MN578 Christian Caregiving I: Ministering Wholeness in Christ
Course Description
University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
Spring, 2025

Instructor:
Beth McCaw   **Van Vliet 202**
BMcCaw@dbq.edu   **563-589-3390**

                                                                                    Letter Grade
                                                                                    2 Credits

Please note that for the Moodle course site the residential and distance platforms will be combined – this means that students from both platforms can see your posts. May this be a helpful connection as all prepare to be in Caregiving II together.

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:
1. Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer and reflection that increase love of God and neighbor and shape personal and professional life
2. Be formed by, live in, and minister out of scripture, and the historical and theological tradition of the church
3. Provide pastoral care for individuals and congregations in daily life and moments of transition and crisis
4. 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.D. curricular goal:
   1. Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

M.A.M. Curricular Goal
This course helps fulfill the follow M.A.M. curricular goals:
   1. Construct a biblically, theologically, and contextually coherent expression of Christian pastoral identity and practice in life and ministry.
   2. Apply key practices for personal, communal, and ministerial flourishing and compose a coherent plan for life and ministry.

Class Objectives
Students who complete this class will:
1. Understand caregiving as Christian ministry
2. Articulate biblical, theological and psychological foundations of care

3. Develop a healthy and faithful ministerial identity (lay or ordained)
4. Examine primary contexts and general areas of need in caregiving
5. Strengthen communication skills essential for Christian caregiving

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. Three chapters out of each section: 2, 3, 6; 7, 10, 11; 15, 17, 18.
Hunsinger, Deborah VanDeusen, *Pray Without Ceasing.* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006. Selections.
Jones, Serene, *Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World.* 2nd ed. Louisville: John Knox Press, 2019.
Martin, William, *The Art of Pastoring: Contemplative Reflections* (Vital Faith Resources). Selections.
Purves, Andrew, *The Crucifixion of Ministry.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007. Selections.

E-reserve selections available as pdf's or links on the course site, including:
Brous, Sharon. *The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend our Broken Hearts and World.* New York: Avery, 2024.
McMinn, Mark, and Timothy Phillips, *Care for the Soul.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.
Van der Kolk, Bessel. *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind and Body in the Healing of Trauma.* New York: Penguin Books, 2014.

Recommended for Reference, not Required
Franklin, Cynthia and Rowena Fong, *The Church Leader's Counseling Resource Book* (Oxford). Out of print, available electronically as well as used copies for purchase. Selections.
Thomas, Kenneth Wayne. *Thomas-Kilman Conflict Mode Instrument.* CPP Inc, 2002. Online inventory recommended rather than purchasing paper copy, there is a cost for this to be regarded as a cost for a text. Lecture will refer to this tool and model.