

MULTNOMAH BIBLICAL SEMINARY
THEOLOGY OF COMMUNITY AND MINISTRY
PROFESSOR TOM SCHIAVE

I. Course Description

This course introduces students to ministry as community practice. **Moving beyond the rampant individualism in our society**, the aim will be to explicate and illustrate how faithful ministry is grounded and nurtured in the life of the triune God and centered in the church. Consideration will also be given to such themes as worship, order, service, sacraments, and mission.

II. Seminary Mission Statement

Multnomah University's mission is to equip Christian students through higher education to become biblically competent, academically proficient, spiritually formed, and culturally engaged servant leaders, shaped to be a transforming force in the church, community, and world.

III. Course Learning Outcomes

A. For the Masters of Divinity Program

1. Practice a deeper commitment to and participate in Christian community (Affective)
2. Articulate a biblical/Trinitarian understanding of the nature of the Church and the proper functioning of the local church. (Cognitive)
3. Develop a biblical/Trinitarian theology of the universal and local church in mission that includes the ministries of worship, discipleship, and care. (Cognitive)
4. Acquire leadership perspectives and skills needed to: 1) **gather and build Christian community**, 2) **establish missional vision and focus**, 3) develop a caring congregation, and 4) empower and equip new leaders for ministry. (Syntectic/skill development)

B. For the Master of Arts in Christian Leadership

1. Practice a deeper commitment to and participate in Christian community (Affective)
2. Articulate a biblical/Trinitarian understanding of the nature of the Church and the proper functioning of the local church. (Cognitive)
3. Develop a biblical/Trinitarian theology of the universal and local church in mission that includes the ministries of worship, discipleship, and care. (Cognitive)
4. Acquire leadership perspectives and skills needed to: 1) gather and build Christian community, 2) establish missional vision and focus, 3) develop a caring congregation, and 4) empower and equip new leaders for ministry. (Syntectic/skill development)

IV. Required Resources:

Ed Stetzer & Thom S. Rainer, Transformational Church. BH Publishing Group, 2010 ISBN: 978143369309

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together. Harper and Row, 1954 ISBN: 0060608520

Brad Harper & Paul Louis Metzger, Exploring Ecclesiology: An Ecumenical and Evangelical Introduction. Brazos, ISBN: 1587431734

V. Course Requirement Summary

- A. Participation: Regular attendance, timeliness, attentiveness, and active participation in the classroom discussion are expected.
- B. Attend Two Local Churches: Spend a Sunday morning at two local churches, one that is connected to a traditional-historical denomination and one that is an evangelical church. Write a four page summary of your two visits and what you observed.
- C. Class Presentation: Read a book related to one of the topics covered in class and prepare a 25 minute presentation that will be given during the semester. Students are expected to prepare a two page summary of the books key “take-aways” for their fellow students in class. Books will be assigned the second week of class.
- D. Class Reading: Complete all required texts by the end of the semester.
- E. Interview: Spend some time with a local church pastor and ask him/her questions related to their church’s history, generational make-up, strengths, missional focus, and challenges they are facing or changes they are making. Offer to pray for them before you leave the interview.

VI. Grading Summary:

Participation	10%
Church Observation Paper	15%
Class Presentation	30%
Class Reading	30%
Interview	15%

THEOLOGY OF COMMUNITY AND MINISTRY

Tentative Course Schedule

August 31	Course Introduction and Orientation Practical Ecclesiology Introduction
September 7	A Practical Theology of Community and Ministry, Part 1 Community as Participation in the Life and Mission of the Triune God Gathered Community Scattered Community EE Chapters 1 & 2; TC Chapter 1
September 14	A Practical Theology of Community and Ministry, Part 2 Church as Incarnational Community The Functions of Community LT Chapter 1; TC Chapter 2
September 21	A Practical Theology of Community and Ministry, Part 3 Church as Kingdom Community Servant Community Witnessing Community EE Chapters 3 & 4
September 28	Church and Prayer The Local Church Prayer Ministries TC Chapter 6
October 5	Gathering, Building, and Sending Community, Part 1 Developing Vision and Mission Understanding the Context TC Chapter 3
October 12	Gathering, Building, and Sending Community, Part 2 Evangelism as a Function of Community TC Chapter 9
October 19	Mid-Semester Break
October 26	Gathering, Building, and Sending Community, Part 3 Relational Intentionality TC Chapter 5
November 2	Gathering, Building, and Sending Community, Part 4 Faith, Science and the Local Church

- November 9 Quality Characteristics of Community, Part 1
 Empowering Leadership
 Gift-Oriented Ministry
 TC Chapter 4
- November 16 Quality Characteristics of Community, Part 2
 Passionate Spirituality
 Functional Structures
 LT Chapter 3; TC Chapter 7
- November 23 Quality Characteristics of Community, Part 3
 Inspiring worship
 Holistic small groups
 EE Chapters 5 & 6; TC Chapter 8
- November 30 Issues in Community and Ministry
 Race
 Class
 Disability
 EE Chapters 15-16
- December 7 Issues in Community and Ministry
 Gender
 Generations
 EE Chapter 12
- December 14 Final at Flying Pie Pizza

TC Transformational Church, Ed Stetzer & Thom S. Rainer
 LT Life Together, Dietrich Bonhoeffer
 EE Exploring Ecclesiology, Brad Harper & Paul Metzger