PRTH 70013: The Church's Mission and the Minister's Vocation  
(3 semester hours)  
Dr. Stephen V. Sprinkle, Office 20B

Prerequisites  
None.

Course Description and Class Procedures  
This course is a multi-dimensional examination of the church and its ministry from the vantage point of the doctrine of vocation. God is calling, and the Church is responding. Close attention will be given to the response of persons to God's call to ordained ministry. Questions of vocation, mutuality in ministry, and ministerial authority will be addressed. Examples of ministry, both good and bad, will be considered. Using a variety of literary genres, the class will examine four areas of concern: (1) the theology of vocation and the ministry of the Holy Spirit; (2) the calling of ordained and lay persons to the mutual ministry of Jesus Christ; (3) narrative accounts of true and false ministries; and (4) the purpose and mission of the Church.

Requirements  
• Attendance and careful reading of all texts  
• *Theological* response papers on assigned texts--taking seriously the texts, your experience of ministerial vocation, and the Church's ministry (3-5 pages each)  
• Paper on the meaning and purpose of ministerial authorization, taking into account your denominational context (5-7 pages)  
• 12-15 page final *theological* reflection paper on the interrelation of *your* understanding of the church's mission and *your* ministerial vocation, taking into account the major themes of the course and the three critical questions considered throughout the semester.

Texts  
Sprinkle, Stephen V. *Ordination: Celebrating the Gift of Ministry*. ISBN:
Grading Procedures

Class participation in general discussion: 10%
Response papers on texts: 30%
5-7 page paper on ministerial authority and mutual ministry in your denomination and your call: 20%
Final reflection paper on your vocation and the churches' mission: 40%