

**Ministry 4320**  
**Vocations in the Local Church**

**Instructor: Larry Hall**

**Fall 2009**

**Thursdays 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

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Contact Information: [larry@beltonchurch.com](mailto:larry@beltonchurch.com)

3003 N. Main

Belton, TX 76513

Office (254) 939-1816      Cell (254) 718-2211

Available by appointment at AGST on Thursdays  
(in Belton Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays)

## I. Course Goals

Through the successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate familiarity with the work of a minister; i.e., the student will display a working knowledge and appreciation of the basic theology, attitude and skills necessary for ministry in the local church. The student will have a basic (introductory) understanding of what is involved in various congregational vocations. This awareness will be gained through lectures and other presentations, reading and reviewing assignments, group discussions and exercises, and the drafting of a statement of ministry philosophy and vision along with a specific job description. The overarching theme of the course is ministry as surrendered servanthood, with emphasis on equipping ministry.

## II. Course Objectives

1. The student will be able to clearly articulate and assess an understanding of ministry as servanthood in response to the commands to love God and others.
2. The student will gain a practical appreciation of ministry that equips others for ministry. The student will be able to clearly articulate and effectively assess how this understanding impacts and clarifies his/her own ministry definition and vocational direction.
3. The student will demonstrate awareness of the basic doctrines, ordinances and rites of Christianity and how they shape ministry.
4. The student will define his/her call to a specific means of sharing the Good News with others.
5. The student will show a working knowledge of basic visitation and counseling skills, along with the ability to assess more critical needs and make referrals.
6. The student will understand the basic dynamics of conflict management.
7. The student will exhibit a basic understanding of servant-leadership as modeling, mentoring, equipping, empowering and encouraging.
8. Thus, the student will grasp and apply a model of authority which is “authentically authoritative” rather than autocratic and authoritarian.

## III. Means of Assessment

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|--|--------------|
| 1. Meaningful participation in class discussion  | 15% of grade |
| 2. Counseling Skills Demonstration (10/16)   | 10% o.g.     |
| 3. Performance on quiz (10/30)   | 10% o.g.     |
| 4. Performance on two major exams (9/25 and 12/11)   | 15% ea. o.g. |
| 5. Completion of two book reviews  | 10% ea. o.g. |
| 6. Completion of <i>Ministry Philosophy, Vision &amp; Job Description</i><br>(see Special Instructions for the Reviews and Document) | 15% o.g.     |

## IV. Special Instructions for Book Reviews and Ministry Document

All written works must use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. They must be two and four pages long, double-spaced twelve-point type with one-inch margins, clear and thorough enough to be useful to classmates. Students will provide the instructor with electronic and hard copies as well as hard copies to all classmates. Papers will also be read and discussed in class.

**Book Reviews** will address these kinds of questions: What is the author's thesis and main supporting points? How well and convincingly are the points made; how could they have been better presented? Where do you agree and where do you disagree with the author; why? What issues does the author fail to address? What is the best sentence or paragraph in the book; why? How does this book speak to the work of ministry and especially to your own ministry? Books listed in the bibliography with an asterisk (\*) may be reviewed. Two of the special shorter books (\*\*) may be reviewed in place of one longer book.

**The Ministry Philosophy, Vision and Job Description** will clearly and thoughtfully articulate your overall philosophy and theology of ministry: as you understand it, what is ministry, fundamentally and generally? Then your particular vision of the specific ministry to which you are called: what are your own ministry plans? How does that general philosophy inform and shape those particular plans? Your answers to these questions should interact with scripture and with key biblical principles developed in class (surrender, servanthood, relationship, equipping, paracletic, etc.). Finally, it should be "fleshed out" with practical details which lead you to an informed and viable job description for your specific vocation within the local church.

## V. Required Texts

Hall, Larry

1998 *No Longer I: Being Transformed into the Image of Christ*. Abilene: ACU Press

Nouwen, Henri J. M.

1989 *In the Name of Jesus*. New York: Crossroad Publishing

Peterson, Eugene

1992 *Under the Unpredictable Plant*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans

Stanley, Andy, Reggie Joiner, Lane Jones

2004 *7 Practices of Effective Ministry*. Sisters: Multnomah

## VI. Class Schedule

*(to be distributed at the first meeting of the class)*

## VII. Bibliography

- Armour, Michael C.  
1999 *A Newcomer's Guide to the Bible: Themes & Timelines*.  
Missouri: College Press Publishing Company
- Armour, Michael C. and Browning, Don  
2000 *Systems-Sensitive Leadership: Empowering Diversity without  
Polarizing the Church*. Joplin: College Press
- Benner, David G., ed.  
1999 *Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book  
House
- Biersdorf, John E.  
1992 *How Prayer Shapes Ministry*. New York: The Alban Institute \*
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich  
1966 *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: The Macmillan Company
- Brown, Colin , ed.  
1978 *The International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, vol. 1-3.  
Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing
- Childers, Jeff W. and Aquino, Frederick D.  
2003 *Unveiling Glory: Visions of Christ's Transforming Presence*.  
Abilene: ACU Press
- Clinton, Dr. Tim and Sibcy, Dr. Gary  
2006 *Why You Do The Things You Do: The Secret to Healthy  
Relationships*. Integrity Publishers
- Clinton, Dr. Timothy and Ohlschlager, Dr. George, ed.  
2002 *Competent Christian Counseling, vol. 1: Foundations & Practice  
of Compassionate Soul Care*. Colorado Springs: Waterbrook  
Publishing Co.
- Clinton, Tim, ed.  
2001 *The Soul Care Bible*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers
- Cloud, Dr. Henry and Townsend, Dr. John  
2002 *God Will Make A Way: what to do when you don't know what  
to do*. Nashville: Integrity Publishers
- Cope, Mike  
2000 *One Holy Hunger*. Abilene: Hillcrest Publishing
- Crabb, Larry  
1997 *Connecting: a Radical New Vision*. Nashville: Word Publishing
- Cukrowski, Kenneth L., Hamilton, Mark W. and Thompson, James W.  
2002 *God's Holy Fire: the Nature and Function of Scripture*.  
Abilene: ACU Press
- Dawn, Marva and Peterson, Eugene  
2000 *The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call*.  
Grand Rapids: Eerdmans
- Dodd, Brain J.  
2003 *Empowered Church Leadership: Ministry in the Spirit According  
to Paul*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press

- Downey, Myles  
 2003 *Effective Coaching: Lessons from the Coach's Coach*.  
 Mason: Thomson Texere
- Fee, Gordon D. and Stuart, Douglas  
 1993 *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth: a Guide to  
 Understanding the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan
- Fleer, David and Charles Siburt, editors  
 2007 *Good Shepherds*. Abilene: Leafwood
- Fleer, David and Charles Siburt, editors  
 2006 *Like a Shepherd Lead Us*. Abilene: Leafwood
- Froehlich, Mary Ann and Wells, Peggy Sue  
 2000 *What to Do When You Don't Know What to Say: Helping in Times  
 of Crisis*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers\*
- Gangel, Kenneth O. and James C. Wihoit  
 1996 *Christian Educator's Handbook on Family Life Education*.  
 Grand Rapids: Baker
- Garland, Diana R.  
 1999 *Family Ministry: A Comprehensive Guide*. Downers Grove: IVP
- George, Carl F.  
 1992 *Prepare Your Church for the Future*. Grand Rapids: Revell
- Greenleaf, Robert K.  
 2002 *Servant Leadership: A Journey into the Nature of Legitimate  
 Power and Greatness*. Mahwah: Paulist Press
- Guthrie, Nancy  
 2002 *Holding on to Hope: A pathway through suffering to the heart of  
 God*. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers\*
- Harris, R. Laird, Archer, Gleason L., and Waltke, Bruce K.  
 1980 *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, One-Volume Edition*.  
 Moody Publishers
- Hebbard, Don W.  
 1995 *The Complete Handbook for Family Life Ministry*.  
 Nashville: Nelson
- Hicks, John Mark  
 1999 *Yet Will I Trust Him: Understanding God In a Suffering World*.  
 Joplin: College Press Publishing Company
- Larson, Jerry  
*Religious Education and the Brain*. Mahwah: Paulist
- Lewis, C. S.  
 1960 *Mere Christianity*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company
- Mains, Karen  
 1997 *Comforting One Another in Life's Sorrows*. Nashville: Thomas  
 Nelson Publishers
- McNeal, Reggie  
 2000 *A Work of the Heart: Understand How God Shapes Spiritual  
 Leaders*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass
- McNicol, Allan  
 2001 *Preparing for Baptism: Becoming Part of the Story of the  
 People of God*. Austin: Christian Studies Press\*

- Murren, Doug  
 1999 *Churches that Heal*. West Monroe: Howard Publishing Company
- Prior, Kenneth  
 1990 *Perils of Leadership*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press
- Richardson, Ronald  
 1996 *Creating a Healthier Church: Family Systems Theory, Leadership and Congregational Life*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress
- Savage, John  
 1996 *Listening and Caring Skills in Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon Press
- Shawchuck, Norman and Heuser, Roger  
 1993 *Leading the Congregation: Caring for Yourself while Serving the People*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.
- Schwarz, Christian A.  
 2000 *Natural Church Development: A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches*. St. Charles: ChurchSmart Resources
- Shelly, Marshall  
 1996 *Renewing your Church through Vision and Planning*  
 Minneapolis: Bethany House
- Steinke, Peter, L.  
 1996 *Healthy Congregations: a systems approach*. Washington:  
 The Alban Institute\*
- Switzer, David  
 2000 *Pastoral Care Emergencies*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress
- Tan, Siang-Yang  
 1991 *Lay Counseling: Equipping Christians for a Helping Ministry*.  
 Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House
- Thompson, James W.  
 2006 *Pastoral Ministry according to Paul: A Biblical Vision*.  
 Grand Rapids: Baker Academic
- Webber, Robert E.  
 1982 *Worship: Old and New*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan
- Weed, Michael R. and Peterson, Jeffrey  
 2000 *Things That Matter*. Austin: Christian Studies Press\*
- Wicks, Robert J., Parsons, Richard D., and Capps, Donald  
 1993 *Clinical Handbook of Pastoral Counseling, vol 1 & 2*. New York:  
 Integration Books
- Willard, Dallas  
 1999 *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*. Illinois: InterVarsity Press
- Willimon, William H.  
 2000 *Calling and Character: Virtues of the Ordained Life*.  
 Nashville: Abingdon Press
- Willimon, William H.  
 2002 *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*.  
 Nashville: Abingdon Press
- Wilson, Michael Todd and Hoffman, Brad  
 2007 *Preventing Ministry Failure*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press

## **NOTES**