

FLDC 7319
Mission and Ministerial Identity in the ECC
North Park Theological Seminary
Fall semester 2021
0 credit hours

Instructor Information

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NOTE: This course is *required* for ECC call to ministry students/*open* to all graduating students

Course Description: This online course was developed to help students navigate the ECC call process as they prepare to graduate. This course is a requirement for any NPTS student who wishes to participate in the call process with the ECC. This course also fulfills *part* of the requirement of the ECC for ordination. While it is specifically for Covenant students it may be beneficial for any NPTS student who is considering fulltime ministry upon graduation. Some of the topics include the exploring vocational identity, Covenant polity and governance and preparing to candidate. In addition, students will meet some leaders of the Evangelical Covenant Church who guide the mission priorities of the church. NOTE: Participation in this class is NOT a guarantee of faculty approval to enter the ECC call process.

Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course participants will be able to:

1. Construct a CovConnect Minister's Profile in preparation for the Call to Ministry process.
2. Explain the necessary techniques and skills necessary to be prepared for the Call to Ministry Process including interviewing and candidating.
3. Describe one's call to ministry in preparation for interviews with superintendents and churches.
4. Generate the necessary strategies to manage clergy financial issues and solutions.
5. Design personal and ministry budget in preparation for being a ministry professional.
6. Explain the primary tenets of the ECC's Organizing for Mission strategy by being exposed to the mission and ministry of the ECC.
7. Recall the polity and governance of the Evangelical Covenant Church in order to teach and practice it at the congregational level.
8. Use the resources and services available to ECC ministry leaders.

Required Readings/Materials

Palmer, Parker. *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000.

Various articles available in Canvas

Recommended Reading

Bridges, William and Susan. *Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes*. New York: Lifelong Books, 2019.

Cahalan, Kathleen, ed. *Calling All Years Good: Christian Vocation Throughout Life's Seasons*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017.

Epperly, Bruce Gordon. *Starting With Spirit: Nurturing Your Call to Pastoral Leadership*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute: 2011.

Garber, Steven. *Visions of Vocation: Common Grace for the Common Good*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2014

Jones, Kirk Byron. *Holy Play: The Joyful Adventure of Unleashing Your Divine Purpose*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2007.

Judy, Dwight. *Discerning Life Transition: Listening Together in Spiritual Direction*. Spiritual Directors International, 2010.

Loyd, Deborah Koehn. *Your Vocational Credo: Practical Steps to Discover Your Unique Purpose*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2015.

Matthews, J.R., et. al., *Health, Holiness and Wholeness for Ministry Leaders*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2020.

Neafsey, John. *A Sacred Voice is Calling: Personal Vocation and Social Conscience*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2006.

Weborg, C. John *Made Healthy in Ministry by Ministry*. Chicago: Covenant Press, ____.

Computer Requirements:

In order to effectively participate in and successfully complete this course, each participant will need to have access to a computer and a high-speed internet connection. Please visit <https://www.northpark.edu/academics/online-education/students/online-support-for-students/> for support of your online learning experience.

Grading

To pass this class students must participate in each module as directed and complete all assignments on time.

This is a Pass/No Pass course with 0 credit. Those who do not pass will not qualify to enter the call to ministry process overseen by NPTS. All students desiring to enter this process through NPTS must also first be approved by the faculty. This process is managed by Dean Auger. Any questions may be directed to dauger@northpark.edu

All papers are to be written according to Turabian 8th Edition guidelines. Proof your papers carefully! Graduate level writing is expected. Use the writing guideline found here: <https://assets.northpark.edu/wp-content/uploads/20190721155333/Writing-Handbook-2019-2020.pdf>

Students should also reference “Writing Expectations and Strategies” located in the *Start Here* Module in Canvas.

Course Requirements:

1. A 750-word reflection essay on vocation in conversation with Parker Palmer’s text.
Module 1- **Due September 10, 2021**
2. A 45 minute interview (MS TEAMS) about call and vocation with Dean Deb Auger and Director Luke Palmerlee during Module 4 - **Oct. 11-29**. Scheduling details are located in the first module in Canvas.
3. A completed CovConnect profile-Module 5 -**Due November 5 2021**.
4. Life Rule in Transition –Module 6 - **Due November 19, 2021**
5. Participation in Discussion Posts and quizzes in Canvas

See Canvas for details of Modules and links for synchronous sessions

Module 1-WEEKS 1-2 August 30-September 10: *Call and Vocation: Staying Grounded in Transition*

Synchronous discussion: Friday, Sept. 10, 10:30 CST

Module 2-WEEKS 3-4 September 13-24: *Covenant Polity and Governance: Congregations and Leadership*

Module 3-WEEKS 5-6 Sept. 27-October 8: *Ministerial Credentialing in the ECC: Licensing and Ordination*

Synchronous discussion Ministers Profile Workshop: Friday, Oct.8, 10:30 CST

Module 4-WEEKS 7-8 October 11-29: *Interviewing and Candidating: The Covenant Call Process*

(This module includes reading week)

Remember to schedule your interview by contacting Luke Palmerlee at

lrpalmerlee@northpark.edu

Module 5-WEEKS 9-10 November 1 -12: *The Mission and Ministry of the Covenant Church: Resourcing and Connecting*

Module 6-WEEKS 11-12 November 15- 26: *Money and Ministry: Navigating Taxes and Finances as a Minister*

Synchronous discussion: Friday, Nov. 19 10:30 CST

Module 7-WEEKS 14-15 November 29-December 10: Resources and Final Instructions

Synchronous discussion: Friday, Dec. 3 10:30 CST