

PASTORAL MINISTRIES
April 13, 2027 – May 25, 2027
Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Zoom
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To help the student understand his or her personal call to ministry
2. To challenge the student to develop and to articulate his or her philosophy of ministry
3. To provide an overview of pastoral ministry.
4. To help the student understand ministry in the context of the local church including a brief overview of the history and forms of government of The Wesleyan Church.
5. To expose the student to and to give help for practicing various elements and tasks of pastoral ministry and how these tasks are interrelated with each other and the overall health of the church.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pastoral Ministries will provide a survey of the tasks which accompany pastoral ministry in a local setting. Emphasis will be placed on pastors as persons as well as the competencies needed for contemporary ministry. This course is designed to introduce the student to the nature and practice of pastoral ministry. It provides a scriptural understanding of the call, qualifications and work of the minister. The course includes an overview of the history and forms of church government (focusing particularly on The Wesleyan Church) and a survey of the church's approach to pastoral ministry throughout its history. The student will analyze his or her own sense of calling and begin to formulate a theology of pastoral ministry. Special attention is given to the exercise of pastoral tasks and the pastor as visitor, counselor, priest, evangelist, preacher, teacher and administrator; done in conjunction with the student's experience in which the student receives instruction in the administration of church sacraments, weddings and funerals.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Drury, Keith. *The Call of a Lifetime: How to Know If God Is Leading You to the Ministry*. Wesleyan Publishing House, 2013. ISBN: 978-0898276725.
- Peterson, Eric E. and Eugene H. Peterson. *Letters to a Young Pastor: Timothy Conversations between Father and Son*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2020.
- Seamands, Stephen. *Ministry in the Image of God: The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2005.
- Willimon, William H. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry, Revised Edition*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2016.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend all classes, complete periodic class assignments and participate in class discussions.
2. Read the required texts.
 - a. For Drury: submit a 3–5-page paper (1” margins, 12 pt. font) describing your call to ministry (see more information below)
 - b. For Peterson, Seamands and Willimon: submit a journal of observations (questions, comments, etc.) as you read. A few comments for each chapter is sufficient.
3. Choose one area of pastoral ministry (the weekly class session titles will provide ideas from which to choose). Interview 3 pastors related to this area of pastoral ministry. Submit a 3–5-page paper (1” margins, 12 pt. font) that includes a synopsis of their observations as well as your response to the conversations and their observations.
4. Submit an 8–10-page paper (1” margins, 12 pt. font) describing your philosophy of pastoral ministry. The paper should include areas of pastoral ministry and life that you view as your strengths and areas of pastoral ministry and life that you view as your weaknesses. In the paper, you should relate your call and gifts, the essence and centrality of the local church and leading people into the holiness of life in Christ.

GRADING

25% — Reading assignments and journals

20% — Pastoral interviews paper

30% — Class participation

35% — Philosophy of Ministry paper

GRADING SCALE

97-100	A
94-96	A-
91-93	B+
88-90	B
85-87	B-
81-84	C+
76-80	C
72-75	C- (Minimum passing grade)
68-70	D
0-67	F

PREPARATION FOR THE COURSE (Due prior to the first class session)

1. Read Drury. Write a 3-5 page paper describing your call to ministry. This paper should include relevant experiences, inner promptings, church affirmations and anything else that you connect to your call. In addition, write about any specifics (if there are any) to your sense of God's call to ministry. (e.g., call to church ministry, to chaplaincy, to youth or children's ministry, or nothing specific).
2. Study Paul's passages about Elders in the Church (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).

ATTENDANCE:

You are responsible to be present and engaged at each scheduled class session. If you miss a class session, you are expected to watch the class video to make up the absence.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

- Students are expected to exhibit honesty and integrity in their personal, professional and academic life, and work. As Christians, we are called to a high standard of honesty.
- Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to) the following:
- Copying all or part of a theme, exam, paper, reading report, or other written work from another person;
- Submitting as one's own work that which was wholly or partially done by another;
- Quoting material from any source without clearly indicating it is someone else's work;
- Summarizing or paraphrasing from any source without clearly indicating it is someone else's work;
- Misrepresentation of documentation or resources
- Submitting workbook answers copied from another person or working in a group and submitting an identical set of answers for each member of the group without explicit permission from the professor;
- Cheating on a test by getting answers in an unauthorized manner;
- Submitting the same work for more than one course without the prior approval of the instructor.
- An instance of plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" for the specific assignment and may also result in an automatic failure of the course.
- Repeat offenses will result in an automatic failure of the course.

COURSE PLAN AND ASSIGNMENTS

Tuesday, April 13, 2027 Pastor as Called

- Class Preparation
 - o Read *The Call of a Lifetime*
 - o Read Willimon, pages 9-74
 - o Write a 3-5 page paper describing your call to ministry.
 - o Study 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9.
- Class Discussion
 - o Course Introduction
 - o Call to ministry
 - o Discuss Drury and Willimon reading
 - o Survey of pastoral ministry in the history of The Wesleyan Church
 - o Biblical ideas of a pastor

Tuesday, April 20, 2027 Pastor as Person

- Class Preparation
 - o Read *Letters to a Young Pastor*. (**Submit a 2-3 page journal of observations about your reading**).
 - o Read Willimon, pages 294-339
 - o Complete the Myers-Briggs personality inventory (supplied by professor)
- Class Discussion
 - o Developing your personal walk with God
 - o Time and Sabbath
 - o Personality Traits
 - o Personal and professional growth
 - o Discuss Peterson and Willimon reading
 - o Discuss the role of women pastors in The Wesleyan Church

Tuesday, April 27, 2027
Pastor as Leader and Administrator

- Class Preparation
 - o Read Seamands (**Submit a 2-3 page journal of observations about your reading**).
 - o Read Willimon, pages 281-293
 - o Prepare Local Church Building Information (Size, Value, Debt, etc.)
- Class Discussion
 - o Leading as pastoral ministry
 - o The Wesleyan Church governance
 - o Church Membership
 - o LBA
 - o Committees
 - o Creating a healthy atmosphere for the church
 - o Discuss Seamands and Willimon reading

Tuesday, May 4, 2027
Pastor as Preacher and Teacher

- Class Preparation
 - o Work on pastoral interviews
 - o Read Willimon, pages 109-165, 197-214, 239-253
- Class Discussion
 - o Preaching as pastoral ministry
 - o Discipleship as pastoral ministry
 - o Church calendar
 - o Developing a Ministry of Spiritual Formation
 - o Discuss Willimon reading

Tuesday, May 11, 2027
Pastor as Counselor

- Class Preparation
 - o Submit pastoral interviews paper
 - o Read Willimon, pages 167-196
- Class Discussion
 - o Spiritual counseling
 - o Relationship counseling
 - o Vocational counseling
 - o Pre-marital counseling
 - o Visitation—hospital, home, institutions

Tuesday, May 18, 2027
Pastor as Priest

- Class Preparation
 - o Pastoral interview paper
 - o Read Willimon, pages 75-108, 254-261
- Class Discussion
 - o Sacraments
 - o Rituals—weddings, funerals, dedications
 - o Wesleyan history
 - o Prayer as pastoral ministry
 - o Visitation—homes, hospital, nursing home, other institutions
 - o Discuss Willimon reading

Tuesday, May 25, 2027
Pastor as Evangelist

- Class Preparation
 - o Read Willimon, pages 215-237, 263-279
- Class Discussion
 - o Survey of evangelism in The Wesleyan Church
 - o Groups—nones, nominal, passionate, others
 - o Church and the World
 - o Images of the church
 - o Discuss Willimon reading

Tuesday, June 8, 2027 (Midnight)
Final Project

- Philosophy of Ministry Paper
 - o 8-10 pages (1" margins, 12 font)
 - o Your call and gifts
 - o The essence of vitality of the church
 - o Leading people into holiness
 - o Pastoral ministry as a holistic calling