

DM711: EXPLORING THE CONTOURS OF MINISTRY. (4 Units)

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DESCRIPTION/RELEVANCE FOR MINISTRY:

This online course is the gateway into the Doctor of Ministry Program. This course should be taken immediately upon admission to the program and serves as a general orientation to the program and an introduction to the theological method and practices of the program. Students are invited to discover and share personal and ministry reflections within the context of a local community of support. This is a required first course for all students on the personalized track, unless approved otherwise.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Develop a new understanding of the mission of the church within culture
- Understand the structure of the Doctor of Ministry program
- Understand and practice the theological method utilized throughout the program
- Create a community-based opportunity for personal and ministry reflection
- Develop and practice spiritual disciplines through interaction with a community of support, and participation in a silent retreat
- Develop a learning path for the program, and begin to form a theme for the final project

COURSE FORMAT:

This course is accessed online with four modules (The Fuller DMin program, A Theology of Ministry, Personal and Ministry Reflections, and Integration). The class will be conducted on the Internet using an 8-week lesson program with final work due in the eleventh (exam) week in accordance with Fuller's academic calendar. The course consists of required texts and written lectures, interaction with a local community of support, and other assignments.

REQUIRED READING:

- Anderson, Ray. *The Soul of Ministry: Forming Leaders for God's People*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1997.
- Buckingham, Marcus, and Donald O. Clifton. *Now, Discover Your Strengths*. New York, NY: Free Press, 2001.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. San Francisco, CA: Harper, 1978.
- Grenz, Stanley J. and Roger E. Olson. *Who Needs Theology? An Invitation to the Study of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1996.
- Hirsch, Alan. *The Forgotten Ways: Re-activating the Missional Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2006
- Lewis, Robert, and Wayne Cordero. *Culture Shift: Transforming Your Church from the Inside Out*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey Bass, 2005.
- McNeal, Reggie. *A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2000.
- Nouwen, Henri. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. New York, NY: Crossroad, 1993.
- Peace, Richard. *Spiritual Autobiography: Discovering and Sharing Your Spiritual Story*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1998.
- Peterson, Eugene. *Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Read the required books and write reflection papers (30%)
- Complete online learning activities including: reading lectures, on-line exercises, and connecting exercises (10%)
- Write a variety of papers and a case study (25%)
- Form and meet with a local community of support, and create a log (5%)
- Write a theologically reflective integration paper (15 pages) that includes a learning path for the program (25%)
- Participate in a silent retreat (5%).

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM: This is a required first course for entry to the DMin program.

FINAL EXAMINATION: None.

Updated January 2008