Participants in this cohort:

- Deepen their biblical and theological foundation for engagement in the work of social transformation—both as regards the identification of needed change and the spiritual and social resources for change.
- Build on their theological foundation with particular insights that can be framed as related to issues of public theological engagement.
- Select a particular topic/issue in public theology through which the four courses of the track will be processed, offering their case learning to peers.
- Demonstrate a grasp of the history of the topic and knowledge of the critical issues, terminology and methodology utilized in forging the Ministry Transformation Project.

Faculty Bio

Dr. Kevin Kinghorn is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Asbury Seminary. He has published articles in philosophy of religion, moral philosophy, epistemology and philosophy of action. He has also written a book, *The Decision of Faith: Can Christian Beliefs Be Freely Chosen?* (T&T Clark, 2005). In 2008, Dr. Kinghorn was elected to the theology faculty at Oxford University.

Dr. Charles “Chuck” Gutenson is a church consultant and former Chief Operating Officer of Sojourners (sojo.net). He previously served 10 years at Asbury Seminary in Kentucky, most recently as the Professor of Theology and Philosophy. He is a member of the International Society of Theta Phi, an honor society for theological students, scholars in the field of religion, and outstanding religious leaders. Chuck is the author of three books and numerous articles on a variety of theological and philosophical topics.
“Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

– James 2:15-17

Class Descriptions

I. Theological Foundations for Social Change

Public relevance requires intellectual, social and practical grounding. This course provides a biblical and theological foundation necessary for participants to develop and articulate theoretical and practical themes within society. Participants evaluate, analyze and connect the culture with particular insights relevant to all humanity.

III. Methods in Social Transformation

During this course, participants receive an overview of important methods both presently and historically used to forge social transformation within the church. Discussions, lectures and field experts examine the delicate balance the church must exercise in the political process, while also recognizing the void left in the public square when the church withdraws. This course includes a field immersion experience in which participants will learn from social entrepreneurs and change agents who are on the front lines of socio-cultural transformation.

II. Public Theology: Surveying the Issues

In this course, participants examine a wide range of socio-cultural issues, such as poverty, racism, environmental stewardship, immigration and economic justice. At the end of this course, participants will focus research in a specific area, enabling them to thoroughly understand a particular topic and lead social change in their local ministry contexts.

IV. Social Entrepreneurs and Change Agents in the Contemporary Context

Participants travel to faith and non-faith based organizations in order to experience the way social change agents practice their theologies of social transformation using various methods, including social media. These experiences are designed to help participants analyze and contextualize findings appropriate to their ministries.