MP1502 Mentored Practice Seminar
Spring 2013, Bangor
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http://www.bts.edu/mentoredpractice/index.html

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 enjoyable 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 into the instructor a Mentored Practice Covenant Form before the first meeting of the seminar. This form can be found on the Mentored Practice section of the BTS website. You must also have completed the requirement for a Criminal Background Check according to policy set by the Board of Trustees in May 2008 for both you and your mentor. Those who have completed this for MP1501 in fall 2012 do not need to do this for the second semester.

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 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.
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 ongoing professional development. Developing a prophetic voice within a variety of social and cultural contexts. There will be opportunities to grow in spiritual formation, personal authority and self-care

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 a practice 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 on March 21.

3. Required reading:

Conversation as Ministry: Stories and Strategies for Confident Caregiving by Douglas Purnell. Pilgrim Press. 2005


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. A form for writing up the required case studies will be distributed and discussed at the first class meeting.

5. Electronic Site Visit and Community Outreach/Social Justice Requirement:
Prepare a video or DVD to represent your ministry site to the rest of the class. Your video/DVD must include some way of telling others how you fulfilled the required emphasis on community outreach/social justice at your site and with your mentor this semester. Please share your “electronic site visit” along with a brief (15 minutes or less) presentation at one of the last two meetings of the class - please see the class calendar.

6. 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 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 (May 2). The Evaluation from your mentor must be received by your instructor by Friday, May 17, 2013 at the latest. It is, however, helpful, though not required at the “oral” examination. A guide for the Mentor’s Evaluation will also be distributed at the first class.

8. 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. The “Final Exam” is as follows. 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 the end of matriculation.

9. An active lay teaching committee may also be involved.
Class Calendar: (14 class times total)

1. January 24: Introductions and community building; course requirements, discussion of recommended readings and case-study outline, scheduling of case-study presentations. Discussion of the electronic site visit requirement, plus discussion of how to do theological reflection out of a ministry context and how to gain the most from the relationship with your mentoring pastor.

2. January 31: Review of (1) ministerial ethics, (2) self-care, (3) spiritual grounding, (4) support from colleagues and (5) theological reflection as essential tools for pastoral ministry. Class discussion of *Conversation as Ministry* by Douglas Purnell. Each student will select a section from *The Spiritual Leader’s Guide to Self-Care* and report on that section and choose one spiritual exercise (from that section) in which to lead the class.

*February 7: First lunch for mentors only from Noon to 1:30 p.m. in the classroom.*

3. February 7: Presentations from *The Spiritual Leader’s Guide to Self-Care*. Please limit your presentation to 25 minutes or less.

4. February 14:
First round of case-study presentations
________________________________________

5. February 21:
First round of case-study presentations
________________________________________

6. March 7: Topics in ministry - discussion

7. March 14:
Read and be prepared to discuss *Part-Time Pastor Full-Time Church* by Robert LaRochelle.

*March 21: Second lunch for mentors and students from 12noon- 1:15 p.m. in the classroom.*

8. March 21: Second round case-study presentations:
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*Research week and Holy Week - no class on March 28*
9. April 4: Second round case-study presentations:

10. April 11: Self-care Workshop Day: Choose a chapter from The Spiritual Leader’s Guide to Self-Care to present to your colleagues. Please limit your presentation to 15 minutes or less.

11. April 18 Begin electronic site visit presentations of mentored practice sites.

Discussions on justice projects at your ministry site. Topics discussions.

April 25: Third lunch for mentors only from Noon to 1:30 p.m. in the classroom.

12. April 25: Complete electronic site visit presentations. Discussions on justice projects at your ministry site. Topics discussions.

13. May 2: Be prepared to discuss Christianity After Religion: The End of the Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening by Diana Butler Bass.

14. Self-evaluations must be turned in at the beginning of class.

14. May 9: Last class tying up loose ends, affirmations, course evaluation and group closure. Closing worship.

Recommended Reading


