



Pastoral Care

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“The claim of Christian faith is that in a particular place, in the life of a community of sisters and brothers in Christ, there is a way – a way of worship, a way of being open toward others and God, a way of listening, a way of seeing, a way of acting – which can counter the power of evil in all our lives, and set us on our feet again. This is not a claim of exclusivity, as if here alone God’s power over evil is present. It is a claim of universality, or better still, it is an invitation to universality: all are invited to participate here in God’s great healing powers.”

– p.124 from Burton Cooper’s text, Why God?

I. The Invitation/Course Definition

Explore the mission, biblical bases and foundation of caring and counseling by becoming familiar with a holistic liberation-growth model of pastoral care. Attention will be given to specific areas of pastoral concern including bereavement, marriage preparation, marriage enrichment, parenting, substance abuse, clergy self-care and the ministry of referral.

II. Required Reading

Howard Clinebell, *Basic Types of Pastoral Care & Counseling: Resources for The Ministry of Healing & Growth*, [Abingdon Press, Revised and enlarged edition 1984]. ISBN 0-687-02492-7

Andrew D. Lester, *Hope in Pastoral Care and Counseling*, [Westminster John Knox Press, 1995]. ISBN 0-664-25588-4

Wayne Muller, *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives*, [Bantam Books, 1999]. ISBN 0-553-38011-7

Lambert, Jeri Lauren, *Study of the Sacraments Papers*, 2007

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FOCCUS 2000 Facilitator Notebook - Christian Non-Denominational Edition

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III. Course Requirements

1. Each student is responsible for the required readings and assignments. It is expected that the required texts be read before the first scheduled class.
2. It is expected that each student will be present at each class session and that each student will assume responsibility for her/his own learning and participation.
3. ***Attend an Open AA Meeting***
Each student will attend an Open AA meeting **prior to the first scheduled class** and write a 1-page double-spaced paper based on the experience. [Please include time, date and location of the meeting.]
4. ***Compile a Referral File***
Include the name, address and phone number of the social agency/community resource corresponding to each of the areas of pastoral concern listed below, in addition to the name of a contact person within the agency/resource. [Please note the areas of pastoral concern which are to be included - alcohol/drug abuse, domestic and sexual abuse, homeless shelter/soup kitchens as well as mental health professionals who are trained to work with children, families and marital/intimate relationships.] **This project is due on the first day of class.**
[For guidance regarding this assignment see Clinebell, ch.12, pp. 310 – 322]
5. ***Ministry Experience – Paper and Presentation***
Report an experience of pastoral care. Make sure your report includes analysis of the theological issues and insights you discerned in this experience. Papers will be presented in small groups and are to be **completed prior to the first day of class.**
6. ***Sabbath Practice***
Choose and engage in one practice from the “Sabbath” text by Muller.
Write a 1-page reflection paper based on the experience, including new insights you gained. **Due at the beginning of the last class session.**
7. ***Journal Experience***
Record your experience of each class session, including reflections and insights you gained as a result of the readings and in-class materials. Articulate how the class session will impact your ministry. 1-page double-spaced paper for each day of class, **due one week following the end of class sessions.**

8. ***Additional Requirement***

All written work must reflect the use of inclusive language, for people and for deity. All writing must use standard English grammar style. Papers should be typed or computer printed and free of errors.

IV. Course Outline

Monday

Readings

Welcome & Introductions

Ministry Experience Presentations

Holistic Liberation-Growth Model
Mission and Biblical Bases of Pastoral Care

Clinebell, pp. 9-103

Hope in Pastoral Care

Lester, all

Tuesday

Readings

Open AA Meeting Experiences

Bereavement Ministry

Clinebell, pp. 218-242

Wednesday

Readings

Ministry of Marriage Preparation

FOCCUS Notebook

Thursday

Readings

Marriage Enrichment

Clinebell, pp. 243 – 309

Parenting & Faith

Lambert, all

Friday

Readings

Ministry of Referral

Clinebell, pp. 310 – 322

Sabbath Practices

Muller, all