MP1501p: Mentored Practice Seminar in Portland
Fall Semester, 2012 - First Class - September 6, 2012
Thursday 9:00am – 12pm
Instructor: Rev. Linwood Arnold
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Introduction:
Using the time tested "apprenticeship" model of education, Mentored Practice is an experiential program to help you gain confidence and competence in the practice of pastoral ministry and leadership. The heart of the program centers upon your practical work in ministry (in an approved setting) along with building a mentoring relationship with a qualified mentor in a church or specialized ministry setting. Integration of other areas of learning in the curriculum, and incarnation - the embodiment of learning - are important goals for this whole experience. If you remain open to the experiences you will have in all aspects of the mentored practice program, it can and should be one of the most edifying pieces of the Master of Divinity curriculum. Please note: The prerequisite for this seminar is MLS1501 - Reflective Practice.

Please note:
To be considered fully registered for this course you must turn in to the instructor a Mentored Practice Covenant Form (on the website under current students/mentored practice/resources/learning agreement and covenant) before the first meeting of the seminar.

Purpose of the Seminar:
The seminar provides an opportunity to begin building skills in practical ministry and practical theological reflection arising out of actual experiences from your chosen ministry site. It is designed to increase your joy and your effectiveness as a leader in a pastoral ministry setting, and to help you begin and continue to practice the following essential tools of pastoral ministry: spiritual grounding, theological reflection, stewardship of time, Sabbath time, support from colleagues, and ministerial ethics.

Required Outcomes:

1. You will demonstrate that you can build mutually supportive learning relationships with a mentor and your colleagues.

2. You will be able to write up a practical case study for collegial feedback and be able to write an insightful theological reflection on that case study.

3. You will demonstrate in several ways that you are capable of doing effective work in your ministry setting and that your confidence and competence in doing this work is increasing.

Master of Divinity Program Goals addressed by this course:

Knowledge of:

- The cultural, social, and ethical realities in which the churches live and respond both globally and locally.
- The arts of ministry.

Ability to:

- Reflect theologically on the practice of religious leadership through experience in supervised congregational and community settings.
Integrate the elements of the Christian tradition in a theology and practice of ministry; act with moral sensitivity and in accord with professional ethics, and advocate for compassion and justice in personal, congregational, and community settings.

Opportunities for:

- Developing one’s own ecclesiastical identity within an ecumenical ethos, identifying one’s strengths and limits, and learning how to engage in on-going professional development.
- Developing a prophetic voice within a variety of social and cultural contexts.

Required Texts:


Course Requirements:

1. Ministry hours at your mentored practice site:
   You should work 10-12 hours per week (not including travel time) at your ministry site, in accord with the agreement you have reached with your site supervisor and/or mentor. (The instructor should already have a copy of your mentored practice covenant/agreement.) For parish sites, some of these hours should include worship leadership and preaching.

2. Conversations with your mentor and attendance at the second lunch:
   You will meet one hour per week (when classes are in session) with your mentor to engage in theological reflection regarding your hours in ministry. You are also asked to attend, with your mentor, the second luncheon for mentors (held in November) to support your mentor in her/his ministry with you and talk about common concerns and goals amongst mentors and students for the semester.

3. Required Readings:
   Required readings for the course are:
   1) *Shared Wisdom* by Mahan, Troxell, and Allen ,
   2) *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and
   3) *Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times* by Peter L. Steinke.
   4) *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society* by Lesslie Newbigin
   Please read and "inwardly digest" these books carefully and be prepared to share in class discussion on various assignments related to these books the dates indicated on the class calendar.

4. Case Study Reports:
   Over the course of the semester you will prepare and present two written case studies of “events” from your ministry site to your colleagues in the seminar. A guide for writing up these case studies will be shared and discussed at the first class and will be based on the required reading book *Shared Wisdom*. Each case study must include a written theological reflection. Dates for presenting will be scheduled as soon as possible using the attached class calendar. You must present your first case study to the class by the end of October, and your second case study before the last class session.
5. **Mentored Practice Journal:**
Keep a weekly journal of your mentored practice experiences. Make a practice of recording the experiences that especially surprise you or throw you off balance in some way or another. You will also be prompted to reflect theologically on your reading as it relates to your site experience.

6. **Attendance at the Seminar:**
You must be present at each meeting of this seminar, unless you are ill or there is an emergency of some kind. Please contact the instructor by telephone or email as soon as possible if you must be absent from class for some reason.

7. **Self-Evaluation and Mentor's Evaluation Requirement:** A form for writing up your Self-Evaluation will be distributed at the first class. Your Self-Evaluation is due at the beginning of the 12th class in December. The Evaluation from your mentor must be received by your Instructor no later than Friday January 4, 2013. A guide for the Mentor's Evaluation will also be distributed at the first class.

**Evaluation of Your Work for this Course:** This class is evaluated on a Pass/D/Fail basis. Please consult the current issue of the BTS Student Guide for details. As indicated above, your mentor will turn in an evaluation form regarding your work at your ministry site and this (along with your Self Evaluation and all of the above) will form the basis for evaluating your work in this course.

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**Class Calendar: (11 class times total)**

**Class #1**
Sept. 6:
Please have *Shared Wisdom* read by the first class
- Introductions and community building
- Discussion of course requirements
- Scheduling of 1st round of case study presentations,
- Discussion regarding the case study method and theological reflection in a ministry context using the method found in *Shared Wisdom*
- How to gain the most from your relationship with your mentoring pastor.

Sept. 13, no class

**Class #2**
Sept. 20:
Case Study presentations_1_____________________/_.2_____________________

**Class #3**
Sept. 27:
Case Study presentations_3_____________________/_.4_____________________

**Oct. 4: First Mentors Lunch (for mentors only) from 12:00 to 1:15 pm.**

**Class #4**
Oct. 4
Case Study presentations_5_____________________/_.6_____________________
Journeling on *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer.
**BTS Research Week, October 8-12**

**Class #5**  
Oct. 18:

Case study presentations 7 / 8

**Class #6**  
Oct. 25: Class discussion of *Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times* by Peter L. Steinke.  
Case study presentation 1

**Class #7**  
Nov. 1:

Case study presentations 2 / 3

**Nov. 8**: Second Mentors Lunch (for students and mentors) from 12:00 Noon to 1:15pm.

**Class #8**  
Nov. 8:

Case Study presentations 4 / 5

**Class #9**  
Nov. 15:

Case Study presentations 6 / 7

**BTS Reading Week and Thanksgiving Recess - November 19-23**

**Class #10**  
Nov. 29: Discussion of *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*

Case Study presentations 8

**Dec. 6**: Final Mentors Lunch (for mentors only) from 12:00 to 1:15pm.

**Class #11**: Self-Evaluations Due at Class Time  
Dec. 6  
Final Class  
- Discussion of the personal qualities essential for effective pastoral ministry.  
- Evaluation of the seminar.  
- Affirmations.  
- Group closure.