

SUNSET GRADUATE SCHOOL
Course Reference Number: MIN532
PRACTICAL MINISTRY IN THE CONGREGATIONAL CONTEXT

Instructor: Kerry W. Williams, M.A., M.S., PH.D (in-progress)

Meeting day/time/place: Short Course/Online

Cell: 313-515-1099 (call or text)

Email: kww71@hotmail.com; kww@waterfordcoc.org

Textbook and Materials (Required for Credit):

Anderson, Robert C. *The Effective Pastor: A Practical Guide to the Ministry*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1986). ISBN# 0802463614 Available in print or Kindle format.

Cedar, Paul, Kent Hughes, and Ben Patterson. *Mastering the Pastoral Role*. (Portland: Multnomah, 1991). ISBN# 088070439X Out of print. Available on Amazon.

Extensive assigned excerpts from magazines, books, and videos. Materials will be posted to the course Moodle page.

Course Description:

Practical Ministry in the Congregational Context addresses practical realities ministers face in their day-to-day service to local congregations. The course will cover a wide range of topics including: time management, relationship building, conflict resolution, staff and elder relations, and ministry responsibilities.

Course Requirements:

Note: All written submissions are to be in Microsoft Word, 12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced text.

Students have their choice of formatting the paper to MLA guidelines or preferably in the style of Kate L. Turabian in *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. A summary guide to this style may be found at

http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html.

All written submissions are due by email on Saturday night at 11:59 p.m. of the week the assignment is due.

- Short course attendees will be assigned a class-participation grade based upon their engagement in class discussion. Alternatively, online-only students will be required to complete 2 additional projects for their class participation grade: write a 10-page paper comparing at least four “self-help” videos of at least 10 minutes in length from YouTube and write a 5-page review of the class slides addressing the most helpful practical tips included in the slides. Both papers must address the topic, “The best tips for success in my ministry.”

- All students will participate in weekly discussion boards posted to the course Moodle page.
- Two book reviews on the two assigned texts are required for credit. Each paper may be no more than 750 words in length. Papers should summarize and critique the materials.
- Two reviews on assigned videos are required for credit. Each paper may be no more than 750 words in length. Papers should summarize and critique the materials.
- A final paper of 8-10 pages in length on one of the following topics selected by the student is to be written for the intelligent, uninformed reader and should include a minimum of ten sources. Choose one of the following:
 - “How to Show Respect Toward Sub-Standard Leaders”
 - “The Right Image: The Importance of Appropriate Dress as a Minister”
 - “The Importance of Time-Management in Ministry”
 - “Balancing Ministry and Family”
 - “The Ivory Tower of Ministry: Unique Challenges for Ministers”
 - “How to Be Professional and Authentic as a Servant of God”

Grading System:

Class Participation (short course) or “tips for success” and “slide review” papers (online)	30%
Discussion Boards	10%
Book Reviews	20%
Video Reviews	20%
Final paper	20%

Grading Scale:

90 and above	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
69 and below	F

COURSE OUTLINE:

Weeks 1-3	Begin Readings. Follow online instructions and post to discussion boards.
Week 4	Short Course. Paper titled, “The best tips for success in my ministry,” is due for online-only students.
Week 5	Report on <i>Mastering the Pastoral Role</i> is due.
Week 6	Study materials provided online and post to discussion boards.
Week 7	Report on <i>The Effective Pastor</i> is due.
Weeks 8-9	Study materials provided online and post to discussion boards.
Week 10	First video review is due.

- Week 11 Study materials provided online and post to discussion boards.
- Week 12 Second video review is due.
- Week 14 **Final Paper Due.**

Instructor:

Kerry W. Williams, M.S., M.A., Ph.D. in Progress, teaches for the Graduate School at SIBI. He joined the SIBI graduate faculty in 2014 and became the Dean in 2017. Kerry holds bachelor degrees from Bethany Divinity College (Pastoral Ministry- 2002), and Amridge University (Ministry and Bible- 2005). He earned the Master of Science degree from Lubbock Christian University (Bible and Ministry- 2006), Master of Arts from Arkansas State University (Heritage Studies- 2016), and completed extensive graduate coursework (24 hours) in philosophy and humanities with California State University at Dominguez Hills. He is currently finishing the Ph.D. program in Heritage Studies at Arkansas State University, where his dissertation topic will address the origin and function of Preaching Schools within the Churches of Christ. In addition, he is a 1994 graduate of Sunset School of Preaching. Kerry taught philosophy courses for Heritage Christian University and Northwest Shoals Community College. He is the author of three books, including Fishers of Teens (PowerSource, 2005), and I Want to Draw Closer to God, But I Don't Know Where to Begin (Sunset, 2014). Kerry's articles have appeared in most issues of Power for Today since 2005. He has preached for 25 years and is currently the pulpit minister for the Waterford Church of Christ in Waterford, Michigan.