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

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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.
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 online at [www.childspirituality.org](http://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.
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Assignments

Conference Reflection Notes – Due June 17
These may be in handwritten 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.
John Wesley's View of Children: Foundations for Contemporary Christian Education,
Susan Etheridge Willhauck