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CD 551 Seminar: Ministry With Children children's Spiritual Conference

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Final Draft May 28, 2006

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Course Prospectus
Summer 1, 2006

CD551: Seminar: Ministry with Children Children's Spirituality Conference One Hours Credit

Gives students opportunity to grow in their understanding of spirituality and spiritual formation during childhood and to identify implications for the church's ministry with children and their families.

COURSE DATES

**Children's Spirituality Conference
Concordia University, River Forest, IL
June 4-7 2006**

**Seminar
Asbury Seminary, Wilmore, KY
June 17 9:30AM-3:30PM**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students registering for CD551 will attend the **Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives**. They will have opportunity to learn from leading Christian theologians, biblical scholars, and researchers who focus on the spirituality of children. A wide range of ministry models and workshops will be presented at the conference and exhibitors will display resources for ministry with children. Participants will also network with others deeply committed to quality ministry with children.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students who complete this seminar will:

1. Grow in their understanding of spirituality and spiritual formation during childhood and ministry models for nurturing the faith of children.
2. Through personal research and interaction with conference participants identify implications for the nurture of children that grow out of their new or refined understandings.
3. Demonstrate respect for the child's spiritual potential and the importance of spiritual formation during childhood.

Final Draft May 28, 2006

COSTS AND REGISTRATION

The Conference registration fee of \$175.00 will be paid out of the tuition fee for the course. In addition, students will pay for travel to and accommodations at the Conference.

Even before you register for CD551, register for the Children's Spirituality Conference on line at www.childspirituality.org.

Complete the online registration as other attendees who are paying by check.

Mark the student rate (student early-bird until April 1 is \$175.00).

Mark the box that payment will be by check.

Contact Dr. Stonehouse when you have registered for the conference.

After you have also registered for CD551, the seminary will send your registration fee directly to the conference.

Be sure to make housing reservations as soon as possible if you wish to stay on campus.

COURSE PROCESSES

Students will invest at least 48 hours in the following:

1. Participate in the Children's Spirituality Conference in River Forest IL, June 4-7 2006.
2. During the conference take 15-30 minutes each day to reflect on the experience and learning of the day. Make notes of key insights you gained, questions that were raised in your mind, and ministry implications you see in those insights and questions. Prior to the seminar on June 17 review your reflection notes and come to the seminar ready to share some of those insights, questions, and ministry implications.
3. Read at least 400 pages exploring insights into the spirituality and spiritual formation of children, including materials written by conference presenters. (Bibliography below)
4. Write a 10-15-page paper on some aspect of the child's spiritual formation to be presented and discussed with other students either in a one day seminar on **June 17** or in an on-line discussion of the papers.
Select the topic for your paper and clear it with Dr. Stonehouse by **June 9**.
Post your paper in the course icon by **June 14**.
Read the papers by other class members and be prepared to discuss them.
5. Participate in a one-day seminar **June 17** or an online forum. Prepare to present your paper and lead the group in discussing some aspect of the paper.
 - a. In the presentation, take 20 minutes to highlight the insights from your research that you found most enlightening, remembering that class members are to have read the paper before the seminar.
 - b. Formulate questions to lead the class in discussing the significance of the insights, and implications for ministry with children that flow from those insights.
6. Keep a log of time invested in conference attendance, reading, writing, and discussion of papers. Submit your completed log to the professor.

Final Draft May 28, 2006

Assignments

Conference Reflection Notes – Due June 17

These may be in hand written form. Follow instructions in item 2 above.

Paper – June 14

A 10-15 page paper on some aspect of children's spirituality. Follow guidelines in item 5 above

Reading – Due June 17

Read a minimum of 400 pages from the following texts and from others in the bibliography below or other sources important to your research paper.

Will Our Children Have Faith? (Revised Edition) John H. Westerhoff, II – **Required**

Children's Spirituality: Christian Perspectives, Research, and Applications Donald Ratcliff, Senior Editor – Read **selected chapters** from this book which contains papers presented at the first Children's Spirituality Conference three years ago.

Bibliography

Godly Play, Jerome W. Berryman

The Child in Christian Thought, Marcia J. Bunge, editor

The Religious Potential of the Child, Sofia Cavalletti

The Moral Life of children, Robert Coles

The Spiritual Life of Children, Robert Coles

The Moral Intelligence of Children, Robert Coles

The Sympathetic Understanding of the Child, David Elkind

Childhood and Society, Erik H. Erikson

The Spirit of the Child, David Hay and Rebecca Nye

African-American Children at Church, Wendy L. Haight

Listening to God with Children: The Montessori Method Applied to the Catechesis of Children, Gianna Gobbi

Childhood: A Multicultural View, Melvin Konner

Engaging in Transcendence: The Church's Ministry and Covenant with Young Children, Barbara Kimes Myers and William R. Myers

Offering the Gospel to Children, Gretchen Wolff Pritchard

The Birth of the Living God, Ana-Maria Rizzuto

Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey, Catherine Stonehouse

Little Lamb Who Made Thee? Walter Wangerin, Jr.

The Orphean Passages, Walter Wangerin, Jr.

Final Draft May 28, 2006

John Wesley's View of Children: Foundations for Contemporary Christian Education,
Susan Etheridge Willhauck