

MF 4501 – The Pastor
Introduction to Pastoral Theology and Ministry

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Description

Since the pastorate is one of the most important ministries of the church –perhaps the most–, and since Seminaries –of which Leland is not the exception– devote themselves mainly to the preparation of pastors, it is natural that a special subject in the curriculum of Leland be devoted to the person and ministry of the pastor.

This course is guided by some important questions for anyone wanting to be a pastor today: What does it mean to be a pastor in the 21st Century? Who can be a pastor? Is the pastorate a vocation or a profession? What are the conditions for a pastor? Does ordination come from God or from people? Is the pastor a ministry of the Gospel, a ministry of the Word, or a ministry of the people? What is the most important task or facet of the pastorate? Is the pastorate something a pastor does, or is it something a pastor is? What is the interrelation between pastor and church? Is the pastorate a ministry of the church or the pastor is over and above the church? Is the pastor responsible only to God, or also to the church? Is there a particular pastoral ethics, or pastors develop their ethics depending on the situation? This course will explore questions similar at these at the best of the capacities of teacher and students in order to develop a vision of the pastoral ministry for the XXI Century.

Required Reading

Harbaugh, Gary L. *Pastor as Person: Maintaining Personal Integrity in the Choices and Challenges of Ministry*. Augsburg Fortress Press, 1984. ISBN 0-8066-2115-X.

Lathrop, Gordon W. *The Pastor: A Spirituality*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006. ISBN 0-8006-3801-8.

Willimon, William. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002. ISBN 0-687-04532-0.

Willimon, William. *Pastor: A Reader for Ordained Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002. ISBN 0-687-09788-6.

Evaluation

Besides the readings, students will participate in debates over the person and the task of a pastor, will conduct interviews to actual pastors, and will write two study papers.