

1-1-1999

BT 825 Theology of Ministry

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Recommended Citation

Seamands, Stephen A., "BT 825 Theology of Ministry" (1999). *Syllabi*. Book 320.
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"Theology of Ministry" BT825, Dr. Steve Seamands

Course Prospectus

January 11-15, 1999

Course Description:

The course focuses upon the biblical and theological understanding of the nature and purpose of Christian ministry within the broader context of the nature and mission of the Church. It also seeks to provide biblical and theological insights which can inform specific functions of ministry such as preaching, leading worship, teaching, administrating, evangelizing, spiritual directing, care giving, and counseling. The course is intended to assist participants in formulating and clarifying a distinctively theological basis for their vocation in ministry.

Learning Resources:

Fee, Gordon. Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God.

Nathan, Rich and Wilson, Ken. Empowered Evangelicals.

Greg Ogden, The New Reformation.

Thomas Oden, Pastoral Theology: Essentials for Ministry.

Course Format:

The group will meet six hours daily for this intensive seminar (except on Friday when we will conclude at noon). The learning resources will be processed by a variety of means including lectures, discussions, participant reports, case studies, etc.

Course Requirements:

It is assumed that each person in the Doctor of Ministry program is self-motivated and will take responsibility for personal learning and that of the didactic group by thorough preparation in the learning resources and a willingness to give leadership and informed insights during discussion sessions.

Each participant will write a 6-8 page (double-spaced typed) RESPONSE PAPER based on the reading of the four texts. In your response paper describe how these books challenged you in relation to your ministry. What do they say to you about what you need to be doing more or less of in your ministry? Also include in your responses some areas where you disagreed with the authors. The response paper is due on the first day of class.

Following the course each participant will write an INTEGRATIVE RESEARCH PAPER which treats some aspect of his or her ministry. The paper should bridge theory and practice by relating theoretical insights to a specific dimension of ministry in which the participant is involved or about to be involved. See the attached description of the Kolb Model for more details. The paper is to be 25 pages in length. The due date will be announced on the first day of class.

INTEGRATIVE RESEARCH PAPER USING THE KOLB MODEL

Assignment: An integrative paper treating an aspect of your ministry, making use of the Kolb model as the structure of the paper. Include at least twenty sources in your bibliography. The paper itself (25 pages in length) will be accepted anytime until _____.

The Kolb Model:

I. The Contextual Situation (Concrete Experience), 5 - 7 pages.

- A. A description of your ministerial placement, especially as this relates to the theme of your paper, e.g., denominational, theological, socio- economic, educational, organizational, demographic, attitudinal, etc.
- B. A description of your ministerial preparation, perceived gifts and limitations, and ministerial role in your placement.
- C. Draw a focus on the particular situation, condition, problem, opportunity, etc. which you wish to treat in the paper.

II. Analysis of Issues (Reflective Observation), 2 - 3 pages.

- A. An attempt to probe beneath the surface aspects of the chosen theme, to identify underlying, contributing issues.
- B. An attempt to assess how and why various parties (including yourself) contribute to the particular situation you wish to treat.
- C. Prioritize the underlying issues and identify the most significant one(s) with which you wish to deal.

III. Theoretical Reflection (Abstract Conceptualization), 8 - 10 pages.

- A. Research in and reporting of theoretical insights gained which inform your theme.
- B. Draw from a variety of theoretical disciplines (especially Biblical and Theological) and readings as lenses through which to view your theme.
- C. More than merely reporting the opinions and conclusions of the "experts," interact with your sources and let this section be your own informed conclusions.

IV. Application (Active Experimentation), 5 - 7 pages.

- A. Show how the theoretical insights you have gained might be effectively implemented in your ministerial placement.
- B. Identify some resistance points to implementation and discuss how these might be overcome.
- C. Are there some insights which would be difficult to implement in your situation? Why?