

COS 524

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTON: PRACTICE OF MINISTRY

APPALACHIAN LOCAL PASTORS SCHOOL MAY 14-18, 2018

DR. KEN A. RAMSEY, INSTRUCTOR

DESCRIPTION: This course will focus on the integration of Biblical, theological, and practical aspects of ministry. How to reflect theologically and to be the resident theologian among the people you serve will be highlighted. Emphasis will be given to cultivating and implementing a faithful theology of ministry.

TEXTS: William H. Willimon, *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*
Kathleen A. Cahalan, *Introducing the Practice of Ministry*
Charles M. Wood & Ellen Blue, *Attentive to God: Thinking Theologically in Ministry*

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Read Willimon's book. In the chapter "Ordination, Why Pastors?" list the eight observations that he makes concerning ordained ministry, but in listing them substitute "Pastoral ministry" for "ordination". This will affirm the common ground that all pastors share regardless of title. Example: 1. Pastoral ministry is an act of Christ and His church. After listing them, offer a couple of paragraphs of reflection on: Which one of these observations resonates the most with your understanding of ministry?
2. Read Willimon and Cahalan. Willimon discusses the various roles of a pastor in Chapters 3-13 and Cahalan discusses the six practices of ministry in Chapters 3 and 4. Pick two of Willimon's roles and write a comprehensive paper of at least 6-8 pages describing and reflecting upon these roles as he presents them. Relate them also to Cahalan's six practices by comparing and contrasting the similarities and differences in their presentations. How are these roles integrated into your own theology of ministry? Be certain to include why you feel strongly about these roles/practices and how you believe these help us minister in the 21st century.
3. Write a 2 page paper on how you have learned to "practice ministry". Include insight from Chapters 5 and 6 of Cahalan's book.
4. Read Wood and Blue. Pick one of the case studies described and assess the case study using the following questions: What is going on in this situation? What are the theological issues involved?
How is God involved in this scenario? What's at stake for Christ? For the Church? For those involved? What would be a fitting Christian and pastoral response in this situation?

BE PREPARED TO ALSO DO A CASE STUDY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CLASS WITH A GROUP

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: The policy and procedures including writing expectations, assignment deadlines, and other general course information can be found on the ALPS website. A class outline and information regarding groups, discussion, and lecture format will be distributed at the first session.

