

## Associated Canadian Theological Schools

### ***DMN 914 Spiritual Leadership in the New Testament (3 units)***

Online Component: September 29 – October 24

Seminar October 27-31, 2008 (8:30 – 12, 1-3:30, daily)

Post-Seminar assignments: November 3 – December 5, 2008

Dr. Larry Perkins, assisted by Dr. Lyle Schrag

*Course Faculty Resources:* the faculty mentors for this course combine two varied but complementary disciplines – New Testament Studies and Pastoral Leadership. Dr. Schrag has thirty years of pastoral experience in Canada and the United States. Most recently he served as senior pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Richmond, B.C. He now is the director of the Fellowship Centre for Leadership Development, a ministry of Northwest Baptist Seminary in collaboration with the Fellowship Baptist Ministry Centre of B.C. and the Yukon. Dr. Perkins has taught in ACTS (Professor of Biblical Studies) since its inauguration in 1988, focusing in the interpretation of the New Testament, particularly Mark's Gospel, Galatians, and First Peter, and also New Testament Theology. As well he has ongoing research interests and publishing in various aspects of Septuagint Studies, especially Exodus and Deuteronomy. He has served as ACTS Dean from 1995 – 2004 and as President of Northwest Baptist Seminary since 2001. Throughout this time he has worked in local churches as associate pastor or elder.

*Course Description:* in this course we explore how Jesus' concept of the Kingdom transforms our understanding of leadership and the nature of the people of God. The eschatological reality of the Kingdom, i.e. life in the realm of God's Spirit, requires a new conception of leadership – Kingdom Leadership exercised as part of the Messianic assembly. We want to discover how to lead in ministry with Kingdom intelligence.

The New Covenant reality of people of God redefines the roles of ministry leaders within the faith community. In particular we will consider how ministry leaders work interdependently with the community to promote personal and corporate spiritual formation, in order to nurture the emerging Kingdom community in all of its robust essence. We will explore carefully key elements of Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom and key words in their New Testament context that define the community and the nature of ministry leadership within and without, as the primary means to gain clearer understanding of the nature of Kingdom Leadership.

We will also consider how three common aspects of the community's life – baptism (initiation), communion (integration) and governance (equipping) – serve as contexts in which to express Kingdom Leadership and through these means regularly and intentionally address personal and spiritual formation within the community. Again key texts in the New Testament will form the basis for our reflections. We will seek to integrate the cognitive, behavioural and spiritual dimensions of these principles.

The theme of integration is a critical element in our learning together, as we bring our intensive study of specific biblical texts into relationship with particular aspects of personal faith formation and community ministry leadership, seeking to discern how we might incarnate these principles more effectively in our spiritual direction and other ministry roles.

*Course Method:* During the DMN program candidates are thinking and reflecting upon *developing integrated leadership perspectives*. Along with this course you have opportunity to explore the role of the ministry leader in the postmodern context, with particular reference to team leadership and discipleship. In this course we want to understand the nature of the Christian community and the way spiritual formation is fostered through our ministry leadership roles and responsibilities. As faculty we recognize that students will approach the various issues in the course from within diverse

Christian traditions. We will do our best to respect and understand these diversities. However, we will work primarily from within a Believers' Church theological perspective, while seeking to understand and respect other views. Grading will occur on the basis of a person's ability to argue their case using appropriate data. If you are making assumptions, then clarify those at the beginning of your assignment.

Course Outcomes: as a result of this course candidates will:

- Be able to articulate the key elements in Jesus' teaching that define his vision of Kingdom Leadership and Community and their implications for ministry leadership in the contemporary church
- Demonstrate ability to apply methods of biblical interpretation to specific New Testament texts in order to discern solutions to ministry challenges that relate to the development of healthy faith communities through the provision of spiritual direction
- Enhance their ability to help the community participate in the ordinances and church governance in ways that enable these holy moments and others to nurture the community's faith
- Reflect upon the biblical theology of the ordinances and ways a participant's ministry leadership might use this understanding to enhance spiritual formation within the congregation both individually and collectively
- Discern the spiritual factors that must be engaged in developing biblically-appropriate, faith-affirming, effective patterns of church governance
- Reflect upon the various ways in which their personal ministry leadership can be enhanced by paying attention to the incorporation of these elements in the faith community's life.

Our focus in this course is upon themes that inform our understanding of the way spiritual direction occurs in the Kingdom community (ἐκκλησία = assembly). In particular we want to discern how Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom encourages and teaches ministry leaders how to relate to the church (or parachurch organization), organize themselves within it, and contribute to its spiritual vitality. Specifically we desire to understand how two ordinances, baptism (initiation) and communion (integration), can contribute more intentionally to the spiritual life and nurture of the church – corporately and individually. In addition, we seek to explore how principles of church governance emerge out of spiritual realities and must be considered necessarily as connected to spiritual formation.

Course Learning Process:

*Framing the Core Theme*

- Four weeks of pre-seminar on-line interaction
- Pre-course reading assignments with posted responses
- Pre-course written assignment
- Seminar sessions
- Post-seminar assignments – research and integration

*The challenge of Integration*

A primary goal in this learning experience is to challenge you to consider afresh key texts in the New Testament related to the Kingdom, baptism, communion and church governance and reflect upon their linkage with your ministry leadership, particularly as this leadership develops personal and corporate spiritual formation. Your own ministry experience will provide a rich resource for this process, along with selected readings, exegetical study, and peer and faculty interaction. Through this sequence we hope to bring forward new questions, ideas, and

understandings that will inform your ministry perspective and personal spirituality. This will occur during the pre- and post-course engagements, as well as during the seminar and retreat.

In the online learning component of the course we will consider exegetically, selected materials in the New Testament and consider the application of these principles to our understanding of ministry leadership in the formation of Kingdom community. As we meet together in October, we will build on this base of learning and reflection and move to consider its application to the exercise of Kingdom Leadership for spiritual formation through baptism, communion and governance. The concluding assignments will encourage you to integrate some of these principles practically into your current ministry setting.

We expect that students will come with a clear understanding of their respective faith tradition with reference to spiritual practices such as baptism, communion, and governance and be able to appreciate the way others may understand such spiritual exercises.

### Respecting Confidentiality

As you contribute various assignments you will be required to incorporate your personal reflections on various matters. As you do so, please remember to respect the privacy of individuals who may have contributed to the events or matters about which you comment. In addition, as you may read the reflection papers contributed by others in the course or participate in discussion during the seminar, please remember to respect the confidentiality of other individuals. This commitment is essential to encourage and support the peer learning process that we seek to model.

Course Readings: [There is much literature in each category. Read at least the asterisked materials from each category for your assigned reading.]

### 1. Kingdom Teaching of Jesus

- \*Clapp, Rodney. *A Peculiar People. The Church as Culture in a Post-Christian Society* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1996).
- \*Ladd, George Elton, *The Gospel of the Kingdom* (Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, repr. 2000 (ISBN 0-8028-1280-5)
- Snyder, Howard. *Models of the Kingdom* (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2001)
- Guder, Darrell, editor, *Missional Church. A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1998). Chapter 4. "Missional Vocation: Called and Sent to Represent the Reign of God" (pages 77-109)

### 2. Aspects of Kingdom Leadership

- Bartlett, David. *Ministry in the New Testament* (Eugene, Oregon; Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2001. Reprint from Augsburg/Fortress, 1993).
- Dawn, Marva and Eugene Peterson. *The Unnecessary Pastor. Rediscovering the Call* (Grand Rapids; Eerdmans, 2000).
- Ford, Leighton. *Transforming Leaders* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1991)
- Roxburgh, Alan and Fred Romanuk. *The Missional Leader* (San Francisco, Cal.: Jossey-Bass, 2006)
- Wilkes, C. Gene. *Jesus on Leadership. Discovering the Secrets of Servant Leadership from the Life of Christ* (Wheaton, Ill: Tyndale House Publishers Inc., 1998).

### 3. Baptism

- Barth, Karl. *The Teaching of the Church Regarding Baptism*, translated by Ernest Payne (London, SCM Press, 1956). (Coursepak).
- Brooks, Oscar. *The Drama of Decision. Baptism in the New Testament* (Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 1987)

Schrotenboer, Paul, ed. *An Evangelical Response to Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*. (Carlisle: Paternoster Press, 1992). (Coursepak)

#### 4. Communion

Bolsinger, Tod. *It Takes a Church to Raise a Christian* (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2004).

Kreider, Eleanor. *Communion Shapes Character* (Waterloo, Ontario: Herald Press, 1997).

Vander Zee, Leonard. *Christ, Baptism and the Lord's Supper: Recovering the Sacraments for Evangelical Worship*, (Downer's Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2004).

Webber, Robert. *Journey to Jesus*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 2001)

#### 5. Governance

Olsen, Charles. *Transforming Church Boards into Communities of Spiritual Leaders* (New York; Alban Institute, 1995).

#### Additional Resources

Bennett, David. *Metaphors of Ministry: Biblical Images for Leaders and Followers*, (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1993).

Walton, Steve. *Leadership and Lifestyle*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

Willard, Dallas. *The Divine Conspiracy. Rediscovering our Hidden Life in God* (San Francisco, Cal: HarperCollins Publ., 1998).

Wright, N.T. *Jesus and the Victory of God* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996). I would recommend if possible that you read chapter 6 "Stories of the Kingdom (1): Announcement" (198-243) and chapter 10, "The Questions of the Kingdom" (443-474)

#### Course Schedule Overview:

Statements about the length of assignments are general suggestions, made with a view to the overall load of the course and a sufficient scope to make a reasonably succinct, but competent response. If you consider it important and helpful to exceed the length, that is permissible and no deduction in the grade will be made, unless the excessive length is due to lack of organization of material, incorporation of material not truly relevant to the issue, or verbal rambling. Please seek to be succinct and focused. Should you find your submission substantially shorter, then probably more work is needed.

#### 1. Pre-Seminar Online Requirements:

##### a. September 29 – October 10

Read George Ladd, *The Gospel of the Kingdom* and Rodney Clapp, *A Peculiar People. The Church as Culture in a Post-Christian Society*.

Prepare a three page (single-spaced) essay in which you present a definition of the Kingdom of God in Jesus' teaching and define how your local church is related to the Kingdom of God.

Post this by Wednesday, 12 noon, October 8/08.

Read and respond to one essay posted by another student. This response should be posted by Friday, 5pm, October 10/08. The response should be 4-5 paragraphs in length.

##### b. October 14 – 24

Read either Marva Dawn and Eugene Peterson, *The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call* or Leighton Ford, *Transforming Leaders* or C.Gene Wilkes, *Jesus on Leadership*.

Based on this reading and your reading for the previous assignment, prepare a 3 page (single spaced) reflection paper that captures how you

think Jesus defines the nature of Kingdom Leadership and indicate two specific implications this model of leadership has for your current role in ministry leadership.

Post this by Wednesday, 12 noon, October 22/08.

Read and respond to one reflection paper posted by another student. This response should be posted by Friday, 5pm, October 24/08. The response should be 4-5 paragraphs in length.

2. Seminar (October 27-31,2008)

Monday (8:30 – 12) Jesus' Kingdom Theology and its implication for Ministry Leadership – the paradigms of Kingdom Leadership.

Incarnating spirituality in community structure --

Recognizing *qib a@qini* – the holy ones – the eschatological community of Christ

*What language and metaphors define the people of God in the New Testament and how do these expressions inform our understanding of the people of God as the context within which our Christian identity and formation emerges?*

*What language and metaphors define the nature of Kingdom/ ministry leadership in the New Testament and how do these expressions inform our understanding of spiritual care and nurture within the people of God?*

***Credentials apostolic: here's my boast,***

***Certificate of God's elusive call.***

***I might have pointed out that I am Paul,***

***A Benjamite of purest lines, the toast***

***Of high rabbinic educators, most***

***Experienced church planter; but the pall***

***Of guilt, the grace of God, Golgotha – all***

***Combine to prompt this apostolic boast:***

***Like wretched slaves I've worked – and borne the lash***

***Severely beaten, stoned and shipwrecked thrice,***

***In constant danger, treated like old trash***

***By my own flocks – these prove I serve the Christ.***

***For I delight to suffer weakness, wrong***

***Grace answers need; and when I'm weak, I'm strong.***

(Don Carson, *Holy Sonnets of the Twentieth Century*)

- i. Introductions
- ii. Review the Syllabus
- iii. Jesus' Theology of the Kingdom (OT precursors)
- iv. Jesus' Theology of the Kingdom (Mark's Gospel) (interaction with N.T. Wright's Perspective)

Monday (1 – 3:30)

- i. Jesus' Theology of the Kingdom (Parables)
- ii. Jesus' Theology of the Kingdom (Matthew discourses)

Tuesday (8:30 – 12)

- i. Jesus' Theology of the Kingdom and the Church – local and otherwise
- ii. Jesus' Theology of the Kingdom – defining Kingdom leadership

Tuesday (1-3:30)

- i. Jesus' Theology of the Kingdom – relationship to Paul's perspective on church leadership
- ii. Jesus' Theology of the Kingdom – missional and emerging church leadership paradigms -- evaluation

Wednesday (8:30 – 12) (Spirituality of Leadership and Governance)

*Given this vision of the people of God and the nature of spiritual formation and leadership within the people of God how does the practice of baptism, as initiatory rite, enable us to incarnate and contextualize this vision of community and leadership?*

***To grasp how wide and long and high and deep  
This love of Christ, experience it when  
Mere knowledge bursts its categories, then  
Escape the fragile flame of language, reap  
The richest crop salvation brings, and heap  
Up memories of a sea of love, again  
Yet again cascading o'er us---men  
Can know no other bliss so rich and deep.  
Lord God, in love you have established us,  
And rooted us in soil no less fine:  
Not single plants exposed to every gust  
Of wind, but all the saints drink love sublime.  
Make me to know---a creature hewn from sod---  
The measure of all fullness found in God.***

(Don Carson, *Holy Sonnets of the Twentieth Century*)

- i. Unpacking the Metaphors of ἐκκλησία  
Body of Christ, Family of God, Flock of God  
Calling/vocation for lay people in ministry
- ii. Ministry, Gifting and Role – the Principle of serving others (διακονεῖν)  
Ephesians 3-4
- iii. The Principle of honouring others (ὑποτάσσειν)  
1 Peter 2:11-17; 5:1-7

Wednesday (1 – 3:30)

- i. The Principle of caring for others (προϊσταῖν)  
1 Thess. 5:12-15; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 5:17
- ii. The Principle of equipping (οὐκ καταρτισμὸν)  
Ephesians 4:12
- iii. Group Process – How do these metaphors and terms inform our understanding of community guidance as a function of spiritual formation? How can we help our faith communities understand governance as a spiritual discipline and part of spiritual formation? Unity, Fellowship, Priesthood One model for attempting to achieve some of this will be presented for discussion and input.

Thursday (8:30 – 12)

Baptism: Drama, grace, and spirituality – ritual, symbol and faith formation as foundation for community formation and spiritual guidance.

- i. Baptism – inaugural spirituality  
Jesus and John – the Jewish connection  
Kingdom sign
- ii. Baptism – inaugural spirituality  
Paul – Christ identity (Romans and Colossians)  
Family connections  
John – Chapter 6
- iii. Baptism – inaugural spirituality  
Peter – baptismal ethics

Thursday (1 – 3:30)

- i. Baptism – community formation  
Nature of the faith community  
How much freedom do we have to adapt?
- ii. Group Discussion: given the significance of baptism for personal and community formation, how can this ritual help us as ministry leaders contextualize the vision of the people of God more effectively in our context? Does the concept of baptism as ‘drama’ help in any way to achieve this outcome?
- iii. Baptism – individual formation  
Lordship, identity and ethics

Friday (8:30 – 12)

*Given the cluster of metaphors and symbols occurring in the context of the Lord’s Supper, how do they inform our understanding of the people of God and how do they define the nature of ministry leadership within this community?*

*How can ministry leaders nurture spiritual formation through the practice of the Lord’s supper?*

***I am the resurrection life. It's not  
As though I merely bear life-giving drink,  
A magic elixir which (men might think)  
Is cheap because though lavish it's not bought.  
The price of life was fully paid: I fought  
With death and bleak despair; for I'm the drink  
Of life. The resurrection morn's the link  
Between my death and endless life long sought.  
I am the firstborn from the dead: and by  
My triumph, I deal death to lusts and hates.  
My life I now extend to men, and ply  
Them with the draught that ever satiates.  
Religion's page with empty boasts is rife:  
I am the resurrection and the life.***

(Don Carson, *Holy Sonnets of the Twentieth Century*)

- i. Rehearsing Jesus' Last Supper  
Mark, Matthew, Luke – the Passover context  
The Last Supper – Defining the Faith Community  
Paul – 1 Corinthians 10-11  
John 6
- ii. Centering the Last Supper in Worship (L. Schrag)  
How much freedom do we have to adapt?

- iii. How do other holy moments such as marriage, death, ordination, suffering, provide opportunity for personal and corporate spiritual formation and expressing the culture of the Messianic covenant community?

Friday (1 – 3:30)

- i. Coherence – Serving, honouring, caring and equipping through the Last Supper Celebration.  
*Since my life and vocation as a spiritual leader find their source and definition within the people of God and much of the role finds expression within it or grows out of it to impact the larger world, how do rhythms of baptism, communion, governance and other holy moments give me opportunity to practice and embody biblical patterns of spiritual care for God's people?*
- ii. What kind of Kingdom leaders and holy community shall we be? – the challenge of spiritual direction and the expression of Christian morality. Baptism, Last Supper and Governance – means of spiritual formation – being the Body of Christ and the people of God.

### 3. Post Seminar Assignment (November 3 – December 5, 2008)

#### **Ministry Project (In the range of twenty pages)**

Using insights you have developed through your exegetical studies, your readings, interactions within the seminar, and your personal ministry experience, develop a plan (using baptism, the Lord's Supper, **or** church governance) that shows how you, as a primary spiritual care-giver and Kingdom leader, intend to nurture more effectively spiritual formation/community identity within your faith community through this ordinance or function. Enabling people in the congregation to discern and embrace their place in the reality of the Kingdom should be part of this discussion. Your project should include within it several pages in which you define the theological principles that are foundational for the spiritual integration plan you are developing. The project should demonstrate that you are conversant with the ideas presented in the required readings, but should also demonstrate wider reading.

Once your plan is developed, locate two senior leaders within your congregation and invite them to reflect upon it with you. The results of their insights should be reflected in the final section of this project.

If you are in leadership within a parachurch context, then select the issue of governance and apply this assignment to your ministry setting.

Your project should include a table of contents and bibliography. Footnotes are preferred because it is easier for the professor to track your paper's development online. The paper should be in the range of 20 pages (double-spaced, single-sided, font 11-12 point).

You may submit it online to Dr. Perkins, but it must be posted no later than midnight, December 5, 2008.

#### Course Grading:

Pre-Seminar assignments:

- 20% First reflection paper
- 20% Second reflection paper

In-Seminar interactions

15%

Post-Seminar assignment

- 45% Twenty page Ministry Project

Grading Scale

97-100 A+

93-96	A
90-92	A-
85-89	B+
80-84	B
75-79	B-
70-74	C+
65-69	C
60-64	C-
Below 60	F

Writing Standard:

All hard copy writing must be type-written, double-spaced, using 11-12 point font, stapled and including a title page (with your name, email address, phone number, course name and number, and title of the assignment). Please follow Turabian in formatting footnotes and bibliography.

When submitting online materials, assignments should be double-spaced, using 11-12 point font and include title page.

Use inclusive language.

You are expected to be familiar with ACTS policy regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty (see the appropriate section in the ACTS student handbook available online). Plagiarism will be treated as a serious offence and may result in failure in the course.

If you use internet sources in the preparation of your assignments, these must be noted in your bibliography. Please make sure that such internet sources represent sound research and data.

***Given the schedule and cohort nature of this course, all assignment due dates must be honoured; failure to do so normally will result in grade reduction for that assignment.***