VISION STATEMENT
A graduate of Ashland Theological Seminary’s Master of Divinity Program is a person on a transformational journey toward Christ and his likeness, growing emotionally and spiritually in the context of community, able, with integrity, compassion, and faithfulness, to lead and empower others that are on that same pilgrimage. This person will be resourced and skilled to minister God’s Word in ways that are biblically appropriate and culturally relevant.

PURPOSE OF THE MDiv DEGREE
According to the Association of Theological Schools, the "Master of Divinity degree is the normative degree to prepare persons for ordained ministry and for general pastoral and religious leadership responsibilities in congregations and other settings. It is the recommended degree for admission to the Doctor of Ministry degree program, and the recommended first theological degree for admission to advanced programs oriented to theological research and training" (Standards of Accreditation, A.1.0).

LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE MDiv PROGRAM
Graduates of Ashland Theological Seminary’s Master of Divinity degree program will be able to:

Articulate and critically reflect upon their understanding of:

- **Core Identity**, rooted in Christ, as the source from which life and ministry flow.
- **Character** that reflects maturity in Christ.
- **Calling** that is foundational for servant leadership in the church, community and world.

Demonstrate **Competence** in the disciplines and skills relevant to Christian ministry:

1. Understand the content and major themes of Scripture, Christian doctrine and Church history.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in biblical and historical exegesis and theological reflection.
3. Integrate the biblical, historical, and theological reflection with the practice of ministry.
4. Critically reflect on one’s own religious tradition and appreciate other traditions.
5. Analyze cultural contexts and make appropriate application to ministry.
6. Express a commitment to social justice and a missional perspective.
7. Preach the Word of God faithfully and effectively.
8. Demonstrate leadership in both church and public contexts.
9. Demonstrate skills in personal evangelism, worship, education, counseling, pastoral care, communication, and other areas of ministry.