

**DMIN ELECTIVE 2DM808LA  
LIGONIER ACADEMY, LAKE MARY, FL**

**PASTORAL CARE**

**JULY 16-20, 2012**

**DR. MARK E. ROSS**

Professor of Systematic Theology

Erskine Theological Seminary

Columbia, South Carolina

**Catalog Description:** An in-depth examination of the minister's role as a shepherd and servant and the many facets of pastoral care involved in this calling. This examination will include discussion of topics such as counseling, home and hospital visitation, dealing with death and grief, and many others. Particular focus will be placed on problems and pitfalls such as counseling of members of the opposite sex. The purpose of this course is to provide the student with practical knowledge and wisdom in order that he may more effectively care for the flock God has entrusted to him.

**Course Overview:** This course will involve an exegetical, historical, and systematic-theological study of the pastoral office in the Christian church, especially as it concerns the pastoral care of the people of God. While preaching is a very important part of that care-giving, another course in the Ligonier Academy curriculum focuses entirely on that work. Emphasis will be placed first on seeing the work of pastoral care in connection with the nature of God, the condition of his people, the work of Christ in bringing us to God, and the work of the Holy Spirit in applying the work of Christ to us. A theology of the pastoral office in relation to the offices of Christ as prophet, priest, and king will be developed, and then applied to the common duties of pastors in caring for the people of God.

**Required Reading:**

1. David Hansen, *The Art of Pastoring: Ministry Without All the Answers*. IVP Books, 1994. ISBN: 978-0830816699
2. David Powlison, "Cure of Souls (and the Modern Psychotherapies)." Appendix 4, *The Biblical Counseling Movement: History and Context*. New Growth Press, 2010.
3. Andrew Purves, *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2001. ISBN: 978-0664222413
4. Andrew Purves, *Reconstructing Pastoral Theology: A Christological Foundation*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2004.
5. David Wiersbe, *The Dynamics of Pastoral Care*. Baker Books, 2000.
6. Timothy Z. Witmer, *The Shepherd Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church*. P&R Publishing, 2010.

## Assignments

1. **Two short papers for classroom presentation.** Each of these papers will be worth 10 points of your final grade. They will be assessed simply on the degree of completion. It is expected that both of these papers will be incorporated into the final term paper of the course. These papers are due at the beginning of class on the first day, and may be submitted prior to class.
  - a. Ten important Biblical passages on the pastor's calling and service shall be presented. For each passage chosen, prepare a single-spaced paragraph of six to 10 sentences on what this passage teaches us about a pastor's calling in caring for the people of God. This paper can be done without any prior reading of the assigned texts. Its purpose is to provide the baseline for our examination of the topic of pastoral care in historical and theological perspective. Be prepared to read from the paper in class.
  - b. A response paper to one of the five chapters in Purves' *Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition* in which he examines a classical source on the pastoral office. The student and professor will agree on one of these sources for the student's presentation. Contact the professor by email as soon as possible to get your assigned classical source. In addition to reading and responding to Purves, it is expected that the student will consult the original source discussed in the chapter by Purves. You will then discuss this classical source in connection with the contemporary readings from Hansen, Wiersbe, and Zwieter. This paper should be 6-8 pages, with about half presenting the classical source and half discussing it in light of Scripture and the assigned readings in Hansen, Wiersbe, and Zwieter. Be prepared to read from this paper in class.
2. **A Term Paper.** This paper is to develop and present a theology of pastoral care (about 2/3 of the paper) and a plan for providing pastoral care in the ministry setting where the student serves. The theology portion of the paper should be developed from the Scriptures and in dialogue with the assigned readings and the five classical sources identified by Purves. The paper should be exegetically grounded, historically and theologically informed, and locally applied. Generous support for the paper's argument should be provided from Scripture and the assigned readings and additional research. Scripture references should be given inline, not in footnotes. Quotations and references to the readings and other sources should be done by footnotes. The paper should be 15-20 pages in length, neither more nor less. Each paper should provide an annotated bibliography, including two or three sentences of comment on each of the sources cited that would provide a reader with a snapshot of the content and value of the source.

**The due date for the term paper is December 1, 2012**

**Course Objectives Related to D.Min. Student Learning Outcomes**  
**Course: Pastoral Care; Professor: Dr. Mark E. Ross; Date: July 16-20, 2012**

<u>DMin Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<i>In order to measure the success of the DMin curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the DMin outcomes.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Students are required papers for class presentation. They also have to write a term paper.
<b>Scripture</b>	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Minimal	Student will read material that involves an exegetical and systematic-theological study of the pastoral office.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Student will read and evaluate what reformed writers and theologians have said about pastoring, pastoral care, and pastoral theology.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	This course will emphasize the work of Christ in bringing us to God and the work of the Holy Spirit in applying the work of Christ to us.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	This course will emphasize seeing the work of pastoral care in connection with the nature of God.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Minimal	This course will examine the pastor's role as a shepherd and servant and the many facets of pastoral care of the people of God.
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	None	While preaching is a very important part of pastoral care-giving, this course will not focus on preaching.
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	
<b>Shepherd</b>	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Strong	This course will include discussion of topics such as counseling, home and hospital visitation, dealing with death and grief, and many others. The purpose of this course is to provide the student with practical knowledge and wisdom in order that he may more effectively care for the people of God.
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	None	