Ministry 4320

Ministries in the Local Church

Instructor:

Spring 2016

Thursdays 9:00 to 11:40 AM
Min 4320  
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Spring 2016  
Thursdays  
Instructor: Larry Hall  
9:00–11:40 AM

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

I.  Course Goals

The student will articulate major elements of a coherent Christian worldview and be able to communicate this effectively in a local church or parachurch setting. Specifically, 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 an introductory understanding of what is involved in various congregational vocations. This awareness will be gained through regular lectures as well as presentations by and interaction with those who are currently involved in various traditional as well innovative ministries. All this will be supplemented with 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 compare and evaluate a number of different approaches to ministry and different areas of ministerial focus as demonstrated by guest presenters who are leading these ministries.
4. The student will demonstrate awareness of the basic doctrines, ordinances and rites of Christianity and how they shape ministry.
5. The student will define his/her call to a specific means of sharing the Good News with others.
6. 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.
7. The student will understand the basic dynamics of conflict management.
8. The student will exhibit a basic understanding of servant-leadership as modeling, mentoring, equipping, empowering and encouraging.
9. Thus, the student will grasp and apply a model of authority which is “authentically authoritative” rather than autocratic and authoritarian.
III. Means of Assessment
1. Meaningful participation in class discussion 15% of grade
2. Counseling Skills Demonstration 10% o.g.
3. Performance on quiz 10% o.g.
4. Performance on two major exams 15% ea. o.g.
5. Completion of two book reviews 10% ea. o.g.
6. Completion of Ministry Philosophy, Vision & Job Description 15% o.g.
(see Special Instructions for the Reviews and Document)

IV. Special Instructions for Book Reviews and Ministry Document
All written works must use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. They must be clearly identified by topic and student name, be between 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, answering the question, “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, paraclesis, 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, L. E.

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

Chapter readings to complete before that week’s class meeting:

INJ: *In the Name of Jesus* by Nouwen
NLI: *No Longer I* by Hall
UUP: *Under the Unpredictable Plant* by Peterson

1/21 Start by Quitting: Introductions, Tools & Paradoxes of Servant Leadership
1/28 The First shall be Last: Jesus on Vocations to Ministry
   All of INJ, NLI 1-2; Matthew 5 – 7, Mark 10, Luke 10, John 13
2/4 Cracked Pots: Paul on Ministry on Vocations to Ministry
   PEM Preface-4, UUP I; II Corinthians. I & II Timothy, Titus
2/11 Our Turn: Book Reviews by Students (Review for First Exam)
   PEP 5-9, UUP II; I Corinthians 1-4
2/18 Gifts Way Differing: Types and Thinking Systems (EXAM)
   PEM Part II Intro-10, NLI 3-5; I Corinthians 12-14, Ephesians
2/25 Complete with Attachments: Family Systems Theory & Generational Cycles
   PEM 11-12, UUP III; Genesis
3/3 Shrink-Rap Secrets: Tools & Techniques of Visiting & Counseling
   PEM 13-14, UUP IV; James
3/10 Body Parts: The Fellowship of the Saints (SKILLS DEMONSTRATION)
   NLI 6-7; Acts 1-4; Colossians
3/17 SPRING BREAK
3/24 The Elusive YES: Conflict Resolution (Review for Quiz)
   PEM 15-16, UUP V; Matthew 18, Romans 12-15, I Corinthians 5-11
3/31 Evangelist, Religion & other Dirty Words: Sharing the Good News (QUIZ)
   NLI 8-9; Philippians
4/7 The Apostles and Us: The Faith We Share and How it Shapes Vocation
   NLI 10-11, The Apostles’ Creed; Romans 1-8, Hebrews
4/14 An All-Volunteer Army: Inspiring & Realizing Shared Vision
   NLI 12-13; I Thessalonians
4/21 Unfinished Business: Book Reviews, Specific Vocations, etc.
4/28 Pencil Etchings: Student Ministry Philosophies & Visions (Review for Final)
5/5 Attack of the Templars: The Western Hills Ministry Team
5/12 Judgment Day (FINAL EXAM)
VII. Bibliography

Anderson, Lynn.
1997 They Smell like Sheep: Spiritual Leadership for the 21st Century.
West Monroe, LA: Howard Pub.

Armour, Michael C.
1999 A Newcomer’s Guide to the Bible: Themes & Timelines.
Joplin: College Press Publishing Company

Armour, Michael C. and Browning, Don
2000 Systems-Sensitive Leadership the Church.
Joplin: College Press

Benner, David G., ed.
Grand Rapids: Baker Book House

Biersdorf, John E.
New York: The Alban Institute *

Bolton, Barbara J., Mike Bright, and Byron Cressy.
2001 Care and Feeding of Volunteers

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich
1966 The Cost of Discipleship.
New York: The Macmillan Company

Brown, Colin, ed.
Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing

Childers, Jeff W. and Aquino, Frederick D.
Abilene: ACU Press

Clinton, Dr. Tim and Sibcy, Dr. Gary
Integrity Publishers

Clinton, Dr. Timothy and Ohlschlager, Dr. George, ed.
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.
Nashville: Integrity Publishers

Cope, Mike
2000 One Holy Hunger.
Abilene: Hillcrest Publishing

Crabb, Larry
Nashville: Word Publishing

Cukrowski, Kenneth L., Hamilton, Mark W. and Thompson, James W.
Abilene: ACU Press

Dawn, Marva and Peterson, Eugene
2000 The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call.
Grand Rapids: Eerdmans

Dillon, David.
1992 Short-term Counseling.
Dallas: Word

Dodd, Brain J.
2003 Empowered Church Leadership: Ministry in the Spirit According to Paul.
Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press

Downey, Myles
Mason: Thomson Texere

Dunn, Heather, et. al.
2007 Children’s Ministry in the 21st Century
Loveland, CO.: Group

Fee, Gordon D. and Stuart, Douglas
1993 How to Read the Bible for All It’s Worth.
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
Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers*

Gangel, Kenneth O. and James C. Wihoit
Grand Rapids: Baker

Garland, Diana R.
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 & 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.
Chicago: Moody Publishers

Hebbard, Don W.
Nashville: Nelson

Hicks, John Mark
1999 Yet Will I Trust Him: Understanding God In a Suffering World.
Joplin: College Press Publishing Company

Larson, Jerry
2000 Religious Education and the Brain.
Mawwah: Paulist

Lawrence, Rick, ed.
Loveland, CO: Group Pub.

Lawrence, Rick, ed.
Loveland, CO: Group Pub.
Lewis, C. S.

Lott, David B.
2001  Conflict Management in Congregations.
Bethesda: Alban Institute

Mains, Karen
1997  Comforting One Another in Life's Sorrows.
Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers

Marcuson, Margaret J.
2009  Leaders Who Last: Sustaining Yourself and Your Ministry.
New York: Seabury

McNeal, Reggie
San Francisco: Jossey-Bass

McNicol, Allan
2001  Preparing for Baptism: Becoming Part of the Story of the People of God.
Austin: Christian Studies Press*

Morgan, Tony, and Tim Stevens.
2005  Simply Strategic Volunteers: Empowering People for Ministry.
Loveland, CO: Group

Murren, Doug
1999  Churches that Heal.
West Monroe: Howard Publishing Company

Prior, Kenneth
1990  Perils of Leadership.
Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press

Richardson, Ronald
Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress

Savage, John
1996  Listening and Caring Skills in Ministry.
Nashville: Abingdon Press
Searcy, Nelson  
2012  Fusion: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully-Engaged Members of Your Church.  
Searcy: Jennifer Henson: Books.

Shawchuck, Norman and Heuser, Roger  
1993 Leading the Congregation: Caring for Yourself while Serving the People.  
Nashville: Abingdon Press.

Schwarz, Christian A.  
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*

Stott, John R. W.  
2008 Basic Christianity.  
Downers Grove, IL: IVP

Switzer, David  
2000 Pastoral Care Emergencies.  
Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress

Tan, Siang-Yang  
Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House

Thompson, James W.  
2006 Pastoral Ministry according to Paul: A Biblical Vision.  
Grand Rapids: Baker Academic

Towns, Elmer L., and Warren Bird.  
2000 Into the Future: Turning Today's Church Trends into Tomorrow's Opportunities.  
Grand Rapids: Revell

Webber, Robert E.  
1994 Worship: Old and New.  
Grand Rapids: Zondervan

Weed, Michael R. and Peterson, Jeffrey  
Austin: Christian Studies Press

Wicks, Robert J., Parsons, Richard D., and Capps, Donald
New York: Integration Books

Willard, Dallas
1999 Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God.
Downers Grove: 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

Woods, Charles Jeffrey.
1994 We've Never Done It like This Before: 10 Creative Approaches to the Same Old Church Tasks. [Bethesda: Alban Institute

Wright, N. T.
San Francisco: Harper San Francisco
Notes