

DM 9370-THE PERSON AND ROLE OF THE MINISTER

Summer Term 2012
Rev. Carole Somers-Clark

June 11-28, 2012

June 11: 9a-12p; 2-5p
with 9380

T-F; M-Th: 2-5p

June 28: 9a-12p

Location: Prothro 220

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to enable the individual to develop a clearer sense of self as this affects the role of minister and to learn an integrative approach to personal and professional issues in ministry. The course will cover three areas: **self-understanding, role understanding, office, gifts, and call, and the integration of the two.** (those not familiar with the traditional definitions of the terms: office, gifts, and call, may use, Thomas Oden, *Practical Theology*, the first 64 pages, or other sources from your faith tradition)

Each day classes will be for two and one-half hours. The classes is to be divided daily into one hour and fifteen minute content/dialogue session following the course outline, and will be led by instructors. The second half of the daily class session is an hour and fifteen minutes and will include small group interaction and feedback between students to promote more in-depth reflection on papers, required reading, and formulation of integration paper.

Please note: It is very important that you complete all of the readings assignments prior to beginning class. If not, you will find it next to impossible to keep up with class dialogue and your writing. With the exception of the Preliminary Assignments you will be writing papers as the classes progress. The later writing assignments are to be developed from the results of class dialogue and feedback from your instructors and your small group input.

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENTS:

ADDITION 5/17/12: Write an autobiographical paper of 1000-1200 words. It should begin with your grandparents, and focus on formative persons in your life, call and ministry. Provide as well for submission a photograph of your church or ministry setting, your family and yourself. Be prepared to make a TEN MINUTE autobiographical presentation on the first day of class. Two copies of the autobiography will be submitted on the first day of class. It will not be graded. This assignments is common to both 9370 and 9380.

1. Read parts 1 & 2 (chapters 1-7) of *Educating the Reflective Practitioner* by Donald Schön. This book is included to assist the student in reframing the style of learning/education used not only for this course but also as a basis for the D. Min program. **A two part assignment:** 1) Write a one-page reflection on what you expect

of the D. Min process educationally and professionally. 2.) To indicate your understanding of the book/theory write a second page with a critique of your expectations utilizing Schön's theory of education.

DUE: First day of the course

2. Participants are to keep a REFLECTIVE JOURNAL (for at least one month prior to the course) of their daily ministry activities/process. Note: the *Educating The Reflective*

THE PERSON AND ROLE OF THE MINISTER – Page 2.

Practitioner book and the learning illustrated in that book should provide a model for your own reflection in your journal This will serve to highlight and clarify ministry priorities – where the most time is spent, what brings the most joy or the most headaches, what is planned by the individual pastor versus what is programmed into your daily schedule by others (conference, laity, family, community, etc.). You are invited to take a fresh look at who you are and how you are going about your ministry. **YOU WILL RECEIVE A GRADE ON THIS.** (An example of a reflective journal is May Sarton’s *After the Stroke* or *A House by the Sea*.) This is not to be just a reporting of the facts and events of the month. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU INCLUDE WRITTEN REFLECTIONS THROUGHOUT YOUR JOURNAL.**

DUE: First Monday of the Course (June 11)

3. Using the journal entries or other timely material, expand upon **one** specific ministry event. This could be something that highlights or typifies your particular ministry; i.e. a board meeting, a teaching or preaching series, stewardship campaign, evangelism program, challenge in your leadership, etc. This “event” needs to illustrate your current role, office, and gifts as well as growing edges (challenges) in ministry. This paper will serve as the basis for your integration paper, which will be expanded during the course of the next three weeks. It should be factually accurate, as detailed as possible, and not longer than three typewritten pages. This paper will be presented to your peers in class and small group sessions for group learning and feedback.

DUE: First Tuesday of the Course (June 12)

First Week

The first week of the course will focus on defining your understanding of call, authority, office, and gifts for ministry. You will apply this material to an analysis of your ministry event. The concept may be evident in the event; i.e. how your original or current understanding of *call* enabled you to enter or create the situation; and/or, how your *authority, office* or *gifts* informed your ministry process. The paper should include concepts from the reading and class dialogue applied to the ministry event.

We will use two readings in class. Each person will be expected to contribute through dialogue to the class collective understanding and use of the material.

This analysis paper will be limited to a maximum of 7 typewritten pages.

DUE: First Friday of Session (June 15)

READING: Wimberly, *Recalling our Own Stories*
Patton, *From Ministry to Theology: Pastoral Action and Reflection*

THE PERSON AND ROLE OF THE MINISTER – Page 3.

Second Week

The second week of the course will focus on systems thinking including Family Systems Theory (Friedman) and Senge's Organizational Systems thinking. You will apply these theoretical constructs to your ministry event. The goal is to achieve a solid grasp of family systems, reflecting on yourself in your ministry event. In Senge's *The Fifth Discipline (second addition)*, give particular attention to the Introduction Part I and chapter 8 (Personal Mastery) and Part III. We will also view a video *Reinventing Leadership*, by Friedman.

The paper on your event developed by the first week's work will now be expanded by application of systems theory. This paper will be no longer than seven (7) typewritten pages. You will utilize class lectures and small group discussions to apply systems thinking to your ministry event. **DUE: Second Friday of Session (June 22)**

READINGS: Friedman, *Generation to Generation*
Senge, *The Fifth Discipline*

Third Week

We will utilize current day examples of integrated lives: Nelle Morton, a feminist theologian (video), and the book *Presence* to challenge your own integration and reflection. In addition, *Male/Female Continuum: Paths to Collegueship* will further analysis of your ministry event.

You will complete your paper on the specific ministry event with a final analysis which highlights your integration of self and role as (1) you have analyzed what you were able to do at the time of the specific event, (2) you have learned what informed and effected your participation in the ministry event, and (3) what you anticipate for your future theological reflection. This paper will not exceed seven typewritten pages.

DUE: Within a week after the last day of class (July 5)

READINGS: Pierce, et al *Male/Female Continuum: Paths to Collegueship*
Senge, et al, *Presence*

THE PERSON AND ROLE OF THE MINISTER – Page 4.

REQUIRED READINGS USED IN THE COURSE:

- Friedman, Edwin H., *Generation-to-Generation, Family Process in the Church and Synagogue.*
- Patton, John, *From Ministry to Theology: Pastoral Action and Reflection*
- Pierce, Carol &
Page, Bill , David Wagner *Male/Female Continuum: Paths to Colleagueship*
(If not in the Perkins bookstore this book may have to be ordered from: www.newdynamicsbooks.com/html/MFC.html -
- Schön, Donald A. *Educating the Reflective Practitioner*
- Senge, Peter M.,
Scharmer, C. Otto,
Jaworski, Joseph,
Flowers, Betty Sue *Presence: An Exploration of Profound Change in People, Organizations, and Society*
- Senge, Peter M. *The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of The Learning Organization (Second addition)*
- Wimberly, Edward, *Recalling Our Own Stories: spiritual Renewal for Religious Caregivers*

(Most of these books may be found used and/or on-line at a reduced price if not in the Perkins bookstore)