

PRTH 60033: The Church's Mission and the Minister's Vocation
(3 semester hours)
Online, Thursdays 6:15-8:45 p.m.
Dr. Stephen V. Sprinkle, s.sprinkle@tcu.edu

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
- Three *theological* response papers on selected 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 or ecclesial 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.

Texts

- Daniel, Lillian, and Martin B. Copenhaver. *This Odd and Wondrous Calling: The Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers*. ISBN: 978-0802864758. \$19.02.
- Douglas, Kelly Brown. *Resurrection Hope: A Future Where Black Lives Matter*. ISBN: 978-1626984455. \$26.00.
- Keizer, Garret. *A Dresser of Sycamore Trees: The Finding of a Ministry*. ISBN: 978-1567926453. \$17.68.
- Kim, Eunjoo Mary, and Mark Francis. *Christian Preaching and Worship in Multicultural Contexts: A Practical Approach*. ISBN: 978-0814663202. \$25.60.
- Lewis, Sinclair and Jason Stevens. *Elmer Gantry*. Mass Market Paperback. ISBN: 978-0451530752. \$9.95.
- Martinez, Juan. *Walk With The People: Latino Ministry in the United States*. ISBN: 978-1498299343. \$16.00.

Moltmann, Jürgen. Margaret Kohl, translator. *The Source of Life: The Holy Spirit and the Theology of Life*. ISBN: 978-0800630998. \$23.00.
Price, Reynolds. *A Whole New Life: An Illness and a Healing*. ISBN: 978-0743238540. \$11.26.

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%