

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

PM 511  
Pastoral Leadership  
3 Units of Credit  
Spring, 2007  
Thursdays: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
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Office Hours: By Appointment

## Syllabus

### Course Description

Four aspects of church leadership will be considered in this course, including i) the person of the leader; ii) the leader's relationship with people in the congregation; iii) the task(s) the leader is attempting to accomplish; and iv) the influence of the context or setting on the leader and the congregation. Metaphorically speaking, it is often suggested that these four elements are like concentric circles. The person of the leader is the inner circle. The next circle represents the leader's relationship with people in the leadership context, then the leader's tasks in the ministry setting, and finally the context itself and its influence on the leader. Each element is important for a full appreciation of the complexity of congregational leadership.

Leaders have the power to affect people, projects, and contexts in significant and powerful ways. This fact reveals the importance of the character and maturity of the leader since the person of a leader will touch each element with light or with darkness, causing good or ill, depending on the leader's identity. 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 biblical, historical and 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 leadership 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 & calling, as well as 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 Scripture, history and your ecclesial tradition.

### Degree Related Objectives

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

- Knowledge of the 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.
- Siang-Yang Tan, *Full Service: Moving from Self-Serve Christianity to Total Servanthood*. Baker Books, 2006. ISBN # 0-8010-6564-X
- Ronald D. Sisk, *The Competent Pastor: Skills and Self-Knowledge for Serving Well*. The Alban Institute, 2005. ISBN # 1-56699-304-0
- Walter C. Wright, *Relational Leadership: A Biblical Model for Leadership Service*. Paternoster Press, 2000. ISBN# 0-85364-996-0.
- Walter Wright, *Don't Step on the Rope: Reflections on Leadership, Relationships, and Teamwork*. Paternoster Press, 2005. ISBN # 1-84227-359-0
- Eddie Gibbs, *LeadershipNext: Changing Leaders in a Changing Culture*. IVP, 2006. ISBN# 0-8308-3283-1
- Alan J. Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk. *The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*. Jossey-Bass, 2006. ISBN#0-7879-8325-X

- Paul Chaffee, *Accountable Leadership: A Resource Guide for Sustaining Legal, Financial, and Ethical Integrity in Today's Congregations*. Revised and Updated. Jossey-Bass Publications, 1997. ISBN# 0-7879-0364-7

### 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.

<p><b>Part One</b> <b>The Person of the Leader</b></p>
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- **Readings:** Ronald D. Sisk, *The Competent Pastor: Skills and Self-Knowledge for Serving Well*. The Alban Institute, 2005; Siang-Yang Tan, *Full Service: Moving from Self-Serve Christianity to Total Servanthood*. Baker Books, 2006.

<p><b>Part Two</b> <b>The Leader's People Relationships</b></p>
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- **Readings:** Walter C. Wright, *Relational Leadership: A Biblical Model for Leadership Service*. Paternoster Press, 2000; Walter Wright, *Don't Step on the Rope: Reflections on Leadership, Relationships, and Teamwork*. Paternoster Press, 2005.

<p><b>Part Three</b> <b>The Tasks of the Leader</b></p>
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- **Readings:** James W. Thompson, *Pastoral Ministry according to Paul. A Biblical Vision*. Baker, 2006; Paul Chaffee, *Accountable Leadership: A Resource Guide for Sustaining Legal, Financial, and Ethical Integrity in Today's Congregations*. Jossey-Bass, 1997.

<p><b>Part Four</b> <b>The Influence of Context on the Leader</b></p>
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- **Readings:** Eddie Gibbs, *LeadershipNext: Changing Leaders in a Changing Culture*. IVP, 2005; Alan J. Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk, *The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*. Jossey-Bass, 2006.

## Course Assignments

A variety of tools will be used to measure the course's ability to accomplish its desired 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 expected 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 and/or Reviews.** All participants are required to complete the required readings. You are expected to write a two-page response to all of the required texts for the course by identifying the key ideas of each book, and indicating how these key concepts will shape and foster change in your thinking and behavior as a church leader. At various times during the semester students will be expected to complete their reading of a specific text, participate in a discussion of the text with peers, and then submit a reading report of the text in question. 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 attached schedule of reading reports.
3. **Case Study Reflections.** Students are expected to respond to three case studies pertaining to pastoral leadership in the setting of the local church. The instructor will provide a cluster of cases from which the student will select THREE for reflection. After reading a selected case the student is expected to respond to the questions pose about the case in two to three pages single-spaced. **Due: February 1, March 1, and April 5.**
4. **Research Essay:** Students are required to write a 3000 word essay addressing one or more of the crucial aspects of pastoral leadership, including a theological analysis and practical strategy for either supporting or implementing the chosen practice. Evidence of research and the use of footnotes and/or endnotes (a minimum of ten sources - at least five monographs and five articles and/or chapters) are expected of all essays. Students are expected to present a brief one-page description of their essay and

its implications for pastoral leadership on the final day of the semester. Students may elect to write a paper that articulates their philosophy of church/pastoral leadership as it relates to the four parts of this course: the character of the leader, the leader's relationships, the leader's tasks, and the leader's ecclesial and cultural context. **Due: Thursday, April 12, 2007.**

### Course Time Investments\*

	<u>3 Units</u>
Required Readings	60 hours
Class Participation	40 hours
Case Study Reflections (3)	12 hours
Reading Reports (8)	18 hours
Essay (3000 words)	<u>20 hours</u>
Total	150 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)	25%
Case Study Reflections (3)	15%
Class Participation	15%
Essay	<u>45%</u>
<i>Total</i>	100%

Academic Policies: Students should note that MBBS academic policies are described at <http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies>. These policies provide guidance on academic integrity and plagiarism, accommodation for disabilities, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory language, academic appeals and inclusive language. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and to follow 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.

### 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.

