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Theology of the Laity (DO 864; 3 hours) Spring, 2001

Extended Learning D.Min. Leadership Track Course in Conjunction
with the Beeson Institute for Advanced Church Leadership Modules

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Overview

This course in the Leadership Track for the Asbury Theological Seminary Doctor of Ministry program is in conjunction with Module 4 of the Beeson Center for Leadership's Advanced Church Leadership. Three main components comprise this course: (1) interaction with other members of the class and professor in the Discussion Center on First Class Server; (2) participation in the Beeson Institute for Advanced Church Leadership module at Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church, February 21-25, 2001, including additional hours with the professor on Thursday of that week; (3) completion of reading and writing assignments. The lecturers at Frazer are John Ed Mathison (and staff), Dale Galloway, Mike Foss, Jim Garlow, Warren Bird, Adam Hamilton and Steve Seamands.

Intended Outcomes

Students will:

1. Be able to clearly articulate a biblical and theological understanding of the ministry of the laity.
2. Learn how to develop an ever-increasing stream of new volunteers leaders so as to enable their churches to care for its own and respond to whatever new opportunities God is calling them to.
3. Be able to transform the vast majority of pastoral activities into leadership development opportunities.
4. Understand how to lead their churches systematically or at regular intervals through a process of spiritual gift identification and mobilization.
5. Learn how to legitimate lay ministry through hero making, permission giving, lay empowerment and other means.
6. Be able to train lay leaders, both present and rising, so that they will be able to create need-meeting ministries that point people to the Savior.

Assigned Texts (These can be obtained from the Asbury Theological Seminary Bookstore: (859) 858-4242).

1. Greg Ogden, *Unfinished Business* (Revised Edition of *The New Reformation: Returning the Ministry to the People of God*).
2. Melvin Steinbron, *The Lay Driven Church*
3. James Garlow, *Partners in Ministry*
4. Hendrick Kraemer, *A Theology of the Lait*
5. Sue Mallory, *The Equipping Church*

Special Features of This Course

If this is your first D.Min. course:

Some students will be taking this as their first D.Min. course from Asbury Theological Seminary, previously having taken modules in the Beeson Institute for Advanced Church Leadership. While these modules for continuing education participants have focused on practical skills for church leadership, the D.Min. program offers the additional goal of integrating the theory and practice of ministry, in this case examining the biblical and theological underpinnings of the skills taught in the BIACL modules. Lecture time at Frasier will be taken up with *how* questions of lay mobilization, but D.Min. students additionally will be required to examine the *why* questions of a theology of the laity, and to evaluate the espoused principles of the lecturers from a biblical and theological perspective. Accrediting standards require that a D.Min. course require approximately 140 hours of work, including lectures, reading, writing, and e-mail interaction.

Team Members

I'm a big believer in doing ministry in community, and thankfully, we are surrounded by a wonderful community of support at Asbury Seminary. Here are some people at the seminary who will be able to help you when problems, concerns, or questions arise. For general questions, contact Eric Aiston, the Academic Coach in the D.Min office (Eric_Aiston@asburyseminary.edu). For technical support, contact Jeremy Lucas (Jeremy_Lucas@asburyseminary.edu). For library assistance, please contact Hannah Kirsch, who serves as the ExL Reference librarian (hannah_kirsch@asburyseminary.edu). Dot James (dorothy_james@asburyseminary.edu) can assist you with any inter-library loan needs.

Vocabulary

You learned the First Class Client vocabulary in the Systems Test. Building on that:

I will post assignments and course schedules in the **Course Center**.

We will post all discussions in **Discussion Center**.

You will post assignments to be read and evaluated only by me in the **Office**.

If we decide to have live discussions, they will occur in the **Chat Center**.

If I need to move some old discussions out of the **Discussion Center**, they will be moved to the **Archive Center** where they can still be read, but not altered.

If you have any questions about the resources available in the **Resource Center**, please ask me or any of the appropriate support people.

Miscellaneous notes about how we'll conduct our on-line course

1. This is an electronic classroom, not a group of people doing independent studies. As such, we will be doing a lot of interaction with and learning from one another. This interaction is a critically important part of the learning experience, so your active

participation in it is important.

2. In a traditional on-campus course, when you ask a question or make a remark aloud in class, everyone hears it and has the opportunity to respond. That's the way we want it in our electronic classroom. Therefore, in general, please post all questions and comments in the Discussion Center to everyone. Naturally, there may be some private communication between you and me or between you and other course members (just like would happen in the hallway after class), but generally our communication will be for everyone.
3. I usually check my email and my office in First Class Client every day except Sundays, and will respond to your messages in the order that I receive them in as timely a manner as I can. Please mark your message "urgent" if it requires my immediate attention.
4. If I am away for an extended period of time during our course, I will notify you. I would appreciate you doing the same if you will be away.
5. I will not enter every discussion, but I will monitor the group conversation and enter into the dialogue on occasion.
6. I am available for telephone conferences. If you wish to talk with me over the phone, e-mail me to set up a time that will work for both of us.
7. Please feel free to share personal concerns and prayer requests with us so that we can support one another. We would pray and care for one another in a traditional classroom, and we are still able to do it in the virtual classroom.
8. By all means, please feel free to communicate with me about this course, i.e. what's working, what's not working, how I might make it a more productive experience. I probably won't be able to honor every suggestion, but I'll do what I can to maximize your learning and enjoyment.

Assignments

Pre-course Assignments & Reading

1. The class will begin February 6 with a notification in the **Discussion Center** from the professor. Students will be asked to post a 200 to 300 word self-introduction in the **Discussion Center** containing biographical and current ministry information (due February 9 at 5:00 p.m. EST). After you have posted your self-introduction, respond briefly ((25-50 words) to each class member's self introduction.

2. Critically review Greg Ogden, *Unfinished Business* (Revised edition of *The New Reformation: Returning the Ministry to the People of God Church for the Unchurched*, 400-500 words in length. Focus on the strengths and weaknesses of this text. Post in the **Office** by February 19 at 5:00 p.m. (EST). (15% of grade)

Assignments (continued)

At Frazer Memorial:

1. Attend the lectures and workshops Wednesday through Saturday. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. on February 21 at Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church (this is also where we will meet together as a class on Thursday night). On Thursday, the workshops are 1:00-5:00 p.m., and you will meet with me from 7:00—9:00 p.m. You are strongly urged to attend the various worship opportunities at Frazer on Sunday. The conference ends at 12:00 noon Sunday, February 25 following Worship or Sunday School.
2. Participate with the professor and class members in D.Min. discussions to occur Thursday night, February 22, 7:00—9:00 p.m. in an assigned room (TBA) at Frazer Memorial.

After the Course

1. Post a 200-300 word message in the **Discussion Center** containing your critical appraisal of the week at Frazer Memorial. What are the key points you took away and will implement? What did you disagree with? Why? Due March 1 at 5:00 p.m. (EST). (15% of grade)
2. Respond in a meaningful but concise way (25-50 words) to each class member's critical evaluation. (to be completed by March 8 at 5:00 p.m. (EST).
3. Read the remaining assigned texts by May 1 and send a message to me in the **Office** verifying that you have carefully read these texts:
 - Garlow, *Partners in Ministry*
 - Kraemer, *A Theology of the Laity*
 - Steinbron, *The Lay Driven Church*
 - Mallory, *The Equipping Church*
4. Write a 25-30 page paper (doublespaced paper) on "My Theology of the Laity Based on Scripture and Theology." The paper is **due May 16**. The main purpose of this paper is to get you to establish the foundations upon which your practice of lay ministry and lay mobilization is built. The first 20-25 pages of your paper should therefore be devoted to outlining a biblical and theological basis for lay ministry. In the last 5 pages you should then go on to draw out the implications of these biblical and theological bases for the practice of ministry. In other words, how will what you have found in scripture and theology affect your church's philosophy and practice of lay ministry and mobilization?

Your bibliography should include at least twenty sources (you can include the texts). You don't have to actually cite all these sources in your paper, but they should be sources you examined in your research. The style of this paper should conform to MLA, as found in Carol Slade, *Form and Style: Theses, Reports, Term Papers*. 11th ed. Boston: Houghton

Mifflin, 1997. This style is required for all written work submitted in the D.Min. program. **Please send a hard copy of the paper to me. *Don't* attach it to a posted message or an email.** Due May 16, at 5:00 p.m. (EST). (50% of grade).

If you want we to return your paper directly to you, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope along with your paper. Otherwise, after I have graded your paper, I will give it to the D.Min office and they will keep it there until you are on campus and can pick it up.

Grading Criteria

Review of Ogden, <i>The New Reformation: Returning the Ministry to the People of God</i>	15%
Complete reading, on time	10%
Class participation (Discussion Center and at Frazer)	10%
Critical evaluation of BIACL seminar	15%
Final Integration Project	50%
Total	<u>100%</u>

Grading Scale

<i>A</i>	=	<i>Unusually high quality, exceptional work</i>
<i>A-</i>	=	<i>Far above average, fine work</i>
<i>B+</i>	=	<i>Above average for graduate work</i>
<i>B</i>	=	<i>Very good, but average for graduate work</i>
<i>B-</i>	=	<i>Slightly below average for graduate work</i>
<i>C+</i>	=	<i>Meets requirements, but with noticeable inadequacies for graduate work</i>
<i>C</i>	=	<i>Meets requirements, but with gaps for graduate works</i>
<i>C-</i>	=	<i>Meets requirements, but with significant gaps for graduate work</i>
<i>D+</i>	=	<i>Minimal work, acceptable</i>
<i>D</i>	=	<i>Minimal work, barely acceptable</i>
<i>D-</i>	=	<i>Acceptable, but only with great reservation</i>
<i>F</i>	=	<i>Failure; unacceptable work</i>

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- For information on conferences and/or updates on religious education volunteerism, write: Donald Ratcliff, Box 800840, Toccoa Falls GA 300598, U.S.A.
- ** Additional information about organizations, periodicals, books, and articles can be found in Ratcliff and Neff's book, *The Complete Guide to Religious Education*

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