

**Ashland Theological Seminary**  
**Doctor of Ministry**  
**DM 912: People in Relationship to God**  
**September 10 – 14, 2007**  
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### **I. What this Course is about**

This course will acquaint the student with the biblical, theological, historical, and contemporary dimensions of the church. The focus is on the leadership and spiritual formation aspects of the church's life. The student will come to a deeper understanding of the nature and mission of the church and experience unique elements that make the church the community of Christ.

### **II. What We Will Accomplish in this Class**

A. During this class, the participants we have the opportunity

- To explore the church from its biblical, historical, theological, and contemporary vantage points.
- To study various models of the church and discern which fits best within the students' ministry context.
- To share various experiences of community in order to deepen the student's sense of fellowship with each other and God.
- To reflect on the contemporary state of the church and assess its strengths and weaknesses.
- To consider the role of leadership in the church and assess the student's own role as leader in his/her ministry context.
- To experience a variety of spiritual formation approaches.
- To edify one another and strengthen each other's call to ministry

B. As a result of this class the student will be able to

- Offer a coherent explanation of the phrase "thinking theologically"
- Explain and assess the adequacy of several models of the church
- Determine and articulate key theological questions and/or issues that are raised by particular situations in the church.

### **III. How the Class Is Set Up**

This course includes reading, online and face to face discussions, lecture, group process, case study, and student reflection. A WebCT supplement to this course will be opened on January 2. WebCT will serve two primary functions.

1. All papers will be uploaded to WebCT and will be returned via WebCT.
2. Students will participate in online discussion of course topics via WebCT.  
(more details are below)

#### **IV. What the Time Allocation Is for this Class**

It is expected that the student will devote roughly 150 hours total to this course. A suggested breakdown of these hours is: 30 hours in the classroom (virtual and face to face), 70 hours of reading (required texts and other related works), and 50 hours of writing.

#### **V. Assigned Texts:**

Howard Stone and James Duke, *How to Think Theologically*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.

ISBN-10: 0800638182

Veli-Matti Karkkainen, *An Introduction to Ecclesiology: Ecumenical, Historical & Global Perspectives*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002 .

ISBN: 0830826882

Michael Jenkins, *The Church Faces Death: Ecclesiology in a Post-Modern Context* New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

ISBN-10: 0195128400

Michael O Emerson and Christian Smith, *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

ISBN10: 0195147073

Eugene Peterson, *Under the Unpredictable Plant an Exploration in Vocational Holiness* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1992.

ISBN-10: 0802808484

These five texts deal with the church in biblical, theological, contextual, and practical perspective. The Peterson work incorporates Leadership and Spiritual Formation issues into our study of Ecclesiology. Please read them in their entirety in advance. Bring the Bible and these texts with you, since we will use them in class discussion.

#### **VI. What You Are Expected To Do in the Class**

A. All of the assigned reading.

1. The required texts are listed in the order that they should be read. The first four must be completed before the beginning of class in order to fulfill the WebCT assignment. The Peterson text must be read by the beginning of class on Thursday.
2. Short reading assignments, available through the Library's Electronic Reserves site, *may* be assigned during the week of class. If assigned, evidence of having read them will be expected in the WebCT discussion and final paper.

B. Participate through WebCT

### **Online Discussion**

Students will contribute at least two *substantive* paragraphs a week to their choice of discussion threads. At least one of these weekly paragraphs must incorporate or responds to insights acquired from another participant in the thread. Online discussion threads will be released the week of August 27 (for those eager to begin to chat), but required participation will begin *the week of September 3*. Online discussion will pick up after the class week and will extend two weeks, through September 29.

C. Attend every session – on time, well-read, and prepared for conversation.

### **D. Writing Assignments**

All written work should be coherent in structure, cogent in expression, and critically reflective.

#### **1. Reflection Papers**

(These are due by 1:00p.m. on September 10 and must be submitted via WebCT)

##### **Stone and Duke**

Write a 4-6 page paper on the Stone and Duke book. The first part of the paper (no more than 1 page) should be an overview of the whole book. In this section you will describe what was written. In the second 3-4 pages you will explain your approach to “thinking theologically” in light of this book. In this section of the paper, particular attention should be paid to the issues raised in chapter 3. The last page should include your analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the book as well as its helpfulness to the task of thinking theologically about the church.

##### **Karkkainen**

Write a 4-6 page paper on the Karkkainen book. The first part of the paper (no more than 1 page) should be an overview of the whole book. In this section you will describe what was written. The last 3-5 pages will include an analysis of the important points of the book. For each of the 3 sections of the book, determine a) which view most closely represents your tradition and why; b) which did you find most compelling and why; and c) which model do you most disagree with and why.

Again, answer a, b, and c for each of the 3 sections of the book. All work must be in complete sentences and in paragraph form.

**2. Topic Proposal:** Please submit a one-page (please, no more than one page!) written proposal on the topic you will be addressing in your paper and the proposed method for your research. You may submit this via email by the due date or hand it in on the due date. **Your proposal is due on Thursday, September 14, 2007.** You will receive credit for the submission of the proposal (see course grading), and feedback on your topic in anticipation of your research.

It is to your advantage to submit the one-page proposal, not just to receive credit, but to avoid misunderstandings and misdirection on the course project. Time will be provided within the context of the course for discussion about proposals, to draft the proposal and for consultation with the Professor.

**3. Outline for Major Paper:** Please prepare an outline that will guide the research and writing of your project. You will receive feedback from the Professor and suggestions for the structure of your paper. The outline should include a clearly defined topic/thesis for your paper and the organization of your paper as it relates to addressing your topic. **Your outline is due on Thursday, October 4, 2007.**

**4. Major Paper.** The major paper is to focus on the relationship between Ecclesiology and Ministry in an area related to your context, your passions, and your anticipated DMin project.

Think of it as a possible chapter or section in your D.Min. document, providing the biblical and theological rationale for your ministry project. Its purpose is to aid you in developing an ecclesiology with both breadth and depth that can have practical application in your ministry context. The paper must demonstrate the following:

- 1) Careful use of Scripture in understanding both Ecclesiology and Ministry
- 2) Informed awareness of the doctrine of the church including your own denomination's history and practice
- 3) Personal reflection on and integration of Ecclesiology within your ministry context
- 4) Documented knowledge of the texts and wide collateral reading (at least 5 other sources)

The paper should be 15-20 pages long, typewritten in 12- point type and double-spaced, following the most recent edition of Turabian.

**Please refer to and utilize the Doctor of Ministry Student Handbook when writing your paper.** Your Paper is due no later than **Saturday, November 10, 2007.**

Extensions will be granted only in extenuating circumstances (i.e. death in the family). Please do not assume extensions will be automatically granted. Extensions requested on and after November 10, 2007, will not be granted.

**E. Case Studies:** There will be a team project using an assigned case study. The purposes of this project are as follows:

1. To apply the concepts in the course to a specific, contextual ecclesiastical issue.
2. To continue developing skills in theological analysis, reflection and application.
3. To participate in and model the role of moral discourse, deliberation and discernment in the context of Christian community.

4. To present solutions, proposals for change, alternatives and responses that address this issue for the purpose of transformation.

Time will be provided in the context of the class sessions for your team work on this project.

Please attend to the following areas in your team work:

1. **What are the presenting issues of concern?**
2. **What are the various layers of this issue?** Theological? Ideological? Organizational? Leadership? Contextual and cultural? Historical?
3. **On what sources will you draw in addressing this issue?** Bible? Theology? Church Tradition? Reason? Experience? How do these areas inform your understanding of this issue, your analysis of its dimensions and your proposals for transformation?
4. **What proposals will you present for effecting transformation?** What is the informing vision of “what ought to be?” What changes are necessary in order to realize, at least parts, of this vision?

Please prepare for a group presentation of **20 minutes** on the last day of class (**Thursday, September 14**). You can be as creative as you want (or can be!). Presentations may be in the form of role play, debate, question and answer, lecture, group discussion, etc. Your presentations must include a clear articulation of the presenting problem, the layers of this issue, your sources for analysis, reflection and application, and your proposal for effecting transformation.

**Plagiarism Statement:** Ashland Theological Seminary Academic Integrity Policy: Ashland Theological Seminary seeks to model servant leadership derived from biblical standards of honesty and integrity. We desire to encourage, develop, and sustain men and women of character who will exemplify these biblical qualities in their ministry to the church and the world. As members of the seminary community, students are expected to hold themselves to the highest standards of academic, personal, and social integrity. All students, therefore, are expected to abide by the academic integrity standards outlined in the Student Handbook (please review pages 21-26).

**Disability Statement:** For students who have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let the professor know early in the quarter (preferably the first week) so that your learning needs can be appropriately met. In order to receive accommodations, documentation concerning your disability must be on file with Classroom Support Services, 105 Amstutz Hall, Ashland University, 419-289-5953. Please contact them with any questions you may have.

## **VIII. Evaluation - Grade Components**

Focused Response Paper 15%

Class Participation (virtual and face to face) 15%

Case Study 10%

Topic Proposal 5%

Paper Outline 10%

Major Paper 45%

### **Grading -**

The Ashland Seminary grading scale is as follows:

A (97-100)/A- (92-96): Superior academic achievement of course objectives, diligence and originality, high degree of freedom from error, outstanding evidence of ability to utilize course knowledge, initiative expressed in preparing and completing assignments, positive contributions verbalized in class.

B+ (89-91)/B (86-88)/B- (83-85): Good work submitted, commendable achievement of course objectives, some aspects of the course met with excellence, substantial evidence of ability to utilize course material, positive contributions verbalized in class, consistency and thoroughness of work completed.

C+ (80-82)/C (77-79)/ C- (74-76): Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.

D+ (71-73)/D (68-70)/ D- (65-67): Passing but minimal work, marginal achievement of course objectives, poor performance in comprehension of work submitted, inadequate class contribution.

F (below 65): Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.

## **IX. Class Schedule**

Monday Afternoon (starting at 1:00 p.m.):

- Introductions, Getting Started and Case Studies
- **Focused Response Paper Due**

Tuesday Morning:

- Biblical Foundations of the Church
- Creation of Teams for Case Studies

Tuesday Afternoon:

- The Church and The Kingdom of God
- Team Projects

Wednesday Morning:

- Talking Theologically About the Church
- Discussion on Karkkainen

Wednesday Afternoon:

- The Global Church
- Discussion on Karkkainen
- Team Projects

Thursday Morning:

- Spiritual Formation of the Minister
- Discussion of Peterson
- **Draft of topic proposal due**

Thursday Afternoon:

- Case Study Presentations

## WebCT Instructions

### Logging in to the program

[AOL Users: Log in to AOL, minimize the AOL browser, and use either Internet Explorer, Netscape, or Mozilla to use WebCT, or else some of the WebCT features will not be functional.]

Go to [www.ashland.edu](http://www.ashland.edu). Pull down menu under 'Current Students.' Click on 'WebCT–Online Courses.' Click on 'Log in to myWebCT'. Log in using the ID and password at the end of these instructions. Click on your course and section. Bookmark the site so you don't have to go through all the steps each time you want to access WebCT.

### Discussions

Click 'Communication Tools'. Click 'Discussions'. Click the discussion you want to enter (each specific discussion is open for only one week). Read each topic and response by clicking on them. To respond to the main question, click 'reply.' To respond to any of the previous responses, click on any of them, and then click 'reply.' The discussions are threaded, and you can see the thread if you click on the green arrow to the left. If you can't see messages, under 'display', click on 'All' and 'Threaded', which should show them all. Part of your grade is to participate in a substantial way in each discussion at least 2 times.

Procedure: The first contribution you make to each session may address the discussion question directly. The second (and any subsequent) contribution must begin by paraphrasing a contribution posted by another class member, and you must show in your response how it springs from, is grounded in, and advances beyond the other person's contribution.

### Grades

From the WebCT Homepage, click 'My grades' to see your grades so far in the course.

### E-mail

Contact with the professor (and submission of papers) must be through the WebCT e-mail system. Enter WebCT. Click 'Communication Tools'. Click 'Mail.' To send a message, click 'Compose message'. For the address to send it to, click the top 'Browse' button and click on desired recipient(s). Under subject, enter: Your last name, the identification of the paper, assignment, etc. submitted. Type your message in the box provided.

**Submitting a paper:**

Type the paper in your regular word processor (Microsoft Word or Word Perfect preferred.) and save it wherever you regularly save papers. From the WebCT 'Compose Mail Message', click the 'Browse' near the bottom, and find where you saved your paper. Double click on your paper.

Then click "**Attach file.**" Just below it will say which file is attached. Now click 'Send' and the message, and attachments, will be on their way.

I will try to acknowledge receipt of every e-mail as soon as I open it, even if I can't get to its content immediately.

User name: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

AU help desk: 419-289-5405 (or [help@ashland.edu](mailto:help@ashland.edu)), and say you have a WebCT question.