

2PT530 – Theology of Ministry I

Course Syllabus – Fall 2009

Instructor: Professor Michael Glodo (mglodo@rts.edu or 407/366-9493, ext. 232)
Administrative Assistant: Joyce Sisler (jsisler@rts.edu)

Office hours: Tuesdays 10:00-noon; Wednesdays 11:00-noon and 1:00-2:00; Thursdays 10:00-noon. (Often I will hold my office hours outside the Library or in the Student Commons. Joyce will know where I am and I will try to leave a note on my door indicating when I am doing so.)

Class meeting: Tuesdays 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Course description.

This course covers the theological foundations for the ministry, including the nature of and calling to office, as well as a variety of applied ministry issues and concerns. 2 hours.¹

Course objectives.

Knowing:

- Historical survey of the office of minister of word and sacrament.
- Overview of biblical qualifications and functions of the ministry.

Being:

- Conviction regarding the fundamental role of minister of word and sacrament.
- Commitment to character and gift development of a biblical minister of word and sacrament.
- Commitment to carry out the challenges of applying biblical norms for ministry to contemporary pastoral contexts.

Doing:

- Application of learnings to actual ministry situation(s).

Course requirements.

Personal reflection on ministry readiness	30%	Due Dec. 1 (last day of class)
Philosophy of ministry paper	40	Outline due Oct. 27 Final paper due Dec. 9
Servant leadership experience	20	Due Oct. 20
Class attendance & participation	10	

¹ Note that this description is different from the Seminary course catalog, though it reflect long-held practice for this course.

Required reading.

The following works are to be read in their entirety for purposes of class discussion, lecture integration and course assignments.

Pastoral epistles.

Clowney, Edmund P. *Called to the Ministry*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1975. 90pp.

ISBN-10: 0875521444; ISBN-13: 978-0875521442

Dawn, Marva and Eugene Peterson. *The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call*.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999. ISBN 978-0-8028-4678-5

Dever, Mark. *The Deliberate Church: Building Your Ministry on the Gospel*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005. 204pp.

ISBN-10: 1581347383; ISBN-13: 978-1581347388

Miller, C. John. *Heart of a Servant Leader*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2004. 319pp.

ISBN-10: 0875527159; ISBN-13: 978-0875527154

Purves, Andrew. *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*. Louisville, KY:

Westminster/John Knox Press, 2001. ISBN 978-0-6642-2241-3

Submission of papers.

Papers as described below should be submitted electronically as e-mail attachments in MS Word or RTF format. Files name should be the class name, assignment name and your last name. E.g. "ToM1-Readiness-Smith."

All papers will be assessed on clarity, correctness and form as well as upon content. This means using good grammar, complete sentences, correcting spelling errors, using proper format for references, etc. Abbreviated in-text citation, e.g. [Miller 52] is preferred. Care in expressing oneself is a highly reliable guide to carefulness in thought.

Personal reflection on ministry readiness.

Each student will reflect upon the virtues, qualities, character and skills required in the ministry in relation to his own readiness and ongoing resolve to attain them. This paper of 5-8 pages should answer the following questions:

- 1) What are the biblical characteristics and qualities of a minister of word and sacrament?
- 2) How do I assess my own immediate readiness for the ministry in light of these characteristics and qualities?
- 3) Where are my greatest vulnerabilities with respect to 1) and 2) above?
- 4) What critical steps must I be sure to take in the process of my ongoing preparation?

Philosophy of ministry paper.

It will not be unusual for you to be asked to articulate a philosophy of ministry as part of the process of candidating for ministry positions. Ministry data forms will ask you to state your views on a variety of ministry issues.

Ministry is somewhat context dependent, but it is wise to have a self-assessment and convictions about biblical norms for ministry in order to faithfully carry out one's ministry in a particular context. Also bear in mind that many ministry contexts have ill-shaped or idiosyncratically-shaped expectations of ministers. This means that one's philosophy of ministry should be shaped sufficiently to convey one's convictions but not so pointedly as to assume the church is already where one wants to lead it.

The particular components of a philosophy of ministry will be discussed during the class, but the form of this assignment will be fairly flexible. The final submission should be submitted in a 10-15 pages double spaced paper.

As part of the assignment, you must have an ordained minister read your paper and discuss it with you. Your final submission should include the content of that feedback.

Servant leadership experience.

Based upon reading Miller's *Heart of a Servant Leader*, write a 3-5 page account of a situation in which you were involved where there was conflict, disappointment, embarrassment, etc. Describe how "believing the gospel" could have changed the responses and, Lord willing, the outcome. Especially include how your own responses, contributions, etc. could have exhibited greater empowerment by and freedom in the gospel, e.g. repentance, patience, mercy, accountability, etc.

Class attendance & participation.

By its very nature a course such as this is most beneficial when all students participate actively in questions and discussion. Therefore, a portion of the course evaluation will be for attendance and participation.