

**STMA 556 Missional Leadership
Seattle University, Seattle, WA
On-Campus July 26-30, 2010**

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Introduction and Overview

Missional and Leadership are growingly ambiguous terms. Their ambiguity is both the promise and burden of the course and its outcomes. The expectation is that three agents will be primary in this course (all three implied in “missional”) – The Triune God, The World, and the Church. Leadership, as a construct, will be operative throughout, also. The differentiation between leadership and leader(s) will require ongoing navigation through the multiple perspectives the course desires to traverse.

It is a prejudice of this class (a fruitful one, I expect) that each of you brings narratives and theologies, skills and practices of leading in an ecclesial setting to this course. Your stories, skills, and practices become the "practical" texts of the course. The additional assigned texts are meant to read and re-read your own experiences and theologies for greater witness and faithfulness in leading the church. The course is primarily a hermeneutics of leading in mission and will traverse several terrains, albeit in an intentional and orderly manner.

The first part of the course will be readings on *methodology*—how we come to understand theological leadership. The second part of the course will cover a *theology* for church and her leadership—who God is within our narratives, skills, and practices of leading in an ecclesial context. The third part is the *sociology* of organization and leadership – who (plural), where, how and what forms the ecclesial context. The final portion will bring together your nuanced methodological and theological lenses to understand how to more faithfully lead a human and holy community, called the Church. In the end, each student should have a greater sense of who one is and one's blind spots for leading, as well as a deeper sense of one's gifts and particular sensibilities for leading within God's mission in the world.

The course is divided into two practices (off-site/on-site). The first is very textual. Students will be expected to complete a reading about once each week leading up to the course and post a 400-600 word response to the provided questions.¹ The second practice is the on-campus conversation. The instructor will provide presentations each day that are intentionally interactive with the students, their readings, and postings. The on-campus conversations will develop and expand capacity for leading in God's mission.

¹Students should post responses to a public forum, whether email or blog. Please inform students of blog address.

Learning Outcomes (Taken From SU's School of Theology and Ministry Student Learning Outcomes)

1. Ability to articulate a personal and ecclesial theology of ministry.
2. Ability to inform ecclesial leadership with theology.
3. Awareness of one's own social location/assumptions/hermeneutics as they engage the text in their own lives, their communities, and the larger world.
4. Ability to discern and nurture spiritual experience in relation to self and others.
5. Ability to articulate and live from an understanding of self as human, minister, and leader.
6. Ability to be a responsive, discerning listener who can enter another's worldview.
7. Ability to guide and direct a Christian community in God's mission.
8. Ability to engage the community with the larger social context and to articulate and communicate God's mission that guides the community.

Required Texts: (total Amazon Cost = \$11.50 + \$27.00 = \$38.50 + reader costs)

Craig Van Gelder, *Ministry of the Missional Church* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007).

Bryson and Crosby. *Leadership for the Common Good: Public Problems in a Shared-Powered World*. (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2005).

Reading Responses

Readings are assigned in weekly intervals (see schedule(s) below). Each set of readings should be engaged along the lines of theological perspective and implications for leadership. Each student will complete a 500-700-word response for 4 of the 8 sets of readings, answering one or all of the following questions.² Reading responses should be posted by the beginning of the next posted readings.

1. What are the multiple theological and sociological assumptions and perspectives operating in these texts? Where do you find agreement and disagreement with these perspectives?
2. What questions and clarifications do you need to better understand the perspectives and assumptions of these texts?
3. What do these perspectives offer to the church, generally? How do these perspectives and assumptions speak to church leadership, more specifically?
4. Assuming that you would adopt the frameworks and assumptions of this text, what would these readings require of you, a leader in the church?

Final Paper

The final project for the course will be a personal understanding of theological leadership for the church in the world. The format of the paper will follow the format of the

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coursework. The paper is an integrative personal theology of leadership that includes (1) personal narrative of the hermeneutical perspective that shapes your interpretation of life (3-4 pages); (2) biblical and theological frameworks for leadership (4-6 pages); and (3) sociological approaches to organization and leadership with a view towards leading a church in mission (3-5 pages). The paper should be 3000-3500 words (13-15 double-spaced pages). The first portion of the paper should be drafted by the time students arrive on campus (July 25), and these drafts will serve as an introductory conversation. Portions 2 and 3 should be considered in outline prior to coming to the class (with the expectation that both additional content and clarity will be considered throughout our week together). Final papers are due to professor via email on the Monday following the last day of class (August 2).

Grading

This course will be for a letter grade for each student. This grade will be determined based on completion of the following requirements.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Reading Responses	30 %
On-Site Participation	20 %
Course paper – Phase II	50 %

On-Site Lecture Schedule (subject to revision)

Day	Time	Topic
Monday	a.m.	Introductions and Exploring Our Narrative Lives - Leadership Practice: Social Location
	p.m.	Theological Method – Texts Leadership Practice: Interpretation
Tuesday	a.m.	Understanding Cultures as Local Theologies Leadership Practice: Understanding Others
	p.m.	Missional Hermeneutics I Leadership Practice: Integration
Wednesday	a.m.	Missional Hermeneutics II Leadership Practice: Integration
	p.m.	Congregations as a Hermeneutic of the Gospel Leadership Practice: Cultivating Culture
Thursday	a.m.	Leading in Missional Churches: Life of the Leader Leadership Practice: Vision and Planning
	p.m.	Leading Missional Churches: Spiritual Practices
Friday	a.m.	Leading Missional Processes: Discernment
	p.m.	Pulling it all Together

Readings Schedule (The readings are offered on two calendars in order to accommodate those students who have coursework in the prior quarter – ending June 22. The first set of readings is for those without Spring Quarter coursework, and the second set is for those with Spring Quarter coursework.)

Week 1: Theological Method (May 24-29) or (June 23-29)

David Tracy, "Theological Method" in *Christian Theology: AN Introduction to its Tradition and Tasks*, eds. Peter Hodgson and Robert King (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994), pp. 35-61.

David Tracy, *On Naming the Present* (Maryknoll, NY, 1994) pp. 3-24.

Recommended Reading:

Kyle J.A. Small, "Missional Theology for Schools of Theology: Re-engaging the Question 'What is Theological about a Theological School'" in *Missional Church and Leadership Formation*, ed. Craig Van Gelder (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009), pp. 45-70.

Week 2: Theological Method/Social Location (May 31-June 5) or (June 23-29)

Kosuke Koyama, "What makes a Missionary? Toward Crucified Mind not Crusading Mind," in *Mission Trends*, eds. G.H. Anderson & T.F. Stransky (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974) pp. 117-132.

Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, "En la Lucha" in *In the Struggle: A Hispanic Woman's Liberation Theology* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993), pp. xi-9, 81-95.

Justo Gonzalez, *Manana: Christian Theology from a Hispanic Perspective* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1990), pp 21-30, 75-87.

Week 3: Trinitarian Theology (June 7-June 12) or (June 30-July 6)

Catherine M. LaCugna, "The Practical Trinity" *Christian Century*, 109 no 22 (July) 15-22 1992, p 678-682.

Jurgen Moltmann, "Perichoresis: An Old Magic World for a New Trinitarian Theology" in *Trinity, Community, and Power*, ed. M. D. Meeks (Nashville, TN: Kingswood Books, 2000), pp. 111-125

Dwight J. Zscheile, "The Trinity, Leadership, and Power" in *Journal of Religious Leadership* 6, no. 2 (Fall 2007), pp. 43-63.

Gary Simpson, "No Trinity, No Mission: The Apostolic Difference for a New Trinitarian Theology," *Word & World* 18 (Summer 1998) 264-271.

Week 4: Theology, cont'd. - Pneumatology (June 14-June 19) or (June 30-July 6)

Craig Van Gelder, "Spirit-led Ministry" and Spirit-led Ministry in the Bible" in *Ministry of the Missional Church* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007) pp. 15-46.

Stephen Bevans, "The Church as Creation of the Spirit: Unpacking a Missionary Image" in *Missiology*, vol. xxxv, no.1 (January) 2007.

Jurgen Moltmann, "Dimensions of a Doctrine of the Church Today" in *The Church in the Power of the Spirit* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993) pp. 1-18.

Recommended Reading: (not included in reader)

Michel Welker, *God The Spirit* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004), pp. 1-49.

(Professor's note: I recommend the entire book, yet due to the nature of this course, only the first part is germane to our discussion).

Week 5: Theology cont'd – Missional Ecclesiology for North America (June 21-June 26) or (July 7-13)

Patrick Keifert, "A New Missional Era" in *We Are Here Now: A New Missional Era* (Eagle, ID: Allelon Publishing, 2006) pp. 21-37.

Craig Van Gelder, "Spirit-Led Ministry in Context" & "Spirit-Led Ministry in the U.S. Context and in the Missional Church" in *Ministry of the Missional Church* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007) pp. 47-92.

Lois Y. Barret, ed. "So We Do Not Lose Heart" in *Treasures in Clay Jars: Patterns in Missional Faithfulness* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004) pp. ix-xiv.

Recommended Reading:

Darrel Guder, ed. "Missional Vocation: Called and Sent to Represent the Reign of God" in *Missional Church: The Sending of the Church in North America* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998) pp. 77-109 (not included).

Week 6: Organizational Leadership: The Church as a Human and Public Community (Part I) (June 28-July 3) or (July 7-13)

Craig Van Gelder, *Ministry of the Missional Church* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007) pp. 95-182.

Mark Lau Branson, "Ecclesiology and Leadership for the Missional Church" in *Missional Church in Context* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007) pp. 94-125.

Week 7: Organizational Leadership: The Church as a Human and Public Community (Part II) (July 5-July 10) or (July 14-July 20)

Bryson and Crosby. *Leadership for the Common Good: Public Problems in a Shared-Powered World*. (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2005). (chps. 1-3), pp. 1-107

Week 8: Leadership Sciences: Ministers and Pastors as Missionaries (July 12-July 17) or (July 14-July 20)

Alan Roxburgh, "Cultivating the imagination of a Missional Leader" in *Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World* (Jossey-Bass, 2006), pp. 15-36.

Craig Van Gelder, "Theological Education and Missional Leadership Formation: Can Seminaries Prepare Missional Leaders for Congregations?" in *Missional Church and Leadership Formation* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009) pp. 11-44.

Recommended Reading:

Jim Herrington "Learning to Lead Change" & "Laying the Groundwork for Change" in *Leading Congregational Change: A Practical Guide for the Transformational Journey* (Jossey-Bass, 2000) pp. 1-15, 28-49 (not included).

Kyle J.A. Small, "Missional Ordered Ministry in the Evangelical Covenant Church: Moving Toward Apostolic Imagination" in *Missional Church and Denominations* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008) pp. 198-234 (included).

July 18-July 24: Prepare your initial draft *biographies* and catch up on missing readings, if necessary.

July 26-30: On-site Conversation – Putting it Together