

# It's your call

Discovering your vocation in ministry



*Garrett-Evangelical  
Theological Seminary*  
**Garrett**

# ARE YOU CONSIDERING A VOCATION IN MINISTRY?

**G**od calls people to serve in numerous ways, and not all service involves a career in ministry. But those who choose this route find it fulfills them like nothing else can.

A ministry profession is about being in relationship with God and in service to people, all within the context of one's vocation. This can take many forms, ranging from parish ministry to working with youth, from education to missions, to name just a few. But the thread that runs through them all is that people in ministry vocations attend to others' spiritual needs, as well as their physical, mental and emotional ones. Ministry vocations serve the whole person. Similarly, when you serve in a ministry vocation, your whole self is immersed in helping people and serving God.



## PROGRAMS AND CONCENTRATIONS

- Christian Education
- Christian Social Work
- Congregational Ministry
- Multi-Cultural Ministry
- Music Ministry
- Pastoral Care and Counseling
- Pastoral Ministry
- Rural Ministry
- Social Justice
- Spiritual Formation and Evangelism
- Urban Ministry
- Youth Ministry

### Call (*noun*):

*a divine vocation or  
strong inner prompting to  
a particular course of action*

(Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary)





"I feel called for the ministry, and it's very strong. I know that I should be here right now. But I felt very comfortable telling the field education placement director that I don't really know exactly what I want to do. She said that it's okay to do two different field ed placements if that will help me understand my call more, get more experience in different locations and different aspects of ministry. It's okay not to know exactly what you want to do, and Garrett will help you once you get here. I feel that my call's being nurtured because there are so many different opportunities."

— **Chris McDaniel**  
Master of Divinity student  
Annapolis, Md.

## CLARIFYING YOUR VOCATIONAL CALLING

For some, the desire to serve God in a specific vocation has burned within them for years. Others recall a moment when they "just knew" that they were called to serve. But just as often, people feel a pull toward ministry, but are conflicted about finding the right vocation. More often than not, discovering one's life's purpose is more like a process that unfolds rather than a singular revelation.

Seminary can play an integral role in this process. It's not a place where you enroll only after you've figured it all out. At Garrett-Evangelical, we meet you where you are and are your partner in that journey. While some of our students come with a specific outcome in mind, such as ordination, others only know they have a passion for serving God and feel a strong pull toward ministry. Seminary helps them dig deeper into the heart of Christianity, grow spiritually, and explore different ministry options—alongside others engaged in the same process.

Seminary is not just a destination to learn the "tools of the trade" of ministry, but rather a place to broaden and deepen your theological understanding and your relationship with God. Through this process, one's call to vocation is clarified.



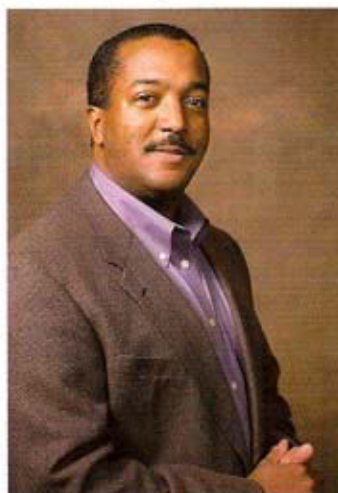
# RESPONDING TO THE CALL

**G**arrett-Evangelical students encounter and explore pulls toward ministry vocations in a variety of ways. Below, several share their personal journeys.

## James Clark

Master of Divinity student, Naperville, Illinois

*While attending Garrett-Evangelical part-time, James works full-time in commercial real estate investment banking and is a husband and father of two.*



"I come from a family of pastors, so I've grown up knowing there was a call all my life. Like many, you tend to fight it, or run from it, or rebel, and I've been through all those stages. It's probably taken me 20 years to finally come to terms with it and acknowledge it. I don't know what I'm going to be doing in 3 years or 5 years. I'm more focused on being on the right path now and being confident that that path will take me to where I'll need to be. As I take each step, the path gets a little clearer."

## Darcy Crain

Master of Divinity student, Northville, Michigan

"At first, it didn't even occur to me that ministry was an option. I had this altruistic goal in my life of helping people, so I thought I'd major in psychology. Then it occurred to me one day, as I was sitting in the lab doing



"In theological views,  
there's a wide variety,  
so I feel like there's a place for  
pretty much anyone,  
that you could find someone  
you can connect with  
as well as someone that  
you can dialogue with  
and you may not agree with."

— Darcy Crain

analysis of psychology stats, that the only way I was truly helping people was in the contemporary worship service I participated in. It wasn't in analyzing statistics that I was actually going to reach out to people. It was by going into ministry."

### **Candy Krider**

Master of Arts student, Middlebury, Indiana

*While attending Garrett-Evangelical full-time, Candy works part-time as a parish nurse and is a mother of two sons.*

"When I was choosing a career, the attitude of ministry was there, but an official position in ministry wasn't something many girls considered back then, though I see nursing as a form of ministry. I started to sense a call into full-time ministry work 5-6 years ago. I ran away from it for awhile, but God showed me through many different people and many different avenues that it wasn't going to go away. I went into prayer and realized the call was still there."

### **Cara Newhouse**

Master of Divinity student, Gurnee, Illinois

"I always swore I would never go to seminary. But on a missions trip to Brazil, I experienced a moment when I decided I need a space where I can sit down with God, where I can look at the history of the church in an academic and spiritual context, with a bunch of other people who are also looking at this information, and have that space to grow in my faith to figure out what God wants next from me."



"I think it's important that people understand

that seminary is not just about

popping out pastors;

it's a space for people to take

classes and then see how that fits

into your life plan and

your calling."

— Cara Newhouse



# EXPLORING YOUR CALL AT GARRETT-EVANGELICAL

**G**arrett-Evangelical's programs are designed to provide the resources you need to discern and fulfill your call to serve God, in whatever form that may take.

Our rigorous and stimulating academic curriculum is balanced by our commitment to practical learning and application through a strong field education program. These opportunities range from parish to social justice agency. Our dedicated faculty and staff take the time to get to know each student, so that experiences can be tailored to nurture her or him on the journey.

While 60 percent of our students are full-time, we also offer part-time degree programs to accommodate second-career students with other responsibilities, such as work and family. We are committed to making it possible for any person with a serious desire to explore their calling and prepare for ministry.

Your access to an array of classes and offerings extends beyond the walls of the seminary. Through our membership in the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS), students may take classes at any of 12 major seminaries located in Chicago, representing a range of denominational traditions and theological orientations.



"The day I graduated from high school I was pretty sure of my call to ordination and that I wanted to go to seminary. I grew up in the church and experienced a lot of great things. But at my first annual conference in Missouri, I saw the politicking and the backbiting of the church for the first time, but remember sitting in my hotel room and thinking "I'm supposed to be here." I was 100 percent sure of my call at that conference. Garrett-Evangelical has strengthened and encouraged that every step of the way."

— **Jimmy Cooper**  
Master of Divinity student  
St. Louis, Mo.

# THE CULTURE OF GARRETT-EVANGELICAL

**T**hough Garrett-Evangelical is a seminary of The United Methodist Church, students come from nearly 30 denominational traditions. Committed to an ecumenical student body, Garrett-Evangelical believes this diversity creates an open, rich, and relevant dialogue about theology and the practice of ministry. Our faculty also reflects this diversity.

Even more important than our denominational and ethnic diversity is our diversity of ideas and perspectives. We believe that discussing and exchanging points of view is a healthy part of a seminary education—and a natural part of life. At Garrett-Evangelical you will learn to listen to others, to see things from various points of view and to relate to people of all beliefs—necessary bridge-building techniques that will better prepare you for ministry no matter the setting.

Faith matters.

Truth matters.

Justice matters.

If our core values resonate with you, just imagine how a Garrett-Evangelical education will touch those to whom you will minister.



"My father is a pastor and my mother is an associate, and I said I would never go to seminary. I was going to be a news reporter; that's what I thought I was going to be. But I saw that when they came home at the end of the day, my parents were truly happy and fulfilled. While working with youth in the church, I realized I couldn't see myself doing anything else either. I would like to incorporate my two interests though: communications and ministry. You have the opportunity to explore that here at Garrett-Evangelical."

— Christal Bell

Master of Divinity student

Peoria, Ill.



## COMMUNITY AT GARRETT-EVANGELICAL

Central to Garrett-Evangelical's culture is its strong sense of community. This is a community of believers exploring their separate paths together. Nurturing and supportive power is found in that alone.

Knowing that community doesn't just happen, the seminary works hard to create opportunities for ties to be developed and strengthened between students and among students and faculty. Its faculty and staff are student-focused, listening to feedback and dedicated to implementing changes that meet students' needs. Community meals are served each Wednesday evening, a popular weekly treat where students—part-time and full-time, on-campus residents and commuters—gather in fellowship. Worship is another integral point of community unity, where students and faculty gather in worship to God, in eucharist, praise and gospel services.

On-campus housing is available, providing the continuity from undergraduate to graduate school that some students desire. Garrett-Evangelical acknowledges the benefit of students learning and living together, to aid one another's growth in all aspects of their lives.

If you value active engagement with people and ideas and a nurturing environment where you can grow on your journey in the company of others also seeking Christ's direction, Garrett-Evangelical is a place where you would be comfortable. Here you'll be both challenged and supported by the community.



# THE LOCATION ADVANTAGE:

## RESOURCES OF A WORLD-CLASS CITY AND TOP-RATED UNIVERSITY

**G**arrett-Evangelical is in Evanston, Illinois, a diverse community of 74,000 people located just north of Chicago on the shore of Lake Michigan. It is perfectly situated to provide the best of both worlds: a beautiful campus nestled in a vibrant suburban community with ready access to the diversity of the city.

A wealth of field study locations and volunteer service opportunities lay literally at the doorstep of Garrett-Evangelical students. Additionally, our students enjoy the vast array of cultural, entertainment and dining experiences that abound in Chicago.

Our location on the campus of Northwestern University provides access to the life and resources of the university. This includes the library, courses (available for cross registration in a number of scholarly disciplines), computer network, intramural sports, athletic facilities, Big Ten athletics, and the fine and performing arts complex with its yearlong calendar of concerts, dance recitals, theater productions and films.



"I liked that Garrett offered the resources of  
Chicago and a big school like Northwestern.

— Jimmy Cooper



## IT'S YOUR CALL

Above all, Garrett-Evangelical is focused on its students' needs. Its programs and community are built around helping students explore, discern, and prepare for their calls to ministry through academic study, spiritual development, and field education. Appropriate environments are created to aid in this process, including classes, small groups, worship services, and mentoring. Formally and informally, students are encouraged to discover their gifts and test them in practical settings.

We strive to provide a multitude of experiences to help you in your journey of discovering, preparing for, and fulfilling your call to serve God through ministry. If you have experienced a pull toward ministry and are serious about exploring it further, we are passionate about helping you.



"I know that Garrett is the  
right place for me to be.  
It's a very supportive and healing place.  
When we're on campus, we're a family.  
It's the nature of the people  
who are there that makes it special.  
The sense of community and  
caring for one another  
is modeled by the faculty  
and administration."

— Candy Krider  
Master of Arts in Pastoral Care  
Middlebury, Ind.



# GARRETT-EVANGELICAL AT A GLANCE

**G**arrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is a graduate school of theology of The United Methodist Church located on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. It serves over 450 students. While the seminary is affiliated with The United Methodist Church, students from a number of denominations, as well as cultural backgrounds, foster an atmosphere of ecumenical interaction.

## History

The seminary began in 1853 as Garrett Biblical Institute. Its current name comes from a union of Garrett Theological Seminary and Evangelical Theological Seminary in 1974.

## Location

The seminary's ideal location in north suburban Evanston, just minutes from Chicago and on the shore of Lake Michigan, provides access to the city's rich historical, cultural, and ethnic resources.

## Programs

The seminary offers the following degree programs:

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Arts in specialized ministries
- Master of Theological Studies
- Doctor of Ministry
- Doctor of Philosophy

It also provides courses for academic credit in non-degree and certification programs, as well as courses for continuing education credit.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

We are eager to meet you, learn about your interests, and discuss how Garrett-Evangelical might fit with your needs. We invite you to contact us to begin the dialogue:

### By Phone:

*Locally:* **847.866.3900**

*Outside Chicago:*

**800.SEMINARY (800.736.4627)**

### By E-Mail:

*Admissions:*

**getadmitted@garrett.edu**

*General Information:*

**seminary@garrett.edu**

### By Fax:

**847.467.5253**

### By Mail:

**2121 Sheridan Road  
Evanston, Illinois 60201**

### On the Web:

**www.garrett.edu**

A visit is the best way  
to get to know us.  
We hope to see you soon!

*Photography in this publication by Bill Burlingham,  
David Gambrell, Missy Polly, and the  
Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau*

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