

UPPER MIDWEST EXTENSION COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL
Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa

COS 213: FORMATION FOR DISCIPLESHIP
March 9-10 and April 20-21

Instructor:

Rev. Valerie Reinhiller
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Course Description:

This course examines the ministry of the church as a means of nurturing faith, Christian values and ways of life among members of the congregation and community. Skills for evaluating, planning and designing educational experiences are stressed, as well as pastor's role as mentor and servant.

Objectives:

1. Emphasis on pastor's identity as servant and mentor, highlighting the need for pastors to be both teachers and learners.
2. Examination of faith development in the light of location, economics, gender, ethnicity, age, generation, and human relationships.
3. Survey of the major methodologies for educating Christians, with special stress on developing small-group ministries and on teaching scripture, confirmation, and the basic doctrines of the Christian faith.
4. Reflection upon the work of the church as formative for Christian discipleship (personal piety and social justice) and development of an action plan for transforming the life of discipleship and the congregation and community.
5. Development of the ability to critically assess curricular materials for theological content and appropriateness to ministry setting.

Books:

Required:

- 1) Karen B. Tye – Basis of Christian Education (Chalice Press, 2000; ISBN 0827202296)

Supplementary:

- 1) Donald L. Griggs - Christian Education in the Small Church (Judson Press, 1988; ISBN 081701103X)
- 2) Norma Cook Everist - The Church as Learning Community: A Comprehensive Guide to Christian Education (Abingdon Press, 2002; ISBN 0687045002)
- 3) Anne Wimberly and Evelyn Parker – In Search of Wisdom: Faith Formation in the Black Church (Abingdon Press, 2002; ISBN 0687067006)

About Writing for this Class:

It is recommended that students use standard academic writing techniques for the materials submitted in this class. Please follow the Homework Instructions as indicated on The Upper Midwest Extension Course of Study School website: www.iaumc.org.

Grading

Class participation is important. In ministry, it is essential for leaders to be learners. We can learn from each other and each other's experiences.

Grading will be: Class participation = 50% and Written work = 50%.

Assignments:

1. Please read the required text and the supplementary books.
2. Please bring a two page autobiography centering around your Christian Education and Spiritual Journey. This paper will be shared with the group and handed in during the first weekend (March 9).
3. What does Christian Education mean to you? What does Christian Education mean to your church? How is it the same or different from yours? What are the four definitions of Christian Education? How do these definitions come to life in your church setting? Or how can they play out in a church setting? (1-2 pages)
4. From Basics of Christian Education by Tye: Write your own definition of Christian Education. What is emphasized in your definition? Why? (1 page)
5. In Tye: Question #2 on page 19 - Interview 2-3 church members (of different ages) and ask them "what does Christian Education mean to you?" (1 page)
6. How could you share the meaning of Christian Education and a purpose for Christian Education with your congregation? How could you get your congregation excited about Christian Education? (1 page)
7. Tye page 67: answer question 3 using one piece of curriculum being used in your church. (1-2 pages)
8. Tye page 88: answer question 3a. (1 page) and answer question 3c. (1 page)
9. Tye: page 104: answer questions: 2a. and 2b (not on newsprint, but a written one page paper).
10. Tye: page 116 answer question 1 (1 page).
11. Tye: page 116 answer question 4 (1 page).
12. Tye: page 130 - 131 answer questions: 1 and 5 (2-3 page paper).
13. One page paper reviewing: Donald L. Griggs - Christian Education in the Small Church.
14. One page paper reviewing: Norma Cook Everist - The Church as Learning Community: A Comprehensive Guide to Christian Education.
15. One page paper reviewing: Anne Wimberly and Evelyn Parker – In Search of Wisdom: Faith Formation in the Black Church.
16. Bring 2nd weekend (April 20): A list of 10 ways Jesus taught, include Scripture references.
17. Bring 2nd weekend (April 20): A one page paper stating what you most desire for your congregation in the area of Christian formation.

Assignment Due Dates:

Assignments #1, #3-9 are due February 9, 2012.

Assignment #2 is due at class time on March 9, 2012.

Assignments #10-17 are due at class time on April 20.

The assignments may be handed in via email or hard copy.

The assignments will come directly to me:

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Sioux Falls, SD 57103

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If you have any questions, please contact me by email or at 701-426-5456 (cell).