

Spiritualities and Mission (Revised Heidi Miller)
Course # DM 9314
(Contours of a Missional Spirituality)

Summer 2012
Seminar Meeting Times:
June 11 – 15, June 18 – 21
9 a.m. - noon

Note: Dr. Heidi Miller

"The pre-class assignments for this course will remain similar. I am adding the books: *Sent and Gathered: A Worship Manual for the Missional Church* by Clayton J. Schmit (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009) and *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community* by Eric H. F. Law (St. Louis, MO: Chalice, 1993). You do not need to do an additional reflection on these. However, you may decide to substitute these texts for another in your response. In other words, there are now 13 texts, but **you only need to write a total of 11 reflections**. Please know that you only have to complete the reading for 11 out of the 13 texts. You may wish to at least skim the other books in order to have an awareness of their content for our class discussion.

The course syllabus will have some shifts regarding the flow of the day-to-day topics. I will provide you with an updated flow of the class schedule when we meet for class our first day. The final project for the course will be similar to what is required in the syllabus that you have."

Seminar Description

This seminar looks at the mission of the church and different modes of spirituality. Due emphasis will be given both to contemplative and active approaches, and attention will be paid to key texts. Three term hours. In particular, this seminar will focus primarily on Christian spirituality and how it is shaped by a missional perspective. This seminar engages participants in exploring anew the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit in relation to the Trinitarian community and *missio Dei* (God's mission in the world) in order to address implications for an incarnational spirituality in relation to ecclesiology, church ministry, and pastoral leadership.

The last few decades of the 20th century gave much attention to focusing on the viability of the church and its ministry in society. Emphasis was placed upon church growth, church health, and developing effective church leadership (primarily with attention to business models). However, there is a growing awareness at the beginning of the 21st century, in light of the decline of Christendom and the church's privileged status within it and the church's perceived marginalization and disestablishment, that the church is called to cultivate a new way of being in the world, to recover its uniqueness as an alternate social reality in the world. The church is shaped by this understanding through discerning and examining how it participates with God in God's mission through being sent into the world by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to demonstrate a radically new way of being human.

The church is coming to realize that its purpose is not to foster its own mission, nor to make itself visible in the world, but rather "as a sign, foretaste, and instrument of God's reconciling love and forgiveness, the church makes Jesus Christ visible in the world" (Dietterich, *Cultivating*

Missional Communities, 5). This requires a reframing of how the church engages in spiritual formation in order to live out its presence in society in light of God's redemptive mission.

Required Texts

- Augsburger, David. *Dissident Discipleship: A Spirituality of Self-Surrender, Love of God, and Love of Neighbor*. Brazos Press, 2006.
- Barrett, Lois Y., et al. *Treasure in Clay Jars: Patterns in Missional Faithfulness*. Eerdmans, 2004.
- Branson, Mark Lau and Juan F. Martinez. *Churches, Cultures & Leadership: A Practical Theology of Congregations and Ethnicities*. IVP Academic, 2011.
- Brueggemann, Walter, ed. *Hope for the World: Mission in a Global Context*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Edwards, Denis. *Breath of Life: A Theology of the Creator Spirit*. Orbis, 2004.
- Fee, Gordon. *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God*. Hendricksen, 1996.
- Gittins, Anthony J. *Reading the Clouds: Mission Spirituality for New Times*. Ligouri, 1999.
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*. Rev. ed. Eerdmans, 1995.
- Taylor, John V. *The Go-Between God: The Holy Spirit and Christian Mission*. 2nd rev. ed. SCM Press, 2005.
- Van Gelder, Craig. *The Ministry of the Missional Church: A Community Led by the Spirit*. Baker Books, 2007.
- Yaconelli, Michael. *Messy Spirituality: God's Annoying Love for Imperfect People*. Zondervan, 2002.

A note about the texts: Since I first led this seminar in 2008, there has been some development in missional literature from a multiethnic perspective, however, the feminist perspective is still underrepresented. As a result, we will make these connections through our class dialogues.

Structure of the Seminar

This seminar is structured to aid the participant in the development of a missional spirituality which serves as a foundation for understanding the role of the church, engagement with culture and shaping the church's beliefs, attitudes, and practices. Biblical, theological, and praxis-oriented reflection will help develop an understanding of the life and ministry of the local church as a community led by the Spirit and being sign, foretaste and instrument of God's reign in the world.

Teaching approaches will be primarily dialogical and praxis-oriented. Participants will engage in preparation for the seminar through pre-seminar reading, reflection, and writing assignments. In class, learning will be engaged through the presentation of ideas, group learning, and reflection. Post-seminar assignments focus on applying seminar learning to a ministry project within the participant's ministry context.

Each session of the seminar builds on the previous in order to help learners frame the contours of a missional spirituality. To aid in this theological development the learner will be introduced through the texts to different conceptualizations of the Spirit, spirituality, and mission for the forming of a missional spirituality in our diverse cultural contexts.

Pre-Class Assignments – To be turned in the first day of the seminar

- All readings must be completed prior to the first day of class. The books are to be read carefully
- A book reflection is to be written on each book, for a total of 11 reflections (Please present them together as a complete packet). Write reflections in response to the following questions: (1) What 2 significant points are presented by the author in relation to the Spirit and/or the mission of God? (2) Explain how these 2 insights shape a fresh perspective for your life and ministry? How and why?

These book reflections should each be exactly three pages long – i.e., written to the bottom of the third page (for a total of 33 pages for all reflections. Start each book reflection on a new page). They are to be 12 point Times New Roman font, have 1” margins on all sides and be on letter-sized paper. Parenthetical citations for page numbers are sufficient.

- Please develop and bring to class a one page description of what you understand by spirituality. Describe what it is, what its key characteristics are, and what its purposes are in the life of the Christian community (bullet points are fine for the format).

Post-Class Assignment

Objective: Application of an understanding of missional spirituality to a particular aspect, practice or issue in the life and witness of the church.

Major Assignment: Submit a comprehensive essay (18 – 20 pages) in which one dimension of a practice or issue in the spiritual life and witness of the church is examined from a perspective of the Holy Spirit and God’s mission.

The essay will include the following components:

- (1) identification of a theme or dimension of the spiritual life of the church.
- (2) exegesis/exposition of pertinent sections of the biblical text;
- (3) theological considerations – engaging a theology of the Spirit and God’s mission
- (4) practical implications of a missional spiritual perspective in relation to the theme for your congregation or the contemporary church.

Use not only the texts of the seminar but also engage numerous other sources. Read a minimum of 500 additional pages in order to examine the theme that has been selected. Annotate these sources in your bibliography.

The essay must be **postmarked no later than August 3, 2012** and should be sent directly to the instructor at: Dr. Roland G. Kuhl, 2481 N. Bridle Circle, Round Lake Beach, IL 60073. Please be sure to keep a copy of your work in the event the paper is lost in transit. NOTE: Papers can also be submitted electronically by August 3, 2012 to rgkuhl@imissional.org.

Grading

Pre-course assignments	275 points
Seminar attendance and participation	90 points
Post-course assignment	300 points

Grades will be posted in December at the end of the University's Fall term.

Seminar Outline

This outline highlights the major themes that we will address, yet due to the dialogical nature of this seminar, we may give more or less attention, or even address a new concern depending upon what arises in class discussion.

Part 1: The Holy Spirit and Christian Spirituality

Monday – Wednesday (June 11 – 13)

Readings: Edwards, Fee, Taylor

Reflections on spirituality? What is a Christian spirituality?

Missional Spirituality: Trinitarian Community, Spirit, and Mission

The Misunderstood Spirit – Biblical Images of the Holy Spirit

Theological Perspectives on the Holy Spirit – Creator Spirit, Eschatological Spirit, Koinonia of the Spirit, Missionary Spirit

Part 2: God's Story and Vision and *Missio Dei*

Thursday – Friday (June 14 – 15)

Readings: Barrett, Brueggemann, Newbigin

The Mission of God

God's Story and Vision in dialogue with cultural narratives

Developing a missional hermeneutic

Part 3: Towards a Missional Spirituality

Monday – Thursday (June 18 – 21)

Readings: Augsburg, Branson & Martinez, Gittins, Van Gelder, Yaconelli

Contours of a missional spirituality – rooted in the Trinitarian community and mission
Cultivating missional practices within community
Noticing What God Notices – Discerning the Spirit in Mission in the World
Ministry in missional perspective in the multi-cultural North American context
Practicing Leading in the Presence of the Spirit

A Brief Bibliography (for Reference and Further Reading)

Avis, Paul L. *Church Drawing Near: Spirituality and Mission in Post-Christian Culture*. T&T Clark, 2003.

Anderson, Ray S. *The Shape of Practical Theology: Empowering Ministry with Theological Praxis*. Downers Grove, IL: 2001.

Barrett, Lois Y. et al. *Treasure in Clay Jars: Patterns in Missional Faithfulness*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 2004.

Boff, Leonardo. *Ecclesiogenesis: The Base Communities Reinvent the Church*. Robert R. Barr, trans. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1986.

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis. 1991.

Brownson, James V., Inagrace T. Dietterich, et al. *StormFront: The Good News of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Camp, Lee. C. *Mere Discipleship: Radical Christianity in a Rebellious World*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2003.

Clapp, Rodney. *A Peculiar People: the Church as Culture in a Post-Christian Society*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

Cosby, N. Gordon and Kayla McClurg. *Becoming the Authentic Church: From Principle to Practice*. Washington D.C.: Tell the Word Publishing, 2004.

Dietterich, Inagrace T. *Cultivating Missional Communities*, Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2006.

- Dietterich, Inagrace T. and Dale A. Ziemer. *Take Time to Be Holy: Cultivating the Missional Church*. Online essay at Center for Parish Development
<<http://www.missionalchurch.org/resources/taketime.pdf>>
- Donovan, Vincent J. *Christianity Rediscovered*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis. 1978.
- Ellul, Jacques. *The Presence of the Kingdom*. 2nd ed. Colorado Springs, CO: Helmers & Howard. 1989.
- Fee, Gordon D. *God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994.
- _____. *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God*. Hendricksen, 1996.
- Frost, Michael and Alan Hirsch. *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st-century Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.
- Fuellenbach, John. *Church: Community for the Kingdom*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002.
- Gibbs, Eddie and Ryan K. Bolger. *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005
- Gittins, Anthony J. *Reading the Clouds: Mission Spirituality for New Times*. Ligouri, 1999.
- Glasser, Arthur F. *Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic. 2003.
- Guder, Darrell L., ed. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 1998.
- Guder, Darrell L. *The Incarnation and the Church's Witness*. Christian Mission and Modern Culture. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999.
- _____. *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2000.
- Hall, Douglas John. *Thinking the Faith: Christian Theology in a North American Context*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1989.
- _____. *The End of Christendom and the Future of Christianity*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 1997.
- Hauerwas, Stanley. *A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1981.

- Hauerwas, Stanley and William H. Willimon. *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989.
- Hawkins, Thomas R. *Cultivating Christian Community*. Nashville, TN: Discipleship Resources, 2001.
- Hirsch, Alan. *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2007.
- Hunsberger, George R. *Bearing the Witness of the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Hunsberger, George R. and Craig Van Gelder, eds. *The Church Between Gospel and Culture: The Emerging Mission in North America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Kenneson, Philip D. *Life on the Vine: Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in Christian Community*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- Kirk, J. Andrew. *What is Mission? Theological Explorations*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000.
- Kraus, C. Norman. *The Community of the Spirit: How the Church Is in the World*. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 1993.
- Kuhl, Roland G. *Missional Matters: Blog Reflections on Missional Themes*.
www.imissional.org/missionalmatters.
- Lohfink, Gerhard. *Jesus and Community: the Social Dimension of Christian Faith*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984.
- Minatrea, Milfred. *Shaped By God's Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004.
- Migliore, Daniel. "The Missionary God and the Missionary Church." *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin*, Spring, 1998.
- Murray, Stuart. *Church after Christendom*. Bletchley, UK: Paternoster Press, 2004.
- _____. *Post-Christendom: Church and Mission in a Strange New World*. Carlisle, UK: Paternoster, 2004.
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Open Secret: Sketches for a Missionary Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- _____. *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- Roxburgh, Alan J. *Crossing the Bridge: Church Leadership in a Time of Change*. Percept Group, 2000.

- _____. *Missional Map-Making: Skills for Leading in Times of Transition*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2010.
- _____ and Fred Romanuk. *The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006.
- _____ and Scott Boren. *Introducing the Missional Church: What it is, Why it Matters, How to Become One*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2009.
- Shenk, David W. and Ervin R. Stutzman. *Creating Communities of the Kingdom: New Testament Models of Church Planting*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1988.
- Snyder, Howard A. *The Community of the King*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1977.
- _____. *A Kingdom Manifesto: Calling the Church to Live under God's Reign*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985.
- _____. *Models of the Kingdom*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991.
- Van Gelder, Craig, ed. *Confident Witness – Changing World: Rediscovering the Gospel in North America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
- Van Gelder, Craig. *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000.
- _____, ed. *The Missional Church in Context: Helping Congregations Develop Contextual Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.
- _____, ed. *The Missional Church and Denominations: Helping Congregations Develop a Missional Identity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- _____ and Dwight J. Zscheile. *The Missional Church in Perspective: Mapping Trends and Shaping Conversation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
- Wilson, Jonathan R. *Living Faithfully in a Fragmented World: Lessons for the Church from MacIntyre's After Virtue*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1998.
- Yoder, John Howard. *Body Politics: Five Practices of Christian Community Before the Watching World*. Herald Press, 2001.

Minority Concerns and the Perkins Curriculum

In 1975 the Perkins Senate passed resolutions which bear on the relation of the Perkins curriculum to this school's common concern for the status of ethnic minority groups and of women both in education for ministry and in the ministry itself. The following statement summarizes these resolutions with respect to all courses except those in the area of Ministry.

1. Instructors and students alike are urged to use inclusive language, images and metaphors which will give full and positive value to both the past contributions and the future prospects of ethnic minorities and women in the church and in society at large.
2. Instructors and students alike are urged to give sensitive consideration to the role of images from a predominantly white and male culture in shaping both the language and concepts of Christian theology and the models and methods of Christian ministry that are widely current today.
3. Instructors are urged to make every effort to provide--in the syllabi, assignments and formats of their courses--opportunities (1) for women students and students from ethnic minority groups to pursue their study with special reference to their own status or tradition and (2) for all students to become acquainted with the special problems and conditions that affect women and ethnic minority groups in human society.

SMU Disability Accommodations

Southern Methodist University provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you need academic accommodations for a disability, you must first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4563) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Then you should schedule an appointment with your professor to make appropriate arrangements for the course work in this class.