

IN521 DISCIPLE FORMATION 1

Making Space for God - Fall 2025

.5 credit; Letter Grade

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Course Description

In Disciple Formation 1, students will define and discuss strategies and challenges of *making space for God* in the midst of life and ministry, and in light of their formation as Christian disciples and ministers. Students will demonstrate their application of course content in their own lives and ministry through established methods of theological reflection, such as journaling; inquiry-based learning; and open and guided discussion in small groups, either online or residentially. Students will formulate a rule of life incorporating practices of discipleship and self-care. **Disciple Formation 1 is required for Master of Divinity students, and part of a two-course series with IN522.**

Formation Series Objectives

Through active participation in the Disciple Formation series, students will develop the capacity to:

- List, describe, and explain examples of Christian practices used within the Christian traditions for the formation of disciples toward loving others and loving God. (Remember, Understand)
- Describe role of self-care in the life of a disciple and minister. (Understand)
- Demonstrate specific practices, such as journaling, theological reflection, scripture study, prayer, art and music reflection, self-reflection. (Apply)
- Experiment with practices and evaluate their formative impact on their love of God and love of others. (Analyze, Evaluate)
- Formulate a rule of life which incorporates specific discipling practices regularly into their lives. (Create)

Course Objectives

- Define practices for nurturing space for God and self-care within their specific Christian tradition and practice. (Remember)
- List, describe, and explain challenges to making space for God and self-care in life and ministry. (Remember, Understand).
- Recognize, personally and ministerially, the need for space for God and self-care. (Understand)
- Evaluate personal activities, practices, and behaviors in light of making space for God and self-care. (Evaluate)
- Formulate a rule of life which incorporates practices for making space for God and self-care. (Create)

Master in Divinity Curricular Goals

- Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer, and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.
- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

MA in Mission & Discipleship Curricular Goal

- Adopt spiritual practices that nurture their personal lives as faithful disciples and witnesses.

MA in Ministry Curricular Goals

- Articulate and interpret key Christian theological affirmations for Christian discipleship and ecclesial life.
- Apply key practices for personal, communal, and ministerial flourishing and compose a coherent plan for life and ministry.

Required Texts

1. Smith, James K.A. *You are What You Love*, ISBN: 978-1587433801
2. Tish Harrison Warren. *Liturgy of Ordinary Days*, ISBN: 978-0-8308-4623-8
3. Bethany Hoang. *Deepening the Soul for Justice*. Intervarsity, 2012. ISBN 083083463X
4. Daily Prayer book or app that are focused psalm-based liturgies for Morning Prayer, Noon Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline/Night Prayer – such as Book of Common Worship (PCUSA) Daily Prayer; Book of Worship (UMC); Book of Common Prayer Daily Office (Episcopal); Common Prayer (Claibourne); The Divine Hours (Tickle); etc. There are many options! Please be in conversation with me if you are having trouble deciding on one.