

Supervised Ministry, MF 4910

Time: Fall, 2009 and Spring, 2010

Instructor: Gerald Young, D.Min.

Prerequisites: B 1311-12 Old Testament Introduction I&II
B 1511-12 New Testament Introduction I&II
TP 2103 Introduction to Theological Studies
TP 2515 Philosophy for Theology
HC 3115-17-19 Historical Theology I, II & III

Purpose: The primary focus of Supervised Ministry is upon the minister as a person and how that relates to his or her function in ministry. The instructor, fellow class members, Field Supervisor, and members of a lay Ministry Consultation Committee each has a role to play in helping the student to reflect upon the student as a person and his or her ministry. In the same way, each student is expected to help other class members reflect upon themselves and their ministries. The class meetings will provide support, accountability, and a setting in which reflection can be accomplished. The necessary prerequisite for this reflection is honest and accurate reporting of ministry.

In supervised ministry, students are placed in a ministry setting for nine months, where they are engaged in the opportunities and demands of their chosen area of ministry. This is a formative period for students when they test their calling and ministry gifts in a supervised ministry setting. The course material is the ministry events of the students' ministry settings. Students will reflect theologically on those events and on their own responses – spiritually, mentally, emotionally, professionally – to those events. They will do this with Field Supervisors, with lay persons in the ministry setting, and in weekly class with the Instructor and other Supervised Ministry students. The goal is to begin to integrate classroom theology with “emergency room” theology, allowing each to inform the other as we reflect upon both.

Required Texts:

There are no required texts. The material for the course comes out of the actual ministry events from students' ministry settings. Each student is expected to be prepared to share such a ministry event for examination at each class meeting, each supervisory session with the Field Supervisor, and each meeting of the Ministry Consultation Committee. As issues arise out of these ministry events, it is possible that readings will be assigned related to the issues that surface.

Requirements:

1. A ministry setting that includes significant ministry responsibility for the student. The Director of Supervised Ministry must approve all settings, and is available to help if a student has difficulty locating a setting.
2. Enlistment of a qualified Field Supervisor, who must also be approved by the Director of Supervised Ministry, and with whom the student will meet weekly.

- Requirements are available upon request. Again, the Director is available to help if a student has difficulty enlisting a qualified Field Supervisor.
3. Participate in a weekly class session with the Instructor and the other current Supervised Ministry students
 4. In conjunction with the Field Supervisor, prepare a Covenant of Learning/Ministry setting forth the student's goals for the semester. The Covenant will be used as an evaluation tool at the end of the first semester, and then reviewed and revised as needed for the second semester.
 5. The student will enlist lay members from his or her ministry setting to serve as a Ministry Consultation Committee during the Supervised Ministry experience. They will meet with the student monthly to offer the student the perspective of laypersons on the student and his or her ministry. The Director of Supervised Ministry is available to come to the ministry setting to provide training for the MCC.
 6. Preparation and presentation of a Ministry Context Report in which the student examines the Ministry Setting in detail and shares that information with the class.
 7. Keeping a Ministry Journal for four weeks setting forth a daily log of ministry activities as well as an evaluation of and reflection on those events.
 8. A final, 10-12 page Integrative Paper that will provide the student an opportunity to respond to a ministry event by drawing upon classroom knowledge, ministry setting experience, personal insights, and theological understandings.

Course Outline:

1. Introduction to Supervised Ministry and one another
2. Understanding and Preparing the Covenant of Learning/Ministry
3. Enlisting and working with a Ministry Consultation Committee
4. Presentation of Ministry Context Reports
5. End-of-semester review and revision with Field Supervisor and Instructor
6. Integrative Paper Due
7. Final evaluation with Field Supervisor and Instructor
8. Many additional issues will surface as part of the weekly sharing of ministry events, and these will be discussed as they arise out of real ministry settings. Certain other ministry responsibilities will be scheduled during the course of the year, in addition to their appearance as ministry events. These would include: conducting weddings and premarital counseling, conducting funerals and a visit to a local funeral home, conducting baptisms (including a class meeting in a baptistry during which students will baptize one another), a broad overview of pastoral counseling, dealing with search committees, ordination, relating to denominations, dealing with conflict, budgeting and taxes for ministers and churches, and other issues that may arise. Because much of the first semester is taken up with issues of Covenant and Ministry Settings, most of these issues are dealt with during the second semester.