-GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
MC 702: PASTORAL THEOLOGY FOR CHURCH AND SOCIETY
Fall Term, 2008
Tuesdays, 1:15-4:15pm

Professor: Samuel R. Schutz
Office: Goddard Library, Room #123
Tel.: Office, 978/646-4096; Cell, 978/406-1321; E-mail, samschutz@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon., 4:30-5:30pm; Tues., 11:45am-12:45pm; Wed., 10:45am-1:45pm
[except Reading Weeks & the Week of November 24]. Sign-up sheet is on office door. OR by appointment.

Byington Scholar: David Patterson, 978-352-7976 OR 773-352-7976, david.e.patterson@gmail.com

Description
Open to all M.Div. students, and especially for experienced pastors or those called to the marketplace or the para-church.
In a working seminar format, each student develops under the professor’s personal guidance his/her own rich pastoral theology with application. This course or MC 701 meets the MC requirement for the M.Div. Prerequisite: the student must have in mind an identifiable ministry setting.

Course Objectives
Through the class format and with individual guidance, the professor helps each student to:

1. develop and articulate his/her own pastoral theology within a stated ministry context, including meaning and praxis for: worship, mission, church, pastoral identity, leadership and administration;
2. apply his/her pastoral theology by developing either:
   a. a written plan for a vision-planning retreat for leaders in the student’s ministry, or
   b. a written reflective and comparative analysis of the student’s own Christian tradition with a substantially different tradition, along with a “popular article” for possible publication based upon insights gained from the comparative study.

Course Requirements (Due on Dates Designated)

I. Required Reading
Hand in a sheet of paper with books / number of pages read, with your signature.
Due Fri., Dec. 12, 4pm at my office [Graduating Seniors, Friday, Dec. 5].


Read a minimum of 600 additional pages relating to the development of your Pastoral Theology (see below).

II. Paper: “My Pastoral Theology”
Final paper due Fri., Dec. 12, 4pm at my office [Graduating Seniors, Friday, Dec. 5]. Students will give oral progress reports to receive class encouragement and supportive critique throughout the term, as indicated below under “Class Schedule”.

Part 2 – Application (8+ pp., 500 words / page). See pp. 4,5 for sample process outlines.
All submitted papers must be typed, single-spaced, and double spaced between paragraphs. No fancy or expensive covers, please.

III. Site Visit

Due Tues., Nov. 28 (see below under “Class Schedule”).

Each student will make a visit to a worship service (generally Sunday morning; for a Messianic congregation, Saturday) in a church that represents a Christian tradition substantially different from his/her own. A student, for example, with roots in a traditional evangelical Presbyterian church in a suburban setting, might elect to visit a Pentecostal or Charismatic worship service in the inner city, or vice versa.

You may select any church for your visit, provided that a senior pastor or member of the pastoral staff is willing to spend at least an hour with you in conference subsequent to the worship service. We will coordinate in class for students who may wish to visit together any particular church of common interest, and in this case they will arrange a joint interview with the pastor. Among other questions you may wish to ask during the site visit, include the following: “Within your ministry, both from the point of view of yourself and others active in your church ministry…”

1. What is the meaning of worship, and how is that expressed?
2. What is your understanding of your mission, and how is that carried out?
3. How could your own pastoral identity be described, and what are the implications of your pastoral identity for the life of your ministry?
4. What is the meaning of church, and what is the relationship of your church to the larger church?
5. How does your church conceive of leadership and administration, and how are these experienced in practical terms?

You are to write a 1-2 page paper (500 words/page) of your site visit, that summarizes your observations and insights gained from the experience (both worship service, and pastor interview). A sign-up sheet will be distributed in class, so that students who are going to the same location may coordinate their efforts in advance.

Grading

Reading 10%
Site Visit Paper 10%
Pastoral Theology Paper, Part 1 30%
Pastoral Theology Paper, Part 2 30%
Class Participation, including Individual Oral Presentations 20%

Be sure to make a copy for your files of any paper you submit, since papers may occasionally get lost. Papers submitted after the due dates will be graded down on the basis of 1 grade point reduction for each day late. Auditors who wish transcript recognition must attend class regularly; there are no additional requirements.

All grades are computed as defined in the Gordon-Conwell Catalog, as follows:
A+=4.0; A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1.7; D+=1.3; D=1.0; D-= 0.7; F=0.0.

A student’s final grade may be raised for regular attendance and active participation, or lowered accordingly. Attendance is weighted heavily, since in the seminar format we depend upon each other’s contributions.

NOTE CAREFULLY: If you want your papers returned at the end of the term, it is necessary for you to submit your papers in an envelope with YOUR NAME on the outside [ NOT MY NAME]. In this way, I can return them to you in the same envelope. DO NOT SEAL THE ENVELOPE. If you do not have a campus post office box, or you wish me to return your papers to your home, you must provide a self-addressed envelope of adequate size and postage if you want your materials returned. Your materials will be discarded if they are not returned in an envelope.
# Class Schedule
*(subject to change if necessary)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>Introduction to Pastoral Theology</td>
<td>Assigned Reading for Week 2: Van Gelder, pp. 13-100.</td>
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<td>9/16</td>
<td>“Worship” and “Mission”</td>
<td>Assigned Reading for Week 3: Van Gelder, pp. 101-184</td>
<td>Individual Progress Reports: Tentative Focus for Pastoral Theology Paper / Application</td>
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<td>9/23</td>
<td>“Worship” and “Mission” (continued)</td>
<td>Assigned Reading for Week 4: Warren, Chapters 1-5</td>
<td>Individual Progress Reports: Refined Focus for Pastoral Theology Paper / Application</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>“Pastoral Identity” and “Church”</td>
<td>Assigned Reading for Week 5: Warren, Chapters 6-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>“Pastoral Identity” and “Church” (continued)</td>
<td>Assigned Reading for Week 6: Warren, Chapters 12-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTOBER 14 – READING WEEK: NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>“Leadership and Administration”</td>
<td>Assigned Reading for Week 7: Warren, Chapters 17-20</td>
<td>Individual Progress Reports: My Understanding of Pastoral Identity / Church</td>
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<td>10/28</td>
<td>“Leadership and Administration”</td>
<td>DUE: Individual Reports: Church Site Visit Reflections</td>
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<td>11/4</td>
<td>“Leadership &amp; Administration”</td>
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<td>NOVEMBER 11 – READING WEEK: NO CLASS</td>
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<td>11/18</td>
<td>Paper Presentations, Creative Feedback, &amp; Constructive Suggestions.</td>
<td>Include a handout for each member of the class. (A schedule for presentations will be given in class)</td>
<td>Note: The goal of our dialog with you in class is to assist you in your preparation for putting together your best possible written report, due December 14 [Graduating Seniors, Dec. 7].</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER 25 – NO CLASS</td>
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**MY PASTORAL THEOLOGY: PART 1 (STRUCTURE)**

Sample Process Outline

Preface
A. Statement of Purpose
B. Ministry Setting (Actual or Anticipated)
C. Introduction to the Theological Motif / Framework

I. Worship in My Ministry Setting: Meaning and Praxis
II. Mission in My Ministry Setting: Meaning and Praxis
III. Pastoral Identity in My Ministry Setting: Meaning and Praxis
IV. Church in My Ministry Setting: Meaning and Praxis
V. Leadership and Administration in My Ministry Setting: Meaning and Praxis

Summary
End Notes / References

**MY PASTORAL THEOLOGY: PART 2 (APPLICATION)**

Two Samples of Process Outlines
(also, see p. 5)

Option #1 – A Vision-Planning Retreat for Ministry Leaders

I. Background Description
   A. Recent History of Our Ministry
   B. Statement of Purpose for the Retreat
   C. Retreat Participants
   D. Retreat Setting

II. Topics and Scheduling

III. Detailed Leader’s Guide / Participant Materials for Each Topic
   A. Goal(s) statement
   B. Learning Activities: Content and Process

IV. Organization / Strategy to Make Use of the Weekend Outcomes upon Return Home
   A. Communication with Our Church or Parachurch Organization
   B. A Planned Process for Possible Adoption / Implementation

V. Post-Evaluation Forms for the Weekend Event
   A. Participants’ Evaluation Form for the Weekend Retreat
   B. Leader’s Evaluation for the Weekend Retreat

Option #2 – A Comparison of My Church Tradition with Another Church Tradition

I. Introduction
   A. My Own Tradition
   B. The Other Tradition, and Why I Selected It

II. Contrast and Comparison: Issues and Implications for My Own Ministry

III. “Popular” Article: for possible publication [denominational organ or other periodical] based upon the above research and reflection.
A “Systems” Framework for Understanding the Church
(May be Helpful with Either of the Above Options for Application)

I. Where Have We Come From? (Heritage)
   A. Our Own Ministry Context
   B. Our Ministry in the Context of the Larger Church.

II. Who Are We? (Identity)
   A. Presently
   B. Potentially

III. What Are We Doing? (Activities Analysis)
   A. Presently
   B. Potentially

IV. Where Are We Going? (Goal Setting)
   A. Presently
   B. Potentially

V. What Are Obstacles in the Way? (Problem Identification)
   A. Presently
   B. Potentially

VI. How Do We Move Past the Obstacles to the Goals? (Strategic Planning)
   A. Presently
   B. Potentially

VII. What is Our Ultimate Meaning? (Worship)
   A. Presently
   B. Potentially

NOTE: This consideration of “ultimate meaning” belongs at the beginning of the process as well as at the end, and is a vital consideration throughout all the phases. However, it gains in richness and evidences greatest maturity at the end of the systems analysis.
MC 702 Pastoral Theology for Church and Society

Selected Bibliography

Professor:  Samuel R. Schutz

(Highly recommended books for the purpose of this course are noted by an asterisk).

**Introduction to Pastoral Theology**


**Worship**


**Mission**


Boice, James M. *Christ’s Call to Discipleship*. Moody, 1986.
*Hunter, George C.* *Church for the Unchurched.* Abingdon, 1996.
*Ortiz, Juan Carlos.* *Call to Discipleship.* Logos, 1975.
Snyder, Howard A. *The Community of the King.* InterVarsity, 1977.

**Pastoral Identity**

*Campbell, Dennis M.* *Who Will Go for Us? An Invitation to Ordained Ministry.* Abingdon, 1994.

**Church**

*Smith, David L.* *All God’s People: A Theology of the Church.* BridgePoint, 1996.

**Leadership & Administration**

Callahan, Kennon L. *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church.* Harper & Row, 1983.
*Getz, Gene A.* *Sharpening the Focus of the Church.* Victor, 1984.
MC 702 Pastoral Theology for Church and Society

Grading Criteria for Pastoral Theology Paper – Part 1 (Structure)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSSIBLE POINTS:</th>
<th>YOUR GRADE:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Is your MINISTRY SETTING identified? (e.g., local church of a particular denomination and location; e.g., marketplace or parachurch ministry clearly defined)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Is the AUDIENCE for this paper identified? (e.g., church board; e.g., ordination examining committee; etc.). Are your format and style appropriate for this audience?</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. WHY are you writing for your audience? Is your PURPOSE clearly stated?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Is your MOTIF presented in a way that reveals YOU and your uniqueness as God has called you to lead his people in ministry?</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Is your MOTIF sufficiently BROAD to encompass the entire ministry setting to which God has called you?</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Is your MOTIF summarized in a BRIEF statement that is MEMORABLE?</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Is your paper ORGANIZED around an apparent TOPICAL OUTLINE that facilitates the development of your MOTIF for your ministry setting? Are all terms clearly defined? Are there clear and smooth transitions (segues) from one section of the paper to the next?</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. When your audience (stated above in #2) is introduced to and reads your paper, will they recognize VALUE (“So what?”)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Is your paper obviously THEOCENTRIC (God at the center) with immediate and ongoing recognition of God’s love and calling for those in your ministry setting? Have you made evident the BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL foundation for the paper?</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Is your paper obviously MISSIONAL, leading those in your ministry setting to love and care for those in their larger community with the gospel?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: 100
GRADE: 

NOTE:

- Your paper will be in stages of development throughout the entire term.
- You may submit to me your “work in progress” as many times as you wish during the semester to receive my feedback, and of course without penalty. The only grade that counts for this assignment is your final paper submission on the date designated in the course syllabus.
- WHEN YOU HAND IN YOUR WORK IN PROGRESS, INCLUDE ALL RELATED PREVIOUS MATERIALS, ALONG WITH THESE ATTACHED COVER SHEET(S) ON WHICH I HAVE MADE MY EVALUATION(S).