

## **CERTIFICATE IN CHURCH VITALITY**

### **Joint Erskine Theological Seminary/ONA Program**

**CHURCH AND SACRAMENTS:** This course examines foundational issues, such as the nature and centrality of the sacraments, the priesthood of the believer, and the mission of the Church in the modern world. Students explore historical and contemporary attributes and marks of the Church. Special attention is given to the Biblical foundations of the Church in light of sociological reflections and theological constructs. Each student will produce a personal theology of Church and Sacrament, making use of Biblical, confessional, and ecclesial resources.

**THE CHANGING FACE OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH:** This course examines the Church in post-World War II American culture. Students evaluate the influences upon the Churches in a rapidly changing environment.

**EXPLORING THE MISSIONAL CHURCH:** This course analyzes the Biblical theme of mission and its significance for the development of a missional ecclesiology. Students explore missional church models of ministry and consider implications of the models for twenty-first century church ministry.

**ENGAGING LOCAL CULTURE:** This cohort driven course challenges students to formulate a strategy to engage the churches and organizations they lead to effectively engage the local culture on a practical and missional level. The cohort will meet together to sharpen their plans and skills as well as to hear from leaders in the field of church and culture.

**ENGAGING CONGREGATIONAL CULTURE:** This cohort driven course leads students to examine the culture of their local church. With components of pastoral self-awareness, congregational style and health surveys, leadership development and experienced pastoral engagement,\* students will be able to diagnose, engage and lead the congregational culture to maximum effectiveness for church growth and kingdom impact.

\*i.e., bringing in experienced pastors who have led congregations through a change in culture