



Name: _____ Date: _____

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ESSAY

Concerning Christian Life, Service and Vision

In a 1,500 to 2,000 word (5-7 pages) essay, describe your Christian life/ministry, expanding on the following topics. Please number the sections and give the short heading according to the following outline:

1. **Conversion & Call** - Describe briefly your conversion and your call to vocational ministry.
2. **Ministry History** - Describe the extent and success enjoyed in various forms of Christian service, including personally leading others to Christ, preaching/teaching the Word of God and/or exercising leadership.
3. **Present Ministry** - Describe your present ministry and the various leadership roles you have. Describe the most fruitful/satisfying parts, the difficult parts, the greatest personal challenges, and your hopes for the near future.
4. **Strengths/Growth** - Describe what you perceive to be the three strengths in your personal character, and two areas where you feel you need growth.
5. **Spiritual Gifts** - Indicate what you believe to be your spiritual gift(s). Include how you discovered and have grown in your spiritual gifts.
6. **Long Term Vision** - Describe your long-term vision for your life and ministry over the next ten years.
7. **Handling Conflict** - When you encounter disagreements, problems or conflicts with someone, how do you usually respond? Evaluate yourself in how you handle such conflicts? Give an example of how you have worked through a major tension with another person.
8. **Degree Program** - Why you are interested in the joint **DMin/ThM-PhD in Peace Studies** program specifically? Which degree do you hope to attain? Describe what you hope to gain from your pursuit of this degree if you are admitted. Describe personal and professional growth goals for your ministry skills and knowledge.
9. **Family Situation** - Discuss any factors related to your family situation or marital status which could have a bearing (positively or negatively) on your pursuit of this degree. Consider, for instance, implications of your extra work in study, being away for a month at a time, ages of children. Is your family supportive of this direction? If divorced/separated please discuss in detail. If engaged or planning to marry, please indicate when.

Type this essay in good English. This statement is an important part of your application.

Note: If possible, the first page of your essay should be typed on your ministry organization's letterhead. Also attach your calling/business card (if you have one) to that letterhead page of the essay.

NOTE FOR RE-APPLICANTS

If you have applied within the last three years, you need only to provide a statement which updates your previous Biographical Information Essay. If you are reapplying after having withdrawn from the program, please include in your statement the reason for your original withdrawal and an explanation of the changes in your circumstances leading you to reapply.