Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary - Boston campus
Center for Urban Ministerial Education
90 Warren St, Roxbury MA 02119
Masters Equivalent Preparation Program - Critical Thinking for Ministry
Six Saturdays 2014 Fall Semester
Critical Thinking aspect is 12:00 - 2:00 PM
Professor – Rev. Ralph A. Kee
I am available anytime at ralphkee@gmail.com 617-262-3363

COURSE OBJECTIVE: Taught collaboratively with Writing Skills for Ministry, this course 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 even as you prepare for future ministry as a student at CUME; 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 seven 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 or 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:
Sat. Nov. 1 What is Christian ministry’s big picture?. Definitions, resources. The context of critical thinking and decision-making.
Sat. Nov. 8 Choosing your personal project and developing your mission statement.
Sat. Nov.15 Case studies; Biblical instances of critical thinking.
NO CLASS NOV. 22
NO CLASS NOV. 29
Sat. Dec. 6 Practicing analysis and definition.
Sat. Dec. 13 Choosing a course of action; course of action analysis/praxis.
Sat. Dec .20 Reports on projects/presentation of papers/reflections/summarizing

The Saturdays look like this: 9:00 - 11:00 Critical Writing.
11:00 - 12:00 Lunch with both professors
12:00 - 2:00 Critical Thinking

See other side
REQUIRED READING:
The Effective Executive, Peter Drucker, Harper and Row 1979 1927 ISBN 0 330 02507 4
How to Read a Book Mortimer J. Atler & Charles Van Doren, Touchstone Book, Simon &
Schuster, 1972 ISBN 13 973 0 671 21209
FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
Six Thinking Hats, Edward De Bono, Little, Brown and Co. 1999 ISBN 0 316 17791 1
Watch the movie It’s a Wonderful Life with James Stewart. Reflect on its application to your life.

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