

Ministry Based Group Letter of Support for Summer 2023 Admission to Doctor of Ministry

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program is a professional graduate degree set in an ecumenical and multidisciplinary context directed toward excellence in the active engagement of ministry. The DMin is intended to provide advanced study for persons who are already engaged in the practice of ministry in its varied forms. In practical terms, the emphasis of the program is on advancing personal, professional, and theological integration in order to help the participants achieve a high level of competency in the practice of ministry and its theoretical underpinnings. The program distinguishes itself by seeking to integrate theory and praxis. Therefore, DMin students are required to continue in the practice of ministry while studying within an interdisciplinary framework and by the unique ecumenical context provided by the TST. Candidates are expected to have a solid biblical and theological education, as well as a proven ability in the practice of ministry. It is also important that the candidate has the ability to engage in collaborative learning and be self-directed in determining their learning goals and objectives.

An integral part of our program requires the support of a Ministry Base Group (MBG) to assist the successful applicant with critical reflection and support the student in their ministry setting. The MBG is established on the site of the applicant's practice of ministry and is formed during the first year of the student's program. The major responsibility for forming this group is that of the student.

The application process requires a statement from at least one such person indicating their willing to work with the applicant in establishing and chairing the MBG. The individual writing the MBG Letter of Support should not be the same as the one who writes the Denominational or Institutional Letter of Support. Your letter should be written on official letterhead and indicate the following:

- willingness and commitment to the applicant and DMin process
- your agreement to assist in the formation of a ministry base in the church or institution in which the applicant's ministry will be located for the duration of the program and serves as the chair of the MBG
- any other comments you deem helpful to the DMin Admissions Committee.

To ensure your letter of support is matched to the applicant, please include the following:

- the legal name of the applicant
- indicate that you are providing a MBG Letter of Support
- your name, position (if applicable) and denomination or institution with which you are affiliated
- sign and date your letter

Please send your reference by one of the following methods to be received the GCTS Office by the DMin application deadline of **12 noon (EST), December 01, 2022**, for first round consideration or **12 noon (EST), February 16, 2023**, for second round consideration.

Mail your reference by regular postal mail directly to:

DMin Applicant Reference - Confidential
CSM Admissions Committee
c/o Graduate Centre for Theological Study
Toronto School of Theology
47 Queen's Park Crescent East
Toronto, ON M5S 2C3
Canada

OR

Email a scan of the original letter, as an attachment, sent directly from your institutional email account to GCTS.Office@utoronto.ca with the applicant's name and type of Letter of Support in the subject line e.g., "DMin MBG Letter of Support – Jane Smith".

Letters of Support issued to applicants or photocopies will not be accepted. Your letter is considered a confidential document and will not be shared with the applicant.

Thank you.