

m DM 720: CHURCH & COMMUNITY: An Exploration of the Dialectic and Tension between the “Faithful” Commitment to Mission and Ministries of Different Traditions and Democratic Citizenship in Rural, Inner City and Suburban communities

Dates: Monday June 21-Friday June 25

Times: 9 am (Cst)/10 am (Est) – 5pm Cst/6pm (Est)

Goals of The Course:

KNOWING: Examining the often-complex interactions, histories successes, struggles failures and tensions in the interaction between churches and the communities they are planted in.

A primary goal of the course is to provide students a framework to understand, interpret and navigate these complexities and create effective ministries of mutual respect and transformative change with the people of the communities the church is planted.

DOING: The students will:

1. Explore what students believe is necessary to be faithful to their churches’/denominations understanding of “faithful witness” as members, employees, owners of businesses etc. and that relationship to theirs and others democratic citizenship and the rights that accompany it in the USA.
2. Explore a number of case studies of church and community interaction, seeking to extrapolate key lessons from each case study.
3. Learn the elements of how to construct a “non-toxic” ministry project within the context of specific communities.

Each student will:

- (1) Develop and write a mini-epistle to a congregation’s membership and the community in which it is planted.
- (2) Learn how to construct a community power analysis.
- (3) Produce a potential “non-toxic” ministry project profile to be “defended” in a class presentation.

BEING:

The goal is for each student to:

- (1) Arrive at an understanding of the complexities of the church -community interaction.
- (2) Deepen their understanding and ability to develop “non-toxic ministries”

- (3) Arrive at an understanding the complex dialectic of democratic citizenship rights and faithful witness in our democracy, the meaning and application of the elements of politics (not electoral politics) to negotiate living together.

Course policies:

See administrative handbook

Required Text:

Books:

1. Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, Robert D Lipton (HarperOne,2011) ISBN 978-0-06-207621-2
2. Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America, Michael O. Emerson& Christian Smith (Oxford University Press,1999)

Articles/Reflections/ Documents (provided by Professor Taylor)

- 1.The Doctrine of Discovery
2. The Catechumenate as experienced in a large Mexican-American Parish by Rev. Albert J. Benavides
3. Others as needed.

Case Studies: to be provided by Professor Taylor

Assignments:

- (1) Pre-Class Paper: 1–2-page reflection on a significant church -community tension you have experienced or are concerned about and believe needs to be addressed.
- (2) During the week: write a 1-2 page mini-epistle to a congregation, community, clergy, denominational leaders on your understandings and biblical grounding for them to engage in “non-toxic” ministries.
- (3) End of class project: develop, present and defend to a jury of pastor organizers your “thought experiment” on a critical mass scale ministry project.

Grading Description:

Grades will be determined on the following basis and distribution:

10 %: pre-course reflection.

25 %: mini-epistle

40 %: in class participation, work on in class exercises, completion of reading assignments and attendance.

25 %: project presentation, defense and adjustments (if required).

Course Calendar

Pre- first class reading assignment:

1. The Doctrine of Discovery,1493 (The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History: pages 1-5.)

Monday June 21

9 am(central): introduction and rounds

9:30 am: session # 1 (evangelism, missions and ministries: a review and analysis)

10:15 am: break

10:30 am: session # 2 (The Congregation: a power analysis and clashes of cultures)

11:45 am: Lunch break

1:00 pm: Session # 3 (The congregation in: urban communities)

2:15 pm: break

2:30 pm: Session # 4 (the congregation in: rural communities)

3:45 pm: wrap up

4:00 pm: class ends

READING ASSIGNMENT for Tuesday's class

1. Toxic Charity: chapters 1-6

Tuesday June 22

9 am: Reflections

9:30 am: session #1 (the congregation in: social media “geographies”)

10:15 break

10:30 am: session #2 (an exploration of “Ministries”: comparative analysis of “toxic” ministries, “non-toxic” ministries and the concept and practice of “transformative ministries”).

11:45: lunch break

1 pm: session # 3 (exploration of ministries continued)

2:15 pm: break

2:30 pm: session # 4 (membership in a religious institution and democratic citizenship: tensions, accommodations and common ground.)

3:45 pm: wrap up

4:00: end of class

READING ASSIGNMENTS for Weds. Class (case studies to be discussed and analyzed in class)

1. The Catechumenate as experienced in a large urban Mexican -American parish.
2. Divided by Faith: chapters 2,4 and 6.
3. 1-2 other case studies will be presented and discussed in class.

Weds June 23

9am: reflections

9:30 am: session # 1 (case studies)

10:15 am: break

10:30 am: session #2 (case studies)

11:45 am: lunch break

1 pm: session # 3 (case studies)

2:15 pm: break

2:30 pm: session # 4 (the mini-epistles)

3:45 pm: wrap up

4:00 pm: end of class

READING ASSIGNMENT for Thursday’s class

1. Toxic Charity: chapters 7-10.

Thursday June

9am reflections

9:30 am: session # 1 (developing a non-toxic ministry)

10:15am: break

10:30am: session #2 (working session)

11:45am: lunch break

1pm: session # 3 (presentation of first drafts: critiques, affirmations and suggestions.)

2:15 pm: break

2:30 pm: Session # 4 (working session)

3:45 pm: wrap-up

4:00 pm: end of class

READING ASSIGNMENT for Friday's class

NONE

Friday June 25

9am: reflections

9:30 am: session #1 (presentations and defense)

10:15 am: break

10:30 am: session #2 (presentations and defense)

11:45am: lunch break

1 pm: session # 3 (presentations and defense (optional)

2:15 break

2:30 pm: session #4 (summary & reflections)

3:00 wrap-up

3:15 pm: end of class

