

Summer 2024

Course Title

323 Congregational Care

Instructor

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*Special note: My son graduates from college June 22. I will be out of town and unavailable (or limited availability) June 17-23. In addition, I have a silent retreat planned for June 30-July 2 and will be disconnected from electronics.

Course Description

This course introduces students to practices of congregational care and the pastor's responsibility in caregiving.

Course Times

This course will meet in person on June 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 4:00pm-5:55pm. In addition to the in-person sessions, there will be asynchronous modules to complete June 29-July 12.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Implement and oversee appropriate types of care in varieties of settings, including prisons, hospitals, nursing facilities, and homes.
2. Organize caring ministries within the congregation.
3. Discern and implement appropriate boundaries, knowing when and to whom to refer people, and when and when not to share information.
4. Reflect on and practice skills of sensitive caregiving, using role play and analysis case studies.

Course Materials

Required Reading

1. Melissa Kelley, *Grief: Contemporary Theory and the Practice of Ministry*
2. Frederick Schmidt, *The Dave Test: A Raw Look at Real Faith in Hard Times*
3. Karen Scheib, *Pastoral Care: Telling the Stories of Our Lives*

4. Student Choice: Choose one of the following:

Edward Wimberly, *African American Pastoral Care and Counseling: Oppression and Empowerment*

Jeanne Hoeft, Shannon Jung, Joretta Marshall, *Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities*

5. John Wesley, On Visiting the Sick (Sermon 98) Available free on the web at:

<https://www.wordsofwesley.com/libtext.cfm?srm=98>

Supplementary Textbooks

Larry Webb, *Crisis Counseling in the Congregation*

Simon Wiesenthal, *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness*

Karen Lampe, *The Caring Congregation: How to Become One and Why it Matters*

Howard Clinebell, *Basic Types of Pastoral Care and Counseling: Resources for the Ministry of Healing and Growth*

Grading

40% Pre-class assignments

40% Final Papers

20% Class participation (attendance, participation, online class discussions)

Pre-Class Assignments - Due June 7, 2024 at 5:00pm

Pre-class assignments should be uploaded to Canvas by 5:00pm on June 7, 2023. All assignments are in paragraph/essay form, except for the Resource Sheet which can be a spreadsheet or whatever format you prefer.

1. Read John Wesley's Sermon *On Visiting the Sick*. Write a one-page paper identifying three key points that Wesley highlights and discuss their implications for the ministry of pastoral care.
2. Read Frederick Schmidt's *The Dave Test: A Raw Look at Real Faith in Hard Times*. Each chapter poses a question. Choose two chapters and write a one-page response to both of your chosen questions. Describe how the chapter either informed your understanding of pastoral care or challenged your thinking. This assignment should total two pages.

3. Read Chapter 3 of Karen Scheib's *Pastoral Care: Telling the Stories of Our Lives*. Write a 1-page paper answering question 1 on page 148.
4. Read Melissa Kelley's *Grief: Contemporary Theory and the Practice of Ministry*. Write a 1-page personal reflection paper answering question 3 on Page 93.
5. Prepare a Resource Sheet identifying 10 professional resources that are appropriate to your geographic area to whom you may need to refer a parishioner presently or in the future. (List can include, but not limited to: physicians, first responders, mental health professionals, support groups, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters) For each entry include: Name of the Agency, contact Person: Address and Contact Information; Range of Services Offered; Referral Requirements; Fees, if appropriate. Establish contact with at least five of the resources. On the Resource Sheet annotate an entry with notes from your encounter (call, visit, email). This assignment can be a spreadsheet or whatever format you prefer.
6. Read either Edward Wimberly's *African American Pastoral Care and Counseling: The Politics of Oppression and Empowerment* **OR** Jeanne Hoeft's *Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities*. Write a two-page paper answering the following questions:

Identify one highlight, quote, or concept from the book that offers insights helpful for pastors. Identify a quote or concept that the author presents that you find challenging or that you struggle with? What does the author contribute to the ministry of pastoral care that is applicable across ministry settings? You will be invited to lead the discussion on the book of your choice on June 26.

7. ***Please give yourself at least four weeks for this assignment. Complete the Life Wheel Exercise (see attached). Set a goal and then begin to work toward your goal. Submit the Observation questions and your BeSMART goal. (1 page).
8. ***Please give yourself at least four weeks for this assignment. Listen to Julian Treasure's TED Talk "5 Ways to Listen Better"
https://www.ted.com/talks/julian_treasure_5_ways_to_listen_better?language=en#t-3333. In his talk, Treasure mentions five ways to improve listening. Over at least four weeks, practice all five ways of the suggestions for better listening at least twice. Take notes or journal your experiences or your observations. Respond to the survey questions at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q6WT9TD>

Final Assignments – Due July 12, 2024 at 11:59pm

1. Self-Care Foundations (1 page). Write a one-page paper discussing your biblical, theological and practical foundations for the importance of self-care? Why does self-care in life and ministry even matter?
2. Self-Care Reflection (1 page). Write a reflection paper about the self-care goal that you worked on during class. How did it go? What did you learn about yourself?
3. Building Your Own Theology (2 page). Respond to Question 2 on page 148 of Scheib's *Telling the Story of Our Lives*.
4. Grief Born of Injustice Assignment (4 pages) On pages 15-16 of *Grief: Contemporary Theory and the Practice of Ministry*, Melissa Kelley talks about Grief Born of Injustice. She suggests that care to those who bare grief born of injustice involves both a pastoral response as well as prophetic action.

Identify a contemporary issue in your community that produces grief born of injustice. Use one page to identify the topic and why it is important to you or for your ministry setting. Use one page to discuss the biblical, theological, and communal concerns.

Take no more than two pages to answer the questions: What is a pastoral response that can address the grief? Your pastoral response should be biblically and theologically grounded and should have practical application in your ministry setting. As you build your theology, be sure to incorporate concepts from Scheib *Pastoral Care: Telling The Stories of Our Lives* (Question 2 page 148). What are some opportunities for prophetic action around this issue? How will you engage laity in the pastoral response, the prophetic action, or both? What community partners or resources can you use to address this grief born of injustice? This paper is four pages.