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**Fall Term 2024**

**Practical Theology 220**

**The Practice of Pastoral Care:**

**Equipping Congregational Leaders**

**with the Rev. Fr. Matt Koovisk**

**A Course in The Licentiate in Theology Diploma Program**

**Huron University College Land Acknowledgment**

Huron is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron, and Lenape peoples, whose sharing and stewardship of the land has been governed by the Dish with One Spoon treaty since time immemorial. We are guided by this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect. Huron University College acknowledges its past role in perpetuating colonial and exclusionary relations. Because religious and ecclesial institutions were instrumental in such relations, we consider it our particular responsibility as a Faculty of Theology to work towards justice and reconciliation.

**Course Dates & Times:** (Saturdays) October 19 & 26 from 11:00AM EDT to 4:30PM EDT

**Delivery:** Hosted via Zoom

**Instructor:** The Rev. Fr. Matt Koovisk BA, MTS, MDiv, ThM, FGMS, SCP

**E-mail:** [mkoovisk@uwo.ca](about:blank) **Phone:** 604-858-2229 (office)

*(E-mail is the best way to contact me)*

**Course Description**

Pastoral care is, at its heart, about relationship with others and not just having the “book knowledge” to care for others. It requires you to integrate into your own Christian life. In other words, you must interact with others to provide pastoral care.

This course will introduce participants to the theological foundations of pastoral care in relation to the roles of lay leaders, deacons, and priests within the Church. It will explore the tools of active listening, praying with others, personal spiritual practice, and self-awareness in the role of care practitioners to equip congregational leaders in their ministries.

**Course Materials**

*Required Texts*

The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version

*Note: while the instructor uses the New Revised Standard Version in lectures, you’re welcome to use whatever translation you wish.*

Donald Peel. *The Ministry of Listening: Team Visiting in Hospital and Home.* Toronto, ON: Anglican Book Centre Publishing, 1982.

***Order it here:*** [***https://anglican.gilmore.ca/en/product/c02e321e-e50b-4383-9b2b-a0d95fd951c0***](about:blank)

General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.*The Book of Alternative Services.* Toronto, ON: Anglican Book Centre Publishing, 1985.

***Order it here:*** [***https://anglican.gilmore.ca/en/product/5267ede2-95f3-4e9e-b516-754616149f74***](about:blank)

***Read it here:*** [***https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/BAS.pdf***](about:blank)

General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. *The Book of Common Prayer.* Toronto, ON: Anglican Book Centre Publishing, 1962.

***Order it here:*** [***https://anglican.gilmore.ca/en/product/92a3653a-9a5b-4747-a5cd-9ff5438a16db***](about:blank)

***Read it here:*** [***https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/BCP.pdf***](about:blank)

*NB: If you don’t already have physical copies of the BAS and BCP,*

*I highly recommend having them. They will serve you well.*

Assorted articles, as listed in this syllabus, and posted in the Dropbox link.

Dropbox link: http://tiny.cc/pastoraldropbox2024

*Optional Texts: Do You Want to Read More?*

Barry, William A. & William J. Connolly. *The Practice of Spiritual Direction. 2nd ed.* New York: HarperCollins Publishing, 2009.

VanKatwyk, Peter. *Spiritual Care and Therapy: Integrative Perspectives.* Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier Press, 2003.

Roberts, Stephen, ed. *Professional Spiritual and Pastoral Care: A Practical Clergy and Chaplain’s Handbook.* Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths, 2011.

* **Note:** this book is geared towards those in professional pastoral care settings. The instructor used it in his 2nd Basic CPE Unit. The language is quite dense in this book, and should be read with caution.

**Intensive Course Schedule: Week 1 (October 19, 2024)**

**Required Reading Prior to Week 1**

Matthew 25: 31-46, James 5: 13-16

Peel ch. 1-2, 14

*The Book of Alternative Services* Baptismal Rites (p. 151-161), & the Ordination Rites for Deacon (p. 652-658) and Priest (p. 643-650)

*The Book of Common Prayer* Baptismal Rites (pg. 522-541), & the Ordination Rites for Deacon (p. 638-644) and Priest (p. 645-656)

**Optional Reading Prior to Week 1:**

David Plummer. “Creating a Personal Theology to Do Spiritual/Pastoral Care” in *Professional Spiritual and Pastoral Care.* Stephen Roberts, ed. Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2012. 12-17.

Richard Gula*. Ethics in Pastoral Ministry.* Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1996. 9-30

Kevin J. McGrane. “The Deacon as Wise Fool: A Pastoral Persona for the Diaconate” in *Anglican Theological Review* 100. No. 4 (Fall 2018.) 777-783.

The Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. “16. At the Side of the Sick and the Aged.” From *Pastoral Guide for Diocesan Priests in Churches Dependent on the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.* https://www.vatican.va/roman\_curia/congregations/cevang/documents/rc\_con\_cevang\_doc\_19971001\_priests\_en.html

**Lecture 1: The Ministry of Pastoral Care**

* What is Pastoral Care?
* Some Basic Thoughts
* Telling Our Stories

**Lecture 2: Thinking Theologically about Pastoral Care**

* Why do we do “pastoral care”?
* Biblical & Theological Foundations for Pastoral Care

**Lecture 3: Roles in Pastoral Care**

* The Role of the Laity: Bless and Be a Blessing
* The Role of the Deacon: Serve the People & the World
* The Role of the Priest: Sanctify the People & Dispense the Sacraments

**Due Before Next Lecture: Reflection Paper: Receiving Pastoral Care**

**Intensive Course Schedule: Week 2 (October 26, 2024)**

**Required Reading for Week 2:**

Peel ch. 3-6, 9, 12

**Optional Reading for Week 2:**

Carrie Doehring. *The Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach*. Louisville, Kentucky: John Knox Press, 2006, p. 47-63.

Richard Gula. *Ethics in Pastoral Ministry.* NJ: Paulist Press, 1996. 117-152.

Junietta Baker McCall. *A Practical Guide to Hospital Ministry: Healing Ways.* New York: The Haworth Pastoral Press, 2002. 45-72.

**Lecture 4: Communicating as a Pastoral Caregiver**

* Active Listening and Effective Communication
* Being a Compassionate Presence
* Basic Listening Skills
* Active Listening
* In Class Case Study

**Lecture 5: Self-Care**

* Self Awareness
* Appropriate Boundaries
* Spiritual Practices
* In Class Case Study

**Lecture 6: Pastoral Care in the Institution (Hospital/Nursing Home)**

* How is a hospital visit different from a home visit?
* Privacy Issues in Institutions
* In Class Case Study

**Due November 1st, 2024: Theology of Pastoral Care Paper**

**Due November 15th, 2024: Case Study/Report: The In-Person Visit**

**Assignments & Method of Evaluation of Assignments**

**Class Participation (10%)**

Pastoral care is, at its heart, about relationship with others, and is not about just having the “book knowledge.” It requires you to integrate it into your own Christian life. In other words, you must interact with others to provide pastoral care. In order to get full marks for this, one has to intelligently participate in conversation, and not just talk about things that are not related to the topic at hand.

**Reflection Paper: Receiving Pastoral Care (30%)**

1 John 4:12 reads: “We love because He first loved us.” In a similar vein, we care because others have cared about us at some point. In this two (2) to three (3) page assignment *(double spaced, twelve point font)*, students are to reflect on a time in their lives when they have received care from others. Questions that the student could consider in their reflection include:

* How did you feel cared for?
  + What kind of cues were there? Were there verbal ones (tone, words or phrases used)? Were there non-verbal ones (posture in chair, carer paying attention to what is being said?)
* How did the person encourage you to share your story?
  + How did they respond to the story you told them?
  + Did they share about their own life? Did their sharing help or did it overshadow the reason they were there?
* What was their general demeanour during the visit?
  + Were they happy to be there? Did they seem distracted?
  + Were there other things that made you comfortable?
    - If not, what made you uncomfortable?
* In your estimation, what made this visit/carer so significant that you remember the visit?
  + Was it the carer? The circumstances of the visit?

It is due on **October 26th, 2024,** unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor.

**Reflection Paper: Theology of Pastoral Care (30%)**

In a minimum 2 (two) page, maximum 5 (five) page essay *(double spaced, 12 point font)*, students are expected to describe their theology of pastoral care. Questions that may help you discern your theology of pastoral care include:

* Why do you do pastoral care? Where is pastoral care done?
* What does pastoral care look like for me? What do I do when I’m providing pastoral care to somebody? Is it the same every time?
* If I was asked in an elevator to describe pastoral care, what would I say?

If you’re ordained *(or considering ordination to the diaconate or priesthood)*, based on what you read in the ordination rites – how do you think these ministries intersect with pastoral care?

It is due on **November 1st,2024,** unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor.

**Case Study/Report: The In-Person Visit (30%)**

Based on **one (1)** pastoral visit that has been done in their local context[[1]](#footnote-2), students are expected, in a short paper (based on the format provided in the Dropbox link), be able to answer some of the following questions:

1. What’s the background of this person? Is there family involved in the situation? Are there family dynamics at play? Is there other information in the case study that talks about the person’s past?
2. What do they need from you? What are the issues that are prevalent in this case study?
3. What’s your plan for the visit? How can you help them? Do they need just a listening ear, or are they wanting something more from you?
4. After the visit, what’s your follow-up plan? How do you think you can provide pastoral care following the first visit?

It is due on **November 15th, 2024**, unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor.

**Huron Grade Descriptors**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A+ | 90-100 | One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level |
| A | 80-89 | Superior work which is clearly above average |
| B | 70-79 | Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory |
| C | 60-69 | Competent work, meeting requirements |
| D | 50-59 | Fair work, minimally acceptable |
| F | below 50 | Fail |

**Student Code of Conduct**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work, and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails.

While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: [https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf](about:blank).

**Statement on the Recording of Class Activities**

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student’s own private use.

Online courses within the Licentiate in Theology Program are recorded for student engagement purposes. These recording are only used by the registered students of the class and made available through a restricted video hosting site to respect both privacy and intellectual property. Should a student be uncomfortable with this practice, they can contact the course instructor or the LTh Program Director, Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca

**Support Services**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should contact the LTh Program Director, Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at [grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca).

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THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY HURON’S FACULTY OF THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

FOR THE FALL TERM OF THE LTH PROGRAM, 2024.

1. Please speak to the instructor if you can’t think of a recent pastoral visit or are unable to do a pastoral care visit (either online or in-person) due to your circumstances. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)