Instructor: Dr. Robert M. Norris

Course dates; October 2-3; October 30-31; Nov 20-21

Course Description:
Explores various aspects of ministry, in particular the theology and practice of ordained ministry within the Reformed traditions. Topics include the biblical foundation for pastoral ministry, the call, functions and roles in ministry, challenges and contexts for ministry today and in the future, leadership and authority, and spiritual practices.

Theological and Practical Curricular Outcomes
In successfully completing this course a student will meet the following outcomes:

Religious Heritage • Identify theology and practice of ministry related to central functions of ministry; • Describe the distinctive theology and practices of Reformed understandings of ministry within the larger Christian tradition; • Describe spiritual practices within the Reformed and the larger Christian traditions; • Demonstrate basic knowledge of various theological disciplines and how these intersect with the practice of ministry. • Demonstrate ability to understand contextual issues (societal, ecclesial, global) and an emerging awareness of how these factors impact what it means to be a pastor today in a particular context. Personal Spiritual Formation • Articulate one’s own emerging self-understanding in ministry; • Demonstrate piety congruent with the Christian & denominational tradition; • Ability to articulate an emerging sense of call to ministry; • Ability and willingness to act in a principled, ethical fashion • Show willingness to conduct one’s life out of confessed Christian faith; • Display willingness to engage in prayer, Bible study, worship, discipleship and growth in the fruit of the Spirit. Capacity for Ministry • backgrounds, ages, and perspectives; • Ability to articulate one’s emerging pastoral identity in relation to the functions and roles of the pastor within the Reformed tradition.
Course Requirements and Evaluative Criteria

Assignments:

1. Reflection papers, spiritual gathering and participation Through 3 reflection papers students will reflect upon the class content, readings, and how these engage them in their journey in ministry.

   Reflection Paper - Exploring my Call and Pastoral Images.

   Reflection Paper – Personally engage the roles in ministry – pastor, priest, preacher, teacher, prophet, evangelist etc. in the church today hope is that the class will have an opportunity to experience diverse spiritual practices that can serve them in their own spiritual journey.

2. A paper examining the work and practice of a spiritual leader of the past.

3. Final Integrative Paper Along with all the required readings and discussions throughout the semester, students are strongly encouraged to read an autobiographical account or novel that reflects the story of a practicing minister. The paper will draw on class lectures, and discussions.

Required Texts:

Spurgeon, Charles, Lectures to My Students.
Adams, Jay, Shepherding God’s Flock
Hansen, David, The Art of Pastoring.
Murphy, Thomas, Pastoral Theology.
Wells, John D., The Pastor in the Sick Room.
Bucer, M., The Cure of Souls
Gregory the Great, The Book of Pastoral Rule
**Recommended Reading**
Douglas John Hall, The End of Christendom and the Future of Christianity
Augustine of Hippo, The Confessions
Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison; or Life Together
Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love

**Pastoral Novels**
Shusaku Endo, Silence
Georges Bernanos, Diary of a Country Priest