

Course Syllabus

Course Title

323 Congregational Care

Instructor

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Course Description

This course introduces students to practices of congregational care and the pastor's responsibility in caregiving.

Course Times

This course will meet in person on July 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 from 9:40am-11:45am. In addition to the in person sessions there will be asynchronous sessions July 22-August 4th.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Implement and oversee appropriate types of care in varieties of settings, including prisons, hospitals, nursing facilities, and homes.
2. Organize caring ministries within the congregation.
3. Discern and implement appropriate boundaries, knowing when and to whom to refer people, and when and when not to share information.
4. Reflect on and practice skills of sensitive caregiving, using role play and analysis case studies.

Course Materials

Required Reading

1. Melissa Kelley, *Grief: Contemporary Theory and the Practice of Ministry*.
2. Frederick Schmidt, *The Dave Test: A Raw Look at Real Faith in Hard Times*.
3. Ed Wimberly, *African American Pastoral Care and Counseling: Oppression and Empowerment*.
4. Jeanne Hoelt, Shannon Jung, Joretta Marshall, *Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities*.

5. John Wesley, *On Visiting the Sick* (Sermon 98) Available free on the web at:
<https://www.umcmission.org/Find-Resources/John-WesleySermons/Sermon-98-OnVisiting-the-Sick>(Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

Supplementary Textbooks

1. Howard Clinebell, *Basic Types of Pastoral Care and Counseling*
2. Larry Webb, *Crisis Counseling in the Congregation*
3. Simon Wiesenthal, *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness*

Grading

- 45% Pre-class assignments
- 45% Final Assignments
- 10% Class participation (attendance, participation, class discussions)

Pre-Class Assignments – Due June 30, 2023 11:59pm

Pre-class assignments should be uploaded to Canvas by June 30, 2023. All assignments are in paragraph/essay form, except for the Resource Sheet which can be a spreadsheet or whatever format you prefer.

1. Read John Wesley's Sermon *On Visiting the Sick*. Write a one-page paper identify three key points that Wesley highlights and discuss their implications for the ministry of pastoral care.
2. Read Frederick Schmidt's *The Dave Test: A Raw Look at Real Faith in Hard Times*. Each chapter poses a question. Choose three chapters to write a one page response to each of the three chosen questions. Describe how the chapter either informed your pastoral care or challenged your thinking. This assignment should total three pages.
3. Read Melissa Kelley's *Grief: Contemporary Theory and the Practice of Ministry*. Write a 2-page paper answering the following questions: Page 68 question 3 and Page 93 question 3. Write one page for each response.
4. Prepare a Resource Sheet identifying 10 professional resources that are appropriate to your geographic area to whom you may need to refer a parishioner presently or in the future. (List can include, but not limited to: physicians, first responders, mental health professionals, support groups, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters) For each entry include: Name of

the Agency, contact Person: Address and Contact Information; Range of Services Offered; Referral Requirements; Fees, if appropriate. Establish contact with at least five of the resources. On the Resource Sheet annotate an entry with notes from your encounter (call, visit, email). This assignment can be a spreadsheet or whatever format you prefer.

5. Read Ed Wimberly's *African American Pastoral Care and Counseling: The Politics of Oppression and Empowerment*. Write a two-page paper answering the following questions: Identify one highlight, quote, or concept from the book that offer insights helpful for pastors. What quote or concept does the author present that is challenging or that you struggle with? What does the author contribute to the ministry of pastoral care that is applicable across ministry settings?

6. Read Jeanne Hoeft's *Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities*. THIS IS NOT A WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT. Identify one highlight, quote, or concept from the book that offer insights helpful for pastors. What quote or concept does the author present that is challenging or that you struggle with? What does the author contribute to the ministry of pastoral care that is applicable across ministry settings? You will be assigned a group number to prepare a presentation to the class during the in person days (July 17-21).

7. Complete the Life Wheel Exercise (see attached). ***Please give yourself at least four weeks for this assignment, to set a goal and then begin to work toward your goal. Submit the Observation questions and your BeSMART goal. (1 page).

8. Listen to Julian Treasure's TED Talk "5 Ways to Listen Better"
https://www.ted.com/talks/julian_treasure_5_ways_to_listen_better?language=en#t-3333
(Links to an external site.) In his talk, Treasure mentions five ways to improve listening. Over the next four weeks practice all five ways of the suggestions for better listening at least twice. Take notes or journal your experiences or your observations. There is no written paper is due for this assignment.

Final Assignments – Due August 4, 2023 11:59pm

1. Self-Care Foundations (1 page) Write a one-page paper discussing your biblical, theological and practical foundations for the importance of self-care? Why does self-care in life and ministry even matter?

2. Self-Care Reflection (1 page) Write a reflection paper about the self-care goal that you worked on during class. How did it go? What did you learn about yourself?

3. Grief Born of Injustice Assignment (5 pages) On pages 15-16 of *Grief: Contemporary Theory and the Practice of Ministry*, Melissa Kelley talks about Grief Born of Injustice. She suggests that care to those who bare grief born of injustice involves both a pastoral response as well as prophetic action.

Using Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7 in *Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities* as a guide for selecting a topic, identify a contemporary issue in your community that produces grief born of injustice. Use one page to identify the topic and why it is important for your ministry setting. Use one page to discuss the biblical, theological, and communal concerns. Use one page to explain what wisdom Hoeft et al propose in addressing the topic. Take no more than two pages to answer the questions: What is a pastoral response that can address the grief? Your pastoral response should be biblically and theologically grounded and should have practical application in your ministry setting. What are some opportunities for prophetic action around this issue? How will you engage laity in the pastoral response, the prophetic action, or both? What community partners or resources can you use to address this grief born of injustice? This paper is five pages.

4. Select one of the asynchronous modules and do some additional research. Write a two page summary of the importance of the topic for pastoral care and how you will engage in this ministry in your setting. (2 pages)