



**NORTH PARK**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**FLDC 5300 – Vocational Excellence**

North Park Theological Seminary – School of Restorative Arts

Logan Correctional Center

July 10-13, 2023

1 credit hour

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Don Robinson

Debbie Blue

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This intensive focuses on issues of vocational identity and healthy professional patterns. In addition, it is designed to explore the meaning of credentialed and endorsed ministry in the Evangelical Covenant Church and the responsibilities and competencies of those called to these positions. Areas of inquiry will include: licensing, commissioning, ordination, ethical guidelines, formal care and discipline, collegiality, ministerial health and boundaries.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Articulate clearly a Biblical and theological understanding of vocational life and ministry.
- 2) Participate fully in personal and vocational assessments as they relate to the practice of ministry
- 3) Know the Rules for the Ordered Ministry and the Ethical Principles for Covenant Ministers as they apply to one's life and ministry. Become familiar with one's own denominational documents.
- 4) Describe and commit to ongoing development of the pastor/minister as leader.
- 5) Identify patterns and spiritual formation disciplines within the ministerial journey that contribute to health and excellence.
- 6) Create a "Life Rule", including a self-care plan, which embraces a spiritual and behavioral code that sustains ministerial health. (Specific instructions will be provided in Reader distributed in class.)

**REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS**

You will be provided with these three assessments to take at least 2 weeks prior to the first class session. July 1, 2023

1. Style Matters Conflict Inventory
2. Riso-Hudson Enneagram Inventory
3. Golden Personality Profiler

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

- 1) All readings are considered pre-readings for the course and are expected to be read in advance. Learning materials will provide general background for the experiences and will be referenced periodically during the sessions.
- 2) Required texts will be provided:
  - a. *Tattoos on the Heart*, Greg Boyle, 2011
  - b. *Rest in the Storm* (20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition) by Kirk Byron Jones, 2021
  - c. *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*, Peter Scazzero
- 3) “Vocational Excellence Reader” (A printed copy will be provided to you ahead of class)

## **ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING SCALE**

- 1) A PDF “Vocational Excellence” reader will be sent to the students prior to class. Please bring this resource to class each day as it will be used throughout the week. (Other resources will be provided throughout the class.)
- 2) **Work due before the class:**
  - a. Write an “Adaptive Challenge” (Instructions provided along with your syllabus. This will be presented in class; it does not need to be submitted to the instructors.)
  - b. Completion of the personality instruments. One of the keys to successful ministry is a deep understanding of oneself, including one’s strengths and vulnerabilities. This knowledge can only increase the pastor’s capacity for healthy ministry. Inventories, conversations, and times for reflection comprise this process, which is designed to enhance self-understanding and identify practical steps for further growth as a pastor and person. These instruments are not an assessment of your call to ministry, rather an opportunity to explore who you are as you live into your call, being aware of the uniqueness of your personality and giftedness.
    - i. To this end, we require completion of the following:
      1. The Riso-Hudson Enneagram Indicator. The enneagram identifies 9 different personality types. This sample test has 36 questions,
      2. “Style Matters” Conflict Inventory.
      3. “Golden Personality Profiler” measures personality type, traits, temperament, and response to stress utilizing an inventory similar to the Meyers-Briggs temperament indicator which identifies 16 different personality scales.
    - ii. Students may not attend the class if they have failed to complete the tests prior to the class prior to the deadline.

**3) Work due during the class:**

- a. Prepare, present, and participate in an “Adaptive Challenge” experience with colleagues in class. This written one-page assignment will be brought to class. Review the worksheet for this included with your syllabus and be prepared to discuss it later in the week. It will not be turned in but will be needed for a small group conversation during the class.

**4) Work due after the class:**

Write a 2,000 word “Life Rule” including the following two portions:

- i. Introduction to the Life Rule, responding to the following:
  1. How are your practices of ministry going to be changed because of this course?
  2. What have you learned about yourself in this class: what are your potential concerns/vulnerabilities and benefits?
- ii. “Life Rule” incorporating all elements of the class (see template in Reader for instructions).
- iii. Due: August 10, 2023

**5) Grading Scale**

- a. This class is Pass/Fail
- b. The Seminary Grading Scale can be found in the Seminary Academic Catalog, p. 21.

**ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES**

- 1) Attendance and Participation: full attendance and participation throughout the entire class time is expected.
- 2) All assignments should be uploaded to Canvas and submitted as a Word document, please do not upload PDF or other file formats.
- 3) Include student name and assignment title on all assignments.
- 4) Make sure you are familiar with and follow the inclusive language in the Student Writing Handbook.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For additional information, see the Seminary Academic Catalog, pp. 25–27.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Your experience in this class is important to us. North Park is committed to creating inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations, please reach out to Emily Wagner directly through a communication form.

### **TITLE IX**

Students who believe they may have experienced sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking should contact Emily Wagner, Director of Student Life and Formation, or review the full Title IX policy available in the Resource Room to more about reporting options, resources, and support services.

As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty members are private resources meaning we are legally obligated to share information about the behavior reported above with the University's Title IX coordinator. If you are unsure whether you want your concerns disclosed to the Title IX Coordinator, we encourage you to contact Emily Wagner directly through a sealed envelope.

Please refer to North Park's policy, available in the Resource Room, for reporting, contact information, and further details.

### **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates they will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of incomplete from the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request.

Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as "I" until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of "I" will automatically be changed to "F." For the full policy, see page 15 of the Seminary Academic Catalog.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

- 1) Class Dates: July 10-13, 2023
  - a. Class will take place at Logan Correctional Center
  - b. Attendance and participation for all sessions is expected
- 2) Assessments are due prior to the start of the class and should be completed by July 1, 2023
- 3) Life Rule is due on Thursday, August 13 – please return to Cheryl Lynn Cain.