**INTERNSHIP COURSE COMPETENCIES**

*\*Competencies for the first eight weeks of internship*

**Master of Arts in Ministry – Theology and Social Justice**

*The faculty supervisor will provide guidance to students*

*in contextualizing the required competencies.*

*Thematic Requirement:* Students will disclose how they have critically reflected on social location and personal identity in ministry situations, and how their own location and personal identity affected awareness of themselves, others, and their context.

Section 1: Be Aware

\*1. Students will develop and practice a spiritual discipline throughout the internship to prepare them for life as a community leader.

\*2. Students will develop an awareness of their self-identity (race/ethnicity, age, gender identity, class, and religious ethos) in order to analyze how this self-identity is *affected by and has the power to affect* the systemic and institutional inequality and injustice in their present locales and beyond.

3. Students will strengthen their capacity for ethical leadership as they engage in interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships in order to lead a healthy Christian life.

\*4. Students will strengthen their capacity to address personal physical concerns in order to nurture a healthy life for long-term commitment to their vocation.

\*5. Students will develop the capacity to become aware of the underlying assumptions that impact how they communicate with those with whom they differ, in order to reflect on the life experiences/values that formed these assumptions. They will demonstrate this growth in their theological reflection papers and conversations.

Section 2: Think Theologically

\*6. Students will gain the capacity to write theological reflection papers and to have serious theological conversations *in the midst of* daily life.

\*7. Students will develop the habit of reflecting theologically upon a relevant community issue in light of a particular theologian's insights and/or a particular theological framework.

\*8. Students will demonstrate how to think theologically upon how the work of social justice is a part of the process of faith formation.

9. Students will demonstrate their capacity to develop a theology of social justice that arises out of their internship experiences. This paper will 1) define social justice within the Christian faith; 2) critically reflect on the current institutional and intersecting power dynamics affecting our society (life and death concerns); and 3) offer a vision for social justice action and the theological framework, theologians and Scripture that inform it. This assignment is part of the Final Evaluation Paper.

Section 3: Lead Faithfully

\*10. Students will lead a contextual study to acquire skills in analyzing relationships of power both within the placement and in the broader community, and become knowledgeable of the placement in terms of its history, funding sources, process of building its constituent base, and its internal structure and governance. The study will begin early in the internship and be completed by a deadline set by the faculty supervisor. The faculty supervisor sets the specific guidelines. A report of the study (5 to 8 pages written, PowerPoint, video, audio, etc.) will be submitted to the faculty supervisor, mentor pastor, the placement supervisor (if not the mentor pastor), and the lay teaching committee.

\*11. Students will gain an overview of the fundamentals of community organizing principles and strategies.

12. Students will develop the skill of conducting “listening campaigns.” This skill will help students develop the capacity to 1) identify persons who share common concerns and develop partnerships to work on identified issues in the neighborhood; and 2) effectively communicate the students’ values that motivate them to lead, and the key events that influenced their call to public leadership.

\*13. Students will gain skills in planning public liturgies as a response to local, national, and global concerns.

14. Students will demonstrate an ability to lead a small group in reflecting upon the biblical story or Gospel values in light of a pressing community need.

\*15. Students will demonstrate their capacity to manage their schedules effectively in order to meet their responsibilities to the Internship course, placement, self and family.