

# Draft THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF MINISTRY

KNP1601 Online 20177

## Syllabus

**Instructor:** Andrew R Irvine

**Online**

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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:

**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. 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.

**Plagiarism Policy:** See TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Knox Student Handbook.

### ASSIGNMENTS:

#### **1. Reflection paper, Mentorship Proposal + Presentation, - 30%**

- – **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)
- **15-hour Mentorship** ○ – 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.
  - **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.
  - – **Summary paper** - 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 it help you to reflect on yourself in ministry and about your own gifts and challenges in ministry?

## 2. 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 16, 2014**

3. Participation – Students are expected to read the course material, respond to the weekly assignment on line and interact with the posting of two other students in a substantive manner. 35%

## RESOURCE MATERIAL

### Required Texts:

- Pamela & Michael Cooper-White, Exploring Practices of Ministry (Fortress, 2014)
- William H. Willimon, Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry (Abingdon Press: Nashville, 2002).
- Lillian Daniel and Martin B. Copenhaver, This Odd and Wondrous Calling: The Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers (Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2009).
- Henri Nouwen, In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership (New York: Crossroad Pub. Co, 1989);
- For PCC students: Together in Ministry: The Theology and Practice of Ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Canada – download from [www.Presbyterian.ca](http://www.Presbyterian.ca).
- Links/handouts as distributed/forwarded.

### Recommended Readings:

- Kathleen A. Cahalan, Introducing the Practice of Ministry (Liturgical Press, 2010)

- Howard Rice, The Pastor as Spiritual Guide (Nashville: Upper Rooms Books, 1998).
- For non-PCC students: Together in Ministry: The Theology and Practice of Ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Canada – download from [www.Presbyterian.ca](http://www.Presbyterian.ca).
- Douglas John Hall, The End of Christendom and the Future of Christianity (Pennsylvania: Trinity Press, 1997)

#### Auto/Biographical Sketches and Books on Ministry

- Achtemeier, Elizabeth, Not Till I Have Done: A Personal Testimony (Westminster, John Knox 1999).
- Applegate, Debby, The Most Famous Man in America: the Biography of Henry Ward Beecher (Three Leaves Press Doubleday: New York, 2006).
- Augustine of Hippo, The Confessions
- Beuchner, Frederick, The Eyes of the Heart: A Memoir of the Lost and Found, (Harper, San Francisco 1999).
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich, Letters and Papers from Prison; ○ Life Together
- Boers, Arthur Paul, The Way is Made by Walking: A Pilgrimage Along the Camino De Santiago (USA: Intervarsity Press, 2007)
- Barclay, William, A Spiritual Autobiography, William B Eerdmans's Pub. Co., 1975.
- Coffin, William Sloane, Credo (Westminster John Knox, 2003).
- Cole, Hugh Allan Jr., ed. From Midterms to Ministry: Practical Theologians on Pastoral Beginnings (Eerdmans, 2008).
- Cottret, Bernard, Calvin: A Biography (Eerdmans, 2000).
- Day, Dorothy, The Long Loneliness
- Dawn, Marva and Eugene Peterson, The Unnecessary Pastor (Eerdmans, 2000)
- Ferm, Robert L., Jonathan Edwards The Younger 1745-1801: A Colonial Pastor (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1976).
- Hall, Douglas John, Bound and Free: A Theologian's Journey (Minn: Fortress Press, 2005) ○ The Messenger (Wipf & Stock, 2011)

- Harder, Gary, Dancing Through Thistles in Bare Feet: A Pastoral Journey (Herald Press, 2007)
- Jinkins, Michael, Letters to New Pastors (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2006)
- 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 ○ The Genesee Diary
  - The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journey (New York: Doubleday Pub., 1988)
- Peterson, Eugene H., The Pastor: A Memoir (Harper Collins, 2001). ○ 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
- Teresa, Mother, Come Be My Light: The Private Writings of the "Saint of Calcutta," Brian Kolodiejchuk, ed., (New York: Doubleday, 2007)
- Weems, Renita J., Listening for God: A Minister's Journey through Silence and Doubt (New York, Simon and Schuster Pub., 1999)
- 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
- Tony Hendra, Father Joe: The Man Who Saved my Soul (New York: Random House, 2004)
- Marilynne Robinson, Gilead: A Novel (New York: Farrar, Strauss Giroux, 2004) ○ Home: A Novel (Toronto, HarperCollins Pub. Ltd, 2008)

- Georges Bernanos, Diary of a Country Priest
- Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov.
- John Updike, In the Beauty of the Lillies: A Novel

Suggested Films

- Priest (not the horror movie) \* Dead Man Walking
- The Mission \* Romero
- Les Miserables \* Gran Torino

## **Guidelines for the on-line course:**

### **Instruction:**

Each week there is a posting from your instructor relating to the topic of study for the week. This will be accompanied by articles to read, online links to follow or reference to specific reading in your texts. Please read all assignments during the week period.

### **Assignment:**

Each week questions, topics for discussion or mini projects will be posted by the instructor. Each student is required to post a substantive response to the assignment which will be posted on the group discussion board.

Each student will post two responses each week to the substantive posting of others. (You may post more as an online conversation develops --- these are minimum requirements)

### **Instructor's Involvement:**

The instructor in the course will be part of the online discussion. However, this is your conversation and I will respond when appropriate to encourage ongoing thinking, suggest other resources or respond to direct questions. Students may always email me directly for issues that they may not want to share with the broader group. I will also follow the same protocol.

### **Grading of the discussion/participation:**

I will not be assigning grades to each weeks postings The 35% for on line participation will be an overall grade assigned at the end of the on line course. The on line discussion is similar to what you would experience in the classroom interaction. If there are areas of concern or need for improvement in your postings I will advise you. Please contact me by email if you have any concerns about the grading of this section

### **Announcement:**

Watch the **Announcement** section on your Blackboard for ongoing and general information concerning the course.