

Saint Louis Christian College
PMN 115n Introduction to Ministry
Professor Charlie McGee
3 Credit Hours

October 6 – December 15, 2014

Monday Evenings
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Mission Statement

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant-leaders for urban, suburban, rural, and global ministry.

Course Description

This course provides a broad understanding of the concept of ministry as an essential outcome of the Christian life. Emphasis is placed upon the types of persons God calls to ministry and the message they are to communicate. Students evaluate their spiritual gifts and personal call to ministry. Special consideration is given to the context of church and world where ministry takes place.

Course Rationale

God calls every Christian into ministry. While some answer a call to full-time vocational ministry, God is primarily concerned with each of His servants carrying out His call to ministry (both general and specific) in faithful obedience. This course introduces the foundational issues of ministry—issues that are simultaneously theological, practical, relational, spiritual, cultural and vocational. A minister does not serve in a vacuum—he or she interacts with God and with people in a specific context. The context(s) of ministry will change, but the principles remain the same. The primary purpose of this course is to identify and explain these principles, and as a result, the student should demonstrate a greater understanding of and commitment to God's call to Christian ministry in his/her life.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the learner should be able to:

1. Articulate a Biblically accurate concept of ministry.
2. Recognize the comprehensive nature of the Christian's call to ministry and discover the significance of God's call upon his/her life.

3. Understand the importance of the Gospel message to the human situation.
4. Grasp the significance of the mission of ministry as articulated in Scripture.
5. Understand the role of the Bible and its importance for ministry.
6. Appreciate the importance of the Church and her responsibility before God.
7. Evaluate personal gifts and discover areas of potential ministry.
8. Understand the importance of godly character in the life of a minister.
9. Understand the importance of healthy relationships with God and people.
10. Successfully perform basic ministry skills such as public prayer, baptism and communion meditations.

Course Requirements

Texts

Swindoll, Charles R. *Improving Your Serve*. Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, 2004.

Veech, Guthrie. *Christian Minister's Manual*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Standard Publishing, 2006.

The professor may, on an occasional basis, supply other printed articles. The student will study these articles and come to the next class session prepared to discuss the content of the article(s).

Each student is expected to come to class prepared, having read and/or listened to each assignment according to its due date. Please consult the course schedule for reading assignments. At the end of the course each student may be asked to indicate in writing the percentage of reading that has been completed. If the professor determines it to be necessary, a Reading Accountability Report will be provided for this purpose.

Attendance and Participation

The student is expected to attend all class sessions for the course. Please consult the Attendance Policy in the Supplemental Information provided by the college.

The student is expected to participate in all class discussions. The professor will take into account the student's participation in class discussions when making a final determination of the student's final grade for the course.

Written Assignments

Finding Meaning for Ministry

Prepare a **five-page paper** (following the guidelines taught in composition courses at Saint Louis Christian College) summarizing the meaning of the various Hebrew and Greek words translated (in the New International Version) as minister, ministered, ministering, ministers, and ministry. (Consult Zondervan's *NIV Exhaustive Concordance* to find the words.) The paper must also include reflection regarding the effect your understanding of these words will have on your personal ministry. **This paper is due at the beginning of the fifth class session.**

Funeral Plan

Utilizing the "Funeral Template.doc" or "Funeral Template.rtf" found on the CD-ROM included with Guthrie Veach's *Christian Minister's Manual*, the student will prepare a customized funeral plan. The student will provide the missing information, including the kind of person/funeral this is (i.e. Christian man or woman, military, etc.), what materials will be used (specific scriptures, songs, poems, etc.), and the sermon to be presented. While the student may select one of the sermons found in the book/CD, a bonus of up to 10% will be given if the student writes her/his own sermon. **This paper is due at the beginning of the eighth class session.**

Ministry and Me

This paper serves as the "final exam" for the course. Prepared according to the guidelines taught in composition courses at Saint Louis Christian College, it is to be no fewer than five pages, and no more than eight pages. The following items must be present in the paper:

- The nature of the ministry to which you are called by God (vocational, preaching, youth, etc.), and how you came to that conclusion
- Your qualifications for that ministry (giftedness, training and education, temperament)
- Personal obstacles you are aware you must overcome to be effective in that ministry
- What "official" steps (required by your congregation or denomination) are necessary in order to begin your ministry
- Your plan for entering that ministry (whose help and counsel will you need, how long will the process take, when will the process begin)

This paper is due at the beginning of the eleventh class session.

Course Assessment (Evaluation)

The student's grade for the course will be determined in the following manner:

<i>Finding Meaning for Ministry</i> paper	35%
<i>Funeral Plan</i> paper	25%
<i>Ministry and Me</i> paper	40%

Class Session Schedule

Session 1 — October 6, 2014

Discussion of the syllabus

Christian Minister's Manual (Preface, Christian Ministry)

Biblical Foundation for Ministry (words and meanings)

Session 2 — October 13, 2014

Improving Your Serve (Introduction and chapters 1, 2, and 3)

Christian Minister's Manual (Evangelism)

The "Call"

Session 3 — October 20, 2014

Improving Your Serve (chapter 4)

Christian Minister's Manual (Weddings)

Session 4 — October 27, 2014

Improving Your Serve (chapter 5)

Christian Minister's Manual (Comfort)

Session 5 — November 3, 2014

Improving Your Serve (chapter 6)

***Finding Meaning for Ministry* paper due at beginning of class session**

Session 6 — November 10, 2014

Improving Your Serve (chapters 7 and 8)

Christian Minister's Manual (Funerals)

Session 7 — November 17, 2014

Improving Your Serve (chapter 9)

Christian Minister's Manual (Worship)

Session 8 — November 24, 2014

Improving Your Serve (chapter 10)

***Funeral Sermon* paper due at beginning of class session**

Session 9 — December 1, 2014

Improving Your Serve (chapter 11)

Christian Minister's Manual (Dedications)

Session 10 — December 8, 2014

Improving Your Serve (chapters 12 and 13)

Christian Minister's Manual (Ordinations)

Session 11 — December 15, 2014

Improving Your Serve (Conclusion)

***Ministry and Me* paper due at beginning of class session**

Course Policies

Due to the nature of this course, students and the professor may divulge information which is highly personal. The professor and every student will be required to maintain strict confidentiality in regard to all such information. If the professor learns a student has divulged such information, the professor may exercise (at his discretion) the right to penalize that student by reducing the student's final grade by one full letter, referring the student to the college's Disciplinary Committee, and/or expulsion from the course with a final grade of "F."

All papers are due at the beginning of the class session on the due date. **Late papers will not be accepted.**

The professor reserves the right to modify this course plan by changing topics, due dates, or even an assignment as long as it does not add to the student's work load.

Professor's Contact Information

Charlie McGee

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