



THE **wesleyan** CHURCH

## **Education & Clergy Development**

### **Spiritual Formation Class**

**Zoom (March 5, 13, 20, April 3, 10, 17, 2018)**

**Developed by Rev. Johanna Rugh**

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### **Course Description**

The Spiritual Formation has the purpose to create in each minister the desire to navigate and explore the different ways God uses to shape our lives. In this way, it will become more than knowledge but a wonderful tool throughout their spiritual journey and more important to be able to put it into practice within his/her ministry context knowing that it's the vehicle that God wants to use for the spiritual growth to each of His children. It is my hope that the taking of this class will represent a blessing to your life and ministry and when it has finished you can also be of blessing to all those that God has or will give you the privilege to serve.

### **Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes**

During this class, the student will...

- Learn the definition and importance of Spiritual Formation in the life of the minister
- Explore the different ways in which God shapes the life of the believer to help us grow spiritually.
- Make a self-evaluation in the areas that need the help of the Spirit of God

### **Required Textbooks**

*Students are responsible for purchasing their own textbooks in a timely manner. Books can be purchased through online stores like Wesleyan Publishing House or Amazon*

- Dewel, Wesley L. Ablaze for God. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1989
- Foster, Richard. Celebration of Discipline: The Path To Spiritual Growth. New York City, NY: Harper Collins, 2009
- DeNeff, Steve & D. Drury. Soulshift: The Measure of a Life Transformed. Indianapolis, IN: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2011

### **Pre-Course Assignments**

- Definition of Spiritual Formation (DEF): Each person has their own idea of what is Spiritual Formation. The Ministerial Student will have the opportunity to share with the rest of the group his/her definition of Spiritual Formation. They are encouraged to research and bring a document that will be shared with the rest of the group. This document is due the first day of class (3/5/18).
- Written Devotional (WRD): The reading of Dewel's book will awaken certain areas in our lives that will move us to ask God for His divine intervention. While the Ministerial Student is reading the book, they will take advantage of the different chapters to write a personal devotional as an act of worship. After reading, you will take time to pray and then write/type how the God has spoken to you through the reading. This e-journal should be sent to the instructor by email before class beginning on the second session. This is a personal document where you can abbreviate or leave a line in areas where you do not want to share your experience with anyone. The Ministerial Student

will provide a total of 5 written devotionals. Keeping a journal is an ideal way to put theory and practice together.

- **Spiritual Disciplines (DISC):** Each Ministerial Student will read Foster's book in its entirety. After the reading, the student will prepare a document where they will write a summary of each discipline mentioned by Foster. If they have not practiced the discipline, the summary will include the evaluation of the student regarding the benefit that this discipline could represent in their personal growth. If the student has practiced the discipline, the student will offer a comparison between their previous knowledge and what Foster shares about it. This assignment is due by the fourth day of class (4/3/18).

## **Module 1 – Week 1**

**Topic/Subject:** Basics of Spiritual Formation

### **Pre-Class Assignments**

*These assignments are due BEFORE the live class session for Week 1*

- (DEF) Each Ministerial Student will take some time to draft his/her knowledge of Spiritual Formation, what it means for the life of the believer and the minister of the Word.

### **Live Class Session Activities**

- During this session, each Ministerial Student will have the opportunity to share what they have drafted as the meaning of Spiritual Formation.
- During this session, we will be gathering the different concepts and key words that will help us build a definition that will become the motto of our lives as ministers.
- During this session we will have an overview of Spiritual Formation throughout the Bible, each MS will choose a biblical story that could show how the Spiritual Formation is portrayed and how this could help his/her own Spiritual Life.

## **Module 2 – Week 2**

**Topic/Subject:** Spiritual Formation Throughout the Bible Review / Search me and Know me!

### **Pre-Class Assignments**

*These assignments are due BEFORE the live class session for Week 2*

- For this week, the Ministerial Student will submit a one-page report of a biblical story that can show how the Spiritual Formation is portrayed and how this could help his/her own Spiritual life.
- Written Devotional (WRD) #1– send via email to the instructor one written devotional based on the reading of Dewel.

### **Live Class Session Activities**

- During this session, we will cover a good portion of the class by exploring the different temperaments and recognizing how much we need from God.

## **Module 3 – Week 3**

**Topic/Subject:** Spiritual Formation in the life of the Minister

*These assignments are due BEFORE the live class session for Week 3*

- Based on the recommendations (if there is any) by the instructor, the MS should submit the Written Devotional (WRD) #2– send via email to the instructor one written devotional based on the reading of Dewel.

### **Live Class Session Activities**

- This will be the ONLY time when we will list a series of concerns, problems, situations, that the Ministerial Student considers important to eradicate from the life of a minister.

## Module 4 – Week 4

**Topic/Subject:** Discipleship, how does it look to offer Spiritual Formation to those under our care

### Pre-Class Assignments

*These assignments are due BEFORE the live class session for Week 4*

- Spiritual Disciplines (DISC): Each Ministerial Student will read Foster's book in its entirety. After the reading, the student will prepare a document where they will write a summary of each discipline mentioned by Foster. If they have not practiced the discipline, the summary will include the evaluation of the student regarding the benefit that this discipline could represent in their personal growth. If the student has practiced the discipline, the student will offer a comparison between his previous knowledge and what Foster shares about it. This assignment is due by the third day of class.
- Based on the recommendations (if there is any) by the instructor, the MS should submit the Written Devotional (WRD) #3– send via email to the instructor one written devotional based on the reading of Dewel.

### Live Class Session Activities

- During this session, each member of the class will offer the different ways in which they has been receiving/giving Spiritual Formation.
- Preparing a Spiritual Formation Plan

## Module 5 – Week 5

**Topic/Subject:** Holiness and Sanctification

### Pre-Class Assignments

*These assignments are due BEFORE the live class session for Week 5*

- Based on the recommendations (if there is any) by the instructor, the MS should submit the Written Devotional (WRD) #4– send via email to the instructor one written devotional based on the reading of Dewel.

### Live Class Session Activities

- Creating a clear understanding of what we believe as Wesleyans in regards to Holiness and Sanctification in light Spiritual Formation.

## Module 6 – Week 6

**Topic/Subject:** Keep that ablaze! As we conclude our time as a group, we will be working on ways in which we can follow Paul's advice to young Timothy.

### Pre-Class Assignments

*These assignments are due BEFORE the live class session for Week 6*

- Based on the recommendations (if there is any) by the instructor, the MS should submit the Written Devotional (WRD) #5– send via email to the instructor one written devotional based on the reading of Dewel.
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### Live Class Session Activities

- Each Ministerial Student will share a summary of what they has learned in the last sessions and will write a word of advice for his/her fellow ministers as well as for future ministers.

### Post-Class Assignment

*This assignment is due ONE WEEK AFTER the (last) live class session for Week 6. This is the final assignment for this course.*

- Soul Shifting: After reading Soulshift, the Ministerial Student will write a summary of a soul shift that God has been directing him/her to work on. This assignment should include, personal experiences and ways in which they plans to move forward. There should be a minimum of 5 pages, not including the

cover. Please refer to the guidelines to submit papers. This paper should be sent by email to the instructor no later than one week after the last session ended. Due date 4/24/18.

### **Live Class Sessions**

The learner must attend all classes. Our time is already restricted. Missing any of the time compromises the learning process. The learner is expected to participate in the class dialogue. Learning is a community event wherein teachers and learners are on a journey together. Christian education is not a competition. The learner has a responsibility to help his/her colleagues in the learning process.

### **ALL POST-COURSE ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE one week after the last live class session**

#### **Grades**

- 10% Attendance
- 10% Class Participation
- 10% Definition of Spiritual Formation (DEF)
- 30% Spiritual Disciplines (DISC)
- 20% Written Devotionals (WRD)
- 20% Post-Course Assignment (SSFT)

### **Policies & Requirements**

#### **Attendance**

Students are required to attend all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 85% (20 hours) of the minimum required seat time (24 hours) will result in automatic failure of the course. Any and all absences within that 15% window must be approved by the professor prior to the course in writing (e.g. email). Do not ask for permission to be excused during that live class session or after the absence has already occurred.

#### **Grading Scale**

A	91-100
B	81-90
C	71-80
D	61-70
F	60 or below

Students must get a "C" or above to pass the course and receive credit for ordination.

#### **Books**

Students may purchase their books at a local book store or online.

Books for this course are available at: <http://astore.amazon.com/festivalonspi-20?encoding=UTF8&node=5>

#### **Due Date**

All assignments are due on the date indicated in the syllabus or verbally communicated by the instructor. Professors are required to submit grades to Education and Clergy Development at a maximum of 8 weeks after the last day of class. Assignments may not be submitted to the professor any later than 1 week after the last day of class. Assignments not submitted by the due date will result in an automatic "0" for the assignment.

#### **Extensions**

Extensions may be (but are not guaranteed) granted for serious sickness or injury, or death in the student's immediate family or for similar extreme & unusual circumstances. *When in doubt, please contact the professor.* Also, no assigned work will be accepted after the final due date, unless an extension has been granted in writing (e.g. email) from the professor. Communication is the key! Professors may reduce a student's grade by 20% for each week past the due date (even in the event of approved extensions). Education and Clergy Development reserves the right to refuse extension and override the professor as it deems necessary.

## **Papers**

All written papers must be typed. Papers should be double spaced on 8.5x11 paper using 12 point font in a normal, easy to read type style (Arial, Cambria, Times New Roman, etc.). Margins should be 1" on all sides. Each paper should include at least: student's full name, course title, and date. It is advisable to include your name on each page of the paper.

## **Ordination Deadline**

If the student is a candidate for ordination in a given year, coursework must be completed as follows: the final grade submission deadline (8 weeks after the last day of class) must be at least 40 days before the student's district conference. Professors are not required to fulfill any requests for grade submission prior to this deadline.

## **Plagiarism**

Ministerial students in The Wesleyan Church are expected to exhibit honesty and integrity in their personal, professional and academic life and work. As Christians, we are called to a high standard of honesty. As such, students in our ministerial training courses are required to adhere to strict academic guidelines.

The following is borrowed from the Oklahoma Wesleyan University *University Undergraduate Catalog 2015-2016 Traditional Studies*:

Plagiarism — This is defined as offering the work of another as one's own. It is an attempt to deceive by implying that one has done work that was actually done by another. Faculty and students are honor bound to show that ideas and words match with the sources used and thus demonstrate that honest research has been done. Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Copying all or part of a theme, examination, paper, library reading report, or other written work from another person's production
2. Submitting as one's own work that which was wholly or partially done by another so as to appear to one's professor to be more accurate or skilled in one's work than one actually is
3. Quoting material from any source without proper documentation
4. Summarizing or paraphrasing from any source without proper documentation
5. Misrepresentation of documentation or resources
6. Using in collateral reports or book reviews the opinion of a professional literary critic or of a campus friend as though it were one's own original thought
7. Submitting workbook answers copied from another person or working in a group and submitting an identical set of answers for each member of the group without explicit permission from the professor

Cheating — Examples of cheating include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Use of unauthorized prepared materials (cheat sheets) for answering test questions
2. Giving aid to another student during a test or quiz
3. Gaining answers to test questions from others during testing periods
4. Signing another person's name to the attendance record
5. Claiming to have done laboratory work or outside reading that was not done

6. Submitting the same work for more than one course without the prior approval of the professors involved

Education and Clergy Development policy for all students receiving credit through non-accredited ministry training programs (e.g. FLAME, FLAMA, Correspondence Courses, Cross Training, District Extension Classes, Equipping for Ministry, etc.):

- 1) Any instance of plagiarism (whether intentional or not) will result in an automatic “F” for the particular assignment and may also result in an automatic failing of the course.
- 2) A repeat offense will result in an automatic failing of the course.
- 3) A third offense will result in an automatic withdrawal from a credentialing track in The Wesleyan Church.

## **Bibliography**

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Drury, K. Spiritual Disciplines for every believer. Indianapolis, IN: Wesleyan Publishing House

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LeRoy, M; Summers J. Awakening grace. Indianapolis, IN: Wesleyan Publishing House 2012

MacDonald, G. Ordering your private world. Nashville, TN: Oliver-Nelson, 1984

Maddix, Mark A; Leclerc D. Spiritual Formation: A Wesleyan Paradigm, Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press 2011

Mulholland, R. Invitation to a journey: A roadmap for spiritual formation. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993

Sanders, J. O. Liderazgo Espiritual. Grand Rapids, MI, 1995

Scazerro, P. El líder emocionalmente sano. Miami, FL: Editorial Vida, 2016

Sutton, Ron & Ryan. Sacred Fire. Lake Mary, FL: Creation House, 2015

Westfall, J. F. Coloring outside the lines: discipleship for the “undisciplined.” Harper San Francisco, New York, NY, 1991