

**Fall 2011**  
**Austin Graduate School of Theology**  
**The Ministry of Preaching (MIN 6301) Syllabus**

**Professor: Eddie L. Sharp, Jr., D.Min.**

About the professor:

Dr. Sharp is the preaching minister for the University Avenue Church of Christ in Austin, Texas. He has served that church since August, 2008. He moved to Austin after preaching for 28 years for the University Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas. He completed his D. Min., with an emphasis in preaching and church growth, at ACU in 1990. He was adjunct faculty with the College of Biblical Studies at ACU beginning in 1990. His teaching included survey courses in the Old and New Testaments and church leadership. He also was the director of the supervised practice of ministry for the Graduate School of Theology at ACU for five years. He is married to Annette. They have three grown children, a grandson and granddaughter.

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**Objectives of the class**

Students will form their own biblical theology of ministry.

Students will examine ministry as creating a spiritually transformative Christian community. They will examine their own personal challenges and opportunities in personal, spiritual formation.

Students will study the various gifts and graces required to do congregational ministry in a variety of roles and contexts.

Students will work in groups and share information about ministry with the rest of the class.

Students will also learn to minister appropriately in weddings and funerals.

All of these objectives will be evaluated in written and oral forms.

**Textbooks:**

Bible

*An Invitation to a Journey* by Robert Mulholland

*Leadership and Self-Deception* from the Arbinger Institute

*Pastor* by Willimon

**Grading:**

There will be a mid-term and a final exam. The grades from these tests will make up 40%

of the final grade.

There will be a small group project (class worship) worth 15%

There will be a major theology of ministry paper worth 25 %

There will be a resume and job application document that will be worth 10%

The shared book summary will make up 10% of the final grade.

### **Class Calendar**

8/25

Introductions

Ministry and Personal Transformation

Ministry of Jesus

9/1

Discipleship in Matthew

9/8

Discipleship in Luke-Acts

9/15

Discussion of An Invitation to a Journey

9/22

Ministry in Paul and his letters

9/29

Ministry in John, the letters of John and Revelation

10/6

Theology of Ministry paper due

10/13

Ministry and Leadership

Discussion of Leadership and Self-Deception

10/20

Pastor

10/27

Mid-Term Exam

11/3

Book Summary: The Contemplative Pastor by Peterson

11/10

Paid Ministry in the Local Church

Is this a job? Learning the job-ness of ministry.

11/17  
Paradigms for Church life and growth

12/1  
Funerals and Weddings  
Resume and Job Application due

12/8  
Conflict in the Local Church

12/15  
Final Exam

**This syllabus may be amended as needed during the semester.**