

MB Biblical Seminary
4824 East Butler Avenue
Fresno, Ca. 93727

PM 511

Pastoral Leadership

3 Units of Credit

Spring, 2006

Mondays: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Syllabus

Course Description

Four important elements of pastoral leadership will be considered in this course, including 1) the person of the leader; 2) the leader's relationship with other people in the congregation; 3) the task(s) the leader is attempting to accomplish; and 4) the influence of the context or setting on the leader and the congregation. Metaphorically speaking, it has been suggested that these four elements are like concentric circles. The person of the leader is the inner circle. The next circle represents the leader and his/her relationships with other people in the leadership context, then the leader's tasks and/or roles in the ministry setting, and lastly the context itself and its influence on the leader. Each element is important for a full appreciation of the complexity of congregational leadership.

This metaphor reminds us that leaders have the power to affect people, projects, and contexts in significant and powerful ways; it reveals the importance of the character and maturity of the leader for the person of a leader will touch each element with light or with darkness, causing good or ill, depending on the character of the leader. This course will focus on these four key elements of congregational leadership, applying them to the changing times in North America and the challenges that these changes pose for today's pastors.

Course Objectives

PM 511 seeks to enhance your theological understanding and praxis of pastoral leadership in the setting of the local church. Specifically, the instructor hopes that ...

- You will grow in your understanding of the importance of Christian practices & disciplines that shape the identity of God's people;
- You will be reminded of the importance of character and maturity for pastoral ministry in the setting of the church;
- You will develop a theology and philosophy of ministry that is consistent with Scripture, your own giftedness and calling, and the Christian tradition and context in which you serve;
- You will grow in your appreciation of the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of pastoral leadership;
- You will learn to reflect, in a critical manner, on pastoral practice in the light of your theology and ecclesial tradition.

Degree Related Objectives

This course seeks to address the following M. Div. Outcomes:

- Knowledge of the many forms of pastoral ministry from the perspective of Scripture, history, and contemporary theology;
- Appreciation of the paradigmatic significance of the ministry of Christ and the nature of the church in shaping pastoral ministry;
- Development of a theology & philosophy of ministry that is both faithful to the Gospel and critically contextual; and
- Growth in your understanding of the historic Christian practices & disciplines that shape & form the identity of the Christian community.

Required Readings

- James W. Thompson, *Pastoral Ministry according to Paul. A Biblical Vision*. Baker, 2006. ISBN = 0801031095.
- Eugene H. Peterson, *Under the Unpredictable Plan: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness*. Eerdmans, 1992. ISBN = 0-8028-3705-0.

- Walter C. Wright, *Relational Leadership: A Biblical Model for Leadership Service*. Paternoster Press, 2000. ISBN = 0-85364-996-0.
- Lovett H. Weems, Jr., *Church Leadership: Vision, Team, Culture, and Integrity*. Abingdon, 1993. ISBN = 0-687-13341-6.
- Walter Wright, *Mentoring: The Promise of Relational Leadership*. Paternoster Press, 2004 ISBN = 1-84227-293-4.
- Eddie Gibbs, *LeadershipNext: Changing Leaders in a Changing Culture*. IVP, 2006. ISBN = 0-8308-3283-1
- Efrain Agosto, *Servant Leadership: Jesus and Paul*. Chalice, 2006. ISBN = 0-8272-3463-5
- R. Paul Stevens and Phil Collins, *The Equipping Pastor: A Systems Approach to Congregational Leadership*. Alban Institute, 1993. ISBN = 1-56699-108-0.

Course Outline

The instructor will provide a detailed course outline together with related readings and assignments on the first day of class. In the meantime, here is a sketch of the general direction of the course and the sequence in which the texts should be read.

Part One

The Person of the Leader

- Readings: Eugene Peterson, *Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness*. Eerdmans, 1992; Efrain Agosto, *Servant Leadership: Jesus and Paul*. Chalice Press, 2005.

Part Two

The Leader's Relationship with Others

- Readings: Walter C. Wright, *Relational Leadership: A Biblical Model for Leadership Service*. Paternoster Press, 2000; Walter Wright, *Mentoring: The Promise of Relational Leadership*. Paternoster Press, 2004 ISBN = 1-84227-293-4.

Part Three

The Task(s) of the Leader

- Readings: Lovett H. Weems, *Church Leadership: Vision, Team, Culture and Integrity*. Abingdon Press, 1993; R.

Paul Stevens, *The Equipping Pastor: A System's Approach to Congregational Leadership*. The Alban Institute, 1993; James W. Thompson, *Pastoral Ministry according to Paul. A Biblical Vision*. Baker, 2006.

Part Four

The Influence of the Leader's Context

- Readings: Alan Roxburgh, *Crossing the Bridge: Church Leadership in Times of Change*. Percept Group, 2000; Eddie Gibbs, *LeadershipNext: Changing Leaders in a Changing Culture*. IVP, 2005.

Course Assignments

A variety of tools will be used to measure the course's ability to accomplish its stated outcomes. Here are some of them:

1. **Class Discussion/Participation.** There is a great deal of reading and discussion required for this course. Participants are expected to read the assigned material for a particular day (highlighting key ideas and taking notes) and come to class sessions well prepared to discuss the assigned reading. Participants are encouraged to contribute to class discussion by noting discoveries, reflections, and evaluations. It is assumed that dialogue is an integral element of the learning process. After all the written assignments are graded, a participant's final score may be adjusted down by as much as 10% for absenteeism, non-participation, or negligence. If a participant misses more than 10% of the class sessions (4 hours), he or she may not qualify to pass the course. The class sessions, lectures, and discussions represent about 42 hours of your total workload.
2. **Reading Reports.** All participants are required to complete the required readings. You are expected to write a two-page critical response to each of the assigned texts for the course by identifying the key ideas of each book, and indicating how these key concepts have shaped and fostered change in your

thinking and acting as a church leadership. At specific times during the semester students will be expected to complete their reading of certain texts and submit their reading report. The instructor reserves the right to give a brief in-class exam to test the student's comprehension of the critical constructs and ideas expounded in the various texts. Due: see the attachment with schedule of reading reports.

3. **Enacting the Faith.** All participants are expected to lead, plan and/or participate in a Lord's Supper service, a Christian baptism, a wedding ceremony, and a funeral service. Required Readings: James D. Berkley (Editor). Leadership Handbooks of Practical Theology. Volume One. Word & Worship, pp. 339-498. All PM 511 students are expected to gain as much experience as possible in leading and planning key aspects of Christian worship (communion and baptism) as well as special services (wedding and funeral services). In addition to the above readings, students are expected to write four one-page descriptions of their experience in leading, planning and/or participating in each of these special services. Due: Monday, April 10, 2005.

4. **Project or Essay:**

- Project: 2500 word description of a leadership practicum the participant will implement in the setting of the church, including the theological & theoretical framework upon which the project is based. Students will be asked to present a brief description of their project and its results on the final day of the semester. Due: Monday, April 3, 2005.
- Essay: 2500 word essay addressing one or more of the crucial aspects of everyday life, including a theological analysis and practical strategies for either supporting or implementing the ministry in daily life. Evidence of research is essential for both. The instructor will provide students with a list of appropriate subjects for research on the first day of class. Again, students are expected to present a brief description of their essay and its implications for pastoral leadership on the

final day of the semester. Due: Monday, April 3, 2005.

Course Time Investments*

	<u>3 Units</u>
Required Readings 60 hours	
Class Participation hours	42
Reading Reports (5) hours	10
Enacting the Faith (4) Essay or Project (2500 words) <u>20 hours</u>	10 hours
Total	142
hours	

*To earn one unit of graduate credit participants are expected to do 45 hours of work. Reading time is based on the rate of 20 pages per hour. Time allotment for writing papers or reports is based on the rate of 125 words per hour or 1/2 page per hour.

Course Grading

Reading Reports (8) 40%	
Enacting the Faith (4) Class Participation 10%	10%
Project or Essay <u>40%</u>	
<i>Total</i>	
100%	

Academic Policies. MBBS academic policies (as well as other school policies) are described at <http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies>. These policies provide guidance on academic integrity and plagiarism, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to

them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to the professor or consult the Registrar or Academic Dean.

Select Bibliography

The following works provide substantial bibliographies that relate to the many aspects of pastoral and/or church leadership.

The New Dictionary of Pastoral Studies. Edited by Wesley Carr. Eerdmans, 2002. The articles on "Minister," "Ministry, Lay," and "Ministry, Ordained" are especially helpful.

David Atkinson, "Practical and Pastoral Theology" ***New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology***. Edited by David J. Atkinson, David F. Field, Arthur Holmes, Oliver O'Donovan. IVP, 1995, pp. 42-48. This article provides a brief introduction to the practical and pastoral theology, a lengthy bibliography, and a list of over 50 articles pertaining to practical and pastoral theology.

The Complete Book of Everyday Christianity. Edited by Robert Banks and R. Paul Stevens. IVP, 1997. This dictionary contains numerous articles on subjects relating to practical and pastoral theology, including church, calling, ministry, leadership, worship, spirituality, principalities and powers. Also, each article includes a substantial bibliography.

Leadership Handbooks of Practical Theology: Volume One: Word and Worship. Edited by James D. Berkley. Baker, 1992. Also, see ***Volume Two: Outreach and Care*** and ***Volume Three: Leadership and Administration*** in the same series. In addition to key articles on a variety of practical theology subjects, these volumes include bibliographies.

Farley, Edward. "Practical Theology, Protestant" ***Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling***. Edited by Rodney J. Hunter. Abingdon, 1990, 934-936. This article introduces practical theology as a discipline and contains a lengthy bibliography on the discipline.

Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology & Counseling. Edited by David G. Benner & Peter C. Hill. Baker, 1999 (Second Edition).

Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching. Edited by William H. Willimon and Richard Lischer. W/JKP, 1995. Sell your bed and buy it!

The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship. Edited by J. G. Davies. Westminster Press, 1986. Sell your bed and buy it!

A Dictionary of Pastoral Care. Edited by Alastair V. Campbell. Crossroad, 1987. A British perspective.

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