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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SFTS adds urban ministry emphasis to Doctor of Ministry program

San Anselmo, Calif., Jan. 26 – The San Francisco Theological Seminary has added an African American theology and urban ministry emphasis to its Doctor of Ministry degree to equip current and future ministers for the front lines of ministry in an urban setting.

The program is designed to prepare students interested in urban ministry as well as racial/ethnic pastors already in the field so they can become more effective in dealing with the crises of the nation's urban centers, including crime, poverty, homelessness, inadequate health care and education.

Dr. James Noel, the Farlough Chair for African American Christianity at SFTS, noted that today's church cannot exercise its prophetic function in society without a presence in the city's public spaces.

"Being prophetic has to do with more than what we say on Sunday," Noel said. "It includes the programs we develop and implement from Monday through Saturday."

This is where SFTS can be a catalyst for change in urban ministry, Noel says.

"If theological seminaries fail to develop their curriculums with the urban reality in view, then the church's future will look very bleak," Noel said. "It will become an impotent institution in our cities, and our urban centers will continue to decay."

The new degree emphasis on urban ministry at SFTS is a positive step toward helping urban churches remain relevant, Noel added.

The new emphasis can be done in two to three years of part-time work, with a maximum of five years for completion. The curriculum comprises three components: a collegium group, a six-week summer intensive at the San Anselmo campus and completion of a dissertation or project.

To apply, students must have a master of divinity degree, or its equivalent, with at least a 3.0 GPA.

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San Francisco Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian Church (USA) graduate school, has prepared whole leaders for the whole church since 1871. One of the founding members of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, it offers theological degrees at two campuses, in San Anselmo and Pasadena. Its innovative Program in Christian Spirituality is open to clergy and non ordained individuals. For more information please call SFTS at 1-800-447-8820 in San Anselmo or 1-800-473-8772 in Pasadena. Also find information on our Web site: www.sfts.edu.