The Master of Arts
Degree Program in
Ministry in the Global City

2020–2022

Families and friends, places
arts and sciences, perennial
his is vital to what theology
very excited about.
Christianity, what God is doing
closely at real cities. While
as well also listen, linger and
To feel the gifts and needs
ning to journey with people
d. None of us can reach
own. We need each other
is our own: only together
The gospel has to do with
news for the rest of life.
especially if global, is a new
different world here. For you’ll live out a public faith
ation. We are CSNY >>>

Emmanuel Katongole

CITY SEMINARY
OF NEW YORK
Becoming God’s peace in our
neighborhood, city, and world
What is the MA Degree in Ministry in the Global City?

The MA degree in Ministry in the Global City is an ideal program of study for individuals already involved in ministry and leadership in New York City, and for all who are interested in a lifetime of ministry in the global city. It is a unique 39-credit graduate program that combines a learning community experience with fellow New Yorkers, an integrated curriculum emphasizing Scripture, prayer, urban ministry practices, adaptive leadership, and creative and entrepreneurial ministry. With the city as the classroom, and the focus and background of every course, students will be prepared for the challenges of living and thinking theologically in a growing and changing, increasingly diverse world Christian church.

Program outcomes include:

- A deepened sense of vocation to ministry in the city
- Tools and practices for adaptive ministry and leadership in the city
- Development of a pattern of spiritual formation grounded in Scripture, prayer, and community
- Engagement in the global mission of the church
- Belonging to a collaborative network of fellow urban church leaders
This is not the usual seminary, where you come, sit down, and learn from above. Rather than top down, it is bottom up. Many of these pastors may not have formal theological education, but they have valuable experience. What the seminary does is help them build upon that experience.

A vision of world Christianity is being lived out right here in New York. What City Seminary has done is value and embrace the vision and the people – the pastors and others – who are bringing it about in congregations all over New York City.
Part-time
With courses in the evenings and on Saturdays, and week-long intensives in the summers and winters, City Seminary’s courses are structured for the needs of busy New Yorkers, particularly pastors and ministry leaders who hold more than one job.

Affordable
In a time when seminary students are amassing record numbers of debt, City Seminary’s tuition of $9,540 (+fees) makes it possible to invest in theological education without breaking the bank.

Relational
City Seminary is committed to nurturing relationships over time with students and faculty, and serving families and congregations. Students are part of a cohort, learning in community and engaged with others in community prayer, conferences, and seminars. Graduates remain connected through broadened networks and ongoing activities. All students are supported through the Student Thriving Center, with a faculty mentor and community to walk alongside them during their program.

Focus on the Global City
There is a sustained focus throughout every course and module on the opportunities and challenges of the urban world and ministry.

Urban Pilgrimage
As part of our commitment to global Christianity and to “learning on the ground,” students travel to cities in either Africa, Asia, or Latin America as a way of exploring the city as a global subject and urban pilgrimage as a way of life.

Why study at City Seminary?

Clockwise from top left
Student discussions in small group workshops; Urban pilgrimage to Yangon, Myanmar; Learning about the importance of urban farming and praying in the south Bronx with pray and break bread NYC host Karen Washington
Time-tested Curriculum
The program is the culmination of more than a decade of teaching, preparation, and design. It is based on our research with churches, leaders, and youth in the city, as well as our experience with the Master of Arts degree in “Urban Mission” with Westminster Theological Seminary, our Ministry Fellows Program, and extensive piloting of courses.

Innovative and Entrepreneurial
City Seminary recognizes and builds on a church life in New York that is global and entrepreneurial, where ministry is woven into all areas of life, and where full-time paid positions are rare. In recognition of its model, City Seminary has been named by the Global Survey on Theological Education 2013 as an example of innovative theological education. It was also acknowledged as a “bright spot in theological education” in a 2016 national study undertaken by Auburn Theological Seminary.

Faculty with Expertise in Ministry and Scholarship
City Seminary’s faculty team includes ministry leaders as well as scholars with years of experience in the global city. All courses are taught collaboratively, so that students benefit from a variety of perspectives, backgrounds, and expertise.

Campus
Hope Campus is a block-long, light-filled modern space overlooking a vibrant and historic boulevard in West Harlem. Students are in the heart of the city, close to Morningside Park, churches, public transportation, restaurants, and shops.

Library and Resource Center
City Seminary is building a library with a world-class niche collection in the areas of Global Christianity, the City and Ministry, Biblical Studies, and Applied Theological Studies. Through METRO membership, students also have access to research libraries around the city.
My relationship with City Seminary is a match made in heaven. I was introduced to the seminary at a time when I was desperate for direction and tools for doing ministry in the urban context of New York City. I not only found a seminary but I found a community that embraced me and helped to mold my theological view of ministry in the city. It is the only place that I know of where I can say you will truly learn how to view ministry in the city.

Vivian Grubb
CSNY/WTS MA 2007
Pastor, True Holy Church “City of Refuge” Brooklyn, NY
Bishop Elect, United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic)
Core Faculty, City Seminary of New York

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Curriculum Requirements and Schedule

The MA degree in Ministry in the Global City is organized around four core nexus points of Location, Formation, Vocation, and Translation. Students begin with an orientation and finish with a capstone project and colloquium bringing together learning and practice from the entire program. In Area Seminars, students have the opportunity to engage further in an area of focus.

Because the program is taught as a thematic whole, each class and nexus point provide a way to integrate what is being learned, and make connections to other areas of study. The MA takes place over 2 years, inclusive of three spring or summer terms (depending on start date), with weeklong intensives in the summer and winter, and evening and weekend coursework during the spring and fall.

Program Orientation
0.1 Learning and Leadership (2 credits)

Nexus 1 – Location: Wayfinding in our Urban World
1.1 Sensing the City (3 credits)
1.2 Urban Pilgrimage (3 credits)
1.3 The First Urban Churches and Today (2 credits)

Nexus 2 – Formation: Praying with the Word
2.1 Formation in Scripture A (2 credits)
2.2 Formation in Scripture B (3 credits)
2.3 Prayer and Life (2 credits)

Nexus 3 – Vocation: Following Christ in Every Area of Life
3.1 Families, Youth, and Friendship (2 credits)
3.2 Work and Vocation (2 credits)
3.3 Public Faith (2 credits)

Nexus 4 – Translation: Moving with the Spirit
4.1 Bodies of Prayer: Learning about World Christianity in the City (2 credits)
4.2 Our Story: A World of Christianity (2 credits)
4.3 World Christianity through Literature and the Arts (2 credits)

Area Seminars (choose one)
5.1 Pastoral Ministry (2 credits)
5.2 Youth Ministry (2 credits)
5.3 Arts and Media (2 credits)
5.4 Community Ministry (2 credits)
5.5 Counseling (2 credits)

Capstone: Project and Colloquium
6.1 Capstone Project A, B, C, D (1, 1, 2, 2 credits respectively, 6 credits total)
6.2 Colloquium (2 credits)
At City Seminary of New York, we believe learning happens through our life in the city, through what we see and hear, through the arts and the people we meet every day. Learning takes place as we bring all of this together with Scripture and prayer, the meals we share and the neighborhoods where we live and walk. As Ruth Padilla De Borst has observed, “Theology is something that comes from life and goes back to life. It is a verb. This is the theology that the City Seminary community is seeking to live out.”

pray and break bread.new york city
A core practice of communal Scripture reading, prayer walks around the neighborhood and a taste of New York City’s diverse cuisine.
City Seminary is one of the only seminaries where
1) Members of the global church God is building come together at the local level and read the Scriptures and learn together; 2) Students are trained thoroughly for urban ministry, with the city not just for one course of study but the focus and the background for all studies, and 3) The city shapes not only the content of study but the pedagogy and method of instruction, aiming not only at abstract knowledge but ministry as product.

Dr. Timothy Keller
Pastor Emeritus, Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Author, Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism
City Seminary Board Member
Research and the Arts

The Walls-Ortiz Gallery and Center, named for Andrew Walls and the late Manuel Ortiz, ministry practitioners and scholars in world Christianity and urban missions who continue to be key forces in the life of City Seminary, is our space for research, public dialogue, and interaction with the arts. Students have the opportunity to conduct research or pursue creative projects and to display their work in the Gallery, or in the Hope Campus Lobby gallery space. Student learning is also enriched by City Seminary research initiatives, including the Next Generation Research Project, studying faith transmission in immigrant communities, the Practices of Ministry in the City Project, and the Global New York Church Project.

Admissions Requirements

Prospective students must have a Bachelor’s degree (subject need not be in theology). A complete application includes academic and pastoral references, and personal essay questions that will help us assess academic readiness, spiritual maturity, and ministry calling.

Completion of the non-degree Ministry Fellows Program offered by City Seminary is required prior to (or during) application process.

Students must either pass a Bible survey or take the “Bible for Life” pre-course at City Seminary prior to matriculation.

How to Apply

To attend an information session and apply, please contact:

Reji George, Admissions
CSNYgradcenter@cityseminaryny.org
(212) 749-2717

Scholarships and Financial Assistance

City Seminary’s goal is to place high-quality theological education within everyone’s reach. Our tuition cost of $9,540 (+fees) is priced well below the national average for seminaries. We consider scholarships on a case-by-case basis.

City Seminary of New York is dedicated to being an intercultural and multi-ethnic community. City Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, marital status, national origin, veteran status or disability in its admission policies and educational programs.