

## **Theology 510: Practicum in Spirituality**

**Dr. Dianne Reistroffer, Professor**

**Summer Term 2012**

**Monday, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Room 220, Schlegel Hall, Louisville Seminary**

(I am proposing the following dates: June 4, 25; July 9, 23; August 6, 20)

**(Six sessions – dates to be determined in consultation with the class)**

Session #1: orientation and one simulated case study

Session #2: two case studies

Session #3: two case studies

Session #4: two case studies

Session #5: two case studies

Session #6: concluding conversation.

### Course Description:

The practicum demonstrates how the study of Christian spirituality leads to an ecclesial and social expression in a variety of ministries that witness to human dignity, peacemaking, and justice issues. Each student will pursue a supervised practicum with a local religious or social agency or institution and will engage in group reflection and case study on a regular basis.

Prerequisites: Introductory Seminar

### Course Objectives:

1. Students will deepen their understanding of Christian Spirituality and Christian ministry by engaging in reflection upon their own actions in ministry.
2. Students will draw upon their theoretical knowledge and understanding, hone their practical skills, and increase their spiritual, personal, and professional growth as they pursue clearly defined learning objectives within an approved ministry setting.
3. Students will be invited to explore further their sense of vocation and their ministerial identity as well as to evaluate their progress in developing the values, attitudes, and competencies necessary for effective witness and service through the modality of Christian spirituality.

### Course Methodology and Requirements:

As a practicum course, students are expected to complete **forty hours of work on a ministry project**, including hours for preparation, in a ministry setting approved by the course supervisor. Once students have received site approval for their practicum work, they will submit a completed learning covenant that has been reviewed and approved by

the on-site supervisor and the course supervisor. At the end of the course, both the on-site supervisor and the student will complete evaluation reports on the student's work and growth, based on the learning goals listed in the original learning covenant.

In addition, students will meet regularly in **six sessions of group supervision with the course supervisor**. This small group format incorporates a variety of teaching-learning activities (case study, discussion, interview, and student presentations). Throughout the term, each student will make two case study presentations based on the Model for Staff Development and the Guide to Case Study and Reflection in Ministry based on the course text, *Shared Wisdom*.

Students are required to **maintain a weekly journal**, recording their reflections, questions, learning, and progress. The journal often becomes an important source for the preparation of case studies as well as the student's final evaluation report.

Students are also responsible for **meeting with their on-site supervisor for a minimum of four one-hour sessions** to share their progress on their learning goals for the summer and to engage in shared reflection on the student's ministry and his/her learning in the ministry setting.

Finally, students will prepare a **final five to eight page evaluation** of the student's ministry which will be due at the last class period. The evaluation will be discussed with members of the practicum group who will also provide feedback.

In meeting these course requirements, students will read and consult the following:

Jeffrey Mahan, Barbara Troxell, and Carol Allen, *Shared Wisdom: A Guide to Case Study Reflection in Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993. ISBN 0-687-38335-8

James B. Ashbrook and John C. Karl, *A Model for Staff Development: Religious Resources and Pastoral Therapy*. (Handout)

Malcolm Knowles, *Self-Directed Learning*. An adaptation by Dianne Reistroffer. (Handout)

The journals will be turned in and assessed by the course supervisor at the end of the course. (Due date: August 21, 2012)

The learning covenants will be due on June 26, 2012.

The student and supervisor evaluation reports will be due on August 21, 2012.

### Grading

Students will receive pass/fail grades in the course.

### About the Course Supervisor:

An ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, a seminary professor, and an experienced pastor who has served several churches in New England, Wisconsin, and Kentucky, Dr. Dianne Reistroffer has taught courses in pastoral supervision and supervised hundreds of graduate students doing practicum work in a variety of ministry settings. She holds a Ph.D. in adult and continuing professional education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as Master of Theological Studies and Master of Divinity degrees from Boston University School of Theology. She has also completed two summers of postgraduate studies in higher education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Dianne has received advanced training in supervised ministry from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. She currently serves as Professor of Ministry and Director of Methodist Studies at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, in addition to being Director of Field Education.