

## FE 602: Leadership in Context (1 credit)

**Prerequisites for All Field Education (FE) Courses:** Completion of first seminary year or permission. Course is required for Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Mission and Discipleship degrees.

Assessment: Credit/No Credit

### Faculty Information:

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### Overview/Course Description:

In this course students will learn some of the basics of family systems theory and the insights it provides for leaders of congregations and ministry settings. Topics explored include anxiety, self-differentiation, boundaries, conflict, and the role of the non-anxious presence.

### Course Objectives:

1. To introduce family systems concepts as tools for understanding the context for ministry.
2. To increase awareness of emotional processes at work in the life of congregations.
3. To explore the dynamics of leading change.
4. To encourage reflection on current and past experiences in ministry in order to improve as a leader in future ministry settings.
5. To encourage theological reflection on all of the above.

### M.Div. Curricular Objectives addressed by this course: (ref. *UDTS Catalog 2019-2020*)

1. Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.
2. Engage contemporary theological and ethical issues with insight and humility.
3. Educated and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
4. Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

### M.A.M.D. Curricular Objectives addressed by this course: (ref. *UDTS Catalog 2019-2020*)

1. Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
2. Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness

### Required Text:

Steinke, Peter L., *Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times: Being Calm and Courageous No Matter What* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006)

### Course Requirements

1. Be prepared for class and faithfully participate in all class discussions and projects.
2. Complete all reading and written assignments on or before due date (please see syllabus). Please submit written assignments through Moodle. Writing assignments will include a combination of reflection questions, class projects and presentations, and one longer (4-6 pages) contextual analysis paper.