for centuries. What does the Bible say about the goal of history? How have various branches of the global church described the Day of the Lord and the Millennium? In this course, students examine what the Scriptures teach about the last days, including a variety of challenging topics, such as the general resurrection, the final judgment, and the consummation of Christ’s messianic kingdom in the new heavens and new earth. Incorporating the lecture series, *Your Kingdom Come: The Doctrine of Eschatology*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Matt Friedman, this course requires graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to understand and apply eschatology to Christian missions and ethics.

Old Testament

Kingdom, Covenants & Canon of the Old Testament (BIB501 – 2 credit hours)

This course gives a brief survey of the Old Testament, examining the themes of kingdom, covenants, and canon. Students learn that the Old Testament is not a random amalgam of episodes, genealogies and prophetic tidbits. Instead, it is unified around the central theme of the kingdom of God which was administered through covenants and applied to life through the Old Testament as a “canon,” or rule of life in covenant with Israel’s God. This course, based on the lecture series, *Kingdom, Covenant, & Canon of the Old Testament*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and presented by Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr., requires graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to

understand and apply the covenantal structure and patterns of the Old Testament canon to life and ministry in the new covenant.

The Pentateuch, Part 1 (BIB503 – 3 credit hours)

The first five books of the Old Testament are commonly called the Pentateuch or Torah. They tell the story of the nation of Israel from creation to their preparation to enter the land of Canaan. But the Pentateuch is much more than a historical account of Israel's origins. It is the collection of covenant documents that defines the character and vocation of God's covenant people. This first half of our study focuses on the Book of Genesis and situates its original significance in relation to its first hearers, the Exodus community. Based on the lecture series *The Pentateuch*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Scott Redd, this course engages critical and evangelical scholars about the origin of the Pentateuch. It requires graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to understand and communicate the aims of the Book of Genesis to shape the identity and vocation of ancient Israel.

The Pentateuch, Part 2 (BIB517 – 3 credit hours)

The first five books of the Old Testament are commonly called the Pentateuch or Torah. They tell the story of the nation of Israel from creation to their preparation to enter the land of Canaan. This second half of our study examines the formative redemptive event of the Exodus and the giving of the covenant at Sinai to constitute Israel as a nation under Yahweh. This course, based on the lecture series *The Pentateuch*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Scott Redd, requires graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to understand how God's covenant with Israel at Sinai echoes ancient near eastern covenants to form a nation with a peculiar vocation to reveal the wisdom, justice, and mercy of her God to the surrounding nations. [Pre-requisite: BIB503: The Pentateuch, Part 1]

He Gave Us Prophets (BIB513 – 3 credit hours)

Many Christians are intrigued by biblical predictions but at a loss when it comes to understanding them. Feeling overwhelmed by their complicated history and literature, we often disregard them altogether. When we understand the prophets' motivations and methods, we are better equipped to discover the significance of their words for today. Integrating the lecture series, *He Gave Us Prophets*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and presented by Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr., this course requires graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to dispel common misunderstandings about the prophets, provide guidelines for interpreting biblical prophecy, and, cultivate confidence in students for their ongoing study and appropriation of the prophetic literature in their Christian life and ministry.

New Testament

Kingdom and Covenant in the New Testament (BIB502 – 2 credit hours)

Have you ever wondered why the New Testament gives so much attention to the Kingdom of God, its threefold framework of inauguration, continuation, and consummation or how this framework relates to the New Covenant in Christ? This course explores these fundamental features of the New Testament by examining where they originated and what they mean for us today. Integrating the lecture series, *Kingdom & Covenant in the New Testament*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Simon Vibert, this course requires graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to examine continuities and discontinuities between the older and new covenants, and to build a strong foundation for understanding the goal of the biblical story and how it provides the framework for ministry.

The Gospels (BIB505 – 3 credit hours)

The four gospels are key books of the Bible, since they narrate the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Indeed, Jonathan Pennington has described the Gospels as ‘a canon within the canon,’ the climax of the Bible’s redemptive drama. Each evangelist offers a unique perspective with some shared and some unique communicative aims for describing the life of Christ to their original audience(s). This course examines those aims and explains the historical background, literary structure, main contents, and major themes of each gospel. Integrating the lecture series, *The Gospels*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Pete Alwinson, this course requires graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to study the life of Jesus and his proclamation and practices of the reign of God. These are demonstrated in four unique perspectives. Students will consider how Jesus himself used parables and symbolic actions not only to reveal his identity as Christ, the Son of God, but also to train his followers how to participate as citizens in the kingdom of God.

The Book of Acts (BIB504 – 2 credit hours)

The Acts of the Apostles is the second volume in Luke’s two-volume account of the arrival of the reign of Israel’s God in Jesus, the Son of David, and its extension through Jesus’ witnesses to the ends of the earth. This study of Acts focuses on how Luke’s narrative shaped early Christian identity and mission in the wake of “the Way’s” rupture with the synagogue and its relationship to the rival claims of other gods and lords in the Mediterranean culture(s) of the first century. How, then, does the Book of Acts continue to shape the Church’s worship and witness to Christ and His Kingdom among the nations? Utilizing the lecture series, *The Book of Acts*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and presented by Dr. Hans F. Bayer, this course employs graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to understand and apply the Book of Acts in the worship and witness of local congregations.

The Heart of Paul’s Theology (BIB514 – 2 credit hours)

Paul passionately proclaimed the good news of individual salvation in Jesus Christ, but this wasn’t the heart or scope of his gospel. According to Paul, salvation is not primarily about individuals being saved; rather, it is the triumph of God over evil and the reality of Christ’s kingdom taking root in communities of renewed image-bearers amidst all nations. This course

unpacks Paul's missional hermeneutic and missionary method. By studying Paul's letters to the Galatian, Thessalonian, and Corinthian churches, you will gain a deeper understanding of the kingdom of God and rejoice in Christ's plans for his people and his world. Based on the lecture series, *The Heart of Paul's Theology*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and presented by Dr. Reggie M. Kidd, this course employs graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty input and oversight with local mentor engagement to explore the message, missionary methods and church-forming mission of the Apostle Paul.

Pastoral Theology

He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation, Part 1 (BIB515 – 3 credit hours)

Evangelical Christians affirm the Scriptures as God's infallible and authoritative Word, but many still disagree over the meaning of particular passages. One reason for these disagreements is the different approaches to interpreting the Bible. But how do we know which approach is the most responsible, respecting the nature of the text and its communicative aims? Incorporating the lecture series, *He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr., Part One of Foundations of Interpretation employs graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to cultivate an approach to Scripture and practices of investigation which respect its divine origin, yet human authorship, by exploring the historical background, literary shape, and theological themes of the text.

He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation, Part 2 (BIB516 – 3 credit hours)

Incorporating the lecture series, *He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr., Part Two of Foundations of Interpretation employs graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to build on the student's approach to and investigation of the text's historical background, literary shape, and theological themes by practicing how to summarize the concepts, behaviors, and affections that are featured or implied in the text, and how to discern whether they were intended to be mimicked or avoided by readers. Students will then practice how to responsibly apply these concepts, behaviors, and affections to themselves and those they are discipling.

[Pre-requisite: BIB515: He Gave Us Scripture, Part 1]

Making Biblical Decisions (THE513 – 3 credit hours)

Christian morality has always been challenged and rejected by unbelievers, but today even many believers have lost their moral footing. Moreover, believers who want to live ethically are frequently confused by the complexities of ethical decisions. Based on the lecture series, *Making Biblical Decisions*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and presented by Dr. John M. Frame, this course incorporates graduate level readings, spiritual formation activities, faculty tutorials, and engagement with a local mentor to build on both parts of the Foundations of Interpretation series. We cultivate biblical wisdom by studying the Bible's own system of

covenantal ethics, and learning to apply its evaluative framework and practices to approach present challenges, temptations, and problems in ways that lead to biblical solutions.

Discipleship Practicums and Capstone

The Discipleship Practicums are divided into the three primary aspects of congregational life in the Christian church: worship, nurture and outreach. These are integrated both theologically and practically and flow into each student's final Capstone Project. Each practicum interfaces with the student's ministry in their local congregation and requires field supervision by their local pastors and mentors in ministry. Put simply, each of our practicums have three interdependent elements—ministry practice, theological reflection on practice, and ministry supervision—with one aim: the formation of pastoral identity and ministry skills.

Discipleship Practicum: Worship (MIS501 – 1 credit hour)

This practicum explores the scriptural elements of Christian worship, the history of its theological development, and its practice in a variety of cultural contexts. While the ministry of Word and Sacrament lies at its core, corporate worship reenacts the Gospel in other ways as well, including confession of sin and assurance of pardon, and our offer of ourselves, our gifts, both spiritual and material, and our praises and prayers back to God. This course uses graduate level readings, discussion forums, faculty tutorials, mentor meetings, and ministry activities to provide you with opportunities to worship God in different contexts and to reflect on practices of worship through the lens of Scripture, theology, and the history of the Christian mission where you serve.

Discipleship Practicum: Nurture (MIS502 – 1 credit hour)

This practicum develops your ministry practices of spiritual care, taking into account the emotional dimension of ministry, which is often omitted in traditional discipleship programs. The gospel changes our whole being, including our emotions. This course uses graduate level readings, discussion forums, faculty tutorials, mentor meetings, and ministry activities to cultivate an emotionally healthy spirituality that is consistent with the teachings and practices of Jesus. This course is not intended to treat issues of pastoral care exhaustively but aims at an understanding of how transformation occurs through the Spirit's work in each of us through the means of grace.

Discipleship Practicum: Outreach (MIS503 – 1 credit hour)

This practicum is divided into two parts: 1) congregational practices of outreach, and 2) congregational structures of outreach. The structures of outreach support and extend the practices of outreach to a congregation's neighbors locally and to the nations globally. These practices and structures are the focus of the Church's mission to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19). Through graduate level readings, discussion forums, outreach activities, faculty tutorials, and mentor meetings, students are provided an evaluative framework for congregational outreach, and opportunities for direct participation.

The Capstone Portfolio and Project (MIS603 – 3 credit hours)

This cumulative assessment is designed in two parts: the Portfolio and the Project. The Portfolio requires you to revisit earlier assessments that were designed to demonstrate mastery of one of five program learning outcomes, each of which is tied to a key resource for sustainable ministry. The Project celebrates your learning by applying your findings to your current or future ministry in the form of a philosophy of ministry and strategic plan. The fifth resource for sustainable ministry is your own sense of your pastoral identity, ministry calling, spiritual gifts, personal wounds and weaknesses. Your Capstone Project appropriates the other four resources—Scripture, Theology, Discipleship Practices in the Church, and the cultural resources of your local context—through your own awareness of your pastoral identity, calling, gifts, and weaknesses. This depth of self-awareness only comes through consistent appropriation of the other resources in ongoing relation to a mentor, spiritual director, or other ministry colleague, who will encourage you, pray for you, and tell you the truth in love.

Elective Options

Christian Counseling (MIS504) - 3 credits / Elective

Books written on Christian counseling generally describe “what” it is without showing us “how” to counsel. This course relies heavily on the book “Skills for Effective Counseling” written by Elisabeth A. Nesbit Sbanotto, Heather Davediuk Gingrich, and Fred C. Gingrich, who have decades of professional experience. They show us how they do it. Recognizing the limitations of training in counseling through the internet, we will learn and practice the "micro skills" necessary to effectively counsel people. Some of the topics that we will deal with are: the counselor as an instrument; how do I perceive the counselee and how do they perceive me?; how do I develop the ability to accurately interpret what the counselee communicates to me?; how can I manage emotions and develop deep empathy? All of these questions will be considered from a faith-based integration perspective.

This elective may replace the Spiritual Nurture Practicum.

Defending the Faith (MIS505) - 3 credits / Elective

Sometimes Christians tend to shy away from the world, living in a "spiritual bubble" where it feels more comfortable and secure. Sometimes we aren't sure how to articulate our faith or relate it to current issues, because we have our own questions and doubts. We find it difficult to share our faith with people who have left the church because of difficulties or hurts. But studies show that a large majority of the “dechurched” remain spiritually interested or curious. How do we engage their questions and invite them back?

This course guides students to take their own doubts seriously and to develop Christian practices of inquiry in order to better understand non-believers and become more confident in addressing their honest questions. In a word, the student will be more confident of God’s care for and involvement with the people and pain of the world, and better able to bear witness to it.

This elective may replace the Outreach Practicum.

Evangelism and Church Planting (MIS509) – 2 Credits / Elective

This course encourages and trains students to share the gospel and to plant new churches. It presents the principles, steps, and different models for developing healthy churches and guides the students through the process of preparing their own plans for starting a new church.

Greek and Exegesis (BIB525) – 3 Credits / Elective

This course teaches the fundamentals of Greek morphology and grammar as well as the steps of New Testament exegesis. It explains how to use linguistic tools, including software programs. It includes Power Point presentations with pronunciation of Greek vocabulary and exercises in grammar. As students progress, they do their own exegesis of a New Testament passage and prepare a summary of their findings in preparation for preaching or teaching.

Teaching and Preaching (MIS507) - 3 credits / Elective

This course enables the student to teach and preach the Word of God. It teaches biblical, theological and practical guidelines for these activities. The first half of the course focuses on teaching and learning together from Scripture with a focus on interaction in small groups. The second half of the course focuses on the preparation and delivery of sermons in corporate worship. *This elective may replace the Worship Practicum.*

Vocational Discipleship: Following Christ in our Work - (MIS510) – 2 Credits / Elective

The Law and the Prophets speak directly to Israel's relationship to the land and other means of production; to the just valuation of the products of their labor; to fair wages for workers; and, to the dignified treatment of vulnerable members of society. Indeed, the scriptures of the Old and New Testament support Martin Luther's claim that God does his work through the work of people to provide for humankind's needs.

However, the Bible also testifies to the effects of sin on people's work, creating inequities; damaging relations; even causing injury and death. However, Christ's work of redemption created a new way for humans to work and create as God originally intended. While pastors and other Christian leaders are not necessarily experts in the many aspects of human labor, they are called to train God's people to work in faith, to do everything as unto the Lord. This course is designed to provide perspectives and practices for this work of vocational discipleship.

Program Outcomes

Master of Arts in Christian Studies

As outlined in our description of the Capstone Portfolio and Project, each student in the Master's program will revisit the mastery assessments from prior courses, which are associated with each of five learning outcomes:

Outcome 1: Summarize the covenantal structure of Scripture and explain its primary purposes to reveal God's redemptive plan for the world and to equip God's people as ambassadors of Christ's kingdom.

Mastery Assessment: BIB501 *Kingdom, Covenants, and Canon of the Old Testament*, Final Exam and Final Paper, and Capstone.

Outcome 2: Display skillful exegesis and communication skills by selecting appropriate biblical texts and interpreting them clearly for more than one audience.

Mastery Assessment: BIB516 *He Gave Us Scripture 2*, Exegetical Paper and Capstone

Outcome 3: Create a spiritual and ministry formation plan that cultivates spiritual growth in order to steward the Spirit's gifts for equipping the church.

Mastery Assessment: THE505 *We Believe in the Holy Spirit*, Spiritual Formation Plan, and Capstone

Outcome 4: Analyze and evaluate summaries of biblical teaching and formulate new orthodox summaries for the worship and witness of the local church.

Mastery Assessment: THE513 *Making Biblical Decisions*, Final Exam, Final Paper, and Capstone

Outcome 5: Design ministry activities that are faithful to God's Word and fitting for their local context in order to cultivate the Church's mission to bear witness to Christ in ministries of word and deed.

Mastery Assessment: BIB504 *The Book of Acts*, Contextualization Assignment, Final Exam, MIS603 Outreach Practicum Project, and Capstone

Graduate Certificate

The Graduate Certificate is designed to address only the first and second learning outcomes, and does not require a Capstone project and portfolio.

Outcome 1: Summarize the covenantal structure of Scripture and explain its primary purposes to reveal God's redemptive plan for the world and to equip God's people as ambassadors of Christ's kingdom.

Mastery Assessment: BIB501 *Kingdom, Covenants, and Canon of the Old Testament*, Final Exam and Final Paper

Outcome 2: Display skillful exegesis and communication skills by selecting appropriate biblical texts and interpreting them clearly for more than one audience.

Mastery Assessment: BIB516 *He Gave Us Scripture 2*, Exegetical Paper

As listed above, each of the program learning outcomes is linked with a key resource for sustainable ministry: Scripture, Theology, Christian Discipleship Practices in the Church, the Local Ministry Context, and, finally, the Pastoral Identity, Ministry Calling, Spiritual Gifts, Personal Wounds and Weaknesses of the Student. This final resource is, of course, rooted in a depth of self-awareness that only comes through consistent appropriation of the other resources, including mentoring and/or spiritual care and counseling.

Graduation Requirements

Students who are enrolled in the Graduate Certificate Program are required to complete a total of 18 credits, including:

BIB501	2 Credits	Kingdom, Covenants and Canon of the Old Testament
BIB502	2 Credits	Kingdom and Covenant in the New Testament
BIB515	3 Credits	He Gave Us Scripture, Part 1
BIB516	3 Credits	He Gave Us Scripture, Part 2

Plus 8 credit hours of electives chosen by the student.

In order to complete these credits satisfactorily and graduate, the student must maintain an overall grade point average of 3.0 or better, and be in good academic standing during the term in which they graduate. The Graduate Certificate Program focuses on the first and most important resource for sustainable ministry—Scripture. *The Certificate is designed to address only the first and second learning outcomes articulated above.* It does not require the completion of any of the practicums (though they can be taken for elective credit) nor the Capstone Portfolio and Project. Students in the Certificate Program may not enroll in the Capstone course.

Students who are enrolled in the Master of Arts Program are required to complete 52 credit hours that include the Discipleship Practicums and the Capstone Portfolio and Project. In order to complete these credits satisfactorily and graduate, the student must maintain an overall grade point average of 3.0 or better, and be in good academic standing during the term in which they graduate. The Master of Arts Program focuses on all five learning outcomes articulated above.

In order to graduate, all students in every program must complete an application for graduation during the pre-registration process for the term in which they intend to graduate. The student will submit their application for graduation to the Director of Administration along with their enrollment agreement. The Director of Administration will work with the Registrar and Dean of the program to complete the student's graduation checklist before granting the student permission to graduate. The student affirms a checklist as follows:

- I have an overall GPA of 3.0 or better and am currently in good academic standing.

- ❑ I have fulfilled enough requirements of my degree or certificate program, that I am enrolling in the courses that will complete those requirements in the next term.
- ❑ My financial account is current.
- ❑ If in the Master's program, I have completed all practicums and am, therefore, registering for the Capstone Portfolio and Project course.
- ❑ I have met with an academic advisor who has reviewed my Student Record and provided his or her signature below.
- ❑ I have completed and signed the Graduation Application.
- ❑ After meeting with my Academic Advisor, I will submit my Enrollment Agreement that includes my graduation fee and course fee for the term.

The Dean and/ or Academic will meet with each student preparing to graduate and inform the student no later than 10 business days after receiving the student's application for graduation whether or not permission has been granted. If permission has not been granted, the Director of Administration will inform the student what items remain to be completed on their graduation checklist.

Part Two - Operational Policies

Our Administrative Staff

Dr. Greg Perry, President

gperry@thirdmillseminary.org

Dr. Robert Brumley, Academic Dean of English Program

bbrumley@thirdmillseminary.org

Dr. Jeff David, Academic Dean of Spanish Program

j david@thirdmillseminary.org

Dr. Chris Hatch, Director of Partnership Development

chatch@thirdmillseminary.org

Darlene Perry, Director of Administration / Acting Registrar

dperry@thirdmillseminary.org

Rosalía Sanchez, Registrar & Director of Instructional Design (Spanish)

rsanchez@thirdmillseminary.org

Scott Simmons, Director of Instructional Design (English)

ssimmons@thirdmillseminary.org

Thirdmill Seminary Faculty

Spanish

David Correa, D.Min.

Richard Crane, M.Div.

Jeff David, D.Min.

Manuel Gallardo, Ph.D. Candidate

Andrew Halbert, Ph.D. Candidate

Guillermo Llanos, M.A.

Sebastián Romero Orellana, M.A.

Gabriela Tijerina-Pike, Ph.D.

Gary Waldecker, D.Min., Ed.D.

English

Bob Brumley, Ph.D.

Richard Crane, M.Div.

Jeff David, D.Min.

Manuel Gallardo, Ph.D. candidate

Andrew Halbert, Ph.D. Candidate

J. Christopher Hatch, Ph.D.

Ra McLaughlin, M. Div.

Andrew Parlee, Ph.D.

Gregory R. Perry, Ph.D.

Richard Pratt, Jr. Th.D.

Scott Simmons, M.Div.

Gabriela Tijerina-Pike, Ph.D.

Gary Waldecker, D.Min, Ed.D.

Hours of Operation

Monday–Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: Closed

Eastern Standard Time

Our Board of Directors

Rev. Will Savell

Chairman – President and Founder, The Grace Institute, Memphis, TN

Dr. Mark Hill

Member – Ophthalmologist, Gadsden, AL

Rev. J. Edward Norton

Treasurer – Associate Pastor at Independent Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN

Rev. Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr.

Secretary – Co-Founder and President of Third Millennium Ministries, Orlando, FL

Rev. Dr. Gregory R. Perry, *ex officio*

President of Thirdmill Seminary, Orlando, FL

Legal Authorization and Accreditation

Under Florida Statute 1005.06 (1)(f), Seminary for the Third Millennium doing business as Thirdmill Seminary is authorized by the Florida Department of Education to operate as an institution of higher learning. Seminary for the Third Millennium is a 501c3 non-profit corporation under Federal law and a registered non-profit with the Florida Department of State's Division of Corporations.

Thirdmill Seminary is accredited by [DEAC](#), the Distance Education Accrediting Commission. We offer a curriculum that is also used by accredited partners in the United States, United Kingdom, Southeast Asia, and Africa.



Student Fees and Total Program Cost

Because access to a deep engagement with the Bible and sound theology is one of the greatest needs for church leaders, and cost is one of the most prohibitive barriers to access, Thirdmill Seminary is committed to keeping costs affordable for its students. Since our curriculum is powered, in part, by Thirdmill's video lesson series, we do not charge students for access to content. Instead, we charge students assessment fees for the services of our credentialed faculty who provide expertise, supervision, and evaluation for each major assessment related to each hour of academic credit. In the United States, our assessment fee is \$150 USD per credit hour.

The total cost of our 18-credit Graduate Certificate Program is \$2,820 USD, which includes an application fee of \$20 and a graduation fee of \$100. The cost of books required for your courses is not included and averages between \$30 - \$50 per course.

The total cost of our 52-credit Master of Arts program is \$7,920 USD, which includes an application fee of \$20 and a graduation fee of \$100. The cost for required books is additional and averages between \$30 - \$50 per course.

Admissions Policy

Thirdmill Seminary accepts academically qualified applicants, who are recommended by their pastor or other spiritual mentor as possessing a credible profession of faith in Jesus Christ, gifts from the Holy Spirit, and mature Christian character for servant-leadership in Christ's church. Because our mission is to provide affordable access to sound theological and biblical training, we admit all qualified applicants. Admission is based on demonstrated academic ability, demonstrated ministry skills and mentor support in a local ministry context for the challenges of graduate level learning.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Thirdmill Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation in the administration of admissions and educational policies, scholarships, and programs.

Application Requirements

Applications are due no later than 4 weeks prior to the beginning of each 8-week term. All relevant dates for the application and enrollment process are announced below (see ***Error! Reference source not found.***) and listed on our [website](#). The required elements of a complete application folder in order for an application to be considered by our admissions committee are as follows:

Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies

- Completed application form and payment of application fee
- Pastor or Mentor Recommendation Form
- Bachelor's degree
- Official Transcript(s) from bachelor's degree program(s)
- Government issued identification with photo

Master of Arts in Christian Studies

- Completed application form and payment of application fee
- Pastor or Mentor Recommendation Form
- Bachelor's degree
- Official Transcript(s) from bachelor's degree program(s)
- Government issued identification with photo

Identity Verification

Each student submits a current government ID with photo as part of the application. We do not consider the application until the ID is received. Our Director of Administration or Registrar reviews the ID to be current and matches the student's name on the application and other supporting documents. Their correct email address is matched to their application and these must be verified in order to be issued credentials for their online accounts.

Each new student has a profile created in Moodle. The profile includes name, personal email, city and country. Each student has a personal ID number. For security in the classroom and student information system, the student is required to customize their own login credentials.

The classroom and exam can only be accessed with online credentials and identification requirement that match the student's application information. Cameras record all Faculty tutorials and activities. Assessment activities are varied. Professors learn the students' appearance, voice, and writing style. Students also meet regularly with a mentor.

Once all application materials have been received, applicant files are reviewed and processed within two weeks. Thirdmill Seminary may request additional information as part of the application process. Applicants will be notified in writing immediately following their file review. In the event that admission is not granted, the admissions committee reserves the right to withhold specific reasons from applicants. For answers to your questions, contact our

student services department by emailing admissions@thirdmillseminary.org or by calling our Director of Administration at 407-755-4970.

Language Proficiency

Each applicant must demonstrate proficiency in the language of the program to which they are applying. If the applicant is not a native speaker, their writing samples on the application do not exhibit proficiency, and/or their undergraduate degree is not in the language of the program to which they are applying, the Admissions Committee may request that the applicant take a language proficiency test. If requested, the applicant must bear any cost to access and take the proficiency test. Applicants must score in the B-2 range on the *CEFR Global Scale* (English or Spanish) in order to have their application considered.

Policies

[Acceptance of Transfer Credit Disclosure Statement](#)

Transferring Credit from another Institution

A maximum of twenty (20) credit hours may qualify for transfer credit into the Master's program. Review the credit transfer application form and course upgrade policy in the Catalog. To apply for transfer credit, fill out the credit transfer application form and submit it to your program dean for consideration by the curriculum committee.

Transferring Credit to another Institution

Transfer of credits to another institution cannot be guaranteed because it is always determined by the receiving institution.

[Audit Policy](#)

Students who choose to audit Thirdmill Seminary classes will be limited in number to 25% of total class participants. They must pay the auditor fee which equals one credit hour. Auditors must submit a government issued ID to verify their citizenship for any discount, if applicable.

Auditors will be identified for faculty by the registrar with a category designation "auditor" or an abbreviation in the online classroom. Auditors must watch the video lectures and do the online quizzes related to those lectures in order to demonstrate that they have viewed the lectures. These multiple-choice quizzes are graded automatically, not by faculty.

Auditors may attend the faculty tutorials and participate in the discussion forums, but they must yield the floor to students who are enrolled in the course for credit, and their forum answers will not be graded by the faculty. Meeting with a mentor is optional and purchase of books is recommended but not required. *Auditors receive no academic credit for the course.*

[Audit Request Form](#)

An audit student eligible for a degree program may change from Audit to Credit by submitting a request to the professor who, upon approval, notifies the Registrar and Administrator. This request must be made within the first 7 days of the course. When the student has successfully completed the course and paid the appropriate assessment fee, he/she will receive a grade and earned credit.

A student who wishes to change status from a for-credit course to Audit status may do by submitting a request to the professor who, upon approval, notifies the Registrar and Administrator of the effective date. Payment will be adjusted to the audit fee for the course. The Audit fee is one credit hour. Any refunds, if possible, will follow the existing Refund Policy.

[Cancellation Policy](#)

Students who cancel their enrollment within 7 days of signing the enrollment agreement will receive a full refund of any assessment fees paid to the Seminary. In order to communicate the cancellation, a student will notify the Registrar and/or their professor in writing by email.

[Code of Conduct](#)

Academic Integrity

As part of our mission to equip Christian leaders, we expect godly integrity in the academic work you do at Thirdmill Seminary. At the heart of this integrity is a commitment to accurately represent yourself and your work to others.

First, we expect members of our learning community to follow the rules under which quizzes, exams, papers, and projects are to be completed and submitted for academic credit. This includes a commitment to do your own work.

Second, we expect students to give credit to others for their ideas by documenting them appropriately in written and oral presentations. Both cheating and plagiarism are violations of the ninth commandment, which forbids bearing false witness. According to Miriam-Webster's dictionary, plagiarism is, "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source [... or] to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source."

The first violation of this academic honesty standard may result in failure of the assignment or test question and could, depending on the assignment, result in failure of the class. A second violation of this standard will result in a review by the Curriculum Committee of the faculty and possible dismissal from the institution. The student has the right to appeal the Committee's decision via a letter submitted to the Academic Dean of their program. The Dean will bring the appeal to the Executive Committee of the faculty for consideration and action.

Christian Sexual Ethics

Thirdmill Seminary does not discriminate in its admission of students on the basis of race, ethnic heritage, gender or sexual orientation. In keeping with Scripture's description of human beings, created in the image of God as male and female, we hold to a biblical description of marriage between one man and one woman. Husband and wife become one flesh in their joint commission to multiply God's image and to steward God's gifts in covenant faithfulness to God and each other. Therefore, we believe the gift of human sexuality is for expression in the bond of marriage only, and is stewarded faithfully in chastity outside of marriage. Students of Thirdmill Seminary are expected to exhibit these character qualities and relational practices as important aspects of Christian behavior and servant-leadership.

Policy on Discipline and Non-Academic Dismissal

Thirdmill Seminary is proud of the culturally diverse population it serves. Any form of discrimination or harassment has no place in our classrooms, on our discussion boards, or in any other part of our learning community. With regards to relationships between the sexes, proper Christian conduct is to be maintained. If student behavior leads to disciplinary action, the student will first be informed by the Director of Administration in writing. A plan of resolution will be presented requiring the student's signature on a copy returned to the Director of Administration. This agreed upon plan will be monitored by the Academic Dean of the program in which the student is enrolled. If the student fails to follow through with the plan, the Dean may recommend dismissal to the Executive Committee of the faculty, which will act on the recommendation. Their action will be communicated to the student by the Academic Dean or the President within two weeks.

Complaint and Grievance Policy

Students, staff and faculty have the right to express any concerns they might have with any aspect of their educational experience. Adhere to the following steps when addressing these concerns:

- If anyone in the Seminary community has a misunderstanding or dispute with another person in our learning community, they first must address their concern directly with that person as misunderstandings can often be cleared up best at their source.
- Faculty members should encourage students to ask them any questions about a course syllabus, grade, assignments in the course, or any communications which remain unclear.
- Likewise, staff or faculty should address their concerns to their direct supervisor for clarification.
- If a matter remains unresolved, community members should address academic matters to the Dean of their program and administrative matters to the Student Services Director.
- The Academic Dean or Student Services Director will confirm receipt of the appeal to the community member who submitted the complaint and copy the President of the Seminary within two business days. They will inform the community member that their appeal will be brought to the next scheduled meeting of the faculty committee which deals with their appeal (see Organization of the Faculty above).
- Once the Committee of the faculty meets and acts, the community member will be informed of their decision by the person who received their initial appeal within two business days.
- If the matter remains unresolved, the community member may appeal in writing to the President of the Seminary by email to gerry@thirdmillseminary.org. The President will confirm receipt of the appeal within two business days and inform the community member that their appeal will be considered at the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the faculty. Once a final decision is reached, the President will inform the community member within two business days.
- Distance education students who have completed the internal institution complaint process may appeal non-instructional complaints to the Florida SARA PRDEC Council at FLSARAINfo@fldoe.org.

Find additional details online at the following websites:

Thirdmill Seminary Student Complaint Policy: <https://es.thirdmillseminary.org/complaintpolicy>

DEAC Complaint process: <https://www.deac.org/Student-Center/Complaint-Process.aspx>

Confidentiality and Student Records (FERPA)

According to the Federal Education Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA) students have the right to review their educational records. They have the right to request changes to those records if they can prove they are currently in error. Information about a student's records will not be released to third parties without the expressed, written consent of the student (including transcripts and financial records). However, Thirdmill Seminary reserves the right to release such records to its contractors and government agencies as necessary to conduct the ordinary operations of Thirdmill Seminary, including tax reporting, compliance with federal and state laws and court orders, and financial complications or audits. We will request such third parties maintain the confidentiality of student records.

Under the provisions of the FERPA, students have the right to withhold the disclosure of directory information. Thirdmill Seminary maintains student record data designated as “directory information” that includes:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal name | <input type="checkbox"/> Program of study | <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph, if provided |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local address | <input type="checkbox"/> Dates of attendance | <input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment status |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail address | <input type="checkbox"/> Degree(s) received | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Affiliation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone number | <input type="checkbox"/> Honors | |

Nondisclosure Request

If the student does not want Thirdmill Seminary to release directory information, he/she must submit a request to the Office of the Registrar in writing from his/her email address on record with an attached photo identification. The non-disclosure request form is provided in each Student Handbook and when submitted, will remain in effect until the Office of the Registrar receives a written request to remove the non-disclosure status.

Enrollment Agreements

Thirdmill Seminary will fully inform our applicants of the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of both the student and the institution prior to the applicant’s signature on his/her Enrollment Agreement. Costs of textbooks will be disclosed in a best effort estimate and links provided on the Enrollment Agreement and student information system. A student’s location, choice of digital or physical textbooks, and the delivery method may affect the final purchase price.

Financial Assistance and Payment Policy

We offer a payment plan option. Payment of 50% of a student’s total fees for classes no later than the first Friday of the first week of class, and payment of the remaining balance of fees no later than the fourth Friday of the academic period.

Thirdmill Seminary does not charge interest on student balances, but students who maintain an outstanding balance will not be able to enroll in any additional classes until their account is current (any past due amount must be paid in full).

Financial assistance may be available in terms of a scholarship. A student must first apply and be accepted and may then complete a Scholarship Application that will be reviewed by a committee. If awarded a scholarship, whether partial or complete, this would cover one selected course per term. Book purchases and any additional course(s) are the responsibility of the student.

Human Subject Research Policy

Research for the final Capstone project at Thirdmill Seminary is based on literary texts (Scripture and commentaries), personal reflection on the educational process, and the cultural realities of the student’s ministry context. Research on human subjects is not required, nor is it allowed.

Indemnification

No insurance is provided through Thirdmill Seminary for its students and as such, Thirdmill Seminary has security against legal liability.

Independent Study

An Independent Study course may be available to students who have a single course left to complete and that course is not offered in the year of graduation. Additional details are available from the Registrar.

Job Placement and Career Counseling

Because Thirdmill Seminary offers on-the-job training for those already serving in Christian ministry, we do not offer job placement services. As stated above in our Faculty section, we do expect students to seek advice from their instructors and mentors regarding their work in ministry.

Leave of Absence and Program Time Limits

If an admitted and enrolled student encounters unforeseen circumstance which interfere with their ability to complete their program, they may apply for a leave of absence from the program for up to one full academic year. Using the Leave of Absence Application Form [online](#) or available upon request from the Director of Administration, students must formally request a leave of absence from the Academic Dean of their language program. Regular updates are expected and will be coordinated between the student and their Dean. If leave is granted, students may enroll in courses five terms after their leave is granted without reapplying. However, the faculty have established a time limit of nine (9) academic years to complete the Master of Arts program, and four (4) academic years to complete the Graduate Certificate. In order to graduate beyond those time limits, students must request and receive an extension from their Academic Dean, who will bring their request to the Executive Committee of the faculty for consideration and a decision. Students who request an extension will be notified within two weeks of their request.

Ordination

Thirdmill Seminary does not ordain anyone to the ministry but can provide students with general information regarding typical processes not pertaining to any specific church. We regularly field questions from ordaining bodies about the content and assessments of our courses, and accept invitations to explain our programs before presbyteries and other ordaining bodies. All inquiries should be directed to the Rev. Scott Simmons, our Church Liaison, at ssimmons@thirdmill.org.

Privacy Policy

Protecting your privacy is important to us. We value the trust you have placed in us, and your continued confidence is important to us. We make safeguarding personal information gathered in electronic transactions a priority (i.e., IP addresses, cookies, etc.) We maintain security practices to keep all information safe and secure. We do not sell consumer information.

Security of Online Sessions Policy

We are committed to protecting the confidentiality of your information and online transactions.

Our Services use the industry standard for online security, Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) encryption, to secure your online sessions and any financial transactions.

Information Collected

If you submit a request for information via the “contact us,” online “chat” option, or “request more information” forms on our website, we may save your e-mail address as well as any other information you may provide. This information may be used to contact you in the future by mail, e-mail, or phone to convey information about Thirdmill Seminary that we consider beneficial to you. Thirdmill Seminary collects various types of information from our site’s visitors to help us better plan our website to meet your needs. Some of this information is collected automatically through cookies and other information is collected when you register for any of our online services.

Your e-mail and other information you provide will not be sold, exchanged, or given to any other company for any reason whatsoever, without your consent, other than for the express purpose of delivering the service requested.

Information Processing

Thirdmill Seminary is based in the United States. Regardless of where you are located, you consent to the processing and transferring of information in and to the U.S. and other countries. The laws of the U.S. and other countries governing data collection and use may not be as comprehensive or protective as the laws of the country where you live.

Data Rights and Choices

You can unsubscribe from our communications by following the “opt-out” guidance within those communications. You are also able to “opt-out” from cookie-related processing by following the instructions on the Privacy page. Individuals in the European Economic Area, Canada, Costa Rica, and some other jurisdictions outside of the United States have certain legal rights to obtain confirmation of whether we hold personal data about them, to access personal data we hold about them (in some cases in portable form), and to obtain its correction, update, amendment, or deletion in appropriate circumstances. They may also object to our uses or disclosures of personal data, to request a restriction on its processing, or withdraw any consent. These requests will not affect our ability to continue processing data in lawful ways.

If you inform us that you wish your data erased, or that you no longer wish for us to communicate with you for marketing purposes, or to otherwise restrict processing of your personal data, we may retain some basic information in order to avoid sending you unwanted materials in the future, and to keep a record of your request and our response.

Proctored Assessment Procedures

Students will be required to provide a copy of their government-issued photo ID and a unique password to access exams. *Faculty may require students to fulfill an assessment or exam in the presence of his or her mentor, take exams at a specific time with cameras on, and/or submit a government-issued ID for access to exams.*

Refund Policy

Students are responsible for the full amount of their assessment fees for the courses in which they enrolled. The refund of fees is determined by the date of the student's withdrawal or termination in relation to the cancellation and/or withdrawal policies. As a time-based refund policy, students who never begin or cancel enrollment before the course begins will receive a full refund. Students who complete up to one week of the course will receive a full refund. If a student withdraws before or during the first week of the course, all assessment fees the student has paid will be fully refunded. If the leave or withdrawal date is after the first week of the course, refunds to the student will be prorated in accord with the chart below. The Application Fee and the cost of books are not refundable.

Refunds will be made within 30 days.

Date that a student withdraws from a course (each term is 8 weeks long)	Percentage Assessment Fee Returned to the Student Minus the Application Fee/Book Cost	Percentage Assessment Fee Retained by the Institution
Week 1: Withdraw prior to or during week #1 (until day 7)	100%	0%
Week 2: Withdraw during week #2 (day 8-14)	90%	10%
Week 3: Withdraw during week #3 (day 15-21)	75%	25%
Week 4: Withdraw during week #4 (day 22-28)	50%	50%
Week 5: Withdraw during week #5 (day 29-35)	25%	75%
After week 5: Withdraws on day 36 or after	0%	100%

Sample Calculations

Sample #1 - 100% refund

Student A enrolled in a 3-credit course. In accord with our assessment fee structure the student was billed for \$450 (3 credits x \$150 per credit hour). Student A cancels enrollment prior to the end of the first Friday of the term. For this student, 100% of the fees are refunded.

Sample #2 - 75% refund

Student B enrolled in a 3-credit course. In accord with our assessment fee structure the student was billed for \$450 (3 credits x \$150 per credit hour). Student B paid the full balance upon receipt of the invoice. Student B notified the registrar she withdrew from the course during week #3. Since Student B paid the full balance, this student receives a 75% refund ($\$375 \times .75 = \337.50).

Sample #3 - no refund

Student C signed up for a 2-credit course. In accord with our assessment fee structure, the student was billed for \$300 (2 credits x \$150 per credit hour). Student C paid the full balance of \$300 upon receipt of the invoice. However, Student C notified the registrar on day 30 (Week 5) of the term that he was withdrawing from the course. Because Student C completed more than 50% of the course, he will not receive a refund and is responsible for the full amount of the assessment fees for the course.

Scholarships

Thirdmill Seminary has received its 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit organization which permits us to raise and award funds for student scholarships. All funds are distributed through the scholarship committee in a regular scholarship application and award process. In order to apply, students must complete a scholarship application and submit it to the Director of Administration each academic year. Scholarship applications are considered by the scholarship committee and awards are granted only for the year in which the application is submitted. In order to qualify for an award,

- Students must be enrolled in the M.A. degree program
- Students must remain in good academic standing
- Students complete the [Scholarship Application Form](#)
- Students must remain a member in good standing of a local church, and be serving the church in some form of Christian ministry, whether on a volunteer or paid basis
- Students must request support from their local church before applying for this scholarship
- Students must resubmit a new application each academic year

If awarded, the scholarship recipient will be expected to complete a minimum of one course awarded each term, for three out of the five terms offered in the academic year, or the funds may be re-allocated. Some exceptions apply.

Student Orientation and Services

Upon admission, students receive an acceptance letter directing them to take the Student Orientation course online. Students are oriented to all aspects of the program and all policies. All students must attend and demonstrate their attendance by reading and signing the acknowledgement page of the Student Handbook. Students should send any change of address or other contact information to the Director of Administration at info@thirdmillseminary.org.

Technology Requirements

To complete courses at Thirdmill Seminary, you will need to have consistent access to a computer with a reliable internet connection. Most of the learning materials that you will be using in our courses are compatible with Adobe PDF, Microsoft Office, and QuickTime Player. Our learning platform, Moodle, can be accessed by the latest versions of IE, Safari, Opera, and Chrome. We recommend you use the latest version of Mozilla Firefox. Although working through a mobile device is not recommended, it is an option. There is no need to purchase software to study at Thirdmill Seminary.

Transcript Requests

The first official transcript requested by the student is free. Transcripts after the initial request are US \$15.00 each including postage. The student must email admissions@thirdmillseminary.org and provide the Registrar with details of where to send the transcript.

Upgrade Policy and Prior Learning Assessment

For those who have completed a Thirdmill course on myThirdmill.org or with another academic partner that uses Thirdmill curriculum, academic credit may be available. It is important that students realize that Thirdmill courses are used in different degree programs with different requirements and levels of assessment.

A student who completes a course on myThirdmill.org, including the study guides, quizzes and/or exams, may be eligible for graduate level credit through Thirdmill Seminary. First, they must apply and be admitted to a graduate program at the Seminary. Once admitted, they must complete this course upgrade process to the satisfaction of the faculty member who is assigned to supervise the course for which they are seeking upgrade credit. The process must meet the fundamental requirements of this policy, while allowing freedom within these boundaries for the supervising faculty member and student to provide a sharper focus or more specifics.

1. *Submit a Request* - Once admitted to Thirdmill Seminary, students must submit a request to initiate a course upgrade process by contacting the professor of the course, the registrar, and the Moodle Manager.
2. *Complete a Graduate Research Assignment* - Following the guidelines for reading and writing requirements per credit hour being evaluated, supervising faculty will assign a graduate research project to the student that incorporates graduate-level readings and/or viewings of the faculty forums that accompany most Thirdmill courses. Once student is enrolled, he/she will participate in all activities except for the objective quizzes and tests.
3. *Evaluating and Awarding Credit* – Within 2 weeks of a student’s submission of their graduate research assignment and study guides, the supervising faculty member will provide a written evaluation to the program director and to the student that provides a basis for awarding or denying academic credit.
4. *Fees and Limits* – Upon approval, the student is given an Enrollment Agreement with the fee for the course to equal one credit hour. Upon successful completion of the requirements, the student will receive the full credits of the course selected and approved for the upgrade. The number of credit hours that can be awarded for course upgrades is a maximum of 20 credits.

Transcripts and/or Prior Learning portfolios are reviewed by the Admissions Committee. When a student inquires about the seminary’s acceptance of prior learning in a particular content area, the Admissions Committee will review that content and determine if the student may be exempted from that content in the Thirdmill Seminary curriculum. The Committee will notify the student within two weeks after it has reached its decision.

Works Cited in the Thirdmill Seminary Catalog

Robert Banks, *Reenvisioning Theological Education: Exploring a Missional Alternative to Current Models* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999).

Mark Lau Branson & Juan F. Martínez, *Churches, Cultures & Leadership: A Practical Theology of Congregations and Ethnicities* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011).

Edmund P. Clowney, *The Church, Contours of Christian Theology* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1995).

Todd M. Johnson and Kenneth R. Ross, *Atlas of Global Christianity 1910-2010* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2009).

Gregory R. Perry, "New Wineskins: Relocating and Reconstructing Theological Education," in *For the World: Essays in Honor of Richard L. Pratt, Jr.*, ed. Justin S. Holcomb and Glenn Lucke (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2014), 170-184

Richard L. Pratt, Jr., "Opportunities and Challenges for Theological Education at the Beginning of the Third Christian Millennium," *RPM* Vol. 15, No. 38
(http://thirdmill.org/magazine/article.asp/link/http://thirdmill.org/articles/ric_pratt/ric_pratt.ATA.html/at/Opportunities%20and%20Challenges%20for%20Theological%20Education).

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Perry Shaw, *Transforming Theological Education: A Practical Handbook for Integrative Learning* (Carlisle, UK: Langham Global Library, 2014).

Ralph Winter, "The Largest Stumbling Block to Leadership Development in the Global Church: Needed: A Revolution in Pastoral Training," *International Journal of Frontier Missions* 20.3 (2003): 86-94.

Academic Calendar 2024-25

Add / Drop Request Form

Term 1 August 12 – October 6, 2024

Admission Application Deadline for Term 1 - July 15

Assessment fees due August 17

[Term 1 2024-25 Course Descriptions](#)

The Pentateuch, Part 1 (BIB503) – 3 credits

Building Your Theology (THE501) – 2 credits

Worship Practicum (MIS501) – 1 credit

NEW Teaching & Preaching (MIS507) - 3 credits

Term 2 October 21 – December 15, 2024

Admission Application Deadline for Term 2 - September 23

Assessment fees due October 26

[Term 2 2024-25 Course Descriptions](#)

The Pentateuch, Part 2 (BIB517) – 3 credits *pre-requisite Part 1 BIB503*

We Believe in Jesus (THE509) – 3 credits

The Apostles' Creed (THE502) – 3 credits

Outreach Practicum (MIS503) – 1 credit

NEW Defending the Faith (MIS505) – 3 credits

Term 3 January 6 – March 2, 2025

Admission Application Deadline for Term 3 - December 16

Assessment fees due January 10

[Term 3 2024-25 Course Descriptions](#)

The Book of Acts (BIB504) – 2 credits

What is Man? (THE510) – 3 credits

Nurture Practicum (MIS502) – 1 credit

NEW Christian Counseling (MIS504) – 3 credits

NEW Vocational Discipleship (MIS510) – 2 credits

Term 4 March 17 – May 11, 2025

Admission Application Deadline for Term 4 - February 17

Assessment fees due March 21

[Term 4 2024-25 Course Descriptions](#)

Making Biblical Decisions (THE513) – 3 credits

Heart of Paul's Theology (BIB514) – 2 credits

NEW Greek for Exegesis (BIB525) – 3 credits

Term 5 May 26 – July 20, 2025

Admission Application Deadline for Term 5 - April 28

Assessment fees due May 30

[Term 5 2024-25 Course Descriptions](#)

Your Kingdom Come: Eschatology (THE511) – 2 credits

Capstone Project & Portfolio (MIS603) – 3 credits

NEW Evangelism & Church Planting (MIS509) – 2 credits