Course Description:

This is a course designed as “Practical Theology on Steroids” with an emphasis on the difficult and hard side of pastoral ministry. Pastoral Ministry isn’t for “sissies” and this course will cover areas of ministry that are dangerous and destructive.

Course Objective:

The objective of this course (as implied in the title of the course) is to help pastors survive the “hard side” of pastoral ministry.

Course Outline:

This course will revolve around four different modules.

1. Pastoral Ministry and People
   It is easy to forget that ministry is about “them.” This module will deal with the kinds of people one finds in the church and the “proper care and feeding” of God’s sheep with special emphasis on ministry to “problem” people. Some of the topics covered in this module…. will be sex, defending one’s ministry and dealing with the “irritated” and “offended.”

2. Pastoral Ministry and Prayer
   There are so many supernatural elements in pastoral ministry which are often missed by Reformed pastors. This module will deal with some of the supernatural implications of pastoral ministry with particular emphasis on contemplative prayer and some of the writings of the contemplatives who have been a part of our heritage.

3. Pastoral Ministry and Preaching
   While this is not a communications course, there is a direct connection between preaching and pastoral ministry. This module will deal with those connections, e.g. preaching and counseling, prophetic preaching and pastoral love, pastoral preaching and prophetic necessities, etc.

4. Pastoral Ministry and Politics
   Most pastors are not aware of how very political pastoral ministry is. While this side of ministry is not where most pastors want to go, a knowledge of politics, how to identify power, how to win battles without losing one’s salvation, how power works and how to use power is vitally important to pastoral ministry. This module will be “down and dirty.”
Course Requirements:

Required Reading:

Jared Wilson
   *The Pastor’s Justification: Applying the Work of Christ in Your life and Ministry*

Paul Tripp
   *Dangerous Calling: Confronting the Unique Challenges of Pastoral Ministry*

Larry Crabb:
   *The Pressure’s Off: There’s a New Way to Live*
   *Becoming a True Spiritual Community: A Profound Vision of What the Church Can Be*

Paul Zahl:
   *Grace In Practice: A Theology of Everyday Life*

Steve Brown:
   *Three Free Sins: God is Not Mad At You*
   *What was I thinking? (Things I’ve learned since I Knew It All)*

Reggie Kidd
   *With One Voice*

Aside from the required reading each student will asked to:

1. Submit an integrative paper of 15-20 pages using the reading and the class lectures/discussion. This paper should be submitted by Friday, October 31, 2014.
   
   (Submit to: SBeams@cfl.rr.com)
   (My private email is: SBrown799@cfl.rr.com)

2. Design and participate in a study of 10 members of the pastor’s congregation who have left the church under less than positive circumstances with a focus on defining, understanding, and commenting on their reasons for leaving. This report should also be submitted by Friday, October 31, 2014.
Course Objectives Related to DMin* Student Learning Outcomes

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<th>DMin* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Biblical/Theological Foundations:</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Everything in this course will flow from Biblical theology with emphasis on such doctrines as sanctification, Biblical anthropology, Radical a pervasive depravity, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>While this course will deal primarily with the cultural shift in American culture and practical ways to deal with it as pastors, it will not be totally unconnected to the history of the church.</td>
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<td><strong>Historical/Contemporary Practices:</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Given that the course is about “practical” theology, implementation will be at the heart of the course material.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>This course will focus on the growth of pastors. One of the modules will deal particularly with sanctification…. and its process in the lives of pastors.</td>
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<td><strong>Integration:</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td>Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification:</strong></td>
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<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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