

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
FE 603: Leadership Ethics
Fall 2023

Instructor: Beth McCaw

bmccaw@dbq.edu

Phone: 563-589-3390 Please schedule via e-mail a protected time

Van Vliet 326C

One Credit

Pass/fail assessment

Blades 202

Mondays, 3:00-4:00

Course Description

This course focuses on developing a theological understanding of ethical Christian leadership which can guide decision-making and the setting of priorities in ministry. Students engage in practical reflection on the shape of “the good ministry.” *The residential and online sections will be meta-linked in order to provide wider class interaction in a number of discussions and exercises.*

Course Objectives

- To develop an understanding of ministry ethics practiced in particular ministry situations (particularly the challenges of money, maintaining integrity/accountability, confidentiality, healthy boundaries, sex, the abuses of power).
- To recognize the importance of and to plan for a system of accountability beyond seminary.
- To cultivate a network of collegiality and mutual support for excellence in the practice of ministry.
- To encourage reflection on current and past experiences in ministry in order to improve as a leader in future ministry settings.

Curricular Objectives

- Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer and healthy leadership that increase the student’s love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

Required Texts

- Trull, Joe E and Creech, R. Robert. *Ethics for Christian Ministry* (Baker Academic, 2017). Selected chapters.
- Ruth, Kibbie Simmons and Karen A. McLintock, *Healthy Disclosure* (Herndon, Virginia: The Alban Institute, 2007). Selected chapters.
- FaithTrust Institute. *Healthy Boundaries 101-Fundamentals; Course Workbook*. (FaithTrust Institute: 2012). This can be downloaded for free from <https://vawnet.org/sites/default/files/assets/files/FaithTrust-HealthyBoundaries101-English-2012.pdf>.
- Several e-reserve readings made available on the course site.

Course Requirements

- Regular attendance and prepared participation, including video content prior to class meeting times.
- Note: FaithTrust boundary training certification cannot be credited apart from watching all of the video content and completing the written reflections.
- Completion of assigned reading in a timely fashion.
- Completion of all written assignments, showing learnings acquired from readings and discussion. This includes a final assignment of crafting personal ministry ethic.