

July 22-25, 2013

MN 9260-01 Nurturing a Ministry Culture of Christian Generosity (LM)



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(cand.),
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Modular Course—Three credit hours

Unless otherwise required by the professor, write according to the style requirements listed in the D.Min. Handbook, the TIU Style and Format Guide [Social Science for references], and Turabian.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Do you want your church to be known as a body of believers whose lives reflect the generosity of our Lord Jesus Christ? Nurturing such a culture in the larger materialistic context in which we minister calls for intentional spiritual and strategic work that starts with you! This course is designed to provide you with guidance for growing in this vital area and advice for helping others join you. On the spiritual side, we will explore the Scriptures to deepen your personal understanding of Christian generosity. On the strategic side, we will discuss the issues leaders face professionally and consider practices that are not formulaic, but rather, formational, for raising up stewards to be rich toward God.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Students will be able to articulate Christian generosity themes from the OT, Gospels, and Early Church in the rest of the NT and discuss the personal and professional implications of those themes.
2. Students will consider statements from leaders who modeled Christian generosity throughout Church History as a basis for charting a course for their lives and leadership.
3. Students will evaluate current contemporary church practices and processes as a basis for providing spiritual direction and strategic leadership necessary to integrate Christian generosity in all facets of church ministry.
4. Students will assess the culture of generosity in their own church and map a series of spiritual practices and strategic steps to help their congregation grow in this aspect of the faith.

EDUCATIONAL METHODOLOGY

Seminar Attendance and Active Participation is Required of All Students.

REQUIRED READING

Blomberg, Craig L. *Neither Poverty Nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Material Possessions* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2000). ISBN: 978-0830826070

Kapic, Kelly and Justin L. Borger. *God So Loved, He Gave: Entering the Movement of Divine Generosity* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010). ISBN: 978-0310329695

Willard, Chris and Jim Sheppard. *Contagious Generosity: Creating a Culture of Giving in Your Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012). ISBN: 978-0310893134

You Pick Two (read two of these books that you have not already read):

Alcorn, Randy and Brian Smith. *The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2005). ISBN: 978-1590526200

Hamilton, Adam. *Enough, Revised and Updated: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2012). ISBN: 978-1426742071

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *Sharing Possessions: What Faith Demands, Second Edition* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011). ISBN: 978-0802803993

Keller, Timothy. *Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just* (New York, NY: Penguin, 2012). ISBN: 978-1594486074

Macchia, Stephen A. *Crafting a Rule of Life: An Invitation to the Well-Ordered Way* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2012). ISBN: 978-0830835645

Rodin, R. Scott and Gary G. Hoag. *The Sower: Redefining the Ministry of Raising Kingdom Resources* (Winchester, VA: ECFA Press, 2010). ISBN: 978-0979990793

Stanley, Andy. *Fields of Gold: A Place Beyond Your Deepest Fears. A Prize Beyond Your Wildest Imagination* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 2006). ISBN: 978-1414311968

PRE-COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. Students must read the three required books and two additional books from the “you pick two” list. The student must then write a one-page response paper to each book (total of five pages). These five pages are due on the first day of the seminar and will be collected in class. Each paper will note:

- The main idea of the book
- The three best quotes or ideas in the book and the reason you identified those quotes or ideas
- One idea with which you disagree coupled with your alternative view
- Why this book should *or* should not be recommended to others

This assignment represents **15%** of your final grade.

2. Students must also gather data from the church where they serve as a benchmark for helping the congregation grow in financial giving. They must gather the following in advance of the seminar:

- Brief summary of your church's history and a general chart of attendance from founding to present with monthly detail over last two years.

- Weekly giving history (total giving and number of giving units) from the prior two full fiscal years and year to date in the current year.
- Summary of past stewardship or financial campaigns of the church, listing projects, goals, and the results of these efforts.
- Number of first-time givers per month over the prior two full fiscal years and year to date.
- Current number of lapsed givers, that is, historic givers who are still living but who have not given in the past 12 months.
- Summary of preaching, teaching, and programs related to generosity in the past year and any notable examples in the church's history.
- Explanation of how your church budget is formed, with a pie chart for revenues and expenses.
- Role of staff members and/or volunteers related to stewardship and generosity initiatives at your church.

This assignment represents **15%** of your final grade.

POST-COURSE ASSIGNMENT

All projects are to be postmarked on or before November 25, 2013

1. Personal Assignment: **Philosophy of Biblical Stewardship and Plan for Christian Generosity**. Upon the completion of the seminar, students will identify a 21-day timeframe for working through *Generosity Exercises*, a three-week stewardship journey through the Scriptures. Upon completion of that journey, Students will write a paper with two primary components. The first section of the paper (10-12 pages) comprises your **Philosophy of Biblical Stewardship**. This section must demonstrate a grasp of the biblical themes that emerge in the OT, Gospels and Early

Church in the rest of the NT and cite at least ten additional sources that have interacted with this material. Essentially you are stating what you believe. The section part of the project (5-6 pages), your **Plan for Christian Generosity** describes how you intend to live a life of Christian generosity personally and professionally based on your stated beliefs. This 15- to 18-page paper must be mailed to the DMin Office on or before November 25, 2013. This assignment represents **40%** of your final grade.

2. Professional Project: **Creating and Nurturing a Culture of Christian Generosity**. This project has a three-year scope to it as changing culture takes time. In year one, you are to map out where your church is based on pre-course research, then chart weekly initiatives for implementation in your congregation to create a culture of Christian generosity. Year two and year three, you must sketch your plan on a quarterly basis for nurturing that culture. Your plan will span from preaching and teaching to spiritual and strategic practices that are covered in the course or new ones you develop. There is no length designation for this assignment. It must be sure to cover the required scope of 52 weeks in year one and four quarters in years two and three. This project must be mailed to the DMin Office on or before November 25, 2013. This assignment represents **30%** of your final grade.

The course project should be:

- Typed, double-spaced, and include a TITLE PAGE giving the course name and number, professor's name, student's name, and the date of the class.
- In Turabian style befitting doctoral level coursework (Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (7th ed. rev. by Wayne C. Booth et al; Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).
- Mailed to the Doctor of Ministry Office (DO NOT mail the project to the professor).
- **Postmarked on or before November 25, 2013.**

We do not accept late submissions. In an emergency (student or family illness or death, change of ministry, etc.), you must submit a course extension request via email (jlangenh@tiu.edu) to the Doctor of Ministry Office **BEFORE November 18, 2013.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Preferably by email: gary.hoag@efca.org
or by phone at: 303-888-6052.