

Enthuse

THE MAGAZINE OF EVANGELICAL SEMINARY

The
Doctorate
is **IN**





The Doctorate is IN

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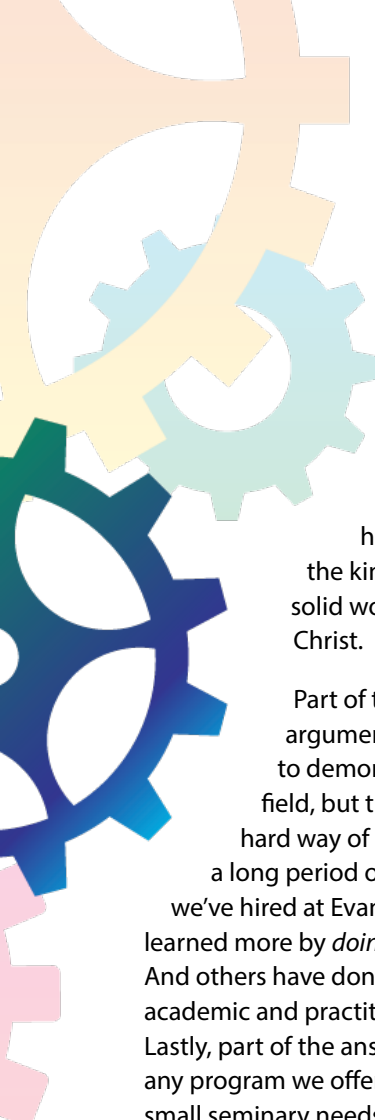
I've earned not one, but two doctoral degrees and was chairman of the team that launched a PhD program at my previous institution.

I still advise dissertations for them, and I've advised doctoral dissertations for other schools. Having spent nearly a quarter century in academia, which highly values credentials, I've encouraged dozens of individuals to pursue a doctoral degree for their own callings and careers. Yet I have been reluctant, until now, to launch such a program at Evangelical. Why is that?

There were simply so many good doctoral programs out there already; that's part of the answer. Unless Evangelical offered something distinctive that filled a gap for the Church, we weren't interested in promoting competition within the kingdom of God, just for the opportunity to brag "we have one too" about a doctoral

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offering. Part of the answer lies within my personal conviction that people get too fixated on degrees and titles. Ironically, this has particularly become a temptation among Christians, who should know better. I do not often use my doctoral degrees in front of or behind my name. I have that right, but these letters do not make me wiser, holier, or better than anyone else in the kingdom of God. I still must do the solid work of being formed in the image of Christ.

Part of the answer is my long-standing argument that the doctorate is ONE way to demonstrate expertise or credibility in a field, but there are other ways: particularly the hard way of critical reflection upon practice over a long period of time. Not every faculty member we've hired at Evangelical has a doctorate; some have learned more by *doing* than they would have by *studying*. And others have done both. We have a wonderful mix of academic and practitioner wisdom among our faculty. Lastly, part of the answer was that I wanted to make sure any program we offered would be done extremely well. A small seminary needs to be pretty picky about where we want to make a meaningful contribution, as we will not settle for offering our students less than our best.

All those objections were overcome last year when we had the opportunity to borrow and reshape an innovative doctoral program, which we're energetically launching this fall. In 2009 I led a review team for the Doctor of Theology (ThD) program at LaSalle University, a Catholic university in Philadelphia. I was so impressed with the program that I recommended it to quite a few people in the following years. About eighteen months ago, learning that LaSalle had decided to discontinue the program despite its obvious success, I contacted them and asked if Evangelical could take over and continue their ThD program. To my delight, they enthusiastically agreed!

We have spent the past year reshaping this Doctor of Theology program to fit our own context, as an evangelical institution of theology and practice. We have worked to win a boatload of approvals—from our faculty, our board of trustees, our regional accreditor, and our specialized accreditor. When we received the final needed approval in February, we announced it publicly; and the applications for admission came in droves! There was

obviously a pent-up demand for something like this. Even at this early date, we have no worries about being able to fill a cohort with a selective group of extraordinarily talented students, all of whom are on mission for God in their own unique way.

You see, that's one of the things that made this program different. It's not about knowledge for knowledge's sake. There's a place for that. This program is for reflective practitioners—it's for those who are called to serve and lead (which are synonyms, in my opinion) and to do so with a rich understanding of God, the Scriptures, themselves, and what God is up to in this broken world.

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We also made it accessible (much of it is online) and yet still face-to-face. We made it customizable, so students can spend most of their energies learning what they want to learn. We made it affordable enough and short enough that a student won't have to mortgage their future to do it. And we made it meaty enough that the time, energy, and money are *worth it*.

Then we also recruited the help of one of the foremost scholar-practitioners of our generation, Dr. Leonard Sweet. Len will not only lead a track of his own in this program, but he will also provoke all of us—students and faculty alike—to see more clearly where the wind of the Spirit is blowing, and how we can participate more fully in God's good work.



So that is why this year we're doing our first ever doctoral program! But why a ThD? And how does it work? Please read on!

Tony Blair
President

Doctor Who?

What's the difference between a ThD, PhD, and DMin?

We get asked this one a lot! There are many kinds of doctoral degrees available these days, and despite their common designation, they represent wide variety in terms of intent, duration, intensity, and qualifications.

Some doctoral degree programs, such as a traditional Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), are research-based and are highly intensive, selective, and expensive. (Even so, they usually cost the institution more money than they bring in.) Many require students to live on or near the campus and attend school full-time, doing original research or perhaps laboratory work. Nontraditional PhD programs are breaking some of those rules these days but still require a level of study we feel neither prepared nor called to offer.

Some doctoral programs are focused primarily on providing professional credibility and do not even require a master's degree to enter. Many of these are in the medical professions—such as the Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Optometry (OD), Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD), Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degrees, and so forth. Each of these is built upon a strong baccalaureate education and includes a tremendous amount of hands-on learning. Other programs require a master's degree as foundational for doctoral learning but are nonetheless still focused primarily on practice. The Doctor of Education (EdD) and Doctor of Ministry (DMin) are in this category.

The Evangelical Seminary ThD lies between these two categories. It's a research degree designed for practitioners—for those who are in ministry and plan to continue to serve in a ministry capacity. It's therefore a bit like a PhD, but less intensive. It's a bit like a DMin, but with a richer theological focus. Drawing from an old TV commercial, we joke that it "tastes great but is less filling!" We require a relevant master's degree from an accredited institution, but we are also looking for students with ministry experience and a clear sense of what God is calling them to dig into.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

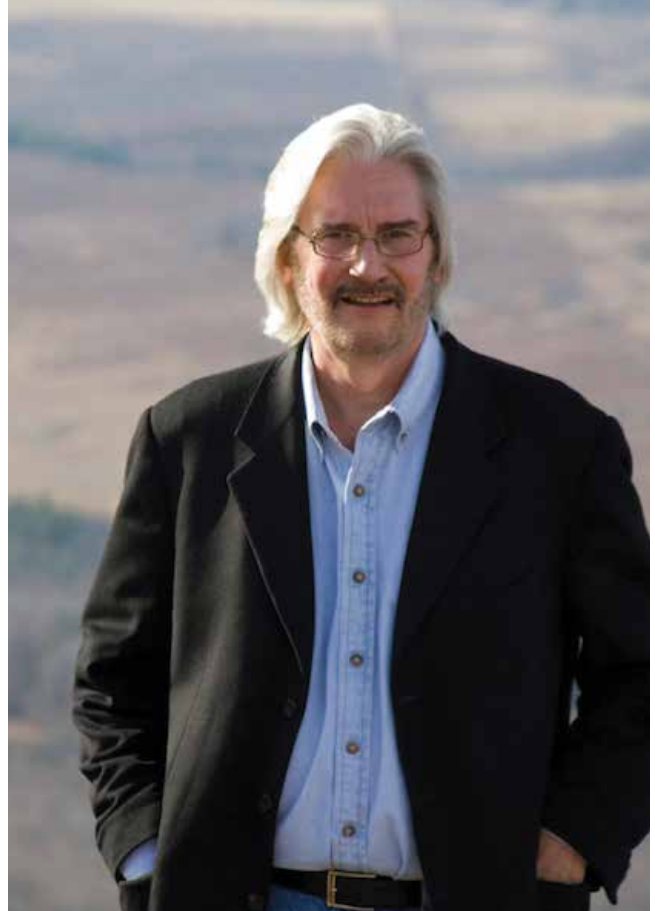
It's Dr. Leonard Sweet!

One of my great pleasures as president was to welcome Len Sweet to the Evangelical faculty this past January 2. I first met Len fifteen years ago when I chose a Doctor of Ministry track at another seminary, in large part because he was the track mentor. I had previous exposure to Len's writings and teaching but had no idea the influence he would come to have upon my theological formation, my academic perspective, and my spiritual life. He became a mentor and friend, and now a colleague, since he accepted the invitation to teach and recruit for our brand new Doctor of Theology program. Len serves Evangelical as the Charles Wesley Distinguished Professor of Doctor of Theology Studies.

Leonard Sweet is a prophet to the Church in our generation, a prophet who not only speaks of what can be but also translates for the Church what the Spirit of God is doing in the world. That's why he teaches semiotics—he pays attention to what God is up to in the world, and he helps others to see it and then to join God in that work.

The author of more than 200 articles, 1300+ published sermons, and more than sixty books, Dr. Sweet's publications include the best sellers *Soul Tsunami*, *Aqua Church*, and *Jesus Manifesto* (with Frank Viola), as well as many other volumes revolutionizing the church's mission. My personal favorites are his short and simple book *Jesus Drives Me Crazy* and *Nudge*, which is his theology of evangelism.

In 2006 and 2007, Sweet was voted "one of the 50 most influential Christians in America" by ChurchReport Magazine. In 2010, he was selected as one of the "Top 10 Influential Christians." His popular podcast "Napkin Scribbles" is widely quoted, as is his online homiletics resource, *preachingthestory.com*. He was one of the keynote speakers at Wittenberg 2017, a global



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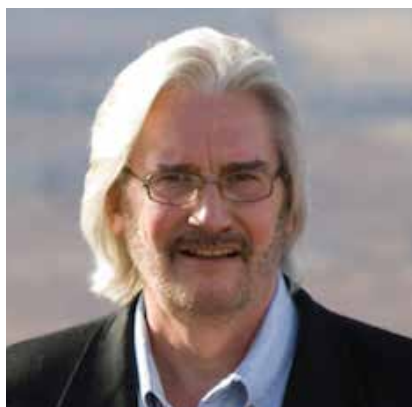
celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. He was previously VP of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Theological School at Drew University and served as President and Professor of Church History at United Theological Seminary of Dayton, OH. Sweet resides in the San Juan Islands off the coast of Washington State; he speaks around the country and around the world.

I am delighted that a scholar, thinker, futurist, prophet, and author of his stature will serve the students of Evangelical Seminary. Leonard Sweet is first and foremost a Jesus guy, one who emphasizes experience with God; he is more attentive to the wind of the Holy Spirit than any scholar I know. He will teach our students well and speak into Evangelical with authority and grace.

Tony Blair
President

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

We have designed the ThD program to be flexible, even customizable, so a student can focus on what s/he is called to study, and yet do so with a small group of fellow students pursuing similar interests under the guidance of a faculty mentor. We can phase out or phase in different tracks from year to year, depending on student interest and where we have capacity within the seminary. Following are the tracks that we are offering the first cohort of students, including the mentors who will oversee each one:



Semiotics and Spirit (PNEUMATIC THEOLOGY)

Leonard Sweet, Mentor

Jesus said, "You know how to read the signs of the sky; Learn to read the signs of the times" [Matthew 16:3]. The Greek word for "signs" is semeion, and semiotics is the study of signs and the art of making connections, seeing the relationships between things and reading the meaning of those relationships. Disciples of Jesus must learn to read the sign-language of the Spirit so we can join Jesus in his continuing mission in this world, particularly in these challenging but exciting days for the Church. This track will help students discern where the Holy Spirit is leading, and is thus particularly attractive to prophetic, visionary, and imaginative leaders.



Trauma and Transformation (RESTORATIVE THEOLOGY)

Janet Stauffer, Mentor

How do we serve people in trauma? A culture in trauma? "All real living is meeting," claims Martin Buber, and from the very beginning of the biblical narrative we see this to be true. The "Trauma and Transformation" track will reside at the dynamic meeting space between theology and psychology, to lead churches, families, and communities in creating restorative meeting spaces of their own—spaces of engagement between each other and God that can heal and transform the pain of a traumatized world, "the mission field of the 21st century."



Revelation and Redemption (BIBLICAL THEOLOGY)

Doug Buckwalter, Mentor

With the Bible as the divine wellspring of God's revelation of himself and his redemptive plan, this track immerses the student in a rigorous and generative study of what we see revealed of God and God's activities in the Old and New Testaments. Students will engage biblical theology as contained in its own cultural context, historical setting, and patterns of thought. They will grapple with the profound reality of the God who has appeared in history, that the redemptive significance of this historical revelation mandates that their work has fresh impacting relevance to the church and its mission.



Mission and Movements

(CONTEXTUAL THEOLOGY)

Jim Ehrman, Mentor

Contextual theology refers to theology which has responded to the dynamics of a particular context. In this track the student will discover the wonders of God's work within various cultural, sociological, or economic contexts, while anchoring that diversity in the constants which undergird all settings. The student will then examine (and maybe even develop) a theology of mission and movement for a context which interests her or him—one that honors historical and normative theology while staying in close conversation with a particular cultural expression.



Roots and Rhythms

(HISTORICAL THEOLOGY)

Mark Draper, Mentor

We are not the first generation to encounter most of our ministry challenges or theological questions. According to G.K. Chesterton, "Tradition means giving votes to the most obscure of all classes, our ancestors. It is the democracy of the dead. Tradition refuses to submit to the small and arrogant oligarchy of those who merely happen to be walking about." The Roots and Rhythms track explores historical theology, training students to listen to saints from the past as a means of providing grounding and framework for moving the church into the future.



Leadership and Liminality

(ORGANIZATIONAL THEOLOGY)

Tony Blair, Mentor

From where should we lead? The "Leadership and Liminality" track explores models, behaviors, and assumptions of transformational leadership, particularly the kind of leadership that occurs in liminal spaces. "Liminality" refers to a threshold experience—in transition between stages of a community's growth, or leading from the margins to see and speak from a prophetic stance. A student in this track will explore the richness of a counter-cultural approach to ministry leadership and collaborate in the development of a vibrant new theology of organizations. This track may be particularly helpful to those called to leadership, or called to serve in the parachurch, nonprofit, or business sectors.



What else is there?

EVANGELICAL SEMINARY DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

The Doctor of Theology (ThD) degree program highlighted in this issue is one of five new degree programs launched in the past five years, alongside another five certificate programs. The descriptions herein are not intended to provide full program information, but to give you a general sense of how we are serving the Church and the world.

■ **Master of Divinity (MDiv)**

Some variation or another of this program has been core to the seminary since the beginning, and it remains so 65 years later. Its primary goal is to train pastors; the MDiv remains the primary credential for ordination in many denominations. In its current form the program offers 78 credits of instruction in ministry practice, Bible, theology, church history, and spiritual formation. It is offered on-ground in Myerstown and at our Harrisburg campus; beginning this fall it will also be offered in an entirely online delivery.

■ **Master of Arts in Ministry (MAMin)**

The MAMin is a subset of the MDiv, in that it offers 36 credits of ministry practice, plus spiritual and vocational formation, as a stand-alone degree. It is ideal for those exploring ministry as a career, who may work in a church but not in a solo or senior pastor role, or for those serving churches in which an MDiv is not expected, but some additional training would be helpful. It is offered on-ground in Myerstown and at our Harrisburg campus; beginning this fall it will also be offered in an entirely online delivery. It can be completed part-time in two years.

■ **Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT)**

The MAMFT was launched in 2006 as Evangelical's first program for those preparing for ministry outside of a congregational setting. Accredited by the selective Commission on Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) and structured to meet all the requirements for licensure by the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the MAMFT thoroughly prepares students for service as marriage and family therapists. We provide the hours of formal supervision necessary for state licensure through counseling clinics in Myerstown and Lititz, Lancaster County. It is 67 credits in length and offered on-ground in both two-year (full-time) and four-year (part-time) deliveries.

■ **Master of Arts in Leadership (MAL)**

This was our second program offered to those preparing for service outside of a congregation; in this case, for leadership in parachurch, nonprofit, or even business settings, drawing on our decades of preparing distinctively Christian leaders. The program is unique in blending leadership education with spiritual formation, so that leaders are formed in head, heart, and hands. It was our first program offered in a hybrid online/on-ground delivery. It is 36 credits in length and can be completed part-time in two years.

■ **Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Direction (MASFD)**

This 36-credit program prepares people to serve in a congregational setting in a variety of roles—spiritual formation, discipleship, Christian education, and/or to serve as a spiritual director. There is growing emphasis in this generation on being formed in the image of Christ toward spiritual maturity. Students in this program learn how to do that for themselves and guide others in the process. Beginning this fall, it is offered in a hybrid online/on-ground delivery and can be completed part-time in two years.

■ **Master of Arts (Bible) (MABible)**

The MABible is our newest degree, launched just this semester, utilizing our extensive curriculum in Bible and related topics, including the resources of our Dorsey Museum of Biblical Archeology. It can be completed in a 36-credit track that emphasizes English Bible or a 48-credit track that delves deeply into the biblical languages. (Students in the longer track earn a Master of Arts in Religion.) This program is offered in either entirely on-ground or entirely online deliveries.

■ **Master of Arts in Religion (MAR)**

The MAR is intended to be an "academic" track; that is, it is more useful in preparing men and women for teaching or scholarship (often as a precursor to a PhD program) than for ministry, although some pastors have pursued the MAR as well. The Evangelical MAR formerly had a variety of tracks, several of which we have carved off as stand-alone programs. In its current 48-credit form, students can study in the Bible track (mentioned above), a Theology and History track (which may also be pared off as its own program someday), and an Individualized Studies track.

■ **Doctor of Theology (ThD)**

Described at length elsewhere in this publication, the ThD is a 39-credit doctoral degree starting its first cohort the fall of 2018. The 39 credits can be completed in as little as three years in a hybrid online/on-ground delivery. It is designed to provide rich theological foundations for ministry practice and leadership.

The following certificate programs are also available:

- **Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Counseling (23-credit)**
- **Graduate Certificate in Lay Ministry (24-credit)**
- **Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction (12-credit)**
- **Graduate Certificate in Directing the Spiritual Exercises (6-credit)**
- **Certificate in Church Leadership (non-credit, 12 courses)**



What's Inside the ThD?

Our simple way of answering this question uses the formula:

15 + 15 + 9 = ThD.

Those numbers represent doctoral course credits. Fifteen credits are earned in the program's core courses. These are the courses that every student takes; they're where we offer our unique perspective on what God is up to in the world. Those core courses are as follows:

- CT 800: Foundations of Doctoral Research and Writing
- CT 801: Glocal Christianity in a Google World (3 credits)
- CT 802: The Spirits of Pietism-Evangelicalism (3 credits)
- CT 901: Mega-, Mini-, and Para-Church in the 21st Century (3 credits)
- CT 902: The Human Person, Formed and Re-formed (3 credits)

Another 15 credits are devoted to reading and research in one's track. (See pages 6-7 for a listing of the ThD tracks.)

Each semester the student works with a track mentor or tutor to read extensively, reflect intensively, and write generatively on what they've learned. Those track courses are as follows:

- CT 810: Readings in Theology and Practice 1 (3 credits)
- CT 820: Readings in Theology and Practice 2 (3 credits)
- CT 830: Readings in Theology and Practice 3 (3 credits)
- CT 910: Readings in Theology and Practice 4 (3 credits)
- CT 920: Readings in Theology and Practice 5 (3 credits)

The final nine credits are devoted to the individual student's dissertation, which will be focused on how to improve ministry practice within the student's own context.

The 39 credits can be completed in as little as three years, depending on how long the student takes with the dissertation. Together, this curriculum combines traditional components and nontraditional aspects in a fashion similar to the British doctoral system.



Who's With Us?

SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP

- ✓ **Lives changed.**
- ✓ **Families restored.**

- ✓ **Churches renewed.**
- ✓ **Souls saved.**

These results are the evidence of God's work through Evangelical Seminary as we drive toward our 65th anniversary! We look back with joy and pride at what's been accomplished by God's grace through our alumni, faculty and staff. Because you are giving, our alumni are on the front lines in ministry, serving across the street and around the world.

But we're revving up and headed for new directions, as seen in these items actively pursued during the past year:

- Received accreditation approval to launch our first doctoral program, an innovative ThD.
- Created a Center for Evangelical Congregational Studies, alongside our existing Centers for Methodist Studies and for Anabaptist Studies.
- Recruited world-class scholar, Dr. Leonard Sweet, to the seminary faculty.
- Held our first Symposium featuring the gifts, skills, research, and teaching of Seminary alums; a wonderful opportunity to learn from one another.

God's work at Evangelical is on the road to new things. We look forward to the next sixty-five years!

In celebration of this significant milestone, you may have received a letter inviting you to participate in **Drive 65!** That letter was one "on-ramp" to the Drive 65 highway, to commit to a gift of \$65/month for the year of our anniversary. Many have already joined with us!

If you missed that on-ramp, no worries! There are several other routes for your participation:

- Make a one-time gift of \$780 (12 months X \$65).
- Make a one-time gift at any level. A higher amount would be great!
- Make a monthly gift of any amount.

The envelope in the center of this magazine offers options to simplify your monthly gift giving, and indicates how you will help Evangelical with fuel for the journey. With help from friends like you, it has been an incredible sixty-five years of ministry. Join the continuing journey; in God's grace help us advance the Kingdom for another sixty-five years!



Ann E. Steel
Executive Director of Institutional Advancement



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MISSION STATEMENT

In partnership with the church, Evangelical Seminary develops servant leaders for transformational ministry in a broken and complex world by nurturing rigorous minds, passionate hearts, and Christ-centered actions.

Congratulations, Dr. Sarah Dorsey Bollinger!



Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies Sarah Dorsey Bollinger recently received word that her dissertation, "Ritual Manipulation of Hair in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Texts" had been approved by the faculty of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion for the awarding of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.

The new Dr. Bollinger is a graduate of Evangelical Seminary. She earned a Master of Arts in Religion (MAR) in Old Testament, studying under her father, Evangelical's much-loved professor Dr. David Dorsey. Dr. Dorsey held the chair in Old Testament Studies now shared by Sarah and her husband, Assistant Professor Phillip Bollinger. Sarah has also studied at Andrews University (Michigan), Rothberg International School of Hebrew University (Jerusalem), and Lebanon Valley College (Annville). Hebrew University awarded her the Master of Philosophy in Hebrew, Judaic, and Cognate Studies in 2012.

Dr. Bollinger and her husband co-curate the Dorsey Museum of Biblical Archeology on our campus and are the proud parents of young David, named after her father. We congratulate our friend and colleague on her achievement!

Veritas Institute

AN EVANGELICAL SEMINARY-HUNTINGTON UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION

Veritas Theology Institute was created by Huntington University (HU) in 2017 for the purpose of building young, theologically minded leaders. The Lilly Foundation awarded HU a \$600,000 grant to start the program, provided they engaged credible partners for its delivery. Huntington turned to us to help them; and three of our professors traveled to Indiana last summer to teach in an energetic week-long academy for high school students. We will participate again in the summer of 2018, nurturing the ongoing relationship with our partner institution, planting seeds in young people for future vocations in ministry. In a few years, some of the new students enrolling at Evangelical will hopefully be those whose minds and spirits were nudged as a result of this collaborative program.

