

Instructions: Please complete this form and respond to the questions below. For best results, use Microsoft Word (Windows/Mac, mobile app, or OneDrive on the web) and enter your content in the text fields provided. Save your completed form by appending your last name to the file name:

LASTNAME Theological Reflections.docx

Remember that this is an exercise in expressing your theological views. The intention is not only to prepare you for potential ordination interviews and exams, but also to prepare you for your future ministry, wherever that may be. You will have several opportunities to refine your responses as you receive feedback from your peers, professors, and advisor.

N.B. This document is not a private document. Faculty members and Ministerial Seminar professors have access to all formation documents. For students who have ecclesiastical endorsement, formation documents will be shared with your judicatory representative. Formation documents may also be reviewed in an application process for ecclesiastical endorsement.

Student Name: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Advisor Name: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Denominational Affiliation (if applicable): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

1. What is your understanding of God and/or the sacred? What ideas, commitments, and experiences have shaped this understanding? What images or metaphors do you prefer for God and/or the sacred? How has your understanding and experience of God and/or the sacred changed over time? To what extent has your seminary experience had an impact on your understanding of God and/or the sacred? If so, how?

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#) Limit your response to 500 words.

2. What sources of authority and guidance (e.g., sacred texts, personal experiences, traditions, worship practices, church documents, etc.) do you consult, accept, or submit to in shaping your theological views? To what extent do these conform to or challenge those generally accepted by your denomination or ordaining body? To what extent has your seminary experience had an impact on the authorities that you look to for guidance? If so, how?

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#) Limit your response to 500 words.

3. How do you understand humanity? How would you describe our deepest needs? What are the problematic features of human life (e.g., sin, injustice, alienation, mortality, etc.)? What is hopeful about human nature? To what extent has your seminary experience had an impact on your understanding of humanity? If so, how?

Click or tap here to enter text. Limit your response to 500 words.

- 4. How do you understand Jesus: his identity, mission, and teaching? What did his person and work accomplish? To what extent has your seminary experience had an impact on your understanding of Jesus? If so, how?**

Click or tap here to enter text. Limit your response to 500 words.

- 5. How do you understand the Holy Spirit or the sacred life-giving spirit and its work in the world, the church, and our individual lives? To what extent has your seminary experience had an impact on your understanding of the Spirit? If so, how?**

Click or tap here to enter text. Limit your response to 500 words.

- 6. What is the church? In what ways is it important to Christianity, the world, and you? How do you understand the ministries of the church? To what extent has your seminary experience had an impact on your understanding of the church and its ministries? If so, how?**

Click or tap here to enter text. Limit your response to 500 words.

- 7. How do you understand the sacraments, rites, or ordinances of the church? How does your understanding mesh with that of your religious community? To what extent has your seminary experience had an impact on your understanding of these rituals? If so, how?**

Click or tap here to enter text. Limit your response to 500 words.

- 8. What is your current understanding of religious leadership? How have your personal experience, seminary studies, and church context shaped this understanding?**

Click or tap here to enter text. Limit your response to 500 words.

- 9. For what do you hope (e.g., oneness with God, future love and justice on earth, victory over death, etc.)? To what extent has your seminary experience had an impact on your hope? If so, how?**

Click or tap here to enter text. Limit your response to 500 words.