

FE 602 Leadership in Context

One Credit

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How do pastors and church leaders deal with difficult situations and problematic relationships? As an essential part of our field education curriculum, this course provides an overview of the basics of family systems theory and the insights it offers for leaders of congregations. Anxiety, self-differentiation and the role of the non-anxious presence are some of the topics explored, along with several tools for understanding the dynamics at work in a variety of ministry contexts.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce family systems concepts as tools for understanding the context for your ministry.
2. To increase your awareness of emotional processes at work in your own life, and in the life of congregations and communities.
3. To explore the dynamics of leading change and managing conflict.
4. To encourage reflection on your current and past experiences in leadership in order to improve in your *next* setting.
5. To encourage theological reflection on all of the above.

M.Div. Curricular Objectives addressed by this course:

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. Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

M.A.M.D. Curricular Objectives addressed by this course:

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* (Alban Institute, 2006)

Course Requirements

1. Be present in class, emotionally, spiritually, and electronically. Failure to attend, log in, post, or watch lectures will be counted as class absence.
2. Complete all assignments before deadlines, and faithfully participate in all class forums and online discussions.
3. Complete all reading and written assignments on or before due date. Please submit written assignments through Moodle. Writing assignments will include a combination of reflection questions, class presentations and one longer paper.