Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary- Boston
Spiritual Formation in Ministry Seminar

IS 523 Module 3 “Practices of the Compassionate Life”

September 6, 2014  12:30-2:30pm

Course Director: Dr. Teri Elliott-Hart  telliott-hart@gcts.edu

Faculty Facilitators: Jeff Bass, Cherry Gorton, Dean Borgman, Teri Elliott-Hart

**General Description:** The Integrative Seminar addresses the spiritual life of the Christian in the context of preparation for ministry. This Seminar, comprised of 5 modules, spread out over five semesters fulfills a non-credit graduation requirement across all degree programs. Students entering in fall 2013 and subsequent semesters will take 5 modules; other students will attend the seminars for the duration of their studies. Every semester you are registered for classes you should also register for a Seminar module

Seminar Objectives: This course aims to encourage students to engage in meaningful study and praxis of spiritual formation. After completing five modules students should will have: 1) explored the diverse spiritual traditions of the church 2) engaged in various experiential spiritual formation practices in and outside the classroom, 3) demonstrated in the ability to integrate theology and spirituality with everyday life and 4) gained a framework for understanding how people thrive spiritually and apply that to ministry settings. (MDiv goal 4/MA goals 2, 6)

**Module 3: Practices of the Compassionate Life**

Module 3 explores practices which help us grow in Christlikeness as people of compassion. Spiritual maturity is inextricable from our relational practices: how do we treat our neighbor? The stranger? What does love in action look like in the 21st century city?

The module and readings emphasize historical and contemporary spiritual practices that may lead us into deeper integration of our Christian values with our everyday practice of compassion for the world.

**Module design:** This module is divided into two components: Seminar Day breakout groups and student reading and reflection throughout the semester. Our theme is introduced during the
Convocation. We continue the seminar after lunch. Students will split into smaller groups with an assigned faculty/staff person as facilitator.

**Reading for Module 3:**


**Recommended for all modules**


**Writing Assignment (Grading is “credit”/”no credit” only)**

- **Reading** Students are asked to complete the readings and encouraged through weekly class devotions to experiment with the spiritual practices recommended by Calhoun and Darling.

- **Written reflection** (due DEC 1, 2014) Your requirement is to turn in a (1-2pp) personal essay reflecting on one of the readings on cultivating the compassionate life as it intersects with your own ministry or one of your courses this semester. All students should submit their reflective essay via the SAKAI website (IS 523) to receive credit toward the graduation requirement.

- Professors may also accept submission of this work to be considered for extra credit in their class. The process for submission will be decided upon by the faculty member of the course.

- **Participation:** Students will receive credit toward the completion of the Seminar for attendance at the Module as well as the completion of personal reflection assignments.
SPECIAL SPIRITUAL FORMATION THEMED PUBLICATION

Gordon Conwell- Boston students and faculty facilitators who participate in a module are invited to submit an anecdote or short reflection on the theme for a campus wide devotional publication. When students submit their one page reflection paper they may also attach an excerpt from their writing that they want to share with the CUME community. Use the form below to scan into email or download the form available online via SAKAI to give us permission to use your writing.

I _______________________________ give permission to Gordon Conwell –Boston professor of Spiritual Formation to publish my writing submission in a campus devotional.

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Signature                   Date