

Heidelberg



Theological Seminary



Why Go to Seminary

Heidelberg
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
905 SD Highway 50
Mail Address: 830 Madison St.
Vermillion, SD 57069
Phone 605-624-4337

This writing is provided as a means of encouraging the church and those called to serve the Lord in a particular way. As questions arise related to the consideration of seminary training or funding support, please feel free to contact both faculty and/or administrative representatives of the Seminary at the addresses noted below:

905 SD Highway 50
Mail Address: 830 Madison St.
Vermillion, SD 57069
Phone 605-624-4337

Web: www.heidelbergseminary.org

Why go to Seminary?

We are told in Ephesians 4:11-12 that as a man fills the office of “pastor and teacher” his calling is a gift from Christ Jesus to the Church. The purpose of this gift is to equip the members of the church for a life of service to God. This connection between the gift, the purpose, and the church necessarily defines what is to be the purpose of seminary training - it is preparation for service to the Church in fulfilling the purpose determined by the Lord of the church in giving pastors and teachers.

Anyone considering attending any Seminary must embrace as the purpose of this education the same purpose dictated by Christ. In obedience to that purpose, Heidelberg Theological Seminary exists solely for “the preparation of individuals for the Ministry of the Word who will serve as pastors and teachers in the Christian Church.” This commitment maintains the important connection between the pursuit of seminary training and service to the church. At Heidelberg, the student is trained academically, practically, and personally to prepare the graduate to equip members of Christ’s church for His service.

It is also the responsibility of the church to oversee this training. The Apostle Paul instructed Timothy in II Timothy 2:2 to prepare men “who will be able to teach others also”. The purpose of this preparation is so the ministry of the Word of God is maintained and will flourish in the church. When someone is convinced he is being called by the Lord for ministry of the Word, he must seek to explore his gifts and prepare himself to fulfill that call. It is for this reason; this individual should seek a suitable Seminary education and why seminaries should exist.

While individuals may consider themselves called to the ministry of the Word, this connection to the church places the ultimate acknowledgement of the gifts and calling upon the church itself. Some individuals are better suited for mission work; others are better suited to serve in a small rural community or at an inner city Church, some to serve the Lord in a more academic arena. But the gifts and opportunities to serve the church with the ministry of the Word must be recognized by the church and based on the specific call of the church.

Because there are different gifts which enable individuals called to serve the church as a Minister of the Word, this recognition must be done before the church is able or willing to confirm the call is truly from the Lord

The Lord’s calling for the work of ministry is not only for the church, it is through the church. Young men should be encouraged to seek such a call, as Paul tells Timothy (I Timothy 3:1), but the final confirmation must be from the church which both trains for and tests the gifts required to fulfill the ministry.

Ministers of the Word are ambassadors of Christ the Head of the Church. To preach the gospel and call the lost to salvation is to exercise the keys of the kingdom of heaven. This is a task not to be done apart from the Authority of Christ. It is an office of the church and the primary reason to obtain seminary training.