

FE 603 LEADERSHIP ETHICS (1 credit)

FALL 2017

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Faculty: Rev. Stephanie L. Schlimm

Assessment: Credit/No Credit

Faculty Contact Information

Rev. Stephanie L. Schlimm, Pastor | Epworth United Methodist Church, Epworth, IA

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Course Description

This course focuses on developing a theological understanding of the pastoral vocation which can guide decision-making and the setting of priorities in the parish. Students engage in practical reflection on the shape of "the good pastorate."

Course Objectives

- To develop an understanding of clergy ethics as practiced in particular pastoral situations (particularly the challenges of money, maintaining integrity/accountability, confidentiality, healthy boundaries, sex, the abuses of power).
- To become familiar and resourced with any ethical/legal boundaries of the office of pastor.
- To recognize the importance of and to create a plan for a system of accountability beyond seminary.
- To begin to cultivate a network of collegiality and mutual support for developing excellence in the practice of ministry.

Curricular Objectives

- Build competence and resourcing in responding to pastoral ethical crises.
- Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer and healthy leadership that increase the student's love of God and neighbor, and shape their personal and professional lives.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

Required Texts

- Gula, Richard M., *Just Ministry: Professional Ethics for Pastoral Ministers* (Paulist Press, 2010)
- Ruth, Kibbie Simmons and Karen A. McClintock. *Healthy Disclosure: Solving Communication Quandries in Congregations* (The Alban Institute, 2007).
- McNitzky, David. *Accidental Herod: Becoming a Leader You Can Live With* (The Quarry Press, 2014).
- The sexual malfeasance policy from your SPM site or your judicatory or local congregation. (For United Methodists- bring copies of Safe Sanctuary Policy)

Course Requirements

- Regular attendance
- Faithful participation in all class discussions and/or online forums.
- Complete reading of the text books
- Completion of all written assignments