Draft Syllabus - THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF MINISTRY
KNP1601 Fall 2014

Instructor: Pam McCarroll               Class: Thursdays 2-5pm
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Course Description: Explores various aspects of ministry, in particular the theology and practice of ordained ministry within the Reformed traditions. Topics include understandings of ministry, the call, functions and roles in ministry, challenges and contexts for ministry today and in the future, leadership and authority, and spiritual practices. Various methods of learning will be used (small group, lecture, discussion, mentorship experience).

Theological and Practical Curricular Outcomes By successfully completing this course a student will meet the following outcomes:

Religious Heritage
- Identify theology and practices of ministry related to central functions of ministry;
- Describe the distinctive theology and practices of Reformed understandings of ministry within the larger Christian tradition;
- Name and describe spiritual practices within Christian traditions;
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of various theological disciplines and how these intersect with the practice of ministry.

Cultural Context
- Identify theology and practices of ministry that demonstrate respect for difference - cultural, ethnic, gender and physical ability diversity, etc.;
- Demonstrate willingness to engage the diversity of the church;
- Demonstrate basic understanding of contextual issues (societal, ecclesial, global) and an emerging awareness of how these factors impact what it means to be a pastor today in a particular context.

Personal Spiritual Formation
- Articulate one’s own emerging self-understanding in ministry;
- Demonstrate piety congruent with the Christian & denominational tradition;
- Ability to articulate an emerging sense of call to ministry;
- Ability and willingness to act in a principled, ethical fashion;
- Demonstrate an ability to identify assumptions;
- Show willingness to conduct one’s life out of confessed Christian faith;
- Display willingness to engage in prayer, Bible study, worship, discipleship and growth in the fruit of the Spirit.

Capacity for Ministry
- Show care for others and act in a compassionate manner towards others, including people of different backgrounds, ages, and perspectives;
- Ability to articulate one’s emerging pastoral identity and emerging theology of ministry in relation to the Reformed traditions.
Course Requirements and Evaluative Criteria

COURSE POLICIES
Policies for courses are contained in the TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Knox Student Handbook. In particular note:

Cell Phones: Cell phones can be disruptive to the classroom experience. Students, therefore, should turn off or set their phones to silent and refrain from using them while in class. Cell phone use is permitted only for medical professionals who are on call and for students who need to be in constant contact with ill family members or minors. Students who meet either of these requirements should inform the professor prior to class.

Use of Technology: Laptops and other computing devices may be used in the classroom for note taking purposes only. The use of the internet is not permitted while class is in session unless it is part of a specific class activity. Students wishing to text message, search for images, fact check etc. should do so during the break or outside of class. Much of the learning that goes on in the classroom is founded upon mutual disclosure that takes place between the instructor and the student and between students. Parties outside of that learning community have not committed themselves to this relationship of trust. For this and other reasons, permission to record lectures in audio format is granted for use by registered students only. Video recording is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Recordings and notes of class lectures may not be electronically reproduced, posted or distributed without the written permission of the instructor.

Late Policy: one grade (4 marks) deducted per week late.

Completion of Course work:
All course work must be completed by the due date of final paper (April 10, 2014). Only in the case of illness (with a note from a doctor), bereavement or other unusual circumstances will an SDF extension be considered and this must be authorized by the Faculty. A request for a SDF extension must be submitted in writing by the last day of the class to the Registrar or the Director of Academic Programs who will refer the matter with a recommendation, to the Faculty for final decision.

Attendance and lateness: Consistent and timely attendance is required. If a student is unable to attend a class the professor is to be informed by email. More than 2 absences will result in failure to pass the course. Habitual lateness will be regarded as absence.

Email correspondence: Papers and assignments are accepted in hard copy only, preferably on recycled or re-used paper. Communication by email can ONLY take place through UTOR email accounts.

ASSIGNMENTS:
1. Reflection paper, Mentorship Proposal + Presentation, Spiritual Gathering, (40%)
   - October 2 – Reflection Paper - Exploring my Faith Journey and sense of Call – Include discussion of class/readings content regarding call and how this related to your own spiritual journey and discernment. (approx. 4-6 pages)
   - Spiritual Gathering – in groups of 3 you will open the class with a spiritual practice. Please choose from the spiritual gathering identified in Class Schedule:
     o Brief description of the history and theology of the practice, resource information for others to access, lead in the practice. Total: 10-15 minutes Max.
   - 15-hour Mentorship
     o Before October 16 – submit proposal by email for approval of mentorship plan including, name, contact information, mentor’s position and plan for use of hours and what you hope to learn.
     o Fifteen-Hour Mentorship Experience - Over a 3-5 week period you will spend a minimum of 15 hours with a mentor for ministry. The 15 hours will include individual conversations about ministry exploring the mentor’s experiences and reflections on ministry, being present with the mentor in ministry experiences (worship, pastoral visiting, congregational/community events, social justice/mission experiences, etc.) and having an opportunity to discuss the experiences toward the end of the mentoring time.
     o By November 27 - Presentation - Reflect on the 15-hour mentorship experience – Describe your mentorship setting. What did you learn about ministry? What questions and surprises emerged? How did it help you reflect on the contexts of the church’s ministry today? How did is help you to reflect on yourself in ministry and about your own gifts and challenges in ministry?

2. Profile in Ministry submission and Participation – 15%
   By September 25, submit a completed Profile of Ministry. This takes about 3 hours to complete and is a questionnaire regarding situations in ministry. POM cost $50 – cheques payable to Knox College, submitted to Prof McCarroll by the end of January.

3. Final Integrative Paper – 35%
   Write a 10- page integrative paper focusing on the theology and practice of ministry as explored through a pastoral image (or story/metaphor/scripture passage). The paper will draw on class lectures, discussions, Scripture and texts (required and recommended). The paper will describe a pastoral image (scripture passage/story/metaphor) that can function as an integrative focus for one’s theology and practice of ministry. The pastoral image (story/metaphor/passage) will be considered theologically (how it expresses a theology of ministry), contextually (how it engages the North American contexts of ministry) and personally (how it intersects with one’s faith journey, sense of call). Further, the pastoral image (story/metaphor/passage) will be explored through the theology and practice of the different functions of ministry (pastoral, priestly, prophetic, preaching, teaching, etc. functions) discussed throughout the course. The assignment must include a thorough exploration of a pastoral image (story/metaphor/passage) and how it relates, at this point, to the student’s discernment process and to their understanding of the theology and practice of ministry. It is worth 35% of the final mark. Due: December 11, 2014

4. Participation – 10%
   Consistent attendance and engagement in class discussions; regular use of Blackboard materials; demonstration of having read materials for discussion.
CLASS SCHEDULE

Sept 11 – Introduction

Sept 18 - The Call
Video: Henri Nouwen, Journey of the Heart
Readings for today: Rice, pp. 11-38 (Introduction & chapter 1)
Willimon, pp. 11-53 (Introduction & chapter 1)
http://touchstonejournal.ca/Jan_2011_flipbook/index.html

Recommended: click on Am I being Called? and Together in Ministry, pp. 5-7, 48-64 and Theology of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments

Sept 25 - Pastoral Identity and Formation: Images for Ministry
Spiritual Gathering: Lectio Divina
Readings for today: Rice, pp. 39-74 (chapters 2-3)
Willimon, pp. 55-74 (chapter 2)  Submit Profiles of Ministry

Recommended: Click on Candidacy Process of Preparation and Discernment

Oct 2 - TFE Seminar and Ministry Functions – Pastoral Function: Caring for Souls
Spiritual Gathering: Antiphonal Psalm (sung/chant from Psalter) and Prayer
Readings for today: Rice, pp. 75-90 (chapter 4)
Willimon, pp. 91-110, 171-185 (chapters 4 & 7) Reflection #1 Due

Oct 9 - Ministry Functions - Priestly: Leading Worship and Presiding at the Sacraments Preacher and Teacher: The Word in the words
Spiritual Gathering: Labyrinth
4-5pm – Candidacy Process - Susan Shaffer/ Liz Brewer, Ministry and Church Vocations, PCC
Readings for today: Rice, pp. 91-106 (chapter 5)
Rice, pp. 107-123 (chapter 6)
Willimon, pp. 75-90 (chapter 3 and ch 5)
Willimon, pp. 133-170 (chapter 6), pp. 203-224 (chapter 8)

Oct 16 - Ministry Functions - Prophetic and Evangel Functions: Calling for social and spiritual change and Leadership and Administration Functions
Spiritual Gathering: Centering Prayer Mentorship Proposal Due
Readings for today: Rice, pp. 125-138 (chapter 7); Rice, pp. 139-156 (chapter 8)
Willimon, pp. 225-264(chapters 9 & 10, Interlude)
Willimon, pp. 275-297 (chapter 11 & Interlude)

READING WEEK

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Oct 30 - Pastors as People: Integrity, Self Care and Pastoral Authority
Spiritual Gathering: Breath Prayer/Hesychia

Readings for today:
- Rice, pp. 157-192 (chapters 9 & 10, Epilogue)
- Nouwen, In the Name of Jesus
- Willimon, pp. 299 – 336 (chapters 12-13)

Seminar: small group organization for Odd and Wondrous Calling

Nov 6 - Context and Ministry – CHECK RENEW
Spiritual Gathering: General Examen (Lent 1)

Required Reading for Seminar: Daniel & Copenhaver, Odd and Wondrous Calling


Nov 13 - Context and Ministry – Guest: Katharine Masterton, Justice Ministries
Spiritual Gathering: Iona Community or Taize Worship

Required Reading for Seminar: Daniel & Copenhaver, Odd and Wondrous Calling

Nov 20 – Context and Ministry – Guest
Spiritual Gathering: Aboriginal Honouring of Creator

Readings: Hand outs - The ACCRA Confession; The 1994 Confession of the PCC, etc.

Seminar: Presentations of Mentorship (submit notes)

Nov 27 – Profiles Of Ministry Debrief
Spiritual Gathering: Body Prayer or other

Seminar: Presentations of Mentorship (submit notes)

Dec 4 - Final Class

Seminar: Presentations of Mentorship/ final papers

Dec 11 – Final Paper Due
RESOURCE MATERIAL

Required Texts:


- Handouts as distributed/forwarded.

Recommended Readings:


Auto/Biographical Sketches and Books on Ministry


- Augustine of Hippo, *The Confessions*


- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich, *Letters and Papers from Prison*
  - *Life Together*


• Cottret, Bernard, Calvin: A Biography (Eerdmans, 2000).

• Day, Dorothy, The Long Loneliness

• Dawn, Marva and Eugene Peterson, The Unnecessary Pastor (Eerdmans, 2000)


  o The Messenger (Wipf & Stock, 2011)

• Harder, Gary, Dancing Through Thistles in Bare Feet: A Pastoral Journey (Herald Press, 2007)


• Lueking, F. Dean, The Grace of it All: Reflections on the Art of Ministry (The Alban Institute, 2006)

• MacPherson, D. Neal, Church at a Crossroads: Being the Church after Christendom (Wipf & Stock Publishers)

• Niebuhr, Reinhold, Pages from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic

• Nouwen, Henri, Return of the Prodigal Son  
  o The Genesee Diary  
  o The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journey (New York: Doubleday Pub., 1988)

  o The Contemplative Pastor (Eerdmans, 1989)

• Root, Andrew. The Relational Pastor (IVP Books, 2013)

• Rutherford, Samuel, Letters of Samuel Rutherford.

• Schweitzer, Albert, My Life and Thought


• Taylor, Barbara Brown, Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith (Harper, 2006)
• The Preaching Life (Cowley Pub. 1993)

• Vais, Chris, For Words: A Journal of Hope and Healing

• Whyte, Alexander, The Life of Alexander Whyte.

Novels
• Shusaku Endo, Silence
  - The Samurai


• Georges Bernanos, Diary of a Country Priest

• Fyodor Dostoevsky, The Brothers Karamazov.

Suggested Films
• Priest (not the horror movie) * Dead Man Walking
• The Mission * Romero
• Les Miserables * Gran Torino