

Ministering By Word and Example: Exploring Diakonia In the Anglican Tradition (2013-2014)

Co-Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Maylanne Maybee & the Rev. Dr. M. Louise Cornell

COURSE SYLLABUS

Description

- Uses a seminar format to prepare students for diaconal ministry in the Anglican tradition,
- Focuses on the deacon's calling to servanthood ministry in life, work, world, and church.
- Enables students to develop capacity for Biblical and theological reflection, social ministry, and liturgical practice.
- Asks students to develop competencies through a process of action/reflection.

Course Delivery

- 6 Saturdays (3rd Saturday of each month)
- September-November 2013 and January-March 2014, total of 36 contact hours.
- Day-long sessions (9-12 a.m., 1-4 p.m.) will combine experiential learning and theoretical development that includes action/reflection, guest speakers, film, and student-led presentations.

Course Prerequisites

- Completion of CCS's Leadership Development Module is preferred.
- Participation in Education for Ministry, or other forms of theological and biblical preparation, is an asset.
- Post secondary level of reading and writing is an expectation.

Course Foci

Specific topics for exploration and consideration:

- Concept of society and culture in context of Christian ministry.
- A deacon's calling and ordering; the deacon's iconic role and ministry.
- Significance of social analysis for diaconal ministry, drawing from a theology of liberation and justice.
- Themes in Scripture of reign of God, covenant and gospel for the poor, and servanthood ministry.
- Theology of the social gospel and its interaction with the development of the diaconate.
- Skills in social analysis, awareness of social location, social analysis.
- Global perspectives of social ministry: politics and economics, societal concerns, social strife and peacemaking, etc.
- Relationship of worship and ministry: The deacon's interpretive role in liturgical and congregational life.

Desired Course Outcomes

It is expected that students will be able to:

- Develop an understanding of culture and society and possible Christian responses through ministry.
- Identify and use models of theological and biblical reflection based on diaconal themes for "interpreting the needs, concerns and hopes of the world to the church".
- Gain knowledge of suitable resources for social ministry and for liturgical and congregational leadership.
- Reflect on what it means to serve as a deacon in the context of the Church's practice of ministry both in the church and in the world.

Course Assessment

Students will be assessed for:

- Attendance and participation in all sessions
- Satisfactory completion of written and oral assignments
- Participation and leadership in student-led presentations

Course Assignments

- Reflection paper on "The Reach of God's Call," with regard to the potential calling to diaconal ministry in the world and in the church, with reference to "The Ordination of a Deacon," in the Book of Alternative Services (1985).
- Film Reviews/ Critiques
- Annotated bibliography of six books: two on the diaconate, two on a field of diaconal ministry, and two on the call to diaconal ministry
- Active involvement and participation in learning
- Class presentation and reflection paper on "Diaconal Convictions," with regard to the understanding of diaconal ministry that an individual brings to his/her journey towards the diaconate, with reference to H. Richard Niebuhr's *Christ and Culture* (1950, 2000)

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Course Text Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. (50th anniversary edition.) San Francisco: Harper, 2001 (1951).

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- Thompson, Judith with Stephen Pattison and Ross Thompson. *SCM Studyguide: Theological Reflection*. Norwich, UK: SCM Press, 2008.

COURSE OUTLINE

- Six hours per class for six Saturdays Sept.-Nov., 2013, and Jan.-Mar., 2014, scheduled for the 3rd Saturday of each month
- Co-leaders of the course will be Maylanne Maybee and Louise Cornell
- There will be assigned readings, film viewings, and guest speakers on various topics. Part of each class will be given over to class discussion of material presented and related readings.
- CCS is responsible for the overall organization of the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One Sept. 21, 2013 – An Introduction to Diakonia

- *competencies and tools for diaconal ministry* · *Christ as diakonos or doulos*
- *reflection, integration, praxis*

Speaker Louise Cornell & Maylanne Maybee
Activity · Creating a Learning Spiral

Week Two Oct. 19, 2013 – Interpreting the World to the Church: Social Theology in the 20th Century

- *Liberation Theology – Ernesto Cardenal* · *Political Theology – Dorothy Soelle*
- *Feminist Theology – Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza*

Guest **The Rev. Dr. Jane Barter-Moulaison**
Activity · Film: Romero · Class Discussion: Personal and Social liberation
 · ABP Romero's ministry · 1st reflection paper due: The "Reach" of God's Call

Week Three Nov. 16, 2013 – Making Christ Known

- *Global patterns* · *Social analysis*
- *The calling to diakonia ministry*

Guest **Dr. Daryl Climenhaga**
Activity · Creating a "learning centre": set up stations with visuals, collects, etc.
 · Discussion: where and how are these reflected in scripture?
 · Film review due · Annotated bibliography due

Week Four Jan. 18, 2014 – Looking for Christ in All Others

- *Case studies* · *Meeting needs, capacity building, advocacy and justice*
- *Ministry to and in our society*

Guest Adrian Jacobs; Keeper of the Circle, Jessie Saulteaux Centre

- Activity**
- Video: “The Gladys Cook Story” · Class discussion
 - Develop scenarios (food bank user at St. Matthew’s Maryland, refugees, isolated seniors, Aboriginal reserves)
 - Research project outline due

Tools for Analysis

- Ah-ha! seminar · Mind mapping connections
- Venn diagrams

Week Five Feb. 15, 2014 – Ministering through Service

- *themes of kingdom, covenant, gospel Serving all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely*

Guest TBA

- Activity**
- Class presentations: “The Deacon as Icon of Christ the Servant”
 - Video review due

Week Six Mar. 15, 2014 – Assisting in Public Worship

- *table, gospel, intercessions, dismissal* · *sacramental living*

Guests Diaconate Working Group, Diocese of Rupert’s Land

- Activity**
- 2nd Reflection Paper due: “Called to be a Deacon: Diaconal Convictions”