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MM 602 Mentored Ministry: Mentored Ministry Experience in a Cross-Cultural Ministry Setting

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Course Syllabus

Mentored Ministry (MM 602)

Mentored Ministry Experience in a Cross-Cultural Ministry Setting

Spring 2008

2 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: MM601

Anticipated Enrollment: 15

Wednesdays, 8:45am – 10:45am

“The value of [cross-cultural] ministries lies not only in helping people outside the church but in enriching the spiritual life of church members and expanding their relationships outside their cultural comfort zone.”

Sider, Olsen, and Unruh, *Churches that Make a Difference*, p.27

Course Instructor

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Welcome to MM 602! While the first Mentored Ministry course, MM 601, is designed to take place within the walls of the church, MM 602 is designed to take place outside the walls. This balance models the makeup of healthy congregations. Unless a congregation is engaged in both internal and external realities, it can become an unbalanced congregation.

I'm looking forward to our time together this Spring, and I want you to know that I want do everything I can to ensure that this is a positive experience for you. This semester may include times of anxiety every once in awhile, but in the end, the process will form you into a stronger representative of Christ than you were at the start of the semester.

Course Objectives

- To help students feel comfortable in ministering to individuals who are significantly different from themselves, and to grasp a wider understanding of the nature of the Church in the world.
- For each student to appreciate the role of personal spiritual development for ministry leaders, and to intentionally examine areas in her or his life with Christ that need to be expanded.
- To gain skills in problem solving through the use of simplified case studies; using them as tools for finding key issues involved in case study situations.

Cross-cultural Ministry Placement

1. If you have not already secured a Mentor for this semester, contact the Mentored Ministry Office immediately!
2. Work with your Mentor to select a cross-cultural ministry focus. **I must approve this by February 20 or you may not have enough time to fulfill the requirements for the course.**
3. **For our purposes, the term “cross-cultural” has a broad definition: *persons who are significantly different than we are*.** This may include language, socio-economic level, nationality, education level, ethnicity, religion, physical ability, and freedom (prisoners).
4. In the ideal situation, your ministry placement this semester is an extension of your ministry in your local church (preferably where you served in MM 601). Our goal is that your work this semester will result in the expansion of congregational mission and ministries.
5. Examples of cross-cultural ministries are programs for families of incarcerated individuals, after-school mentoring, drug rehab, nursing home care, and others. Examples of non-acceptable activities include office work, planning for future ministries, or teaching a church class on outreach. Your hours should be spent outside of the church walls.

Class Requirements

Mentored Ministry courses have been described as comparable to science lab courses at other graduate schools. As such, our classroom time will give each person the opportunity to process their “lab” experiences with peers in a confidential, positive environment. To facilitate this atmosphere, we’ll use the following processes:

1. Each student will present one case study during the semester (See the Mentored Ministry Handbook for the new, simplified format) and serve as a Moderator for one other case.
2. Each student will spend eight (8) hours per week in hands-on ministry at his/her cross-cultural ministry site. Time spent traveling to the site or planning ahead of time does not count towards this eight-hour requirement. The total hours for the semester: 106.
3. Each student will submit monthly activity and growth goals reports. These forms must be signed by the student’s Mentor. Submitting forms past the due date may result in a “No Credit” for the course.
4. Each student will complete the required readings for the assigned date (see attached schedule). Variations to this schedule may be made from time to time.
5. A one-page, single spaced Reflection Paper is due on the final class day of class. Specific information regarding the content of this paper will be discussed in class.
6. Each student is expected to arrive on time and to attend weekly classroom meetings. More than one unexcused absence will result in a grade of “No Credit” for the course.

Required Reading

Thomas 'a Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*, Vintage Spiritual Classics, (New York: Vintage, 1998).

Although many editions of this book exist, I encourage you to obtain this Vintage edition (a later printing is fine). Despite some masculine language, it is one of the best translations of this work I have found, and everyone having the same translation of this classic work will be helpful for class discussions.

Since Mentored Ministry has as one of its foci the spiritual life of the ministry leader, this classic text will be our guide. For hundreds of years, *The Imitation of Christ* has been the most read Christian text outside of the Bible. It challenges us to look deep inside ourselves to discover our motivations and desires regarding both ministry and our Christian lives in general.

Case Studies

As stated above, each student will submit one case study. ***This case study should focus on a cross-cultural situation in the student's current ministry placement.*** Case study topics should reflect on an event that has already occurred. If the case study does not focus on a cross-cultural situation (see above definition), the student will be asked to submit another one.

NOTE: All case studies must be approved by the instructor **one week** before they are to be presented to the class. Students will not be allowed to present case studies to the class unless they have been approved by the professor.

In addition to the one case study, each student will serve as the moderator for another student's case study. **Case studies should be posted to the course icon three days before they are presented.**

Case studies should be 4-5 pages in length. Shorter cases will be returned for resubmission.

Means of Evaluation

This is a credit/no credit course. To receive credit for the course, students complete all assignments as described in this syllabus and discussed in class. Failure to submit forms or assignments on the appropriate due date or not fulfill the time requirements at the ministry placement could result in either "No Credit" or "Provisional Credit." See pp. 24-25 in the Mentored Ministry Handbook for more information.

MM 602 CLASS SCHEDULE – Spring 2008

(Alterations to this schedule may be made throughout the semester.)

Date	Ministry Placement	Spiritual Formation	Ministry Topic(s)	Case Studies	Accountability
Feb. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm placement with Mentored Ministry Office <i>Mentor-Student Contract</i> started <i>Learning Goals</i> Begun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Introductions Thomas ‘a Kempis 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the course Working with your Mentor 		Finish reading the Mentored Ministry Handbook
Feb. 20	Begin working in ministry placement	<i>Imitation</i> , Introduction, Book I, ch. 1-7	Sample case study and process	The Case Study Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mentor-Student Contract</i> due <i>Learning Goals</i> Due Read Sample Case Study by 9/12
Feb. 27	Eight hours in ministry placement	<i>Imitation</i> , Book I, Chapters 8-21	Becoming a welcoming congregation		
March 5	Eight hours in ministry placement	<i>Imitation</i> , Book I, Chapters 22-25	Moving people beyond their walls		Assigned Readings
March 12	Eight hours in ministry placement	<i>Imitation</i> , Book II, Chapters 1-8	Moving a church beyond its walls	Case Study #1	<i>First Activity Checklist and Learning Goals Report</i> Due
March 19	Eight hours in ministry placement	<i>Imitation</i> , Book II, Chapters 9-12	Congregational Visions	Case Studies #2 and #3	Assigned Readings
March 26	Eight hours in ministry placement	<i>Imitation</i> , Book III, Chapters 1-10	Congregational Balance	Case Studies #4 and #5	Assigned Readings
March 31 – April 4	SPRING	READING	WEEK	NO	CLASS
April 9	Eight hours in ministry placement	<i>Imitation</i> , Book III, Chapters 11-21	Pastors and Taxes	Case Studies #6 and #7	Assigned Readings
April 16	Eight hours in ministry placement	<i>Imitation</i> , Book III, Chapters 22-32	Case Studies	Case Studis #8 and #9	Assigned Readings <i>Second Activity Checklist and Goals Report</i> Due
April 23	Eight hours in ministry placement	<i>Imitation</i> , Book III, Chapters 33-42	Case Studies	Case Studies #10 and #11	Assigned Readings
April 30	Eight hours in ministry placement	<i>Imitation</i> , Book III, Chapters 43-50	Case Studies	Case Studies #12 and #13	Assigned Readings
May 7	Eight hours in ministry placement	<i>Imitation</i> , Book III, Chapters 51-59	Case Studies	Case Studies #14 and #15	<i>Third Activity Check-list and Learning Goals Report</i> Due
May 14	Final hours in ministry placement	Reflection Paper discussion	Course reflections		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Reflection Paper</i> <i>Student Evaluation</i> <i>Mentor Evaluation</i>

