PT534 FIELD EDUCATION SEMINAR  
Instructor: Dr. Jussely

Fall 2005

1. Course description. Your friendly catalog affirms: “This seminar provides opportunity for theological reflection and discussion of problems, needs, and experiences in ministry. Students are required to write papers on their field experiences and to present them to the class for discussion led by the professor. This may be taken in the fall or spring semester. Prerequisite: 400 hours of Field Education experience” (RTS Catalog).

2. Course requirements.

a. Written report. Each of you must summarize, digest, and evaluate your field education in a paper designed as fodder for your colleagues’ discussion.

Note: Class presentations should be kept strictly confidential. A suggested format for the written report would include:

1) Outline of your educational background, your present church affiliation and status (candidate, licentiate, ordained), any employment history of significance, and the history of your church ministry opportunities prior to field experience. 1 page or less.

2) Curriculum Vitae: the kind of facts you might include on your resume regarding the ministry experience on which you are reporting: dates, title(s), responsibilities, accomplishments. About ½ page.

3) Theology of Ministry: a statement of the values, attitudes, and goals that you brought to this ministry experience. Try to make explicit what you understood as ministry in terms of service to Christ and his people, in the church, in homes, and in the world. Were you aware of this theology in your practice of ministry? About 2 pages.

4) Ministry Situation: a lovingly truthful description of the setting and people to whom you ministered, using pseudonyms, if desired. About 2 pages.

5) Strengths and Weaknesses: a candid evaluation of your greatest strengths and weaknesses in ministry and the factors which contributed to each. About 3 pages.

6) Your relationships: a frank analysis and assessment of your relationship with someone with whom you had difficulties or conflict. About 2 pages.

7) Others’ relationships: a frank analysis and assessment of a problem or a strained relationship you observed in others. About 2 pages.
8) Seminary preparation: How did your seminary experience best prepare you for this field education experience? 1 page or less.
9) What do you feel that you needed to learn to have made this field education experience more effective? 1 page or less.
10) Learnings: a summary of the fundamental lessons you learned about God, about yourself and about others during your field experience. How does this accord with your theology of ministry? About 2 pages.

b. **Advance Distribution.** You must make copies of your written report for everyone in the class and distribute them one week in advance.

c. **Class Presentation.** You will have up to 30 minutes to present your oral report to the class. This will be followed by 30 minutes of guarded discussion. Please do not read the entire report. Refer to key paragraphs as needed.

d. **Advance Preparation.** You must read the reports of other students before class and come prepared to discuss them (make notes, comments, and questions on the document). Return your copy of every report to the professor after each class.

e. **Strict Confidentiality.** Anyone who discusses or circulates seminar papers -- his own or someone else’s – outside the circle of those registered for the course will not get credit for the seminar and may be subject to disciplinary action. Papers must be returned to the professor after class presentation.

3. **Grading Criteria:**
The only grade will be PASS or FAILURE. To receive a passing grade, you must:
a. Attend all sessions, unless providentially hindered and/or excused.
b. Complete all assignments, as outlined above.
c. Participate in the discussions.
d. Observe the strictest confidentiality.

4. **Class Schedule:** To be announced. We may be able to finish this class earlier if you want to double up on class time in some way. This depends on mass scheduling harmony. We will discuss this.