



Munster Bible College
026: Pastoral Theology

PROFESSOR

Kirk M. Wellum

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to make students familiar with the unique qualifications and demands of the pastoral office in the church of Jesus Christ. Biblically qualified pastors who have been called to serve by the Lord of the church are a great blessing and gift to the church. Unfortunately, however, they are often in short supply. While many aspire to the pastoral office and others think that because they can speak, or administer a business, or are well-liked by others that they are qualified to be pastors, the Bible places the emphasis on the gifting and calling of God. In Pastoral Theology we will begin by looking at what the Bible teaches about the church in order to gain a proper perspective and then we will look at the pastor himself and the exercise of the pastoral office.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of this course the student should be able better to:

- Appreciate the importance of the church of Jesus Christ in the salvific plan of God.
- Understand what the Bible teaches about the office of pastor.
- Become familiar with the particular joys and sorrows of pastoral ministry.
- Be equipped to assess God's possible call on their own lives.
- Have the tools to avoid needless ministerial pitfalls by the grace of God.
- Be prepared to serve and love the people of God within the context of the local church.
- Even where students are never called to serve as pastors they should be able appreciate the challenges of the office so they can better support those who are called to serve in this way.

These course objectives will be achieved in the following ways:

- Readings in the course texts.
- Course lectures and discussion.
- Written review of two of the required reading books.
- Final exam and feedback to the student.
- Paper which allows the student to investigate a specific theological doctrine.

COURSE CONTENT

1. The doctrine of the church – methodological issues, the nature of the church, and the church as God’s new covenant community.
2. The qualifications for the pastoral office.
3. The pastor’s public and private prayer life.
4. The pastor as a preacher of the Word.
5. The pastor’s inner life and relationship with God.
6. The pastor’s marriage and family life.
7. Mentoring relationships, community involvement, and avoiding pastoral quirks.
8. The “regulative principle,” gospel preaching and evangelism, the pastor’s dress and demeanor.
9. The ins and outs of board and church meetings, budgets, and finances.
10. Pre-marital counselling and how to conduct a wedding.
11. The administration of baptism.
12. The administration of the Lord’s Supper.
13. Pastoral visitation and counselling.
14. Planning and conducting funerals.
15. Encouraging community within the local church.
16. Developing leadership, setting goals and working with other churches.
17. Improving the quality of our ministries, assessing “calls”, when to come and when to go.

DIPLOMA COURSE TEXTS

REQUIRED READING (PICK 3 OF 4)

1. Alexander, Paul and Dever, Mark. *The Deliberate Church*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2005.
ISBN – 10: 1581347383 ISBN – 13: 9781581347388
2. Dever, Mark and Leeman, Jonathan (eds). *Baptist Foundations: Church Government in an Anti-Institutional Age*. B&H Publishing Group, 2015.
3. Helopoulos, Jason. *The New Pastor’s Handbook: Help and Encouragement for the First Years of Ministry*. Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2015.
4. Lillback, Peter A. *Saint Peter’s Principles: Leadership for Those Who Already Know Their Incompetence*. Phillipsburg, P&R Publishing, 2019.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

1. Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*. Carlisle: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2005.
ISBN - 10: 1573832014 ISBN - 13: 9781573832014
2. Bridges, Charles. *The Christian Ministry*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1976.
ISBN - 10: 0851510876 ISBN - 13: 9780851510873

3. Clowney, Edmund P. *The Church – Contours of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2006. ISBN – 10: 0830815341 ISBN – 13: 9780830815340
4. Croft, Brian and Newton, Phil A. *Conduct Gospel-Centered Funerals – Applying the Gospel at the Unique Challenges of Death*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2014
5. Croft, Brian. *Prepare Them To Shepherd*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2014.
_____. *Visit The Sick*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2014.
6. Easley, Kendell H and Morgan, Christopher W. *The Community of Jesus: A Theology of the Church*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishing Group, 2013.
7. Frame, John. *Worship in Spirit and Truth*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1996.
ISBN - 10: 0875522424 ISBN - 13: 9780875522425
8. Spurgeon, C. H. *An All-Round Ministry*. Charleston: Bibliobazaar, 2008.
ISBN - 10:1437506305 ISBN - 13:9781437506303
9. Spurgeon, C. H. *Lectures To My Students*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1979.
ISBN – 10: 0310329116 ISBN – 13: 9780310329114

DIPLOMA COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Reading

The reading material is a very important component of this course. It is expected that you will read all of the material very closely. There are approximately 900 pages of reading expected for this course.

Due by 30 November 2019

Book Reports

Select one from:

- a. *The Deliberate Church* by Alexander and Dever
- b. *Baptist Foundations* by Dever and Leeman
- c. *New Pastor's Handbook* (Helopoulos) or *St. Peter's Principles* (Lillback)
- d. Note: Other books may be substituted by permission of the instructor.

A book report must be written on one of the required textbooks. The report should be 2-3,000 words each. It should explain the overall purpose of the book and describe how the author set out to accomplish his purpose with some brief reflections on the practical value of the book when it comes to Christian ministry.

Due by 30 November 2019

Research Paper

The paper should be 3-5000 words in length, *plus* a proper bibliography. Paper should be double spaced using one inch margins and a size 12 Times New Roman font or equivalent (like *Calibri* in Microsoft Word). Papers must have proper footnotes and a bibliography that documents all resources used in its preparation.

Students can write about anything related to the church and the pastoral office. They can expound a section of scripture that bears on pastoral ministry or tackle a ministerial problem and describe how they would solve it in light of God's word. Whatever topic is chosen by the student must be approved by the instructor prior to writing of the paper.

Due by 30 November 2019

Assessment of learning

Meet with your pastor/mentor to talk through ways in which your learning applies to local church ministry and how it has helped them
- reported by a series of questions (on Schoology) to assess the translation of your learning into ministry (max 200 words per question)

Discuss these questions with your pastor/mentor:

- i. What changes do you need to make in your life as a result of this module?
- ii. What changes do you need to make in your ministry as a result of this module?
- iii. What challenged you most – personally – about the module?
- iv. Why do you feel you were challenged and what will you do about it?

Due by 30 November 2019

Final Exam

The final exam will be a cumulative, objective, multiple-choice closed book exam testing the material of the course.

When the course is complete the instructor will give study questions that will cover the course material. Some, or all, of the questions will appear on the exam. Students should prepare an answer to each question and come to the exam prepared to answer whatever questions appear on the exam.

Due by 19 October 2019

DIPLOMA GRADING BREAKDOWN

Book Report	20%
Research Paper	40 %
Assessment of learning	10%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>30%</u>
TOTAL	100%

CERTIFICATE REQUIRED TEXTS (PICK 3 OF 4)

1. Alexander, Paul and Dever, Mark. *The Deliberate Church*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2005.
ISBN – 10: 1581347383 ISBN – 13: 9781581347388
2. Dever, Mark and Leeman, Jonathan (eds). *Baptist Foundations: Church Government in an Anti-Institutional Age*. B&H Publishing Group, 2015.
3. Helopoulos, Jason. *The New Pastor's Handbook: Help and Encouragement for the First Years of Ministry*. Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2015.
4. Lillback, Peter A. *Saint Peter's Principles: Leadership for Those Who Already Know Their Incompetence*. Phillipsburg, P&R Publishing, 2019.

CERTIFICATE RECOMMENDED TEXTS

1. Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*. Carlisle: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2005.
ISBN - 10: 1573832014 ISBN - 13: 9781573832014
2. Bridges, Charles. *The Christian Ministry*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1976.
ISBN - 10: 0851510876 ISBN - 13: 9780851510873
3. Clowney, Edmund P. *The Church – Contours of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2006. ISBN – 10: 0830815341 ISBN – 13: 9780830815340
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7. Frame, John. *Worship in Spirit and Truth*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1996.
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ISBN – 10: 0310329116 ISBN – 13: 9780310329114

CERTIFICATE COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The grade involves two parts: required reading and a writing assignment

Required reading

1. *The Deliberate Church* by Alexander and Dever
2. *The New Pastor's Handbook* by Helopoulos
3. *St. Peter's Principles* by Lillback

Assignment = 100% of final mark

- Choose any 3 of the following 7 questions and write short essay answers that are 2 to 4 pages double-spaced for each question. (600-1000 words)
 - Approach the questions as if you were the leader of a Bible study or a small group trying to lead the people into a richer and yet practical understanding of life in the Christian Church.
1. What is the “regulative principle” and how is it different from the “normative principle?” Then in light of these two principles explain the role of the Bible in regulating church practice.
 2. Why is prayer important for the pastor and the life of the church? What can you do as a pastor or church leader to develop the discipline of prayer yourself and to encourage your people to pray? How can you make prayer an important part of church life?
 3. What are some areas of life that should be discussed with couples planning to marry and why? How can you insure that couples are adequately prepared for the commitment of marriage?
 4. Why is it important to celebrate the Lord’s Supper? As a church leader what can you do to make the celebration of the Lord’s Supper a meaningful experience for the participants?
 5. What does water baptism symbolize in the new covenant church? As a church leader what can you do to make sure that your people understand the importance of baptism? And what can you do to prepare those who have requested baptism for this initiatory rite.
 6. What practical steps can you take as a church leader to encourage “community” within a local church? Talk about what you can do as an individual and what can be done as a church.
 7. What can be done to encourage cooperation among churches and the development of leadership gifts within the local church? Describe why and how you would go about this.

Due by 30 November 2019

CERTIFICATE GRADING BREAKDOWN

Essay One	33%
Essay Two	33%
<u>Essay Three</u>	<u>34%</u>
TOTAL	100%

TBS GRADING SCALE

90% - 100% A+	77% - 79% B+	67% - 69% C+	57% - 59% D+	0% - 49% F
85% - 89% A	73% - 76% B	63% - 66% C	53% - 56% D	
80% - 84% A-	70% - 72% B-	60% - 62% C-	50% - 52% D-	

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

A computer with basic internet access will be needed for this course

COURSE POLICIES

Late Work: Points received for any late assignment will be reduced by 25% for every two days late. Unless every assignment is completed, you will receive a failing grade for the course.

Respect for Divergent Viewpoints: Students and faculty are to show appropriate respect for each other even when divergent viewpoints are expressed through class assignments and discussion boards. Such respect does not require agreement with or acceptance of divergent viewpoints.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students who pass off ideas or words of another person as their own without crediting the source are guilty of intellectual property theft or literary theft better known as plagiarism. Students who conduct any part of their participation in the course in a fraudulent or deceptive manner are guilty of cheating. Students caught in either of these acts of academic misconduct will be reported to the Board of MBC, resulting in disciplinary action up to and including failing the course and academic dismissal.

Special Needs: As an institution, we strive to work with students and any challenges they face to the full degree possible. If there are any physical or mental challenges that might need special accommodation, please contact the instructor prior to or on the first day of class.

Grievances and Grade Disputes: If a student has a concern about a grade that he or she received, the student is expected to request clarification from instructor via email. If the student still has significant concern, he or she may contact the Board of MBC.

Course and Syllabus Modification (Disclaimer): This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format, readings, activities, evaluation criteria, policies and procedures, and other information necessary for students to complete this course. The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as deemed necessary to maintain the integrity of the learning experience as a result of events and circumstances that occur during the course.

CONTACT INFO

If there are any questions about the course please do not hesitate to speak to the instructor at the breaks, after class, or by email at kwellum@gmail.com.