

Iowa Annual Conference Licensing School Pastoral Care & Spiritual Formation 2023

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All assignments are to be completed and written work posted in Google Classroom no later than **April 24, 2023**.

Required Texts:

- *God's Country: Faith, Hope, and the Future of the Rural Church*, by Brad Roth
- *Foolish Church: Messy, Raw, Real, and Making Room*, by Lee Schott
- *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*, by Richard Foster

Recommended Text:

- *Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No*, by Cloud and Townsend.

All written work must conform to the following style:

- 12 font, Times New Roman, Double-spaced, 1" margins.
- Top of the first page: Student's full name, Names of Instructors, Course Title, Assignment Title, Date of paper.
- **Every page** after shall have a header with student's name and page number on the top of each page.
- Use either Word or PDF formats for all documents. **All saved documents must have the students name in the save file name.** Submit the required documents in the Google Classroom. If you have any questions about the requirements, contact:

Lisa Steel

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Licensing School Assignments:

1. Write a 4-6 page reflection paper on your reactions to the assigned texts, including for each text what you find encouraging, what you find challenging, and questions that it raises for you. How does the author's approach to pastoral care or spiritual formation fit with your experience of care and formation in the church? This paper will be read by the instructors. You will share with the class only if you choose to share portions in class discussion.
2. Write a 1-2 page reflection paper about your own spiritual formation. Some questions you might consider are: What spiritual disciplines have supported your spiritual growth and

deepening? Have these changed over time? Where are you feeling called to go deeper as you continue your spiritual journey? What resources (e.g., information, teaching, mentoring) might support your ongoing spiritual growth?

3. Write a case study (1-2 pages) of a situation in which you provided spiritual or emotional care to another person, whether as a pastor or informally. This could be in a church or group setting, or a personal situation involving an individual or family. Describe the need for care and how you offered it. (Change or omit details that might identify the other individuals.) Your description should include the setting, the situation, what you said, how the person or group responded, and your emotions during this experience. Then reflect on what happened, such as: What seemed helpful, or not helpful, and how could you tell? What might you do differently next time? What questions do you have about offering care in a situation like this? This assignment may be shared during classroom discussions, and you may wish to have a copy with you during class sessions.

Evaluation:

You will be evaluated on:

1. participation in class
2. completion and quality of assignments
3. understanding of materials.

Pastoral Care In-Class Objectives:

1. Demonstrate active listening and an ability to reflect theologically with others in order to see new possibilities in each life situation.
2. Explore leading the faith community to include the authenticity, welcome, relationship, boundaries, and conflict work of *Foolish Church*.
3. Can seek out community resources and make referrals as needed.
4. Understand that persons are nurtured in their faith through pastoral care of persons in crises or ongoing situations, visitation, and nurturing healing relationships and empowerment through all avenues of ministry.
5. Can initiate a plan for pastoral visitation.
6. Show sensitivity to situations in need of crisis intervention into which a pastor might be called: i.e., child abuse, suicide threat, alcoholism, drug addiction, divorce, and relationship violence.
7. Demonstrate awareness of their own limitations and the limitations of any pastor in confronting these issues, along with an ability to make referrals.
8. Understand the nature of conflict and the pastor's responsibility in conflict situations.
9. Develop a thick skin while maintaining a tender heart.
10. Understand appropriate ethical and pastoral boundaries.
11. Learn and draw on a range of spiritual disciplines and recognize the importance of self-formation for wellness and growth in faith.
12. Develop a realistic, balanced, and healthy schedule for pastoral life in their setting, taking into consideration issues such as time, formation, and boundaries.