The calling to the ministry of Jesus Christ is a calling to prepare. Our graduates show that McMurry is the best place for United Methodist college students to begin preparation for the ministries to which God is calling them. The study of the Christian faith and the service of the church are at the heart of our campus community. If you would like to spend four years in a United Methodist university with professors and fellow students who share your commitment to preparation for ministry, McMurry is the place for you.

The Department of Religion and Philosophy offers courses in Bible, New Testament Greek, Christian Theology, Christian Ethics, the History of Christianity, World Religions, the Philosophy of Religion, and Christian Ministry. These courses are taught by committed Christians who help their students grow intellectually and spiritually, and show pastoral concern for them both in and outside the classroom. In the spirit of John Wesley, the Department unites intellectual achievement and vital piety in ways that foster both academic excellence and mature Christian discipleship.

The Office of Religious Life sponsors weekly “traditional and contemporary” worship services, Bible studies, accountability groups, ministry projects, and Kappa Delta Sigma, an organization for students preparing for ministry. Students may also participate in spiritual formation retreats, mission trips, and seminary tours.

McMurry Students Serve as Student Pastors, Ministers of Music and Youth, and Sunday School Teachers in Local United Methodist Congregations. Students may earn college credit for supervised internships in churches.

Ministry Opportunities
McMurry students serve as student pastors, ministers of music and youth, and Sunday School teachers in local United Methodist congregations. Students may earn college credit for supervised internships in churches.

Mentors
United Methodist Bishop-in-Residence Dan Solomon, Professor Bill Libby (who has served on national boards for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church), and University Chaplain Tim Kennedy provide invaluable guidance to students who are discerning a vocation to various ministries in the church.

McMurry Students Are Prepared for Seminary...and Beyond

The members of the Department of Religion and Philosophy are nationally known scholars in their fields, and have a proven record of success in preparing students for graduate-level theological study. In the last few years, McMurry students have been awarded admission and full-tuition scholarships to Duke University Divinity School, Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and Princeton Theological Seminary. Recent graduates are also studying at Asbury Theological Seminary, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, George W. Truett Theological Seminary and the Law School of Baylor University, and the Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University.
Continued from page one

Our Religion majors regularly present their academic research at annual meetings of the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies and the Great Plains Regional Honors Council. They also participate in McMurry’s study abroad programs, such as “Wesley in London,” “Biblical Archaeology in Jordan,” and “Christianity in Scotland.”

Students preparing for ministry often participate in McMurry’s Servant Leadership Program. Pre-seminary students may major or minor in any academic discipline offered at McMurry. Many choose to study Religion, Psychology, History, Spanish, Music, and Communication. Faculty members across our campus are supportive of students who are preparing to serve Jesus Christ in ministry.

Melissa Bernis graduated from McMurry with double majors in Religion and Music and a minor in Greek in 2004. She received the award for outstanding graduate at commencement, served as a student pastor during her senior year, and now attends Duke University Divinity School on a full-tuition scholarship. She was also awarded full-tuition scholarships by Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. A United Methodist from Carlsbad, NM, Melissa says that, “The excellent education that McMurry has provided for me has opened many doors for personal, spiritual, and intellectual growth, as well as countless leadership opportunities within the church, school, and surrounding community.”

Tim Kennedy graduated from McMurry in 1999 with a double major in Religion and Communication. A cross-country runner and men’s social club member during college, he attended Princeton Theological Seminary on a full-tuition scholarship, and graduated in 2003.

Melissa with Dr. Philip Shuler, a United Methodist elder. He taught Bible and Greek at McMurry for 25 years and retired in 2004.

He began his ministry as McMurry’s University Chaplain at that time. A United Methodist from Lovington, NM, Tim says that, “With a commitment to academic excellence and spiritual vitality, we encourage our students to study, worship, and serve together. I am excited to be a part of a University community that takes seriously the call to raise a new generation of Christian leaders for the Church and the world.”

What Others Say About Us

“McMurry University extends the ministry of the Northwest Texas and New Mexico Conferences by providing an excellent undergraduate, Christian liberal arts education.”

United Methodist Bishop D. Max Whitfield, New Mexico and Northwest Texas Conferences

“I thank God that McMurry University reminds me again and again that people are precious. I’ll always be grateful for the gift of a wonderful community that continues to bless me. It’s great to be connected to McMurry’s wonderful people.”

The Rev. C. Lane Boyd ’70, Senior Pastor, first United Methodist Church, Midland, TX

“McMurry provided a loving, caring, and dynamic educational atmosphere as I prepared for seminary and the United Methodist ordained ministry. Through both a strong academic program and wise counsel from my professors, McMurry gave me the tools I needed to prepare me for the ministry. Today, McMurry continues to educate me and influence my ministry, decades since I left as a student. I will always be grateful to McMurry for all it has provided me!”

The Rev. J. Gorton Smith, ’76, Senior Pastor, St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Las Cruces, NM
Meet the Department of Religion and Philosophy

**Dr. Philip LeMasters**, Professor of Religion and Chairman, earned his Ph.D. from Duke University in Christian Theology and Ethics. He teaches a variety of courses in Christian belief and morals, including “Christian Thought in America” and “Christian Ethics.” He also directs McMurry’s “Christianity in Scotland” study-abroad program.

**Dr. John Miller**, Assistant Professor of Religion, earned his Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Testament. He teaches New Testament Greek and a variety of courses in Bible. Dr. Miller is preparing for ordination as an elder in the United Methodist Church.

**Reverend Bill Libby**, Associate Professor of Religion, earned his M. Div. from Drew University Theological School and pursued post-graduate studies at American University. A United Methodist elder who has served in the military chaplaincy and the local church, he teaches survey courses in Bible and directs study abroad programs in Jordan and England.

**Dr. C. Jeffrey Kinlaw**, Associate Professor of Philosophy, earned his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in Philosophical Theology. He teaches several different courses in Philosophy, including “Philosophy of Religion” and “Social and Political Philosophy.”

**Dr. Daniel Eppley**, Assistant Professor Religion, earned his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in the History of Christianity. He teaches introductory and advanced courses in church history which focus on the Middle Ages, the Protestant Reformation, and the rise of Methodism.

**Dr. Philip LeMasters**

**Dr. C. Jeffrey Kinlaw**

**Dr. Daniel Eppley**

**Dr. John Miller**, on the left.

**Reverend Bill Libby**

**University Chaplain Tim Kennedy**, earned his M. Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary. He teaches a two-semester sequence of courses in Christian Ministry and oversees the Office of Religious Life. Chaplain Kennedy is preparing for ordination as an elder in the United Methodist Church.

**University Chaplain Tim Kennedy**

**Dr. Miller, on the left.**
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