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Master of Ministry Goes Online

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provide a context where students apply what they learn in chapel and the classroom and make a powerful impact for Christ as they meet real needs in our surrounding communities and the world. Students serve locally through weekly volunteer ministry teams or through short-term mission trips, taken over spring break or in the summer. In all of this, students learn to value the local church, long-term ministry endeavors, and a call to reach the nations with the Gospel.

COMPELLING WITNESS

All students also take the Bible minor, and in Theology 2, the final course in the Bible minor sequence, there is a specific unit on the doctrine of the church. In this section of the class, professors stress the importance of the church as we talk about the nature of the body of Christ, its mission and ministries, and the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Some Christians mistakenly believe that the church

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is completely optional in terms of their involvement and membership, but that would be a mistake. We teach that the church is crucial because we exhort one another day after day, so that we are not hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:12-13). God made us for community, to submit to qualified church leadership, to serve one another, and to be on mission in the world. By our love for one another, the church witnesses to the

truth that Jesus is the unique means of salvation for all. As such, we make clear to our students the beauty of the church and the importance of their service for the health of the church.

I am overjoyed to be working on a campus and in a church where I see students valuing the local church. Each Sunday as I gather with God's people, I look around and see a host of college students in our midst. When I pick up my children from their respective classes, I often see Cedarville students working in various ways in those classes. As I have assisted with the student ministry at my church, I see our Cedarville students involved in leading small groups and discipling middle and high school students. I see our students in the choir, orchestra, praise teams, and a number of other areas. And I often hear the testimonies of students who join our church through associate membership so they receive pastoral oversight while they are here on campus. Here at Cedarville University, we believe in the local church, and we expect to see our students graduate and continue to join and be involved with their local churches, where they will serve, spread the Gospel, and glorify God's name in Christian community.

Jeremy Kimble is Assistant Professor of Theology at Cedarville University. He earned his Ph.D. in theological studies.

 To watch Thomas White's chapel message on this topic, visit cedarville.edu/localchurch.

Master of Ministry Goes Online

by Ched Spellman

The Cedarville University seal contains these words: "For the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ." Taking our vision from these words, the School of Biblical and Theological Studies seeks to provide a biblical and theological foundation for our understanding of God, ourselves, and the world.

A recent development in our School resonates with this overall vision. Our one-year Master of Ministry program, which before had only been offered on campus, will now be available completely online as well.

This new online option for the Master of Ministry will be available fall semester 2016.

The M.Min. program equips students to know and love God more deeply through a close reading of the Scriptures and thoughtful reflection on the theological truths found in God's Word. Students in this program dig into the textual features of the biblical literature and examine the way that all Scripture fits together. This involves grappling with what the Bible says, what churches have believed, and how it all fits together.

Our goal is that students who graduate from the M.Min. program will be equipped to rightly handle the Scriptures, build up the churches, and spread a passion for participating in God's work in the world.

With the online option, Cedarville provides a flexible, affordable means of equipping future ministers of the Gospel who are currently in a busy career. Students can begin the program in any semester. The courses themselves allow students to go at their own pace throughout each week and manage their course work according to their own schedule. This makes the M.Min. degree online a very attractive option for adult learners who want to be equipped for Kingdom impact in a manner that works with their schedule.

Online education is an important and strategic area that will continue to grow. A strong biblical foundation is part of the legacy of Cedarville University. As we offer the M.Min. courses online, we will work to provide an enriching learning environment that maintains this strategic vision. From our perspective, these programs represent an exciting opportunity for students interested in an academic program that successfully

pursues academic excellence alongside a passion for the churches.

Our prayer is that this innovative and flexible program will encourage and equip students as they seek to embrace the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ in their own lives and ministries.

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For more information about the Master of Ministry program, visit cedarville.edu/mmin.

Ched Spellman is Assistant Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at Cedarville University and Lead Developer for online Bible programs. He earned his Ph.D. in biblical theology.

Master of Ministry online

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