## Michael Stancil | Carolyn Wright

3 credits

Course Description: Offered every Fall, this course places students in a field education setting aligned with their professional ministerial interest, for five hours a week, in partnership with a qualified field education supervisor. The SPM student and supervisor jointly structure and evaluate the student's ministry experience and meet bi-weekly (six-seven times/semester) for theological reflection. In addition, the student participates in a weekly seminar with a member of the field education faculty and other SPM I students. In the seminar, students reflect upon and develop their pastoral leadership abilities through case presentations and discussion on selected readings. An emphasis is placed on basic knowledge and skills needed to successfully enter professional ministry including a growing awareness of one's ministerial identity, skills on how to exegete a community, an understanding of communal dynamics and development, conflict management, and relevant helping skills.

Prerequisites include: CDS-D500, Proseminar; PST-D500 Foundations of Pastoral & Ethical Care; SPM Orientation Session (offered in Spring); submission of the SPM prerequisite paperwork by May 3, 2012 with subsequent negative findings for the required criminal background screening; and for lay students, FRM-D501, Lay Formation I and FRM-D502, Lay Formation II.

**Course Objectives:** Supervised Practice of Ministry I aides the student in developing his/her pastoral leadership through offering opportunities:

- to assess one's own strengths and weaknesses as a pastoral leader
- to set goals for one's growth in pastoral leadership
- to work in a ministerial learning environment that will help him/her meet the determined goals
- to theologically reflect on one's experience in ministry with a local supervisor, peers, and field education personnel
- to preach, in the broadest sense of the word
- to receive feedback from others about one's pastoral leadership and, where applicable, one's readiness for professional ministry

Course Format: practicum, case study using theological reflection model, lecture and discussion

## **Course Requirements:**

- negotiation of a ministry site and supervisor before the semester begins
- consistent and active participation in ministry approximately five hrs. per week w/ bi-weekly supervisory appointments
- timely negotiation of the learning contract and evaluation with supervisor
- faithful and active participation in weekly seminars, reflecting an understanding of assigned reading
- satisfactory completion and presentation of a theological case study

## Required Reading:

Briggs, Lauren Littauer. The Art of Helping. Colorado Springs: RiverOak Publishing, 2003.

Dykstra, Robert C. Images of Pastoral Care: Classic Readings. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2005.

Sofield, Loughlan, Rosine Hammett and Carroll Juliano. Building Community. Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 1998.

Stone, Douglas, Bruce Patton, and Sheila Heen. Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most. New York: Penguin Books, 1999.

Tisdale, Leonora Tubbs. Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.

Note: Additional required readings will be available through SLU Electronic Reserves.

Note: Familiarity with the following texts is expected:

Gula, Richard M. Ethics in Pastoral Ministry. Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1996.

Killen, Patricia and John de Beer. The Art of Theological Reflection. New York: Crossroads, 1994.

Whitehead, James and Evelyn Eaton Whitehead. *Method in Ministry: Theological Reflection and Christian Ministry.* Kansas City: Sheed & Ward, 1995.

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