

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
MADISON LEARNING COMMUNITY
MN 567 Leading Thriving Churches
3 Credits | Letter Grade | Fall 2024

Instructors:

Rev. Dr. Marcus Allen

Rev. Dr. Scott Carlson

Course Description: This course explores faithful and effective practices for leading Christian churches toward thriving. Topics covered will include: the theology and practice of Christian leadership, forming healthy congregational culture, addressing the challenges facing Christian congregations, building teams, developing small group ministries, utilizing tools for connection and engaging the wider community.

Prerequisites: none

This class meets in-person in Madison, WI on Tuesdays (6-7:40pm) from 9/10/24 through 12/10 with a morning retreat on 9/14. Optional dinners are available at 5:30pm.

Course Learning Outcomes

Fully engaged students will be able to:

- Describe the biblical and theological foundations for the distinctively Christian practice of leadership
- Discuss the marks of a faithful and healthy church
- Interpret the changing contexts shaping congregational life
- Identify and address major threats to church vitality
- Prioritize, develop and lead processes and practices that help churches thrive

Program Learning Outcomes supported by this course:

- Construct a biblically, theologically, and contextually coherent expression of Christian pastoral identity and practice in life and ministry (MAM)
- Develop pastoral and practical theological methods and strategies for cultivating renewed and transformative ministry contexts (MAM)
- Articulate and interpret key Christian theological affirmations for Christian discipleship and ecclesial life (MAM)
- Lead and nurture congregations to promote peace and justice in the public arena and encourage the witness and service of the church in mission to the world (MDiv)
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church (MDiv, CLP)
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry (MDiv, CLP)

- Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context (MAMD)

Required Books

TBD

Important Course Policies

1. Moodle: Course materials, schedules, and announcements will be posted at the course site on moodle.dbq.edu. It is the responsibility of each student to keep themselves current with this material.
2. Electronic Communication: Students are expected to check their UD e-mail accounts regularly for course updates. Instructions for forwarding e-mail from a dbq.edu account can be found at the Technology Services link on the UD Web Page.
3. Late work:
4. Due Dates: All assignments are due online on the due date listed (before class begins).
5. Attendance: Attending less than two-thirds of class sessions is an automatic "F" for the course, per seminary policy.
6. Academic Integrity: Be sure you know what plagiarism is. There is no good reason to plagiarize. Do not plagiarize. Also, do not use AI to assist with writing your assignments without explicit instructor permission. Written assignments will be processed by a plagiarism and AI detector. All suspected cases of lapses of academic integrity will be referred to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Seminary.
7. Students with Disabilities (ADA statement): Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. Confidentiality of all requests will be maintained. All requested accommodations must be approved through the Academic Success Center ([589-3262](tel:589-3262) or ASC@dbq.edu).
8. This syllabus, course calendar and other attending documents are subject to change during the semester.

Title IX and Jeanne Clery Act Policy Information

Title IX: The University of Dubuque is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex; which includes all forms of sexual misconduct. More information may be found at <https://www.dbq.edu/AboutUD/TitleIX/>

Jeanne Clery Act: The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act requires the distribution of an Annual Security Report and Annual Fire Safety Report to all current faculty, staff, and students and notice of its availability to prospective students, faculty, and staff no later than October 1st of each year. More information may be found at <https://www.dbq.edu/SafetySecurity/JeanneCleryAct/>