

**United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities**  
**IS351 Final MDIV Integrative Seminar**  
Autumn, 2008

**Faculty:**

Dr. Eleazar Fernandez 651-255 6131

[efernandez@unitedseminary.edu](mailto:efernandez@unitedseminary.edu)

Dr. Barbara Anne Keely 633-255-6125

[bakeely@unitedseminary-mn.org](mailto:bakeely@unitedseminary-mn.org) [www.congregationalspirituality.com](http://www.congregationalspirituality.com)

**DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this seminar is to assist the student in integrating the seminary course work, formational activities, and contextual experiences into a clear statement of ministry. Each student will develop a case study that presents issues around their understanding of ministry, which will be peer reviewed and explored. The course will explore the mission of the church, the impact of context on ministry, and the spiritual life as foundation for ministry and mission.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, students will:

1. be able to identify spiritual practices as patterns for one's life
2. have a clearer understanding of vocation and pastoral identity
3. have an introduction to the changing nature of church leadership
4. have an understanding of the spiritual nature of the congregation
5. have a deeper understanding of the nature and mission of the Church
6. be able to integrate mission, ministry, context, leadership and spiritual life into a clear statement of ministry

**TEXTBOOKS (Required)**

- Diane Butler Bass, *Christianity for the Rest of Us* (Harper San Francisco, 2006)
- Victor Hunter, *Desert Hearts and Healing Fountains* (Chalice Press, 2003)
- Eric Law, *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb* (Chalice, 1993)
- Mary Jo Leddy, *Radical Gratitude* (Orbis, 2002)
- Letty M. Russell, *Church in the Round* (WJK)
- N. Graham Standish, *Becoming a Blessed Church* (Alban, 2005)
- Marjorie Thompson, *Soul Feast* (Westminster John Knox, 1995)

(Suggested)

- Natalie Watson, *Introducing Feminist Ecclesiology* (Pilgrim Press, 2002)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- Assigned readings will be discussed on date assigned; expect to be involved in discussions of readings and course material
- All written assignments must be completed to pass course. Papers must be double-spaced, typed, and properly footnoted, following Student Handbook guidelines; in addition, note the definition of "plagiarism." We will not read or grade material that has not been properly prepared and edited. We will not accept late papers unless arrangements are made in advance or if the lateness is due to an emergency.
- Evaluation will be based on attendance and class participation, engagement in discussions, and completion of assignments, including the Spiritual Companions groups). *More than two absences* will affect your course evaluation. Extensions

beyond the end of the semester will be approved *only under extraordinary circumstances* (e.g., family death or severe illness).

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

**Unit 3 NCMDC: Friday, October 19, 1:00- 3:00 Strobel Room**  
**Completion of inventories**

### **Practice of spiritual patterns.**

As we explore and attend to the elements of our own spiritual lives, we will intentionally practice seven patterns. The patterns are described in the readings from Thompson. The week before each pattern is listed on the syllabus, you are expected to practice it at least three times during the week. Write a one-page reflection of your experience with each of the Patterns (we encourage you to do these along the way, while the experience is fresh.); then write a one-page summary reflection on what you gained from practicing these patterns. **Due November 4.**

**Spiritual companions groups** will meet most weeks during class time. These are self-selected groups of three class members. The agenda for each meeting is determined by the group; the purpose of the groups is the support each other spiritually and vocationally. If you miss a meeting, you are expected to connect with the members of your group through e-mail within three days following that class.

**A final one-page e-mail** to both Eleazar and Barbara Anne, reflecting on your experience, is **due by December 2.**

### **Case Study:**

Develop a case study that draws upon a situation of ministry out of your recent experience. This will be presented to a class group, who will have prepared case briefs. Further instructions and handouts will be presented in class; a sample case will be presented September 16.

**Case due: October 7** (returned 10/14; **sent to group members by 11/21**)

**Case presentations (in class groups): October 28 and November 4**

### **Statement of Ministry:**

The purpose of the assignment is to develop an integrated statement of ministry, approximately 12 pages. The statement will integrate ecclesiology, mission, ministry, context, leadership, vocation and spiritual life.

**Part 1 What is my understanding of the Church and its mission** (4-5 pages)

What is the Church?

What is its mission?

**Part 2: What is my vocational calling?** (4-5 pages)

My context of ministry

My spiritual life, gifts and passions

My role as a religious leader

**Part 3: What is my hope?** (3-4 pages)

My calling

The Church

The world

**Due: December 9**

## COURSE OUTLINE

- 9/9 Introduction to each other and the course
- Theology of ministry and spiritual practices
  - Introduction to writing and presenting case studies
- 9/16 Ecclesiological models *and* Presenting case studies  
Reading: Russell  
Thompson, chapter 1  
Keely case study  
Pattern: listening for/to God
- 9/23 Postmodern world and Emergent Church  
Reading:  
Thompson, chapter 2  
Pattern: holy reading (*lectio divina*)
- 9/30 Emergent Church engaged  
Listen to the AAR Panel podcasts on The Emergent Village  
Thompson, chapter 3  
Pattern: intercessory prayer or centering prayer
- 10/7 Attributes of a healthy church  
Reading: Bass  
Thompson, chapter 6  
Pattern: review of the day (*examen*)  
Due: Case Study
- 10/14 Spiritual leadership  
Reading: Hunter  
Thompson, 8  
Pattern: hospitality  
Case study returned  
***Case studies must be sent to your group members by 10/21***
- 10/21 Reading week
- 10/28 Case presentations  
Pattern: awareness of the body
- 11/4 Case presentations  
Due: spiritual practices assignment
- 11/11 NCMDC: leadership and spirituality  
Reading: Standish  
Leaders: Mark Sundby and Mary Honstead
- 11/18 Spiritual life of the congregation  
Reading: Keely (Handout)  
Standish
- 11/25 Multicultural spirituality  
Reading: Law  
Thompson, chapter 9  
Final gathering of spiritual friends during class time.

12/1 Spirituality and social justice  
Reading: Leddy

12/9 Statements of ministry due *and* presented in class.