



Doctor of Ministry **Church of Refugia**

Preparing the church for sustainability and crisis resilience

This Doctor of Ministry track challenges pastors to reshape their ministry and formation practices to resist an imperial model for the church and instead grow toward a refugia model. Refugia are small pockets where living things, like the Church, survive in the midst of crisis—climate crisis, economic inequalities, social upheaval, racial unrest, health crisis, etc. Amid our weariness and bewilderment, how can we resist the temptation to cling to systems of power and instead focus on identifying and creating refugia, joining with others to participate in God’s work of renewal? Participants will explore the characteristics of the church of refugia, experience a variety of examples, and dream together about how to reshape the life of faith for a period of upheaval and transition. This Doctor of Ministry track seeks to prepare leaders who can inspire gospel communities and help nurture a new kind of refugia church.

Primary Faculty/Mentors: Rev. Dr. Ron Rienstra, Dr. Debra Rienstra (Calvin University)

Guest Instructors: Gifted guest lecturers with a variety of relevant expertise will participate in each of the six teaching units, addressing topics like environmental activism, faith-based farming, eco-theology, history of evangelicalism, etc.

Length & Launch: A three-year program launching on May 9-13, 2022.

Schedule: Six required seminars over the course of three years, likely in late May and mid-October.

Location: Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI
NOTE: Beginning Fall 2023 semester, the cohort will meet off-site in upstate NY (Fall 2023) and Scotland (Spring 2024)

Tuition: \$417 per credit hour for 36 credits (approximately \$15,000 total.)

Application deadline: February 15, 2022 for US citizens and others not requiring an entry visa.
January 30, 2022 for students requiring entry visa to the US.

Application Link: <https://www.westernsem.edu/apply-now/#application>

For more information visit: <https://www.westernsem.edu/academics/degrees/doctor-ministry-degree/>

For more information contact:

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