

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
IS261 Final MARL Integrative Seminar
IS351 Final MDIV Integrative Seminar
Spring 2010

Faculty:

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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

- Diane Butler Bass, *Christianity for the Rest of Us* (Harper San Francisco, 2006)
- Stanley Grenz, *A Primer in Postmodernism*
- 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)

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 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 Please be in contact with Gaynelle (615-636-5120) and make arrangements (MDiv only)

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. Reflections and summary reflection are *due April 12*

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 February 15th
See schedule for due dates

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: April 26

COURSE OUTLINE

- 2/8 Introduction to each other and the course (snow cancellation)
- Theology of ministry and spiritual practices
 - Introduction to writing and presenting case studies
- 2/15 Ecclesiological models
Reading: Russell (all) *and* Keely case study
Thompson, chapter 1
- 3/1 Postmodern world and “new” church patterns
Presenting case studies
Keely case study
Reading: Grenz, pp. 1-56 and Thompson, chapter 2
(also bring Russell to class)
Pattern: listening for/to God
- 3/8 Attributes of a healthy church
Reading: Bass (all) *and* Thompson, chapter 3
Pattern: holy reading (*lectio divina*)
Due: Case Study (bring one copy to class)
- 3/22 Reading week
- 3/29 Spiritual life of the congregation
Reading: Standish and please explore www.spiritualtree.org
Thompson, 8
Pattern: intercessory prayer or centering prayer
Case study returned
- 4/5 Easter Monday
- 4/12 Case presentations
Reading: Thompson, chapter 6
Pattern: hospitality
- 4/26 Spiritual leadership
Reading: Hunter *and* Thompson, chapter 9
Pattern: review of the day (*examen*)
Pattern: awareness of the body
- 5/3 Spirituality and social justice
Reading: Leddy and Law
- 5/10 Statements of ministry due *and* presented in class.