

DM711: EXPLORING THE CONTOURS OF MINISTRY. (4 Units) Kurt Fredrickson, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Director DMin Program, and John Hull, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Practical Theology

DESCRIPTION/RELEVANCE FOR MINISTRY:

This online course is the gateway into the Doctor of Ministry Program. This course can 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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 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
- 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 a 9-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*. Westminster John Knox, 1997.
- Buckingham, Marcus, and Donald O. Clifton. *Now, Discover Your Strengths*. Free Press, 2001.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. San Francisco: Harper, San Francisco, 1978. (128 pages).
- Frost, Michael and Alan Hirsch, *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Ministry in the 21st Century*, Hendrickson: 2003.
- Grenz, Stanley J. and Roger E. Olson. *Who Needs Theology? An Invitation to the Study of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1996.
- Lewis, Robert, and Wayne Cordero, *Culture Shift: Transforming Your Church from the Inside Out*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2005.
- McNeal, Reggie. *A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders*, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000.
- Nouwen, Henri. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. Crossroad, 1993.
- Peace, Richard. *Spiritual Autobiography: Discovering and Sharing Your Spiritual Autobiography*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1999.
- Peterson, Eugene. *Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Read the required books and write reflection papers (30%)
- Complete online learning activities, including: reading lectures, online testing, and connecting exercises (10%)
- Write a variety of reflection papers and a case study (26%)
- Form and meet with a local community of support, and write log (9%)
- Write a theologically reflective integration paper (15 pages) that includes a learning path for the program (25%)

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

FINAL EXAMINATION: None.