

# **SYLLABUS**

## **MS 1B03 – Church Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

McMaster Divinity College

Winter Term, 2010

Professor: Franklin Pyles, Ph.D.

**Saturdays 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (one hour for lunch) January 9, January 30, February 20, April 10**

**Location: McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, ON**

**Instructor's Email: pylesf@gmail.com**

An introduction to the various issues associated with church leadership, as well as a study of the skills necessary to survive and thrive as a church leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The course is meant to prepare pastors to lead local churches. There is an emphasis therefore on the role the pastor plays in the ongoing corporate life of the church and the leader's position in the church as seen from the New Testament. This position is one of service to Jesus Christ and his people and therefore the model of leadership discussed is that of Servant Leadership.

### **Objectives**

#### **Being**

The course is built on the assumption that true leadership flows out of character, and that for a Church leader ones walk with God or non-walk with God ultimately brings the mysterious supernatural power and blessing of the Holy Spirit, or thwarts it. The leadership of David will be highlighted by the professor in a series of fifteen minute meditations on the interplay of character and leadership effectiveness in David's life.

#### **Knowing**

The course recognizes that there are many principles of leadership which should be stored as part of the knowledge of the church leader. These will be presented in lectures and in the required reading.

#### **Doing**

The course will examine the nature of servanthood as the stance of a leader and how that works out across the various contexts of church life. Biblical foundations of the leader's self-identity and

relationship to all aspects of both corporate and personal life will be explored, including strategic planning, governance, team building and the creation of the culture of the congregation.

## **Assignments**

### **1. Assignment for “Being”**

Pick any biblical character and write a ten-page paper on the relationship between character and the spiritual effectiveness of that person’s leadership. This paper should primarily be the result of personal study of the biblical text, however, if other sources are used you should be sure to properly attribute those contributions to your thinking. 25% of final grade.

### **2. Assignment for “Knowing”**

Write a ten-page paper based on the required reading in which you present ten principles of leadership which are either new to you and/or which you have not practiced. Present, after each one, how you intend to incorporate or develop this principle into your leadership life. 25% of final grade.

### **3. Assignment for “Doing”**

Orally present (written supplements may be used) a leadership challenge to the class with which you are personally acquainted with or personally involved in. Lead a fifteen minute think-tank in which the class serves as a consultant to solve this challenge, and then write an executive summary of no more than two pages single spaced presenting a plan of action [email to professor within five days of your session]. You will be graded on the uniqueness and complexity of the challenge and the quality of the action plan. This assignment is designed to give you practice in analysis of leadership challenges, articulation of salient points, and ability to both seek and evaluate advice and turn advice into an action plan. 20% of final grade.

### **4. Final Exam**

The Final Exam will be one hour and will be open book but proctored. Two scenarios will be presented and you will be allowed to chose one and write how a leader might respond to it. You may draw from books that you have brought to class, or notes, either paper or computer. However, you may not consult. 30% of final grade.

## Required Reading

Greenleaf, Robert. *Servant Leadership*. Paulist Press, 1977.

Clinton, Robert. *The Making of a Leader*. NavPress: Colorado Springs, 1988.

Lencioni, P. *The Five Temptations of a CEO*. Jossey-Bass, 1998

Perkins, Dennis N. T. *Leading at the Edge*. AMACOM, 2000.

## Textbook Purchase

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 218, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail [books@readon.ca](mailto:books@readon.ca). Other book services may also carry the texts.

## Bibliography

Barton, Ruth Haley (2008). *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership, Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry*. Inter-Varsity Press.

Cloud, Henry (2006). *Integrity, The Courage to Meet the Demands of Reality*. Collins.

Coles, Robert (2000). *Lives of Moral Leadership*. Random House.

Clinton, Robert (1988). *The Making of a Leader*. NavPress.

Goodwin, Doris Kearns (2005). *Team of Rivals, The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. Simon & Schuster.

Greenleaf, Robert K (1977). *Servant Leadership, A Journey into the Nature of Legitimate Power and Greatness*. Paulist Press.

Lencioni, P. (1998). *The Five Temptations of a CEO*. Jossey-Bass.

McNeal, Reggie (2000). *A Work of Heart, Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders*. Jossey-Bass.

Perkins, Dennis N. T. (2000). *Leading At The Edge*. American Management Association.

Rock, David (2006). *Quiet Leadership, Help People Think Better – Don't Tell Them What to Do!* Collins.

Thrall, Bruce McNicol, Ken McElrath (1999). *The Ascent of a Leader, How Ordinary Relationships Develop Extraordinary Character and Influence*. Jossey-Bass.

### **Academic Honesty**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence 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 one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ [www.madciv.ca/regs/honesty.php](http://www.madciv.ca/regs/honesty.php).

### **Gender Inclusive Language**

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings 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 and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

### **Style**

All assignments are to be typed in double-spaced format, with footnotes and bibliographic references conforming to the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses* (<http://www.macdiv.ca/students/documents/MacStyleGuide.pdf>). Failure to observe appropriate format and style will result in grade reductions.

**This syllabus is for information only and remains the property of the professor. The syllabus is prepared with the best information available, but the professor reserves the right to change the content and format of the course.**