

**MN578 Christian Caregiving I: Ministering Wholeness in Christ**  
**University of Dubuque Theological Seminary**  
**Spring, 2024**

**Instructor:**

**Beth McCaw**  
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Office: Van Vliet 326-A  
Residential Classroom: L380  
Residential session: 1:00-2:15

**Letter Grade**

**2 Credits**

The residential section for this class will meet in part on Mondays from 1:00-2:15. The online section will have asynchronous engagement throughout the week and optional zoom discussion sessions.

This course is an introduction to caring for others, including biblical and theological foundations of care, the development of a caring ministerial identity, various models of care, and varieties of essential communication skills necessary for entering diverse situations of crisis and need.

**M.Div. Curricular Goals**

- This course helps fulfill the following M.Div. curricular goals:
- Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer and reflection that increase love of God and neighbor and shape personal and professional life
- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of scripture, and the historical and theological tradition of the church
- Provide pastoral care for individuals and congregations in daily life and moments of transition and crisis
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry

**M.A.M.D. Curricular Goal**

- This course helps fulfill the following M.A.M.C. curricular goal:
- Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

**M.A.M. Curricular Goal**

- This course helps fulfill the following M.A.C.L. curricular goals:
- Develop pastoral and practical theological methods and strategies for cultivating renewed and transformative ministry contexts.
- Construct a biblically, theologically, and contextually coherent expression of Christian pastoral identity and practice in life and ministry.

**Class Objectives:**

- Offer an introduction to caregiving ministry
- Understand and articulate biblical, theological and psychological foundations of care

- Encourage the development of a healthy and faithful ministerial identity (lay or ordained)  
Examine primary contexts and general areas of need in caregiving
- Strengthen essential communication skills

**Evaluation:**

1. Prepared class participation for either online or classroom discussions – 20%
2. Weekly “Four for Feedback” Reflections or Quizzes (10) – 20%  
(Each is usually 4-12 sentences long)
4. Case Study Paper, 6 pp. – 30%
4. Final Exam – 30%

**Bibliography**

**Required Reading; please note that portions of these texts will be used for Caregiving II:**

Dykstra, Robert. *Images of Pastoral Care: Classic Readings*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2005. Select chapters.

Gilbert, Roberta M. *The Eight Concepts of Bowen Theory*. Leading Systems Press, 2004.

Martin, William, *The Art of Pastoring: Contemplative Reflections* (Vital Faith Resources).  
Selections.

McMinn, Mark, and Timothy Phillips, *Care for the Soul*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001. Selections.

Purves, Andrew *The Crucifixion of Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007.  
Selections.

Van Deusen Humsinger, Deborah, *Pray Without Ceasing*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006.

Several articles available as pdf's on the course site

**Recommended, not Required**

Franklin, Cynthia and Rowena Fong, *The Church Leader's Counseling Resource Book* (Oxford) E-version recommended as out of print paperback versions are expensive.  
(selections; additional selections will be used for Christian Caregiving II)