

# **Ministry Practicum Curriculum Course Syllabus**

## **3MMM, Inc. Seminary Sponsored**

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### **Course Description**

This course will assist students pursuing a call or seeking to fulfill their calling in preparation for Christian Church/ Ministry leadership. Completion of these scheduled courses will provide accredited credentials for part-time or career ministry positions.

These courses will help the student who is seeking to grow in his/ her effectiveness as a Christian leader by means of rigorous and practical training for administering and coordinating group ministry/ mission activities.

### **Rationale**

The posted curriculum for MINISTRY PRACTICUM will help students discover, design, and deploy fundamental theological skills for meaningful church/ ministry development, growth, and evaluation without having to complete college or university matriculation requirements.

## **I. Ministry Foundations**

This course is designed to help students desiring a great foundation for Christian ministry leadership know-how and skills.

### **Rationale**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a basic model rooted in biblical and historical data that will guide them as Christian leaders in facilitating the establishment and growth of a Christian congregation within a community.

### **Course Assignments:**

1. Author an essay on the Biblical Foundations for leadership (3-5 pages).
2. Draft a research paper on Christian Church/ Ministry leadership (3-5 pages).
3. Write an opinion paper, with citations, concerning A strategy for personal growth as a Christian Church/ Ministry leader (5-7 pages).
4. Write your personal leadership motto and mission statements. Describe their meaning and objective, as well as how you developed them (3-5 pages).

5. Write an evaluation report on Dr. McCleary's Ministry Essentials Power Point Presentation. Include is you agree-disagree, why? Include your conclusions and recommendations learned (5-7 pages).

## **II. Pastoral Care**

This course focuses on the practice of pastoral care in a Christian Church/ Ministry setting. This course will highlight the student's need for administering biblical values and principles to and in a group context.

**Prerequisite:** The student for this course should have completed the Ministry Foundations course.

### **Course Assignments:**

1. Research and author a report on the theology of shepherding others on behalf of the Good Shepherd (3-5 pages).
2. Write on the biblical theology of marriage for couples and as a metaphor for Christian church ministry (5-7 pages).
3. What role does a theology of stewardship play in the life of a Christian believer and leader for Kingdom building? (5-7 pages).
4. Author a report on Communication theory for how self-awareness and listening skills affect interpersonal and intragroup effectiveness (5-7 pages).
5. Research and report on Church Conflict, the pros and cons of effective management or resolution tactics (5-7 pages).
6. What is your understanding for ministering to sick and physically impaired persons? Include citations. (5-7 pages).
7. What are the major ethical, moral, and legal issues a Christian leader should be aware of and adhere to when administering pastoral care in his or her local or region? (5-7 pages).

## **III. Church and Ministry**

This course helps the student explore key aspects of pastoring a congregation—pastoral family and ministry, Leading the Leaders, Helping People Through Grief, Training Ministry and Small Group stewards, and Sharing the Gospel. This course also offers guidance for administering the liturgies/ ordinances of baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

**Prerequisite:** The student for this course should have completed the Ministry Foundations, Pastoral Care, and Church and Ministry courses.

**Course Assignments:**

1. Research and draft a report on Discipleship as praxis for vision, mission, and objective for a local congregation (5 pages).
2. Author an ethnographical report on pastoring/ family/ ministry, 5-7 pages.
3. Read *Building Communities from the Inside Out*, (Kretzmann and McKnight). Write what you learned that is doable for congregational ministry and community stewardship, 5-7 pp.
4. Draft an essay on Christian Congregational training strategies, include citations, for church ministry and leadership concerning know-how and do-how for congregational growth, evangelism, and sharing the Gospel, 8-10 pages.
5. Write a PRAXIS paper on how to deal with baptism, weddings, and funerals in the local congregational setting, 6-8 pages.
6. Write an opinion paper on helping congregants through grief, 5-7 pages.

#### **IV. Anger and Relationship Reconciliation Ministry**

This course instructs students about the reality of social conflict, anger, and reconciliation. It helps students or whoever experiencing anger and or broken relationships to acknowledge, examine, and deal productively with conflict. Using Dr. Mark A. McCleary’s “Congregational Conflict Resolution Procedural Training Manual” discover, design, and deploy a practicum rooted in learning about the salient academic conflict resolution analysis theory and resolution know-how.

**Prerequisite:** The student for this course should have completed the Ministry Foundations, Pastoral Care, and Church and Ministry courses.

**Course Assignments:**

1. Author a report after reading Dr. McCleary’s book that focuses on Conflict theory (pp. 12-35) as it relates to a congregational setting, 8-10 pages.
2. Draft an essay on ANGER and its resolution that is bible-based, 5-7 pages.
3. Author an essay on basic strategies for dealing with anger that might be used when it is encountered within a congregational setting, 7-10 pages.

4. Draft a report after reading Dr. McCleary's book that focuses on Conflict Resolution pedagogy (pp. 37-52) as it relates to a congregational setting, 8-10 pages.
5. Write an opinion paper on acknowledging, and how to deal with anger and social conflict in a congregational setting, include citations and real examples, 5-7 pages.

## **V. Senior Adult Ministry**

This course provides PRAXIS training for serving senior congregants and community citizens. This course explores the aspects of aging, and their unique needs and opportunities for faith and service.

**Prerequisite:** The student for this course should have completed the Ministry Foundations, Pastoral Care, and Anger and Relationship Reconciliation Ministry courses.

### **Course Assignments:**

1. Author an essay on civil and congregational awareness of and service to our elderly population, 5-7 pages.
2. Draft an essay on the presence, and impact of the elderly in the bible. Include your conclusions and how this praxis for contemporary Church ministry, 5-7 pages.
3. Ethnographical report from interviewing 4-6 elders, balance between male and female, on their life experience from birth and especially since reaching the senior age range. Develop 5 questions for gleaning their responses that are pertinent for discovering their opinions then make sound conclusions and recommendations for your learnings, 10-15 pages.
4. Write an opinion paper on the challenges seniors face in society and church life and some rational ways to deal with them productively, 7-10 pages.

## **VI. Women's Ministry**

This course provides PRAXIS training for Women's ministry in congregation and a local community. This course explores the unique aspects of ministering to women and their unique needs and opportunities for faith and service.

**Prerequisite:** The student for this course should have completed the Ministry Foundations, Pastoral Care, and Anger, Relationship Reconciliation Ministry, and Senior Adult Ministry courses.

### **Course Assignments:**

1. Author an essay on women in the bible and their role in the bible's overall narrative, 8-10 pages.

2. Draft a report on the historical and contemporary presence and role of women in secular society, 7-10 pages.
3. Write an opinion paper on the historical discourse of ordination and the eligibility of
4. women, 8-10 pages.
5. Write an opinion paper on the role of women in church leadership and the relevance of Women's Ministry, 7-10 pages.
6. Draft an essay on the design of women's ministry for your congregational setting, 5-7 pages.

## **VII. Marriage Ministry**

This course surveys marriage from a biblical perspective and as a pre-marital counseling standpoint and including the marriage ceremony. The course will use Dr. Mark A. McCleary's "Assurance, Insurance, and Reassurance Pre-Marital and Marital Menu" as a practicum textbook.

**Prerequisite:** The student for this course should have completed the Ministry Foundations, Pastoral Care, Church and Ministry, Anger, Relationship Reconciliation Ministry, and Senior Adult Ministry, Women's Ministry courses.

### **Course Assignments:**

1. Develop and write a theology of marriage from the biblical text, 5-7 pages.
2. Author an essay on marriage from sources gleaned from the last fifty years that include pros and cons, secular, and civil practices, 7-10 pages.
3. Write review on Dr. McCleary's textbook. Include what you agree or disagree with, and its potential for sound pre-marital counseling ministry, 5-7 pages.
4. Draft an ethnographic report from 3-5 interviews concerning marriage, its benefits, and liabilities. Include your conclusions and recommendations. 8-10 pages.
5. Write an opinion paper on marriage ministry. Include your personal experience and community observations, 5-7 pages.
6. Author an essay on pre-marital and marriage ministry recommended by sound counselor/practitioner in the field, 5-7 pages.

## **VIII. Youth Ministry**

This course surveys fundamental youth ministry theory and skills. It will help the student identify and learn some best practices in youth ministry.

**Prerequisite:** The student for this course should have completed the Ministry Foundations, Pastoral Care, Church and Ministry, Anger, Relationship Reconciliation Ministry, and Senior Adult Ministry, Women's Ministry, and Marriage Ministry courses.

**Course Assignments:**

1. Write an opinion paper on Youth ministry and its significance within a congregational setting, 5-7 pages.
2. Draft an ethnographic report from interviewing 5- 7 youth about Christian, faith, ministry, and social involvement, 8-10 pages.
3. Research and author a report on the best practices for engaging youth in bibles study and discipleship ministry, 5-7 pages.
4. Write an opinion paper on recruiting and empowering youth for Christian service, 5-7 pages.
5. Author a report from surveying 7-10 youth of their ideas for involving youth in congregational ministry, 5-7 pages.

## **IX. Multiplying Disciples Ministry (Church Planting; Developing House Churches)**

The early Christians set up house churches. They also had an operating system that made them work well. [This](#) is a course designed for ministers who are passionate about spreading the movement. The benefit of studying this course material is that you will be able to lead others with the same material. **This course will assist you in:**

- Serving as a local volunteer, part-time, or career minister
- Leading a Small Group
- Planting a New House Church
- Developing a new local church launch team
- Reaching others in evangelism
- Becoming a Life Coach Minister

**Course Outcomes:**

1. Develop practices that help you as a minister to live and serve as a disciple.
2. Study the essential theological issues that allow you to disciple others.
3. Understand the need and opportunity for planting more churches.

4. Identify and overcome hindrances to church planting.
5. Know how to cultivate leaders, form small groups, build stewardship, publicize a church launch, and accomplish other practical aspects of church planting.
6. Develop personal qualifications and skills to be a house church leader.

**Prerequisite:** The student for this course should have completed the Ministry Foundations, Pastoral Care, Church and Ministry, Anger, Relationship Reconciliation Ministry, and Senior Adult Ministry, Women’s Ministry, Marriage Ministry, Youth Ministry courses,

### **Course Assignments:**

- Why is Making Disciples/ Evangelism ministry essential? (3-5 pp.).
- What are some of the best practices for Making Disciples/ Evangelism? (3-5 pp.).
- Write a review of Dr. McCleary’s *A Guide to Discover Spiritual Gifts?* How might be helpful or harmful to Discipleship ministry? (6-8 pp.).
- Write a review of Dr. McCleary’s Essentials for Ministry PP. How would its teaching be an asset or liability for Discipleship/ Evangelism ministry? (5-7 pp.).
- Write a theology for evangelism (Making Disciples) ministry and how it might be implemented in a contemporary setting, (5-7 pp.).

## **X. Disability Ministry**

This course’s objective is enabling the student “Disability Smart” which refers to interacting wisely and well with people of differing abilities. Although widely used, the word “disability” can be misleading if understood negatively. God endows people with differences of ability. So, the word “disability” is often less helpful than phrases such as “differences of ability” or “all abilities.” Although the course title includes “Disability,” its purpose is that of creating leaders and congregations belonging for people of ALL abilities.

As church leaders oversee worship, education, fellowship, and service opportunities for people, it is important to recognize that the congregation consists of people of all abilities. Children’s programs may include a child with Down syndrome or autism spectrum disorder. Adult programs may include individuals who are struggling readers, or a person diagnosed with dementia. When we worship as a community, there will be people gathered who represent a wide variety of abilities and disabilities. This course will equip you to make your congregation a community where each one can participate and belong.

### **Course Outcomes:**

1. Learn how to embrace the God-given gifts of each person God has arranged as part of your community and strategies that allow individuals to use their gifts.
2. Discover ways to introduce people to Jesus who take in information differently than you do.

3. Learn how to worship with people with dementia, address challenging behaviors, and discover important cultural dimensions of ministry with people of varied abilities.
4. Be confident that the setting you oversee can provide places of belonging for people of all abilities.

**Prerequisite:** The student for this course should have completed the Ministry Foundations, Pastoral Care, Church and Ministry, Anger, Relationship Reconciliation Ministry, and Senior Adult Ministry, Women’s Ministry, Marriage Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Making Disciples courses,

### **Course Assignments:**

- Explore and rooted in a Scriptural understanding of God’s design of individuals and communities, 3-5 pp,
- Author a descriptive report of several “disabilities and how a congregation might positively address such individuals in the implementation of its vision, mission, and objectives, 6-8 pp.
- Write an opinion paper on your role as leader and your congregational setting where the idea of Disability Ministry is being considered after being ignored or avoided, 5-7 pp.

## **XI. Sermon Construction, Preaching, and Biblical Presentation Ministry**

This course builds upon the basics of communication, explores various elements of preparing and preaching sermons, discusses various models of preaching, and presents a wide-ranging sample of preachers for learning and critical evaluation.

This class cultivates the art and method of preparing and preaching effective sermons and/or formal Christian presentations. Drawing first upon the Bible and communion with the Spirit, students will deepen their calling as preachers, develop their skills in crafting and delivering powerful messages, and grapple with some practical challenges in preaching.

### **Course Outcomes:**

1. Practice preaching as a Scripture-based, Christ-centered exercise for the sake of diverse audiences today.
2. Grasp and apply elements of preparation and crafting of sermon content.
3. Grasp and apply elements of nonverbal communication in preaching.
4. Sample a variety of preachers from the past and present for sake of emulating a best practices model.
5. Learn how to study the Bible in a way that will lead to sermons reflecting the truth that you learn.
6. Recognize that the called preacher must relate effectively to the congregation where he/she preaches. .



7. Develop an individual preaching style that fits one's own personality and abilities and is meaningful to diverse audiences.

**Prerequisite:** The student for this course should have completed the Ministry Foundations, Pastoral Care, Church and Ministry, Anger, Relationship Reconciliation Ministry, and Senior Adult Ministry, Women's Ministry, Marriage Ministry, Youth Ministry, Making Disciples and Disability Ministry courses,

**Course Assignments:**

1. Complete Dr. McCleary's Biblical Preaching Seminar (PP). Write a review of its benefits and wherein you might implement them for future preaching preparation, 3-5 pp,
2. Draft a descriptive report of your history, assets, and plan to grow your preaching skills, 3-5 pp.
3. Write about your personal Bible study and preaching preparation history. What have you learned that will help you improve? 4-6 pp.
4. How does listening and reading help in preaching skill development? (3-5 pp.).

## **XII. Worship/ Liturgical Ministry**

This course examines the cultivation and practice of worship ministry. You will gain a deeper understanding of various elements of public worship, develop the ability to lead worship teams and musical praise, equip personnel and others to be effective worship leaders; as well as discern the impact of worship style on seekers and longtime church members.

**Course Outcomes:**

1. Understand what worship is and what is involved in leading public worship.
2. Know how to enhance various elements of public worship.
3. Develop vision and practical ability for leading worship teams and musical praise.
4. Evaluate and make the most of worship space, sound system, and lighting.
5. Consider the impact of worship style on new people and long-time church members.

**Prerequisite:** The student for this course should have completed the Ministry Foundations, Pastoral Care, Church and Ministry, Anger, Relationship Reconciliation Ministry, and Senior Adult Ministry, Women's Ministry, Marriage Ministry, Youth Ministry, Making Disciples and Disability Ministry courses.

**Course Assignments:**

1. Complete Dr. McCleary's compilation *on A History of the Development of Christian Church Theological and Liturgical Praxis*. Author a report on its pros and cons, what you learned, assets and liabilities, and what you agree or disagree with, 8-10 pp.
2. Select 2-3 contemporary churches and describe their worship practice. Also include your opinion about your experience. 5-7 pp.
3. Write a theology on worship from the Old and New Testaments. How do either or both influence you/ the Church 5-7 pp.
4. Write an opinion paper on the relationship between public and personal worship? (3-5 pp.).