



NORTHWIND
INSTITUTE | SEMINARY

Official Announcement
Charter Class Now Forming for New
Doctoral Program in *Romantic Theology*
at www.NorthwindSeminary.org

The *Doctor in Theology and Ministry* degree (DTM) with a concentration in Romantic Theology at Northwind Seminary is believed to be the first of its kind in theological education. According to the director of the program, Dr. Michael J. Christensen, “Romantic Theology represents as cross-current of Theology and Literature focused on creative imagination as a portal of divine revelation. Its romantic and religious themes foster spiritual formation and ministry applications. The spirited collaboration of the Inklings writers produced a body of work worthy of the name.”

According to Dr. Robert Duncan, founding President of Northwind Theological Seminary: “the *Doctor in Theology and Ministry* degree (DTM) is a professional research doctorate. An academic alternative to the Ph.D. degree, the DTM is directed and examined in the same way as a Ph.D. course of study. The DTM requires 36 credit-hours of systematic study and original research leading to a doctoral treatise and oral defense before a faculty committee. This degree is ideal for those who desire independent research, supervised by doctoral faculty, connected to the core disciplines in theology, with direct application to the practice of ministry.”

The Romantic Theology concentration in the DTM offers life-long learners a formative way to read the creative works of the collaborative Inklings, do original research in the field of Inklings Studies and Romantic Theology, and apply their learning to professional projects. The program features six core courses on the Inklings and their contributions to Romantic Theology, followed by an Oxford Pilgrimage in July to visit historic sites, meet other Inklings scholars, and do portfolio research in University libraries. After successful completion of course work or directed study, doctoral students enter the portfolio research phase of their chosen field, supervised by a faculty mentor at Northwind. The program is designed to be completed in two years.

Previous course work in English, History, Philosophy, or Theology, plus a master’s degree in a related field, are required for admission. Students from other schools are invited to enroll in individual courses at Northwind and request transfer credit to their degree-granting institutions. Non-degree students also are welcome to enroll in up to three courses as for academic credit.

For program description: <https://www.northwindinstitute.org/center-for-theology-and-ministry>

For information on Northwind’s authorization, associations, certifications, and process of accreditation: <https://www.northwindinstitute.org/authority-associations>

For more information of the course of study, contact Dr. Michael J. Christensen, lead professor and program director: michael@northwindinstitute.org

To Apply: Visit Northwind Seminary: www.northwindseminary.org

The ‘Romantic’ Theology of the Inklings

*“A romantic theologian does not mean one who is romantic about theology, but one who is theological about romance, one who considers the theological implications of those experiences which are called romantic.”—C. S. Lewis in *Essays Presented to Charles Williams**

Romantic Theology is a term coined by Charles Williams and carried out collaboratively by C. S. Lewis and “our little literary club” known as the Oxford Inklings. In their shared vision and love of Greek and Norse mythology, Arthurian legends, Celtic sagas, and romantic poetry, they produced an enduring treasure of theological fantasies and spiritual writings reflecting the romantic spirit in theology. Through the portal of what Lewis called the “baptized imagination” Romantic Theology was born. The Inklings, through their writings, have inspired generations of Christians and people of goodwill to read and write with the “feeling intellect” of the heart, and not just analyze and abstract propositional truths with the discursive reasoning of the mind.

As a literary scholar and orthodox Christian, C. S. Lewis felt that “if the real theologians were doing their job” there would be no need for lay theologians like him. Lewis and his fellow Inklings championed the creative conjunction of *Logos* and *Mythos* (Reason and Story) to produce compelling works of theological fiction. JRR Tolkien, Owen Barfield, Charles Williams and others, joined Lewis in employing *mythopoetics*—the language of myth, metaphor, poetry and narrative—to point to religious experience and theological truths in aesthetic and concrete ways.

The Inklings met regularly in Oxford pubs and University rooms to converse and read aloud to each other their works in progress in the 1930-40’s. Williams referred to this chivalrous and fantastical enterprise as the “theology of romantic love” and tried to express its main elements in his posthumously published *Outlines of Romantic Theology*. Owen Barfield’s autobiographical attempt to capture the romantic vision of the Inklings is published as *Romanticism Comes of Age*. For the most part, however, the Inklings were content to perform romantic theology without the need to over-define the term or systematically develop the field. “What we have instead is a cross-current of Theology and Literature focused on creative imagination, romantic religious themes, and the collaboration of the Inklings to produce a body of work worthy of the name,” according to Dr. Michael Christensen who directs the program. (For more on the rational and romantic roads to truth, see Dr. Christensen’s essay on “Lewis: The Rational Romantic” in the Appendix to his *C.S. Lewis on Scripture, Gaining A Face: The Romanticism of C.S. Lewis* by Donald T. Williams, and *Romantic Religion* by R. J. Reilly.)

Faculty Mentors in Northwind’s Doctorate in Romantic Theology

Core faculty, Visiting Professors, and Guest Lecturers serve as faculty mentors, offer featured lectures, recommend resources, and serve on doctoral committees. This year’s faculty include:

Michael J. Christensen (M.A., Yale; Ph.D., Drew University) is the lead professor and Center Director for the program and teaches 1) The Oxford Inklings and 2) Charles Williams on Theology of Romantic Love. Formerly Associate Professor of Spirituality and Director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Drew University (1995-2015), Dr. Christensen now serves as Academic Dean of Northwind and Professor of Theology. He is the author of *C. S. Lewis on Scripture, a contributor to the C.S. Lewis Study Bible*, former Senior Fellow and Resident

Scholar at The Kilns in Oxford, and author and/or editor of eleven books on spirituality and social justice;

Dr. Charlie W. Starr (Doctor of Arts, English) is teaching 1) Tolkien on Truth in Stories and Myth and 2) Barfield on Creative Imagination and Evolution of Consciousness. Dr. Starr is Visiting Faculty at Northwind and Associate Professor of English, Alderson Broaddus University, Philippi, VA. He is the author of seven books, including *The Faun's Bookshelf: C. S. Lewis on Why Myth Matters*, and is hailed as the world's leading expert on C. S. Lewis's handwriting;

Dr. Crystal Hurd (Ed.D., Educational Leadership) is team-teaching the Honorary and Other Inklings course and guest lecture in other courses. Dr. Hurd is Visiting Faculty for Inklings Studies at Northwind and Reviews Editor for *Sehnsucht: The C.S. Lewis Journal*. She is Recipient of the Clyde S. Kilby Research Grant for Inklings Research 2020 and contributor of "The Enduring Influence of Flora Lewis" in *Women and C. S. Lewis*, by Carolyn Curtis and Mary Pomroy Key, editors;

Terry Glaspey (Master of Arts, History) is team-teaching the Honorary and Other Inklings course and guest lecture in other courses. Mr. Glaspey is an editor, author, and international speaker on C.S. Lewis and the Visual Arts; and author of *The Spiritual Legacy of C. S. Lewis* and *75 Masterpieces Every Christian Should Know* (Winner of a Christianity Today Book of the Year Award and an ECPA Christian Book Award 2015);

Noted Inklings scholars are featured and scheduled to present Faculty Lectures on special topics at Northwind in 2020-2021, including:

Owen A. Barfield (grandson of Owen and Trustee of the Barfield Estate);

Brenton Dickieson, Ph.D. (Adjunct faculty at Signum University, Regent College, University, and The Kings College, and contributor to *Both Sides of the Wardrobe*);

Malcolm Guite, Ph.D. (English poet, singer-songwriter, Anglican priest, author of *The Singing Bowl* and other volumes of poetry, and academic in Cambridge);

Diana Pavlac Glyer (Professor in Honors College, Azusa Pacific University, and author of *Companions They Keep* and *Bandersnatch*);

Sorina Higgins (Ph.D. candidate at Baylor University, faculty member at Signum University, and editor of *The Inklings and King Arthur*);

Andrew Lazo (M.Div. candidate at Virginia Theological Seminary and Doctoral candidate at Northwind, co-editor of *Mere Christians*, and noted C.S. Lewis expert);

Louis Markos, Ph.D. (Professor in English at Houston Baptist University and author of 16 books, including: *C. S. Lewis: An Apologist for Education*);

Bishop Seraphim Sigrist (Orthodox Church in Japan and author of *Theology of Wonder*); and

Michael Ward, Ph.D. (author of *Planet Narnia* and co-editor of *The Cambridge Companion to C. S. Lewis*).

Students who want to formally study the writings of C.S. Lewis and the Inklings, and learn from leading scholars in the field, should apply to this program.

For admission requirements and program description, visit Northwind:

<https://www.northwindinstitute.org/center-for-theology-and-ministry>

For further information on the Romantic Theology Program: Contact Michael J. Christensen, Ph.D., Academic Dean Michael@NorthwindInstitute.org Ph. 800-994-2421

For further information on Northwind Theological Seminary, contact: President Robert J. Duncan, DMin. Rob@NorthwindInstitute.org Ph. 800-994-2421

Course of Study, Instruction, and Tuition for Doctorate in Theology and Ministry (DTM)

Concentration in Romantic Theology		
COURSES		Faculty Mentors
The Oxford Inklings	3	Dr. Michael J. Christensen
J.R.R. Tolkien on Truth in Story and Myth	3	Dr. Charlie W. Starr
C.S. Lewis on Scripture, Literature and Theology	3	Drs. Christensen and Starr
Charles Williams on Theology of Romantic Love	3	Dr. Christensen et. al.
Owen Barfield on Creative Imagination and Consciousness	3	Dr. Starr et. al.
Honorary Inklings: Dorothy Sayers, G.K. Chesterton, George MacDonald, Warren Lewis, Joy Davidman, et.al.	3	Dr. Crystal Hurd and Terry Glaspey
Oxford Pilgrimage & Resources	6	Dr. Christensen with guest lectures by Michael Ward and Diana Glyer
Portfolio Research & Treatise	6	
Portfolio Defense	6	
	36.00	Tuition for Doctoral Program: \$395 per credit