MP1502: Mentored Practice Seminar

Spring 2013

Thursday (9:00-12:00 am) on the Portland Campus
Instructor: Lin Arnold
Telephone: 207-450-0113
Email: LinwoodA@aol.com

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 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 enjoyable pieces of the Master of Divinity curriculum. Please note: The prerequisite for this seminar is MLS1501 – Reflective Practice.

Required Texts:

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, self care, theological reflection, support from colleagues, and ministerial ethics.

Master of Divinity 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 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.

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 covenant/agreement.) For parish sites, some of these hours should include worship leadership and some opportunities for preaching.

2. Conversations with your mentor:
   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 required to attend, with your mentor, the lunch for students and mentors. (February 14)


4. Case Study Reports:
   The preparation and presentation of two case studies is required. Dates for presentation will be scheduled early in the semester – please see the class calendar. The case study model presented in Shared Wisdom will guide us.

5. Paper (4-5 pages): a written theological reflection on your ecclesiology. As you read the Karkkainen book, note things in each tradition that you resonate with, then sum up your understanding of what makes church church.

6. Electronic Site Visit:
   Prepare a video, DVD, PowerPoint or similar presentation to represent your ministry site to the rest of the class. Please share your “electronic site visit” along with a very brief (10 minutes or less) presentation addressing the implied ecclesiological assumptions of your mentored practice site, manifested by the way they minister and do church.

7. Attendance at the Seminar: You are required to 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 and email) as soon as possible if you must be absent from class for some reason.

8. 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. Try to reflect theologically in your journal on some of these experiences. Each of the eleven journal entries will be due by class time each week including the first week of class.

9. Evaluation of Your Work and your Final “Exam” 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.

   Final “Exam”: The three Required Outcomes listed at the beginning of the syllabus will be assessed in the setting of a one hour “juried interview” conducted at the close of the semester with you, your mentor, another student of your choice in the seminar, and the instructor for the seminar. Essentially this interview process will function as a “final exam” for your semester of Mentored Practice. Instructions for preparing for this final interview will be given in class. You must complete this final “exam” before May 17.
Class Calendar: (12 classes total)

1. January 24:
   - Introductions and community building;
   - Reviewing course requirements,
   - Scheduling of case-study presentations.
   - Discussion of the electronic site visit requirement,
   - Discussion on how to do theological reflection out of a ministry context – *Shared Wisdom*
   - how to gain the most from the relationship with your mentoring pastor.
   - First journal entry due – reporting on formation of or changes to your learning covenant with your mentor

2. January 31:
   First round case-study presentations __________/____________
   Second journal entry due

3. February 7:
   First round case-study presentations____________
   Third journal entry due – reflect on how Sabbath and self-care differ and overlap
   Class conversation about *The Sabbath*

4. February 14:
   First round case-study presentations____________/____________
   Fourth journal entry due
   **First Lunch for Mentors and students** from Noon to 1:15pm

5. February 21:
   First round case-study presentations____________/____________
   Fifth journal entry due

February 25 - March 1 Research Week

6. March 7:
   First round case-study presentation____________
   Class conversations on *God in My Unbelief.*
   Sixth journal entry due – what observations that Stevenson makes connect with people or situations in your mentored practice site

7. March 14:
   Second round case-study presentations____________/____________
   Seventh journal entry due

8. March 21:
   Second round case-study presentations____________/____________
   Ecclesiology paper due

   **Second lunch for Mentors only** from Noon to 1:15pm.

March 25-29 Holy Week No Classes

9. April 4:
   Second round case-study presentations____________/____________
   Ninth journal entry due
10. **April 11:**
Second round case-study presentations_________/________________
Tenth journal entry due

**April 18** – no class

11. **April 25:**
Electronic site visit presentations on _______________. _______________. _______________. _______________. _______________. _______________.
Eleventh journal entry due
**Third Lunch for Mentors only** from Noon to 1:15pm.

12. **May 2:**
Last Class Meeting: Loose Ends; Course Evaluation and Group Closure. Closing Worship.
The **final “exam” conference** may be done before the last class but must be done by May 17.