



CM504 – Practice of Ministry

Short Syllabus

(Updated October 10, 2020)

Instructor: Ted Johnston

Course Description

This course helps students develop an incarnational Trinitarian theological approach to several common elements of pastoral ministry including administration of baptism and the Lord's Supper, worship planning, preaching, pastoral care, evangelism, discipleship, church administration, and family ministry.

Note: to do well in this course, a student will need to put in average of about 12 to 13 hours each week (more will be needed when major assignments are due).

Required Textbooks

- Purves, Andrew. (2004). *Reconstructing Pastoral Theology, A Christological Foundation*. Louisville: John Knox. ISBN 0-664-22733-3 (sells for about \$23.00; Kindle edition available).
- Root, Andrew. (2013). *The Relational Pastor, Sharing in Christ by Sharing Ourselves*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity. ISBN 978-0-8308-4102-8 (sells for about \$16.00; Kindle edition available).
- Anthony, Michael and Estep, James, eds. (2005). *Management Essentials for Christian Ministries*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman. ISBN 0-805-43123-3 (sells for about \$24.00; Kindle edition available).

Supplemental Textbook (recommended but not required—the course makes frequent reference to this book)

- Anderson, Ray S. (2001). *The Shape of Practical Theology, Empowering Ministry with Theological Praxis*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity. ISBN 0-8308-1559-7 (sells for about \$25.00; Kindle edition not available; available used for about \$11.00).

Course Objectives

1. This course applies incarnational Trinitarian theological perspectives to the practice of ministry with an emphasis on pastoral ministry within a local church (with an emphasis on GCI pastoral practice). This approach views pastoral ministry as real sharing, through the Spirit, in the ongoing ministry of Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of the sheep. Though the course focuses primarily on ministries performed by pastors, much of it also applies to the work of ministry leaders and ministry workers.
2. The course begins with an overview of the incarnational Trinitarian theological foundations that should undergird all ministry. This theological vision is then applied to real-life pastoral ministry challenges including administration of baptism and the Lord's Supper, preaching, pastoral care, evangelism, discipling, various issues related to pastoral administration, and ministry to families (including the pastor's own family).
3. The course relies heavily on exchanges between students and with the course instructor via the GCS online discussion forum. Each week, students post questions and reflections related to the assigned readings and videos, then comment on their classmates' posts, thus holding a dialog that will include the course instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the incarnational Trinitarian theological foundations of pastoral ministry as real participation, through the Spirit, in the ongoing pastoral ministry of Jesus.
2. Explain how that participation with Jesus is relational "place-sharing" in Jesus' ongoing "place-sharing" ministry, thus establishing a theologically-grounded approach to all ministry tasks.
3. Explain how this place-sharing ministry facilitates lasting transformation in the lives of people who are recipients of Jesus' ministry in the Spirit.
4. Explain how these theoretical constructs apply directly to various "practical" aspects of pastoral ministry including administering the sacraments, preaching, pastoral care, evangelism, discipleship, church administration and ministry to families (including the pastor's own family).
5. Help the students implement soul-care strategies in their own lives.

Requirements and Assignments

This course is organized around ten written lectures prepared by the course instructor. These lectures then lead to and are connected with readings in the three course textbooks along with supplementary readings and videos from various sources.

Students then interact with this material, with each other, and with the instructor, by posting on the discussion forum their questions, observations and answers to discussion questions. Students also write two papers—a short reflection paper due mid-term, and a final integrative paper due at the end of the course.

The weekly assignments in the course are summarized on this chart:

Course assignments summary		
Week number	Theme for the week (that week's lecture title)	Assignments for the week
1	Theological Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read lecture 1• Read the essay “The Church and Its Ministry,” by Gary Deddo• Read Purves through chapter 1• Read Root chapter 1• Read Anthony & Estep chapter 2• Post a short biography on the discussion forum
2	Sacraments & Baptism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read lecture 2• Read Purves chapter 3• Read Root chapters 2 and 3• Read Anthony & Estep chapter 1• Read GCI's baptism liturgy• Watch two “You're Included” videos• Post on the discussion forum per instructions at the end of lecture 2

3	Liturgy & Communion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 3 • Read Purves chapters 4 and 5 • Read Root chapters 4 and 5 • Read Anthony & Estep chapter 3 • Read GCI's Communion liturgy • Listen to Hauerwas podcast • Post on the discussion forum per instructions at the end of lecture 3
4	Preaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 4 • Read Purves chapters 7 and 8 • Read Root chapters 6 and 7 • Read 4 articles from Mike Morrison • Watch 5 videos from Frank Thomas • Post on the discussion forum per instructions at the end of lecture 4
5	Occasional services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 5 • Read Anthony & Estep chapters 4-6, 8 • Submit a 3-page-long mid-term reflection paper that addresses what has been learned in the course so far
6	Pastoral Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 6 • Read Purves chapter 9 • Read Root chapters 8-10 and 13 • Read Anthony & Estep chapter 9 • Watch two videos on pastoral care • Post on the discussion forum per instructions at the end of lecture 6

7	Evangelism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 7 • Read Purves chapter 10 • Read Root chapters 12 and 14 • Read Anthony & Estep chapters 10-11 • Watch a video on evangelism • Post on the discussion forum per instructions at the end of chapter 7
8	Discipleship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 8 • Read Purves chapters 2 and 6 • Read Root chapter 11 • Read Anthony & Estep chapters 12-13 • Read the essay “Leading in Spiritual Formation” by Dan Rogers • Post on the discussion forum per instructions at the end of chapter 8
9	Church administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 9 • Read Root chapter 15 & appendix • Read Anthony & Estep chapters 14-15 and 17-18 • Post on the discussion forum per instructions at the end of lecture 9
10	Family and marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 10 • Read GCI’s wedding ceremony • Read the essay “Why We’re Gendered Beings,” by Gary Deddo • Read Anthony & Estep chapters 19-20 and 23 • Post on the discussion forum per the instructions at the end of lecture 10
11-12	Final integrative paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a 10 to 12 page final integrative paper that addresses material presented in the course, demonstrating critical thinking grounded in an incarnational Trinitarian worldview. The paper is to be uploaded to the GCS website by no later than the end of the day on the Sunday that ends week 12.

Assignments, estimated hours, and grade weighting			
Assignment	Number of pages	Estimated hours (average student)	Percent of final grade
Read course lectures	150	11	
Readings from 3 textbooks and various essays	850	64	
Watch videos, listen to podcasts	–	4	
Online discussion forum: reflections on and responses to assigned reading/viewing plus commenting on classmates' and instructor's posts to create an online dialog (9 sections; 3 hours average/section)		27	40%
Midterm reflection paper	3 pages	8	15%
Final integrative paper	12 pages	30	45%
Totals		144 hours	100%

Notes:

- 1) The number of hours shown for each assignment is an estimate based on the average master's level student, and adds up to about 12 hours (average) each week of the course (stretching over 12 weeks). A student who reads quickly may be slow in writing papers and vice versa. Some students will complete the course requirements in less time and some will take more.
- 2) The final course grade will be determined by combining the grades for individual assignments, weighted using the percentages shown above. An interim grade will be given at the end of week five to help students and the instructor gauge progress.