I. COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is an advanced seminar in ethics. Its aim is to equip pastors for dealing with the ethical issues commonly to be faced in pastoral ministry. Part of the course will focus on issues in the philosophical and theological foundations of ethics. The majority of the course will be spent in applying the Ten Commandments to the issues of our times.

II. REQUIRED READING

The following books (c. 2000 pp. total) are required reading for the course. A signed statement indicating that you have completed all the assigned readings must be submitted in order to receive credit for this portion of the course. You should also reference these books in the written assignments. Before the course begins, you are asked to complete the reading of the two works by Lewis and the one by Kevan. For class, you need only bring your Bible and the Larger Catechism. However, you are welcome to raise questions about any of the readings during class.

III. ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Completion of all readings - 10% of final grade

   A signed statement must be submitted indicating that you have completed all the
   assigned readings. If only a portion has been completed, then indicate which books
   have been read in their entirety and which have been read only partially. Indicate the
   total pages read in those books not finished.

2. A position paper of ten pages (2500 words) – 25% of final grade

   You have been invited to address your local Rotary Club on the subject, "The Ten
   Commandments for Today: Are They Still Valid for Society?" This is your chance
   to say something significant and thought-provoking to a mixed audience of leaders in
   your community. Using what you have gained from the course and the readings,
   given an answer to the assigned question. This is not a sermon, but a work of
   apologetics. Your aim is to prove and to persuade an audience that does not
   necessarily accept the authority of Scripture.

3. A sermon or article of 10 pages (2500 words) – 25% of final grade

   Develop a sermon or article (as for a denominational or church magazine) dealing
   with a current ethical issue. This must be a work involving serious Biblical exegesis
   supporting the claims you make. It must be on a topic different from the one in (4.)
   below. The main focus here is Biblical exegesis, not research into other literature,
   though you are welcome to use other literature if you find it helpful in making your
   case.

4. A research paper of approx. 15 pages (3500-4000 words) - 40 % of final grade

   The paper is to deal with an ethical issue of your choosing. It should be done in case
   study fashion, giving a brief (250 words maximum) presentation of the case as it
   might arise in a pastoral setting, then arguing for a Biblical response, interacting with
   the readings and discussions in this course, and whatever you turn up in additional
   research. Give appropriate documentation for this interaction. Be sure to dentify one
   or more of the ten commandments which govern the situation, show the application
   you are making, and justify that application as the one demanded by the relevant
   commandments.

5. All work is to be turned in to Tari Williamson in the D.Min. office at RTS by October
   31, 2008. A $100 penalty fee is applied to any work submitted late.