

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

**TITLE:** The Practice of Ordained Ministry

**TERM:** Fall 2024-2025

**PROFESSOR:** L. Roger Owens

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: 15  
# AUDITORS \_\_\_\_\_

UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_  
NO AUDITORS X

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course students will explore key topics related to ordained ministry, including the theology of ordination, the vocation of the ordained, the pastor as spiritual guide, visionary/strategic leadership, adaptive leadership, and sustaining a life of pastoral ministry. Students will also be introduced to skills and practices necessary for effective ordained leadership, including leading weddings and funerals, administering sacraments, leading staff, equipping laity, and overseeing financial and facility matters.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:** By end of this course, students who participate interestedly and actively, finish the assignments, and read carefully, should:

- Be able to articulate a biblical/theological understanding of ordained ministry and express their own personal sense of vocation as it relates to that understanding; [MDiv 1, 2, 5; MAPS 1, 3]
- Be able to imagine themselves as both a spiritual guide (soul friend) and understand how the image of pastor as soul friend/adaptive leader weaves through various aspects of the practice of ministry, especially the ministries of word, sacrament, order, and service; [MDiv 5; MAPS 4]
- Be able to identify adaptive challenges facing many congregations, and understand the six leadership skills/strategies necessary to guide a congregation in addressing those challenges; [MDiv 6; MAPS 3, 4]
- Understand the challenges to sustaining a life of pastoral ministry, and begin to articulate how they themselves will develop the character, discipline, and life of prayer that will help them face those challenges and flourish in ministry; [MDiv 5; MAPS 4]
- Have a basic familiarity and increased confidence with many of the tasks of pastoral ministry (including leading worship, working with staff, teams, and lay ministers, budgeting and stewardship, mission/ministry planning, and beginning and ending well in a ministry setting) [MDiv 6; MAPS 4]

**PREREQUISITES:** NONE

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Constance Cherry, *The Special Service Worship Architect*, ISBN: 978-0801048951, \$26.49
- Eugene Peterson, *The Contemplative Pastor*, ISBN: 978-0802801142, \$15.49
- Heidi Neumark, *Breathing Space*, ISBN: 978-0807072578, \$20.90
- Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky, *Leadership on the Line*, ISBN: 978-1633692831, \$19.29
- Tod E. Bolsinger, *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Unchartered Territory*, IVP, 2018, ISBN: 978-0830841479, \$13.99

### ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Call Story—10%; Ordination Sermon—25%; Writing Prayers for the Lord's Supper—15%; Church Committee/Board Chair Interview and Reflection—15%; Integrative Essay—25%; Participation—10%

**ATTENDANCE:** Required.