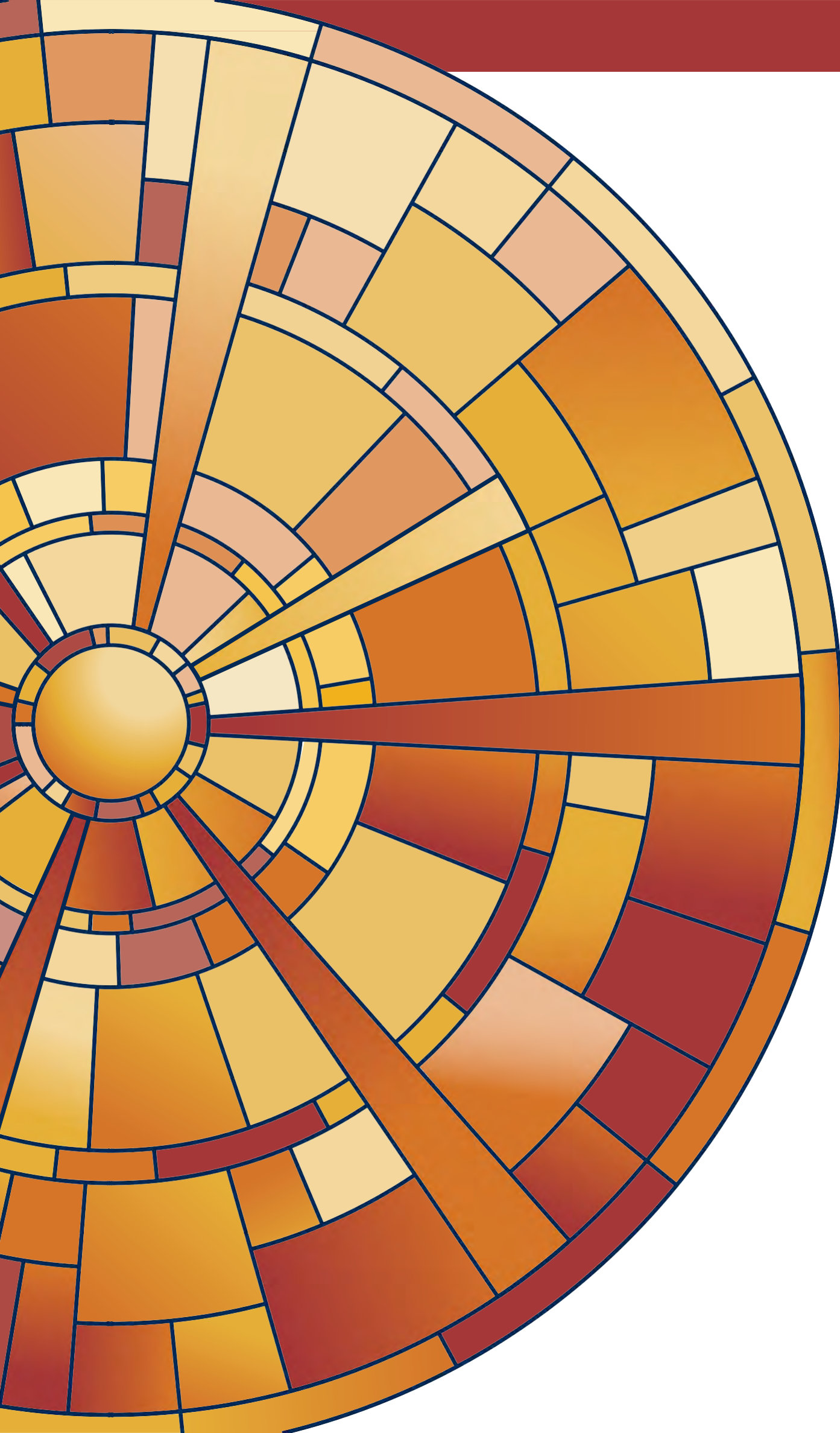


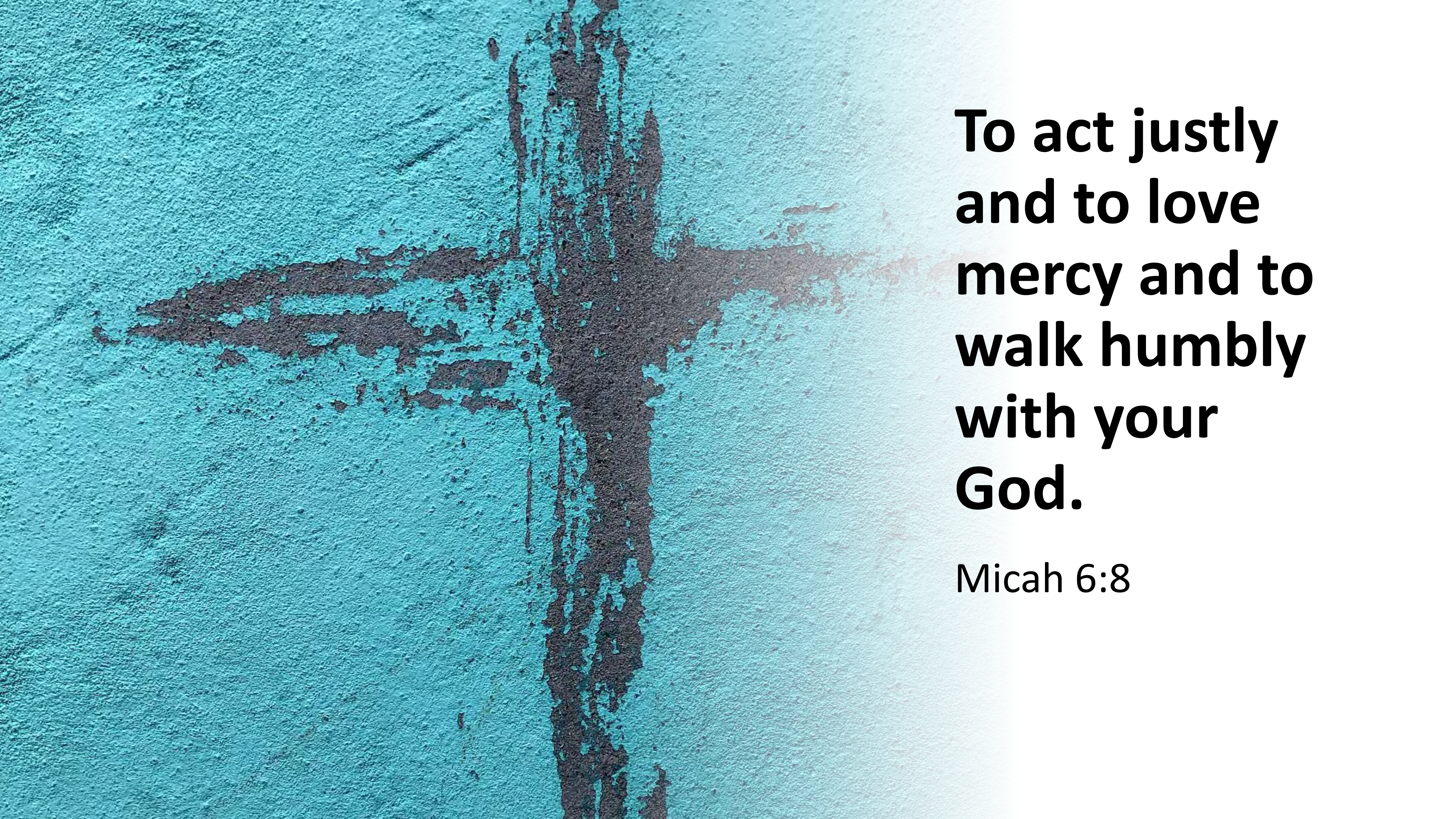


Welcome!

# Social Work





A large, dark, textured cross shape is centered on the left side of the image. The cross is made of a rough, dark material, possibly wood or stone, and is set against a light blue, textured background. The cross is slightly off-center, with its vertical bar extending further down than its horizontal bar extends to the right.

**To act justly  
and to love  
mercy and to  
walk humbly  
with your  
God.**

Micah 6:8





Dr. Ling Dinse, MSW, LSW  
Department Chair  
Associate Professor of Social  
Work

### **Professional Experience**

- PA licensed social worker for over 25 years
- Enjoys academic research
- Over a decade of experience in undergraduate and graduate education

### **Education**

- B.A. & M.S.W - State University of New York at Buffalo
- D.S.W - Millersville University

### **Research Interests**

- Intentional dialogues
- Racial reconciliation
- Caring for human trafficking survivors
- Integration of social work and faith
- Relational healing
- Church trauma





Michelle Dixon George, M.S.W., LCSW, BCD  
Field Director  
Associate Professor of Social Work

### **Professional Experience**

- 30+ years in clinical practice with children, adolescents, adults, families, and couples
- Outpatient counselor in a private practice
- 18 years of experience as a field director, equipping students for direct practice

### **Education**

- M.S.W. (1994) Temple University School of Social Administration (clinical concentration)

### **Interests:**

- Interprofessional Education (IPE)
- Clinical social work from a faith perspective
- Spiritual Formation
- Diversity and issues of reconciliation
- Treatment of clinical mental health disorders



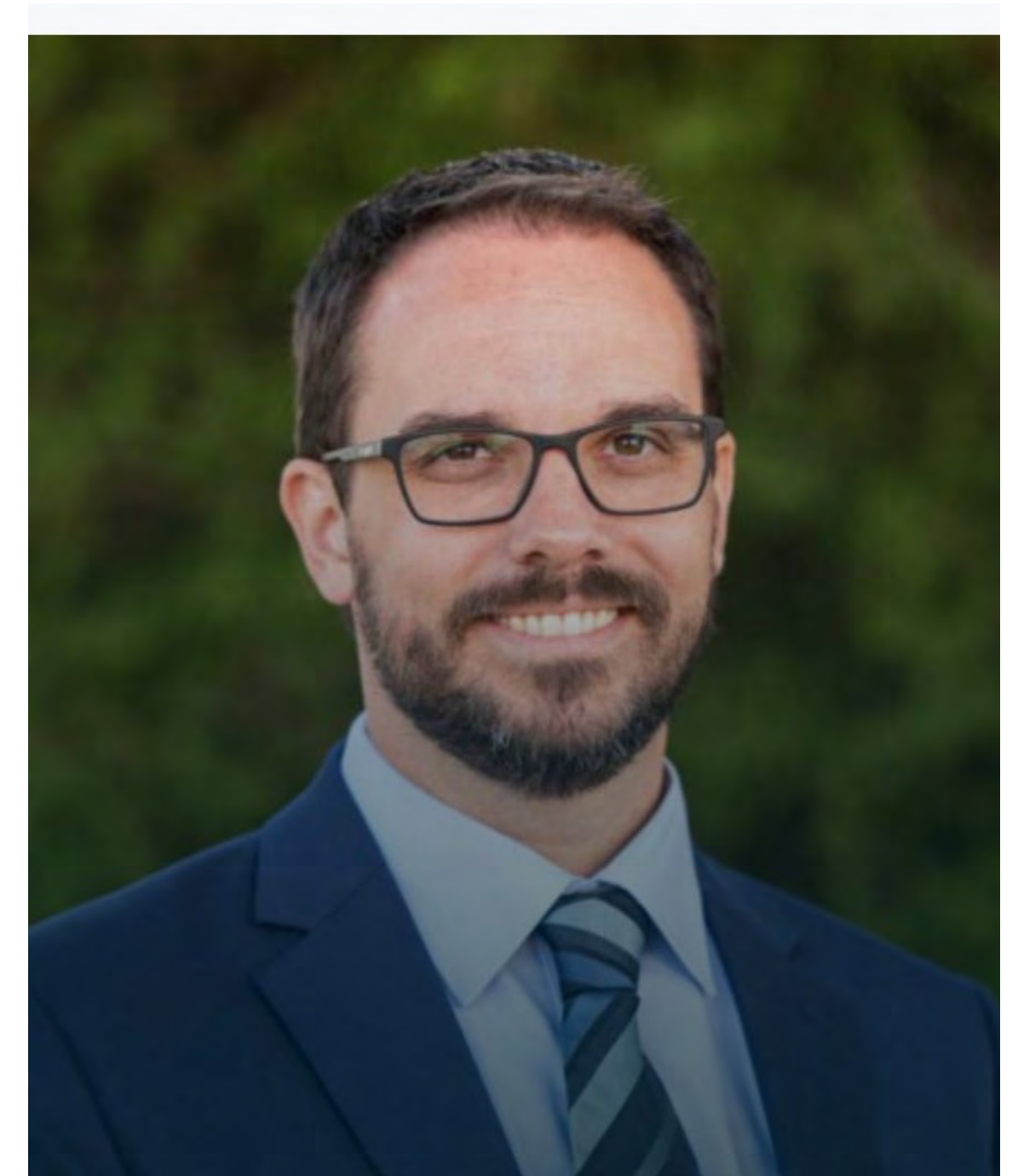
# Our Contributing Department Adjuncts



**Morgan Adams, MSW**  
Forensic Interviewer at a Child  
Advocacy Center (CAC) in  
Lancaster, PA.



**Tara Piechowicz, MSW**  
Vice President at GSL  
Government Consulting



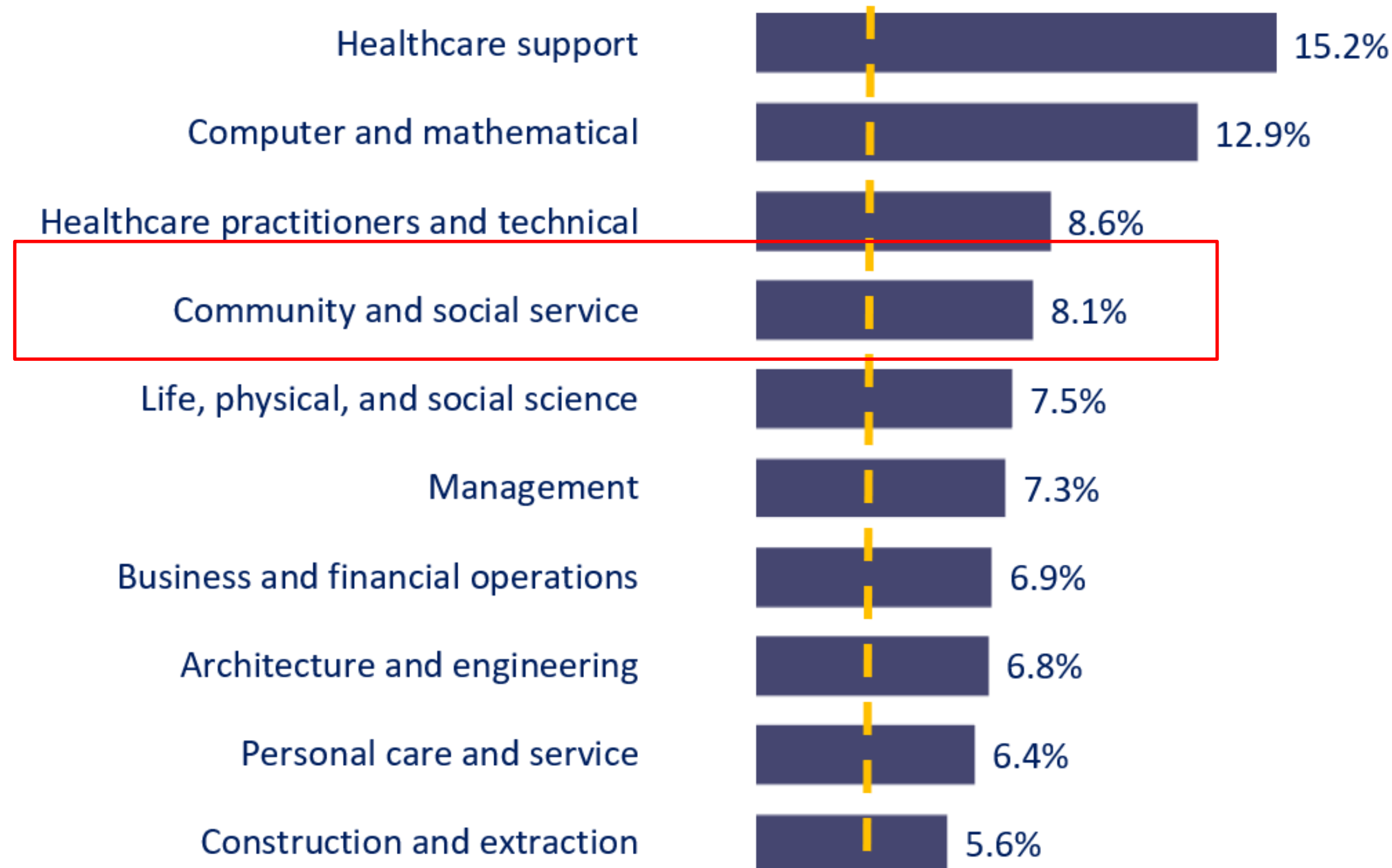
**David Zilka, MSW, PCHA**  
CEO at Paxton Ministries



# Top 10 Occupational Groups Projected to Grow the Fastest

Percent employment change, projected 2023-33

← Total, all occupations = 4.0%



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that more than 67,000 new social work jobs will be added yearly through 2033 (U.S. Bureau of Labor, 2025)

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2025).  
Employment  
projections. [Employment Projections Home Page](#) :  
[U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)





# Messiah social work program distinctive #1

---

Classroom learning is balanced with  
practical experience





# Service learning *and* social work

- ✓ Seven Required Courses: SOWK 120, SOWK 221, SOWK 251, SOWK 361, SOWK 476, SOWK 372 & SOWK 490
- ✓ Developmental model
- ✓ Over 600 hours of community engagement
- ✓ Each component is tied directly to curriculum

Messiah has been nationally recognized by the **Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching** and the **President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll** for its commitment to service learning, community service and civic engagement.





# First-year experience *in the community*

**Volunteering** *in collaboration with the Agapé Center for Local & Global Engagement*

- Paxton Ministries
- Salvation Army
- New Hope Ministries
- Messiah Lifeways
- Bethesda Men's Mission
- Center for Champions





## Preliminary Practice

- Halifax School District
- New Hope Ministries
- Catholic Charities
- Bethany Village
- Logos Academy
- Grane Hospice

# Second-year experience *in the community*



- Capitol Area Pregnancy Center
- Bethesda Women's Shelter
- Jewish Family Services
- Bair Foundation
- Families United Network





# Third-and fourth-year experience

## *social work practice*

### Groups

- Observing multiple sessions of community educational and treatment groups
- Developing and implementing groups serving the Messiah campus and surrounding communities





# Third-and fourth-year experience

## *social work practice*

### Communities and Organizations

Developing and implementing community projects

- ☑ Grant writing
- ☑ Program development and implementation

- ☑ Community assessment
- ☑ Community education programs





# Fourth-year experience *social work practice*

**Engaged in  
450 hours of  
practice**

- Dauphin and Cumberland County District Attorney's offices
- Children and Youth Services
- GSL Public Affairs
- Homeland Hospice
- Neighboring Communities
- Milton Hershey School - *Hershey, PA*
- Living and Learning East Coast (BUS)
- Pennsylvania Counseling Services of Central Pennsylvania

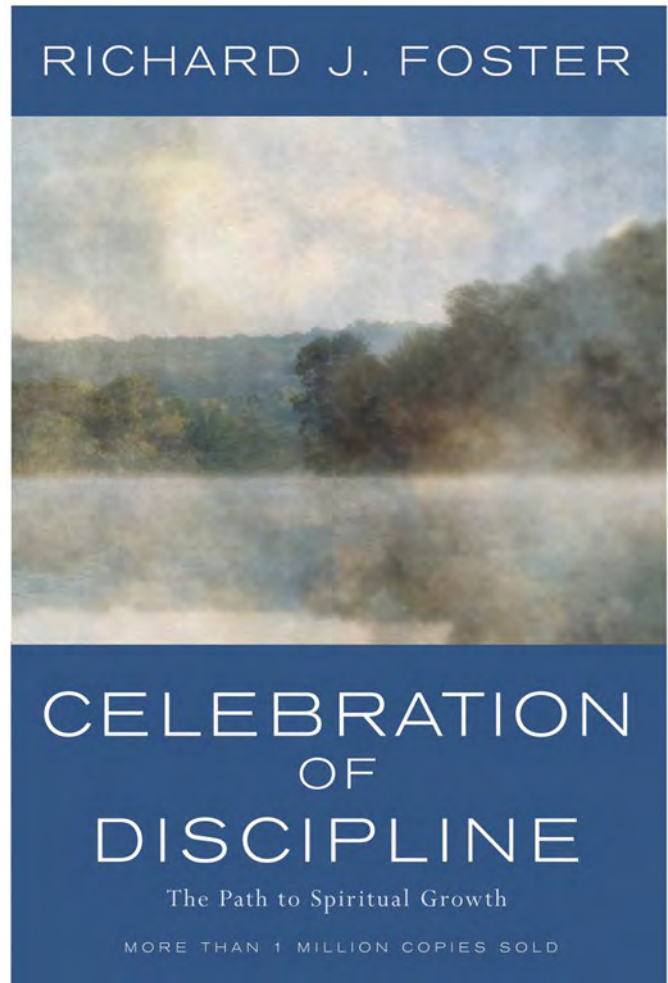




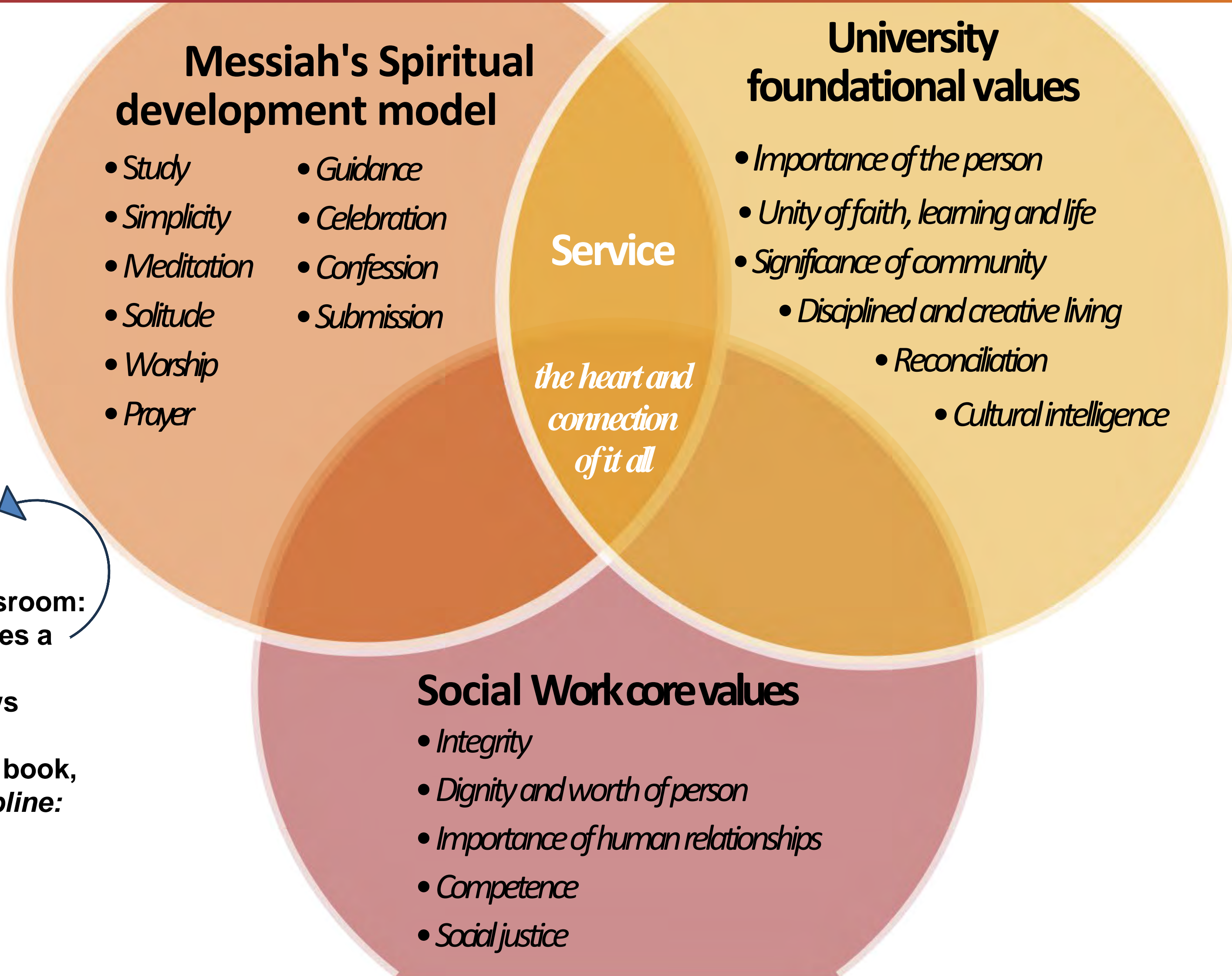
Messiah social work  
program distinctive #2

integrating faith and practice throughout  
the curriculum





Faith integration classroom:  
each class incorporates a  
spiritual development  
assignment that allows  
students to engage  
with Richard Foster's book,  
"Celebration of Discipline:  
The Path to Spiritual  
Growth."







# Messiah social work program distinctive #3

- Inner city or international experiences
- Students may spend their senior field placement in an international social work agency

## Social work specific programs:

- **Baltimore Urban Studies Program(BUS) Program**  
<https://landli.org/locations/baltimore-urban-studies>
- **Chicago Semester** [www.chicagosemester.org](http://www.chicagosemester.org)
- **Uganda Studies Program**  
<https://www.ugandastudiesprogram.org>
- **Living and Learning Ecuador**  
<https://landli.org/locations/ecuador>





# Messiah social work program distinctive #4

---



- Nationally accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- Eligible to take the BSW licensure test
- Earn an MSW in one year with advanced standing status (min. 3.0 GPA requirement)
- *Non-BSW grads enrolled in an accredited MSW program require two years, full-time to receive MSW.*





GOALS

Social Work  
program  
goals



# 1

Develop competent social workers who critically evaluate, self-reflect and are self-aware of how their Christian faith informs their practice, while performing the duties of their vocation in a professional and ethical manner.

**Program Goal**



# 2

Develop social workers who engage the world to facilitate change through enhancing community and through actively engaging in issues to address social and economic justice in rural, urban and international settings.

## Program Goal



# 3

Develop effective Christian social work leaders in the provision of micro, mezzo and macro programming who value integrity, service and the importance of human relationships in addressing human needs and the issues of the disenfranchised.

## Program Goal



# 4

Develop Christian social workers who value empowerment and the strengths perspective in the application of skills and knowledge of generalist social work with systems of all sizes, while ensuring respect for clients' age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation.

## Program Goal





# Social work courses and curriculum

- Professionalism in Social Work
- Intro to Social Work
- Human Behavior
- Social Work Practice with Individuals
- Social Work Practice with Families
- Social Work Practice with Groups
- Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations
- Field Experience and Practice
- Engaging Diversity and Inequality
- Topics in Social Work
- Social Welfare Policies
- Intro to Social Work Research
- Seminar in Social Work Practice
- Introduction to Child Welfare (Elective)





## Fall

- SOWK 099: Professionalism
- SOWK 120: Introduction to Social Work

# Plan of study

————— *Year 1* —————→



## Spring

- SOWK 221: Human Behavior





## Fall

- SOWK 250: Social Work Practice with Individuals
- SOWK 251: Field Experience
- SOAN 356: Social Inequality

# Plan of study

————— *Year 2* —————→



## Spring

- SOWK 360: Social Work Practice with Families
- SOWK 361: Field Experience





## Fall

- SOWK 372: Practice with Groups
- SOWK 385: Intro to Social Work Research

# Plan of study

————— *Year 3* —————→



## Spring

- SOWK 382: Topics in Social Work
- SOWK 420: Social Welfare Policies





## Fall

- SOWK 475: Social Work Practice with Communities
- SOWK 476: Field Experience with Communities and Organizations
- SOWK 484: Prep for Field Practice

# Plan of study

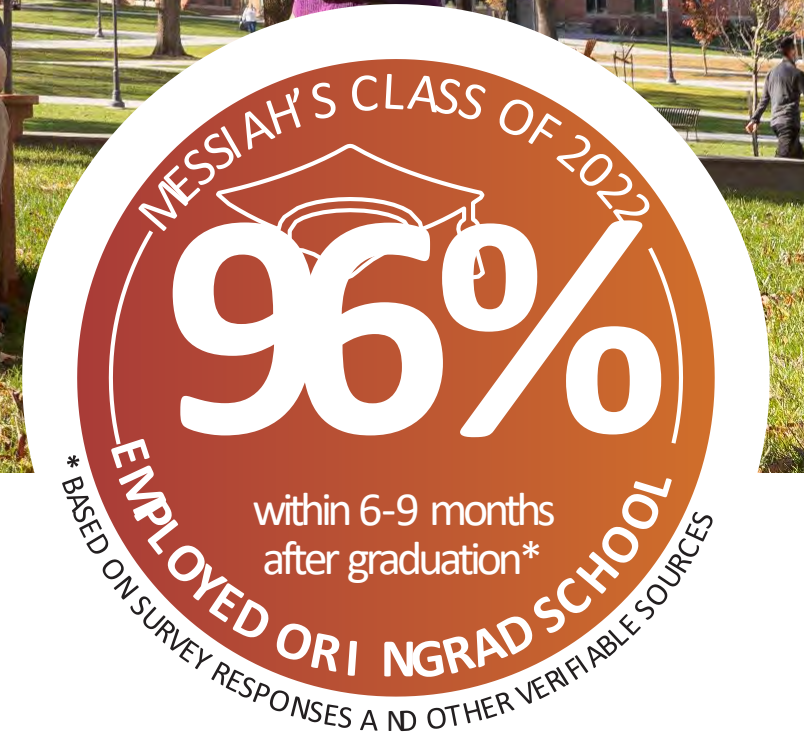
————— *Year 4* —————→



## Spring

- SOWK 485: Seminar in Social Work Practice
- SOWK 490: Field Practice in Social Work





# Our social work program *delivers excellent career outcomes*



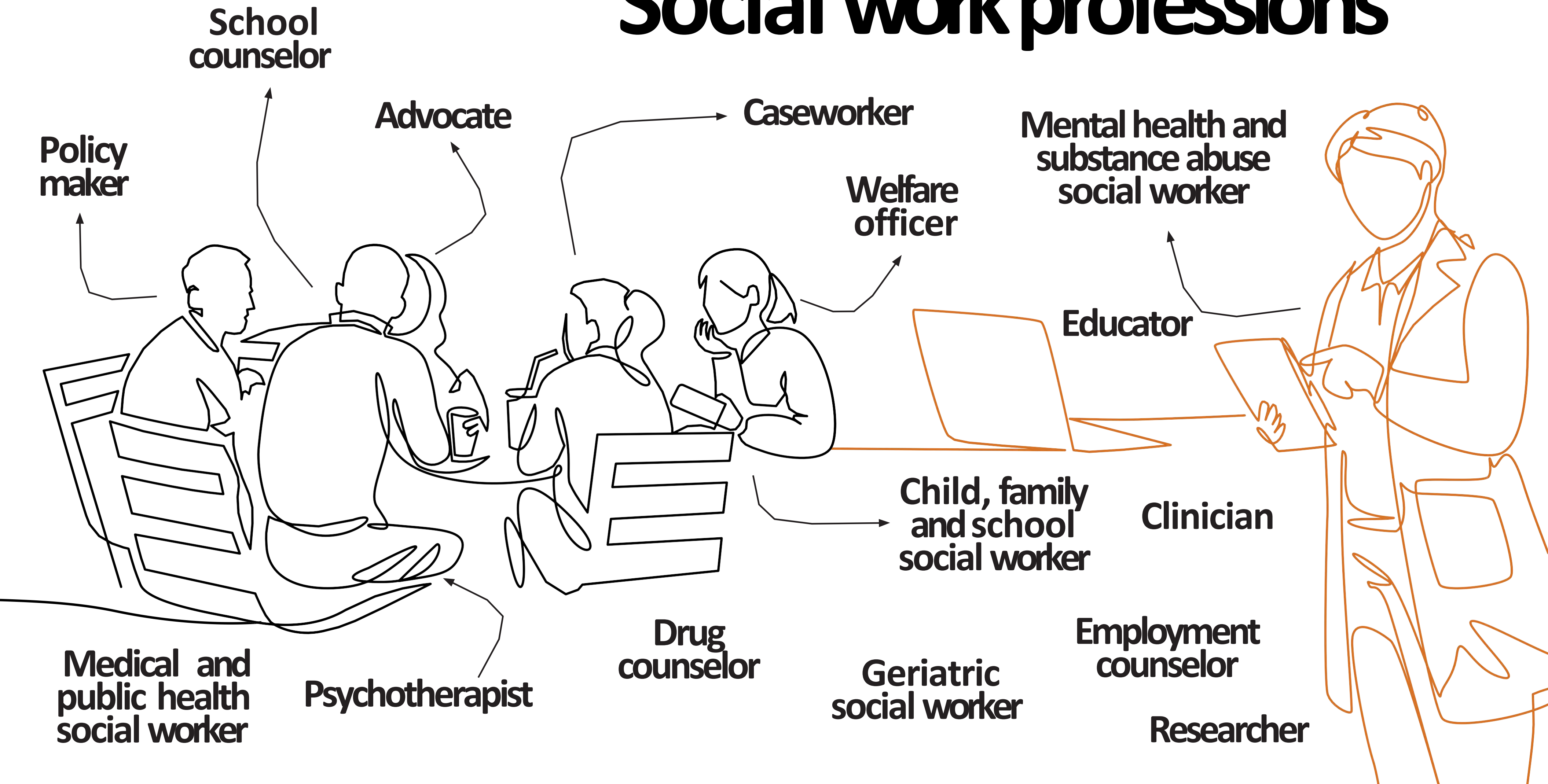
*“...I am forever grateful for how the department prepared me to always present myself as a confident professional.”*

**Lindsay Terry '20**

*Caseworker at Dauphin County Children and Youth*



# Social work professions





# *Job growth for* social work grads

Faster than the  
average growth for  
most occupations.

15%

Mental health and  
substance abuse  
social work

13%

Child, family and  
school social work

12%

Overall social work

Projected Growth in Social Worker Employment  
*from 2020-2030*



# Recent employers of Messiah's social work graduates:

- AmeriCorps: National Health Corps, Philadelphia, PA
- Church World Service, Lancaster, PA Clark County Food Bank, Portland, OR COBYS Family Services, Lancaster, PA
- Dauphin County Children and Youth Services, Harrisburg, PA
- Harrisburg School District, Harrisburg, PA
- ManorCare Health South, York, PA
- Mennonite Disaster Services, Lititz, PA
- Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, Philadelphia, PA
- The Bair Foundation, Harrisburg, PA
- Victim Services Division, Cumberland County District, Carlisle, PA
- York County Children, Youth & Families Services, York, PA

**Data Source:** *Messiah University First Destinations Report 2018-2020*





# Graduate schools recently attended by Messiah's social work graduates

- Auburn University
- Edinboro University
- Fordham University
- Kutztown University
- Millersville University
- Monmouth University
- Morgan State University
- Rutgers University
- Shippensburg University
- Simmons University
- Stony Brook University
- Temple University
- University of Louisville
- University of Michigan School of Social Work
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of South Carolina
- University of Tennessee



# Child Welfare Education For Baccalaureates (CWEB) Scholarship

- CWEB's goal is to strengthen public child welfare services in Pennsylvania by educating undergraduate social work majors interested in a career in public child welfare.

## Participant Benefits

- Fully paid tuition and fees for your senior year
- Fellowship payments of \$600 a month for 8 months.
- Upon hire in a county child welfare agency: A bonus payment of \$640 or \$2,200 if completing a Civil Service Intern position (975 internship hours)
- \$100 book allowance for your child welfare class
- Smooth transition from student to employee: Training and child welfare internships are highly valued by counties looking for caseworkers
- \$200 reimbursement for LBSW registration and exam fees • •



# Social Work Education Enhancement Fund

---


- Field education is the signature pedagogy for the social work degree
- Up to \$200/ semester to offset cost related to field work







# Social work *at Messiah University*

Learn more at   
[messiah.edu/socialwork](https://messiah.edu/socialwork)

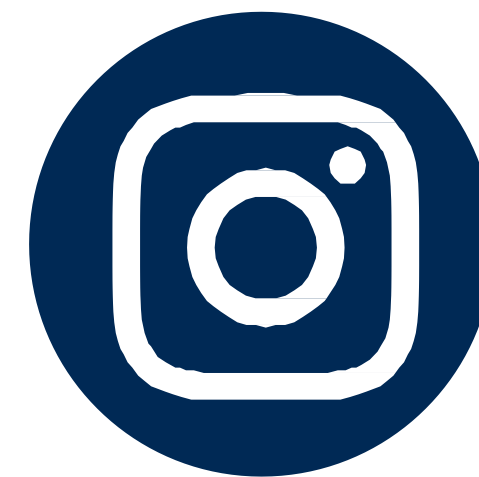




*@SOWKrocks*

**Connect with us!**

*@messiahu\_socialwork*







# *Questions?* **Contact**

**Ling Dinse, DSW, MSW, LSW**

[ldinse@messiah.edu](mailto:ldinse@messiah.edu)

**Michelle George, MSW, LCSW, BCD**

[mgeorge@messiah.edu](mailto:mgeorge@messiah.edu)



**see anew**



