

Penney Memorial Church

Course in Pastoral Care

PMC Course Facilitator George Hull

Course Description

The 9-month PMC Course in Pastoral Care will meet once a week for approximately 39 weeks beginning Tuesday, September 8th, 2020 and completing Tuesday, June 8th, 2021.

A distinctive aspect of the PMC Course in Pastoral Care is the focus upon the integration of the behavioral and social sciences in developing an approach to pastoral care.

The course will adopt an action-reflection model of learning utilizing the case-study method of approach. A case may be presented in writing or verbally. The goal of this course is to promote peer consultation fostering the ability to reflect on one's actions so as to engage in a process of continuous learning.

Course Objectives

The overall course objectives are:

- 1.** To foster the deeper development of personal and pastoral identity as a caregiver.
- 2.** To acquire self-knowledge to a degree that permits pastoral care to be offered within the strengths and limitations of one's own person.
- 3.** To become aware of how one's attitudes, values, and assumptions (conscious and unconscious) affect one's work.
- 4.** To utilize the support, confrontation, and clarification of the small peer group for the integration of personal attributes and pastoral care functioning
- 5.** To develop the ability to make optimal use of one's own religious and spiritual heritage, philosophical and theological understanding, and knowledge of the behavioral sciences in pastoral care to people and groups.

Curriculum

The PMC Course in Pastoral Care is designed for small peer group participation and learning. The peer group will be composed of between 6 to 8 persons.

- **Case Study Seminar:**

Case studies are the principle learning tool of the PMC Course in Pastoral Care. The goals of the case study seminar are to promote self-reflection by the pastoral care provider and to use peer consultation and group facilitator for one's learning.

- **Process group:**

This peer group learning experience has a dual focus. First, it provides group members an opportunity to explore pastoral or personal issues that may arise during the course. Second, it allows the group to study the dynamics of its own life together in the here and now.

- **Individual Consultation:**

Peer group members may schedule a one on one conference with the course facilitator to review pastoral work, reflect on one's learning and to explore areas of pastoral challenge. Individual consultation may be arranged upon the group member's request.

Readings and Various Media

In keeping with the scope of the program, readings and other resources are selected not only from the pastoral care literature, but they also include a broad range of behavioral and social science topics. The course includes a selection of multimedia learning opportunities to help clarify subjects and to further enhance learning through the use of technology.

Didactic Seminars

The didactic seminar is a professional presentation relevant to the practice of pastoral care. Didactic seminars may be presented by the course facilitator, a member of PRC staff, a visiting professional or a member of the peer group assigned to that task.

Group members are introduced to the following elements of pastoral assessment:

- **Narrative:** This approach locates pastoral care at the interface of care and the human story.
- **Family Systems:** We assess the impact of pastoral dilemma upon the family. Who are the players in this family drama? How is this family making sense of this particular crisis or situation?
- **Stages of Faith development:** Examining the stages of faith development across the life span of the individual, exploring how the person utilizes their religious beliefs.
- **Reframing:** In what manner is this person beginning to come to terms with the challenges they have just experienced towards reengaging their life? In other words, how is this person re-envisioning life's possibilities.

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Course Outline

