2PT530 – Theology of Ministry II  
*Course Syllabus – Summer 2009*

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Administrative Assistant: Joyce Sisler ([jsisler@rts.edu](mailto:jsisler@rts.edu))

**Office hours:** Generally available during the summer Monday through Thursday on campus, but best to check ahead given vacation and professional absences.

**Class meeting:** Monday through Friday, July 6-10, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Course description.**

The RTS catalog describes the course as follows:

    This course continues the themes of the worship course and introduces the student to general pastoral care, biblical and professional standards of ministerial conduct, self-image, etiquette, interpersonal relationships, and typical problem areas and possible pitfalls for pastors. 3 hours

The actual content of the course may vary from this somewhat to accommodate changes taking place in the curriculum and the experiences and backgrounds of students.

**Course objectives.**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have attained the following:

**Knowing:**

- Increased understanding of the nature and work of classic pastoral theology.
- Orientation to basic ministry challenges discussed in class.
- Awareness of areas of needed personal growth in qualities of a minister.
- Awareness of common pitfalls in ministry.

**Being:**

- Greater commitment to growth in character.
- Increased eagerness for the work of the ministry.
- Greater commitment to self-care in ministry.
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Doing:

- Basic competence in ministry skills discussed in class.

Course requirements.

It is recommended that as much of the reading as possible be completed prior to the start of the course. However, if the student is willing to expend the appropriate amount of time and effort following the course, it will be possible to obtain the majority of the course benefit without having completed the reading beforehand.

Course requirements and respective weight of total course are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class preparation &amp; participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal reflection on ministry readiness</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical review of Guder reading</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gospel application paper</td>
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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. “ToM2-Readiness-Glodo.” The due dates will be discussed with the class and finalized before class is concluded.

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. Carefulness in expressing oneself is a highly reliable guide to carefulness in thought.

Assigned reading.


Class participation

By its very nature a class such as this is collegial and collaborative. Collective wisdom is crucial. Individual experiences are instructive. Survival in ministry depends greatly on collegiality. The maximum benefit from this course depends
upon the active participation of everyone asking and answering questions and reflecting together.

**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?

**Critical review of Guder reading.**

The term “missional” evokes a range of reactions. For some, it gives room for suspicion. For others, it is an essential quality of a biblical church. For yet others it is merely the current buzz word. Guder’s book will be discussed at length in the class. Drawing upon class discussion and your reading of the book, write a 5-8 page paper containing the following:

1) Summarize what the term “missional” means in the context of the book.

2) Relate the most compelling insights from the book, providing representative and supportations quotations.

3) State any concerns, reservations or unanswered questions you have.

4) Conclude with an opinion about the necessity or urgency (or lack thereof) for this concept to be taught in your current church context.

**Gospel application paper.**

Class lectures and discussion will address the nature of ministry in relation to the gospel at several junctures. Additionally, your reading of Poirier is an extended effort at applying the gospel to church conflicts. In a paper of 8-10 pages, relate a recent episode—chapter or incident in church life which you were a part of or in a position to observe—and address the following:

1) Explain the situation providing relevant circumstances, people, background, etc.
2) Describe how the situation was addressed (including if it was avoided, resolved or continues to be unaddressed).

3) Relate how the gospel shaped the approach of the parties or how the gospel should have shaped the approach of the parties. Particularly focus on how church leadership’s role was/should have been informed and empowered by the gospel.