COURSE OBJECTIVE: Taught in sequence with Writing Skills for Ministry, this half semester of classes begins with the question “why are you a student at CUME?” Perhaps you are a student because you want to further clarify your understanding of the Christian ministry to which you are called and you want to further understand your ministry strategy and improve your abilities to carry out that ministry as effectively as possible in the days and years ahead. The clearer any of us can think about our ministries, the more effective our ministries are likely to be. Thus the objectives for this course include: 1) to further develop clarity of thinking and understanding, particularly about the Christian ministry that engages you or will engage you; 2) to further develop ministry plans stemming from that growing clarity, for the course assumes you now have or will now acquire a ministry and that you want to be as effective as possible in that ministry right now as a student at CUME even as you prepare for future ministry; and 3) to implement those plans by engaging in new or altered actions even during the weeks of this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Prayerfully prepare for, attend and actively participate in each of the class sessions; bring your Bible and a dictionary to class each week; choose as your project for these six weeks one issue, problem, decision or strategic ministry plan relevant to your own ministry life, mentally and prayerfully wrestle with that concern during the six weeks of this course, maintaining a journal and log during the process, and write a five to ten page paper that clearly sets forth your clarified thinking about your project, and implement your new or altered course of action.

OUTLINE OF CLASS SESSIONS:

Sept. 12 Definitions, resources; the context of critical thinking and decision-making.
Sept. 19 Finalizing your personal project and developing your mission statement. Starting your paper.
Sept. 26 Case studies; Biblical instances of critical thinking. Starting to share your paper.
Oct. 3 Course of action. Praxis. Sharing your paper.
Oct. 10 Practicing analysis and definition. Sharing your paper.

REQUIRED READING:
The Effective Executive, Peter Drucker, Harper and Row 1979

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
Six Thinking Hats, Edward De Bono
Watch the movie It’s a Wonderful Life with James Stewart.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING STUDENT’S PROGRESS:
Reading and preparation, written work, class participation, implementation of ministry decisions, attendance: each 20%.