Regent University School of Divinity

**Name:** Partners in Ministry Training

**Key Objectives:**

1. Reduce graduates’ average debt by 50%
2. Increase by 50% low-debt grads immediately able to enter ministerial leadership
3. Establish improvements for fiscal support and responsibility for future students

**Summary:**

From an initial analysis of student data and the results of a student focus group, these goals are expected to be achieved through a quantitative study tracking one test group of on-campus students for two years, and a second group of online students for one year, against two randomly selected control groups of comparable students in order to answer key research questions: (1) What profile of matriculating students are most at risk and how can these students be helped to economic success? (2) What support, information, training and skills, acquired in what modes, contribute most to student financial health and career success? (3) How effective for ministry students is the missionary-model of fundraising? (4) What kinds of partner engagement, student course load, and student church involvement leads to the most viable ministerial educational success? (5) How can students from independent churches be most effectively helped to gain their ministerial education?

The key components of the program are: (1) Students trained to raise their support; (2) partners offering prayer, finance, internships, accommodation, and employment; (3) program-specific advising, supplementary curriculum, and social media; (4) careful monitoring for revision and research; and (5) developing practices and resources for publication and long-term use.

**Significant Activities:**

1. initial development, with two local churches, of promotional videos to model effective church-seminary partnership (for release in mid-May 2014)
2. conversations with local churches and other various ministry organizations to develop long-term internship or “embedded ministry” situations for students
3. initial development of program webpage, with webform for partners to indicate interest in sponsoring students ([www.regent.edu/pmt](http://www.regent.edu/pmt))
4. initial development of program evaluation plan
5. hosted ~100 pastors from the region’s Assemblies of God, Foursquare Gospel, and Church of God networks, for the purpose of fostering school-church relations

**Important Resources:**

1. promotional videos and website described above
2. 4:10 Funding School provided by the Navigators
3. crowd-funding organizations (especially the educationally-devoted Givology) are an intriguing resource that could prove helpful to our students, but their effectiveness will be demonstrated best through use

**Program Director:**

Ethan White, Director of Student Support, Regent University School of Divinity

erwhite@regent.edu

757-352-4598