

Syllabus for Seminar IV
June 6-17, 2011
David Sawyer, Professor

Seminar IV The Minister as Practical Theologian (DM 6464)

1. **Seminar Description:** A seminar using the action-reflection model of praxis ministry. Students and faculty will focus on integrating the learning from earlier seminars and discuss their discernment of a particular call to action in their context of ministry. Faculty will present and discuss methods of action/reflection as models for a project in ministry and the requirements for both the Prospectus and the Project in ministry. Students will present for group discussion their preliminary proposals for the design, implementation and evaluation of a project in ministry. The Prospectus is the follow-up paper for this seminar. Two weeks – 6 credits,
2. **Objectives:**
 - a. To carry forward and enhance the collegial relationships with the learning group for support and accountability for the doctoral program.
 - b. To review and assess the D. Min. seminar experiences from the perspective of the goals of the program and the student's own goals.
 - c. To demonstrate increased ability to integrate the practical, biblical and theological reflections of the D. Min. Seminars as a discernment of call and action as indicated by class discussion and the quality of the prospectus
 - d. To be able to appropriately apply current methods of qualitative research in the design of the D. Min. project research as indicated by the quality of the prospectus.
 - e. To prepare and finalize the prospectus for the project
 - f. To plan the remainder of the D. Min. program.

3. **Reading:**

Be prepared to lead a class discussion on all of these readings. We'll have teams of you lead the discussions, assignments on the first day of the seminar.

Butler-Bass, Diana. *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith* (HarperOne, 2006, also now out in paper) ISBN: 0060836946. Results of a well funded research project using a case study/narrative analysis methodology.

Louisville Seminary. "Guide to the Doctor of Ministry Learning Project." Available on CAMS and on the LPTS Website.

Osmer, Richard R. *Practical Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008. ISBN 978-0-80028-1765-5. A good general synopsis of practical theology as the synthesis of theological reflection on the practice of ministry. Pay particular attention to the discussion of qualitative research methods in Chapter One.

Parks, Sharon Daloz. *Leadership Can be Taught: A bold Approach for a Complex World*. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 2005. Parks is a practical theologian studying the teaching techniques of management guru Ron Heifetz, using qualitative research methods. The message of the book is a combination of leadership theory and practice—how to lead in complex systems and non-traditional teaching methods. Please also note the subtext of the research methodology that Parks employs.

Savage, Carl, and William Presnell. *Narrative Research in Ministry: A Postmodern Research Approach for Faith Communities*. Louisville: Wayne E Oates Institute, 2008. The D.Min. Handbooks from Drew University Divinity School, describes their so called post modern research methods using narrative analysis.

Sawyer, David. "Guide to Narrative Research in the LPTS D. Min. Program." Paper available on CAMS.

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th Edition (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 2007) ISBN 13-978-0-226-82337-9. Part I, Chapters 1-14 are useful for identifying, developing and writing your project and project report. Part II contains the required models for source citation for your paper

OPTIONAL HELPFUL RESOURCES:

Robson, Colin. *Real World Research: A Resource for Social Scientist and Practitioner-Researchers*, 2nd Edition (Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 2002) ISBN 0-631-21305-8.

4. **Writing:** Prepare and distribute to your class members by e-mail by the beginning of class a 15 page draft of your prospectus using the "Guide to the Doctor of Ministry Learning Project." Chapters One and Three of your prospectus should be well developed. Chapter Two can be in annotated outline of what you expect to write in your literature research of biblical, theological and other sources of human knowledge. The strategy in Chapter Three will be discussed and probably improved following the seminar discussion of qualitative research methods. Expect to complete the prospectus while on campus. Review your strategy with an at-home learning group before writing it.
5. **Planning:** Prepare a time-line for completing your D. Min. Program including
 - a. Confirmation of 1st and 2nd Readers
 - b. Identifying Advanced Professional Courses that will fill out your chapters or your research methods, including when you will complete the courses.
 - c. Plan for involving your At Home Learning Group in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of your project.
 - d. Date of approval of your prospectus
 - e. Dates when you expect to carry out the project
 - f. Writing time for the Project Report
 - g. Date for submitting draft of report to readers
 - h. Submission of at least one chapter to Angela Morris for formatting
 - i. Time for readers to review and return with recommendations
 - j. Re-write times (at least one maybe two more)
 - k. Date of acceptance of final draft of project
 - l. Request written evaluation from the At Home Learning Group
 - m. Date of Summative Conversation (Oral Defense) of project
 - n. Date of submission of report to library
 - o. Graduation Date