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DO 504 Formation for United Methodist Ordained Ministry

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DO504
FORMATION FOR UNITED METHODIST ORDAINED MINISTRY
H. O. (Tom) Thomas, Ph. D.
Fall 1999
Mondays, 2:25p.m. – 4:15p.m. SH231

Purpose:

To help the candidate seeking licensed or ordained ministry explore the “many facets of decisions” being made about a future in licensed or ordained ministry. To help a candidate discern God’s call to ministry.

Description:

This course offers candidates for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church an opportunity to be mentored in the candidacy process, which is required for United Methodist ordination. Along with other candidates and under the leadership of a trained candidacy mentor, “exploring candidates” will share their spiritual lives and calls into ministry, practice spiritual disciplines and identify areas for service as they work through the Candidacy Guidebook. Candidates will explore together the many facets of decisions required of those progressing toward licensed, ordained ministry. Satisfactory completion of the course fulfills basic United Methodist requirements necessary for application for “certification” with a District Committee on Ministry. Please consult your DCOM for any additional requirements. The course will include consideration of pertinent issues and may include input from relevant, visiting United Methodist leaders. Prerequisite: Current status as an exploring candidate in the United Methodist Church with two years’ membership in a local United Methodist church. One year of leadership service in a local United Methodist Church is also required. This is a two-hour, Credit/No Credit course. Certain fees will apply depending on a student’s annual conference.

Learning Objectives

- Candidates will explore the nature of licensed, ordained ministry
- Candidates will recount their experiences of saving grace, discern and share their calls, and examine themselves, their gifts, and fruit with a view to clarifying God’s leading and their promise for effectiveness in ordained ministry
- Candidates will grow in self understanding -- psychologically, spiritually, and vocationally -- as they complete sections of the Candidacy Guidebook applicable to application for certification

Textbooks:

Hunt, Richard, Christian As Minister: Ministry Inquiry Process: The United Methodist Church (Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 1997).

Hunt, Richard A., Candidacy Guidebook: For Deacons, Elders, and Local Pastors: The United Methodist Church, 1997-2000 (Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 1997).

Method:

Home study with guidebooks, directed class sharing and dialogue, mock interviews, and psychological inventories.

Course Evaluation:

- Full, weekly attendance: Only one unexcused absence permitted
- Completion of all assignments by due dates
- Class participation expected
- Grading is Credit/No Credit

Course Outline:

Sept. 13	Overview of Candidacy Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline of Candidacy • Covenant's Meaning (page 12) • Criteria used to assess the gifts and graces and promise of a person for ordained ministry
Sept. 20	Sharing Experiences of God's Saving Grace (pages 29-42) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biblical Examples of Grace • Personal Testimonies of Saving Grace
Sept. 27	God's Call in Scripture to Ministry
Oct. 4	Our Call to Ministry
Oct. 11	Administration of Psychological Inventories (pages 58-71)
Oct. 18	Administration of Psychological Inventories (continued) (pages 72-83)
Oct. 25	Spiritual Formation (pages 43-57) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inner Disciplines <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Devotional Bible Study 2. Journaling 3. Private Prayer and Quietness 4. Spiritual Reading • Outer Disciplines <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service and Action 2. Our Social Principles
Nov. 1	Self Understanding and Ordained Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual • Interpersonal • Leadership • Participation in the Christian Community • Impact on Others
Nov. 8	Changing Careers (pages 84-96)
Nov. 15	Evidence of the Holy Spirit and Fruit (pages 97-101)
Nov. 22	READING WEEK
Nov. 29	Exploring Family Lifestyles as They Relate to Licensed Ordained Ministry (pages 102-108)
Dec. 6	Issues: Age, Gender, Race, Socio-Economic Background, and Language in Relation to Ordained Ministry (pages 109-120)
Dec. 13	Coming to a Decision, Preparing for the SPRC and DCOM Interviews, and Beyond (pages 121-159)

***Reading assignments come from the Candidacy Guidebook.**