

**Ministry Practice and Formation**  
**MS 1A03**  
**Fall Semester 2011**

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Monday 3:30-5:20  
Location TBA

**Course Description**

This course assists students to develop their understanding and practice of personal and corporate leadership for the Christian community, giving specific attention to biblical and theological foundations and the development of practical skills.

**Course Objectives**

**Knowing**

- To explore the theological and philosophical foundations of congregational leadership, as well as the changing nature of vocational ministry.
- To explore various personal issues that relate to the inner and public life of the ministering person.
- To understand the theology and practice of key ministry practices such as leading corporate worship, baptism, preaching, the Lord's Supper, weddings, and funerals.

**Being**

- To develop awareness of spiritual identity and personal spiritual formation as foundational aspects of ministerial leadership.
- To contribute to the students understanding and development of their identity as a ministering person.

**Doing**

- To provide students with practical experience in planning, leading, and evaluating various aspects of public worship.
- In association with their Field placements, to help students identify and begin to acquire foundational skills relevant to pastoral ministry and congregational leadership.
- To offer interactive instruction in the conduct of pastoral responsibilities such as baptisms, weddings, funerals, the Lord's Supper, and church administration.

A core value of our class is that it is a "learning community," designed to be a place where each member of the community can grow through positive affirmation and constructive input. We should all come to the community as people in process, open to be deconstructed and formed through our mutual learning experience.

As professor it is my responsibility to empower each class member as a learner by treating each student with respect and dignity. I come to position myself as a fellow learner in the community and to offer information, reflection, experience and questions for us to reflect on together. Further, it is my responsibility to give good evaluation and feedback to your thinking, both as you offer it to the class in our discussions and through written work so that your growth through this class can be maximized as a result of our collaboration.

As a responsible member of our learning community you will be expected to commit yourself to the class throughout the semester that we are together. This means that in our class interactions you will endeavor to treat all members of our class with respect and dignity. Your attendance is required as your presence is necessary for our community (that is our class) to function at an optimal level. Assignments should be handed in on time and in good order, ideally on or before the *suggested* due date specified in this syllabus. All assignments handed in after the *final* due date (also specified in the syllabus) will be subject to a penalty of 3% for each day (including weekends) late. While assignments will gladly be accepted after the final due date *no extensions* will be given after that date. Assignments can be submitted in hard copy on standardized paper or sent in via email (please use pdf formatting).

I am not only available but also welcome and enjoy connections with each of you outside class time. If you would like to meet together please feel free to make an appointment with me for a time that works for both of us.

### **Tentative Course Schedule:**

The Ministry Life: Complexity and Calling  
Theological Foundations of Christian Ministry  
The Personal Life of the Ministering Person  
The Changing Nature of Christian Ministry  
The Ministering Person as Leader  
The Ministering Person as Shepherd  
The Ministering Person as Theologian  
The Ministering Person as Worship Leader  
The Lord's Supper and Baptism  
Funerals and Weddings

### **Required Texts**

- Michael Frost. *Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture*. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 2006.
- Eugene Peterson. *The Pastor: A Memoir*. New York: Harper One, 2011.
- Michael Jinkins. *Letters to New Pastors*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.

## Course Requirements

### 1. Learning From Another Tradition

In the course of the semester, attend a worship service in a Christian tradition with which you are *not* familiar (e.g. Assyrian, Catholic, Coptic, Lutheran, Nazarene, Orthodox, Quaker, etc.; a list of local options is included at the end of this syllabus). Based on your experience of the worship service write a brief essay that reflects on the following questions; what was your overall impression of the service? How is this tradition different from your own? What does this service tell you about how this tradition thinks about God? What is the role of the clergy in this service? What does that tell you about the role of the clergy in this tradition? How, in your opinion, does the role of the clergy in this tradition accurately reflect a biblical vision of Christian ministry? Is there any way that this tradition can enhance, or even act as a corrective to your own?

**The paper should be approximately 5 pages in length (double spaced) and will constitute 20% of the final course grade.**

**Suggested due date: Oct. 17, 2011. Final due date: Dec. 5, 2011.**

### 2. Book Reflection and Synthesis

Write an essay that compares, contrasts, and reflects upon the three required course texts. This essay should bring the three books into conversation with each other demonstrating how they complement each other and where (if at all) they offer differing views of Christian ministry. Questions to consider in the writing of the essay include; what is the author's vision of ministry? What does each book offer to you in terms of your own ongoing development as a ministering person? What do the authors see as potential challenges to contemporary ministry? What do you appreciate about these books? Where do you find yourself disagreeing with these books? The essay should focus on personal interaction with the books and not a retelling of the content of the books.

**The paper should be approximately 10 pages in length (double spaced) and will constitute 30% of the final course grade.**

**Suggested due date: Nov. 14, 2011. Final due date: Dec. 5, 2011.**

### 3. Creative Presentation

Students will develop a creative presentation that answers the question; what is my own philosophy of ministry practice and formation? The presentation will be given to the professor in a one on one meeting. The presentation should offer your own understanding of what Christian ministry is (i.e. from a theological and personal perspective) and what that means in terms of your own personal formation for ministry (i.e. what does this mean for you in terms of how you are, and will continue to prepare for whatever ministry God has for you?). The presentation should be creative in that it will not be written and it should offer a visual illustration of your answer to these questions as well as an oral explanation. Options are relatively unlimited, if in doubt ask the professor and you will be given direction as to whether to pursue your idea or not.

**An appointment can be made to present this project to the professor anytime throughout the semester but no later than Dec. 7, 2011 (Dec. 7 is the final due date). The project will constitute 20% of the final course grade.**

#### **4. Research and Reflection Paper**

Students will write a paper that explores an area of Christian ministry that is of personal interest to you. The paper must demonstrate that the topic has been carefully researched and considered, using relevant scripture, other literature, the students own experience, and reason. It must include a theological basis for the ministry, a philosophical (philosophy of ministry) framework/approach, and practical application to contemporary ministry and culture (i.e. what does it look like in practice?).

Possible topics include, but are not limited to; Evangelism, Pastoral Care, Preaching, Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, Leadership, Discipleship, Social justice, Worship, etc.

Other topics are definitely an option; however they should be discussed with the professor before embarked upon.

**The paper should be approximately 10 pages in length (double spaced) and will constitute 30% of the final course grade.**

**Suggested due date: Dec. 5, 2011. Final due date: Dec. 7, 2011.**

#### **Additional notes:**

**Academic Dishonesty** – Academic dishonesty is a serious offence in the academic world that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on the transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the McMaster Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty located at [www.macdiv.ca/regs/honesty.php](http://www.macdiv.ca/regs/honesty.php).

**Inclusive Language** ~ McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV is a good example of the use of inclusive language. It is expected that all students will use inclusive language in all MDC assignments.

**Sexual Harassment** ~ Sexual harassment is a violation of the integrity of persons in the form of unsolicited, unwelcome, verbal or physical behavior, which discriminates on the

basis of gender about a person's body, attire, gender, marital status or economic status. Among faculty, staff, and students, sexual harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.

**Disclaimer** ~ This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up until the first day of class.

#### ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

This is neither an exhaustive list nor an endorsement of any particular church or its policies and practices: *Caveat Cultor*. In the case of major denominations, only local/nearby congregations are listed: alternative locations may prove more accessible or convenient.

*Anglican* (22 in total) Christ's Church Cathedral, 252 James Street North Saint Paul's Anglican Church, 1140 King Street West

*Armenian*

Saint Mary Armenian Church of Hamilton, 8 Mayhurst Avenue

*Associated Gospel*

Ellis Avenue Bible Church, 80 Ellis Avenue Faith Gospel Church, 518 Cochrane Road Garside Bible Church, 47 Garside Avenue North Hill Park Bible Church, 668 Upper Wentworth Street Meadow Creek Community Church, 662 Fennell Avenue East Philpott Memorial Church, 84 York Boulevard

*Assyrian*

Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, 63 Stone Church Road West Saint Shmooni Church (Ancient Apostolic Catholic Church of the East), 100 Clinton Street

*Baptist* (22+ in total, of various affiliations; see also *Fundamental Baptist* and *Southern Baptist*)

King Street Baptist Church, 458 King Street West McNeill Baptist Church, 1145 King Street West Mission Baptist Church, 100 North Oval Westside Baptist Church, 261 Whitney Avenue

*Byzantine Slovak*

Slovak Assumption Byzantine Catholic Church, 1406 Barton Street East

*Charismatic*

Crossfire Community Church, 430 York Boulevard Metro Church International, 105 Nash Road South

*Christian and Missionary Alliance*

Paramount Drive Alliance Church, 1035 Paramount Drive, Stoney Creek Parkview Church, 1136 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street Stoney Creek Alliance Church, 605 Highway 8, Stoney Creek

*Christian Reformed*

Ancaster Christian Reformed Church, 70 Garner Road West First Hamilton Christian Reformed Church, 181 Charlton Avenue West Immanuel Christian Reformed Church, 61 Mohawk Road West Westdale Reformed Church, 201 Paradise Road North

*Church of Christ*

Church of Christ, 321 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street Church of Christ West Hamilton, Mohawk College

*Church of God Reformation Movement*

Church of God, 265 Bowman Street Church Of God In Hamilton, 186 Annabelle Street Hamilton Church Of God, 1338 Stone Church Road East

*Coptic (Egyptian) Orthodox*

Saint Mina Coptic Orthodox Church, 480 Melvin Street The Church of the Virgin Mary and Saint Athanasius, 1245 Eglinton Avenue West, Mississauga

*Evangelical*

Kensington Gospel Hall, 162½ Kensington Avenue North

*Evangelical Lutheran*

Christ Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, 18 Victoria Avenue South Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1907 King Street East Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1107 Main Street West Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1054 Upper Sherman Avenue Redeemer Lutheran Church, 15 Wexford Avenue Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hamilton, 104 Hughson Street North Transfiguration Lutheran Church, 232 Fennell Avenue East

*Free Methodist*

Buchanan Park Free Methodist Church, 122 Delmar Drive

*Full Gospel*

All Nations Full Gospel Church, 1205 Main Street East Free Believers in Christ Fellowship International, 389 Concession Street

*Fundamental Baptist*

New Testament Baptist Church, 21 Jameston Avenue

*Greek Orthodox*

Panagia Greek Orthodox Church of the Dormition of The Virgin Mary, 233 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 22 Head Street

*Holiness*

The Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Jesus Christ, 168 West Avenue North (services in Italian only)

*Macedonian Orthodox*

Saint Naum of Ohrid Macedonian Orthodox Church, 1150 Stone Church Road East

*Mennonite*

Hamilton Mennonite Church, 143 Lower Horning Road

*Mennonite Brethren*

Mountainview Mennonite Brethren Church, 380 Highway 8, Stoney Creek

*Methodist Episcopal*

Stewart Memorial Church (formerly Saint Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church),  
114 John Street North

*Nazarene*

First Church Of The Nazarene, 92 Ottawa Street North Mountain Church Of The Nazarene,  
910 Upper Sherman Avenue

*Orthodox Church in America*

All Saints of North America Orthodox Church, 117 Queenston Road

*Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada*

Calvary Pentecostal Tabernacle, 139 Wilson Street West, Ancaster East Hamilton United  
Pentecostal Church, 887 King Street East Mount Albion Pentecostal Church, 1267  
Paramount Drive, Stoney Creek Peoples Church Hamilton, 510 Mohawk Road West Victory  
International Church, 2799 Barton Street East Woodvale Pentecostal Church, 1221 Wilson  
Street East

*Polish National Catholic Church*

Holy Trinity Polish Church, 880 Barton Street East *Presbyterian* (18 in total) St. Cuthbert's  
Presbyterian Church, 2 Bond Street North

*Reformed Church in America*

Westdale Reformed Church, 201 Paradise Road North

*Reformed Church in Canada*

Street Light Ministries, 82 Ferguson Avenue North

*Reformed Episcopal*

Saint George's Reformed Episcopal Church, 134 Emerson Street

*Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)*

The Religious Society of Friends, 7 Butty Place

*Roman Catholic* (33 in total) Canadian Martyrs Catholic Church, 38 Emerson Street Cathedral of  
Christ the King, 714 King Street West

*Romanian Orthodox*

Romanian Orthodox Church of the Holy Resurrection, 20 Murray Street West

*Russian Orthodox*

Holy Veil of Holy Mother Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, 77 Sanford Avenue South  
Our Lady of Glastonbury Orthodox Church, 390 Cannon Street East

*Salvation Army*

The Freeway, 333 King Street East Laotian Corps, 573 Concession Street Meadowlands  
Corps, 187 Stone Church Road West Mountain Citadel, 835 Stone Church Road East  
Winterberry Heights, 300 Winterberry Drive

*Serbian Orthodox*

Saint Nikola Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church, 1415 Barton Street East Saint Nicholas  
Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, 157 Nash Road South

*Slovenian Catholic*

Saint Gregory the Great Slovenian Church, 125 Centennial Parkway North

*Southern Baptist*

Ridgecrest Southern Baptist Church, 582 Barton Street East

*Syrian Orthodox*

Saint Mark's Syrian Orthodox Church, 1202 Dunsmure Road

*Ukrainian Catholic*

Church of the Holy Spirit, 15 Saint Olga Street Church of the Resurrection, 821 Upper  
Wentworth Street Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish, 260 Melvin

*Ukrainian Orthodox*

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Saint Vladimir, 855 Barton Street East

*United Church of Canada (32 in total)*

Binkley United Church, 1570 Main Street West

Westdale United Church, 99 North Oval

*United Reformed*

Rehoboth United Reformed Church, 77 Glancaster Road, Ancaster

*Unidentified/Non-Denominational/Other*

Apostolic Holiness Church Of Jesus Christ, 42 Royal Avenue

Church of God of Prophecy, 64 Wentworth Street North

City Kidz, 177 Sherman Street North

Dominion Christian Centre, 141 Park Street North

Eagle Worldwide Ministries, 73 Emerald St North

Eagle's Nest Fellowship, 1151 Garner Road West, Ancaster

Evangelical Church Apostles and Prophets the Voice of Christ to the World, 87 - 605 Stone  
Church Road East

Faith Church of Jesus Christ, 1855 Main Street East

Forestview Church Without Walls, 165 King Street West

Free Believers In Christ Fellowship International, 389 Concession Street

Hamilton Christian Fellowship, 135 Strathcona Street North

Hamilton Church of Christ, 126 Ottawa Street North

Hamilton Deliverance Church of Jesus Christ, 606 Upper James Street

Jesus Is Alive Community, 97 East 33<sup>rd</sup> Street

Life Christian Church, 1205 Rymal Road East

Living Hope Christian Assembly, 1045 Garth Street

Living Water Ministries, 1475 Barton Street East

Living Word Covenant Community Church, 159 Beach Boulevard

The Lord's Ministry House, 1393 Main Street East