educating a new generation of men and women for urban ministry and leadership

"...on this spiritual anvil is formed the practice of social justice and servant ministry by city congregations of all denominations, seeking to make a difference in their respective urban locations..."

—The Reverend Dr. Douglas M. Bailey
Assistant Professor of Urban Ministry
President, Center for Urban Ministry, Inc.

THE DIVINITY SCHOOL of WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

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URBAN MINISTRY STUDY PROGRAM
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Because 75 percent of all Christians today live in our cities, practical down-to-the-streets experience for all students is particularly important. This program illustrates the reality of the “cost of discipleship” required to follow the radical and prophetic ministry of Jesus the Christ in a contemporary way. Students examine issues of church and community in urban settings, with special attention to the vocation of the urban church as a critical source of social justice. This includes both “mercy” and “advocacy” ministry with the poor, homeless, persons with AIDS, the imprisoned, and other marginalized individuals and groups. Christology, “soul justice” and social justice are central to the program, as evidenced in specific ministries to persons in the urban context.

CURRICULUM
Students are exposed, through Bible, texts and classroom discussion, to aspects of spiritual, congregational and servant ministry in the city. Classroom lectures explore issues ranging from scriptures to social justice to urban ministries. This program requires an immersion to NYC or to a pilgrimage to regional urban ministry site.
Radical Jesus, Radical Justice
Multicultural Contexts for Ministry; NYC
Urban Ministry: Ministering to Urban Churches

IMMERSION
This urban immersion course exposes students to many aspects of urban ministry. Classroom lectures and dialogue examine biblical and textual methodology for spiritual, congregational, and servant ministry in the city, focusing on issues ranging from social justice to the development of non-profit corporations.

CENTER FOR URBAN MINISTRY, INC.
Founded by the Rev. Dr. Doug Bailey at Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis in 2000, the Center for Urban Ministry was moved to Wake Forest Divinity School in 2002 when Dr. Bailey joined the faculty. It is for the renewal of Spirit and Vision in doing the critical “call” (vocation) and work of building up the urban Body of Christ through doing social justice and advocacy ministry.

“CITY OF GOD FOR AMERICAN CITIES”
This national conference is for building up the urban Body of Christ, with its residential center being the Cathedral College, National Cathedral, Washington, D.C. Clergy and lay leaders share the meaning of a compelling vocation to be a vital urban congregation.

“As a former police officer, I thought I had completed my urban pilgrimage. But this urban ministry program at Wake Forest guided me down a different inner city path ripe with issues of social justice to a ministry with a rainbow of urban children hungry for God.”
— Charlotte Disher (M. Div ’04)