

Leadership & Discipleship, 05PT5275  
Reformed Theological Seminary, Houston Spring 2021  
Rev. Richard B. Harris

**Course Description**

Students are introduced to the idea of Christian leadership. Specifically, we will consider the Biblical picture of a leader in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will discuss such topics as his calling, his character, and his competence. Moreover, we will reflect on the dangers that leaders in ministry face. This course is applicable to all in positions of Christian leadership, but it will have a unique focus on those called to pastoral ministry. This course will be a study of leadership philosophy, principles, and skills through which a pastor can lead a session in developing a culture of discipleship to fulfill the church's mission in its life and witness. A variety of leadership, discipleship, Christian education, and philosophy of ministry topics will be discussed.

**Course Details**

Location: RTS-H campus at Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time: Thursday nights, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Date: February 11<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup>

Instructor: Rev. Richard B Harris

Contact: [rharris@cepc.org](mailto:rharris@cepc.org)

**Course Goals**

1. To glorify our Triune God who creates, sustains, and redeems his people.
2. To come to a better understanding of the high calling of leading the people of God in the church of God.

**Course Philosophy**

This course will consist of both lecture and discussion. In this course we will be diving into and engaging with the Word of God. We will unpack what it means to be a shepherd of God's flock. The shepherd is called to feed, lead, nourish, protect, know, manage, and discipline his sheep. Furthermore, we will spend some time discussing the 'nuts and bolts' of ministry – the daily and weekly details, challenges, joys, and sorrows of being called to leadership in Christ's church. We will also interact with and discuss in detail the assigned reading for the course.

**Course Requirements**

- A. Unless providentially hindered, all registered students are expected to attend all class lectures.
- B. Students are expected to read the following:

*Spiritual Leadership* by J. Oswald Sanders

*The Minister's Self Watch* by Charles Spurgeon. This can be found online at:  
<https://chapelibrary.org:8443/pdf/books/mswa.pdf>

*The Conviction to Lead* by Albert Mohler

*The Shepherd Leader* by Timothy Z. Witmer (pages 75 – 189)

*The New Pastor's Handbook* by Jason Helopoulos

*Pastors and Their Critics* by Joel R. Beeke and Nick Thompson

- C. Book Response. The student will write a 3 – 5 page response essay to **each** of the **six** assigned books. This response is NOT to be a running commentary or summary of the contents; it is to be a substantive engagement with the ideas presented by the author.

**Grading**

**20% class attendance and participation**

**20% reading**

**60% book responses**