**Course Outline – Huron University College Licentiate Program**

Certificate in Christian Spiritual Leadership

**Location:** Online (Zoom)

**Day:**  Unit 1: Wednesdays, October 5—November 24, 2022 (8 weeks)

Unit 2: Wednesdays, January 4—February 8, 2023 (6 weeks)

Unit 3: Wednesdays, April 12—May 25, 2023 (7 weeks)

Field Placement: 5 hrs a Unit (15 hrs.)

**Time:** Wednesdays**,** 8-10pm ET

**Credit Equivalency:** 4 Licentiate Credits

**Instructor:** Rev. Dr. Neil Mancor

**Contact info:** [nmancor@montreal.anglican.ca](about:blank)

**Grade:** Marks given in this course will be P (Pass) grade or F (Fail) grade.

**Course Description**

The Certificate in Spiritual Leadership is a 10-month course for active mainline lay leaders—wardens, elders, property and finance officers, committee chairs, church schoolteachers, youth ministers, pastoral visitors and liturgical ministers—to help them grow in confidence as spiritual leaders.

This certificate program involves a deep, immersive engagement of experiential learning that includes theory, practice, field application, and small group reflection. Lay leaders join an ordained spiritual leader (along with an accredited spiritual director) for a weekly two-hour session, where they have the opportunity to:

* gain confidence in praying and leading prayer, in understanding the role of scripture in ministry,
* appreciate the rich gifts of ancient, modern and Indigenous spirituality,
* acquire knowledge about the principles of spiritual discernment,
* develop a sense of vocation and call,
* speak about spiritual experiences and listen for the spiritual experience in the lives of others,
* learn and practise how to teach spiritual practices to others, so as to foster their spiritual maturity, and
* acquire confidence in serving God and God’s world.

Throughout the program, Indigenous spiritual practices are taught, modelled and practiced. A field placement component of the program ensures the lay leader has an opportunity to apply their learning in their own supervised ministry context.

This certificate course will help transform leaders of practical church ministry into confident spiritual leaders who can find a spiritual practice that suits their temperament, language to describe their spiritual experiences, intimacy with God and maturity in their formation as spiritual leaders.

**Course Overview**

Unit 1: Me and God

The objective of this eight-week unit is to develop a deeper relationship with God through prayer and reflection. The first two sessions are focused on developing trust within the group, an appreciation for God’s gift of diverse personality temperaments, and an awareness of each participant’s own spiritual story. The next six weeks expose participants to numerous prayer practices, including Indigenous spiritual practices. By the end of this program, participants will have developed a regular prayer life with a prayer practice that is suitable to their particular spiritual temperament. In their field placement context they will also have led public prayer and shared their spiritual story.

Unit 2: Our Holy Text

The objective of this six-week unit is to expose participants to a number of methods of using the Bible for spiritual formation (including gospel-based discipleship), enabling them to lead short scripture meditations for church meetings. Participants will also be expected to complete a book review from one of the books listed in the reading list.

Unit 3: Spiritual Leadership and the People of God

The objective of this seven-week unit is to reflect on significant topics of faith and deepen the participant’s spiritual maturity and orient them toward leadership. This module includes topics such as group discernment, healing circles, spiritual gifts, death and dying, creeds and belief statements, and small group facilitation skills. Participants will be expected to lead a small event in their field placement which includes the spiritual practices and learnings from the program. A final assignment will be to complete My Spiritual Calling workshop which will help direct their future ministry leadership.

**Course Materials**

*Required Texts*

Davis, Dawn. *Revive: Equipping Lay Leaders to Be Spiritual Leaders*. Participant’s Guide. Cincinnati, USA: Forward Movement, 2019.

Blythe, Teresa. *50 Ways to Pray: Practises from Many Traditions and Times*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.

The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version

*New Revised Standard Version preferred but other translations are welcomed.*

**Assignments**

**Unit 1: My Spiritual Story**

The spiritual story traces the activity of God over the stages of life. Through the spiritual practice of the Examen, students will chronicle their spiritual experiences or encounters with the Divine, people and places of significant spiritual formation, formative life circumstances and crises of faith, sense of “call”, preferred spiritual practices, and times of growth and development. It is expected that “I” statements will be used liberally. The main purpose of this assignment is to help the student reflect deeply on how God has been at work in their life and to provide them with the resources needed for a sermon testimony. Five pages (double-spaced, 12 pt font, typewritten, Word document.)

Required reading: Peace, Richard. *Spiritual Autobiography: Discovering and Sharing Your Spiritual Story*. Colorado Springs, Colo: NavPress, 1998. Pp. 57-103

**Unit 2: Book Review**

Students will select a book from the reading list and write a book review by describing the focus of the book, a summary of the impact of this book on the student’s thinking and spiritual practices. Three to five pages (double-spaced, 12-pt font, typewritten, Word document.)

Unit 3: Spiritual Event and My Spiritual Calling

Students will develop and submit a one-page proposal (double-spaced, 12-pt font, typewritten, Word document) for a small event in the field placement that uses the spiritual practices and learnings from the program. They will lead the event and then reflect in their small groups on the experience of being a spiritual leader. A final assignment will be to complete the My Spiritual Calling worksheet which they will take back to their place of ministry.

Required Reading: Blythe, Teresa. *50 Ways to Pray: Practises from Many Traditions and Times*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.

**Reading List**

Bass, Diana Butler. *Grounded: Finding God in the World--a Spiritual Revolution*. New York, New York: HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2015.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Discipleship*. Vol. Vol. 4. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2003.

Curtice, Kaitlin B. *Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Brazos Press, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2020.

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. Special Anniversary Edition. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2018.

Francis of Assisi, selections from the Writings, available on-line at http://sacred-texts.com/chr/wosf/ from Canticle of the Sun, Prayer to Obtain Divine Love, The Praises

Julian of Norwich, Selections of Revelations of Divine Love, available on-line at http://ccel.org/ccel/julian/revelations.1.html

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. *Braiding Sweetgrass*. First edition. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Milkweed Editions, 2013.

LaFond, Charles D, and J. Philip Newell. *Note to Self: Creating Your Guide to a More Spiritual Life*, 2018.

Lewis, C. S. *The Screwtape Letters: And Screwtape Proposes a Toast*, 2013.

McLaren, Brian D. *Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in 12 Simple Words*. New York: HarperOne, 2012.

Long, Anne. *Listening.* USA: Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd, 2017.

Miles, Sara. *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*. 2008 Ballantine Books trade pbk. ed. New York: Ballantine Books, 2008.

Mulholland, M. Robert, and R. Ruth Barton. *Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016.

Nouwen, Henri J. M. *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*. New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 2014.

Peterson, Eugene H. *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*. Commemorative edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2019.

Rohr, Richard. *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. 1st ed. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2011.

Schwehn, Mark R., and Dorothy C. Bass, eds. *Leading Lives That Matter: What We Should Do and Who We Should Be*. Second edition. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2020.

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*. New York: HarperOne, 2010.

Williams, Rowan. *Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2016.

**Weekly Outline**

Unit 1: Me & God

1. Orientation and Holy Conversations: sharing the story of your journey of faith
2. Sharing Holy Conversations
3. What is prayer? Let us Pray
4. Oratio: Leading prayer in public
5. Contemplatio: meditation & contemplation
6. Creative Prayer: journaling, doodle prayer & visual meditation
7. Physical Prayer: beads, labyrinths, prayer walks & body prayer
8. Praying in the Hard Places: forgiveness & reconciliation

Unit 2: Me & Holy Text

1. Bible 101, The Word of the Lord.
2. Leading Small Groups; Leading a Bible Meditation
3. Lectio Divina
4. Circle Groups: Gospel Based Discipleship
5. Ignatian Imaginative Method
6. SOAP Method (share Book Reviews)

Unit 3: Me as Spiritual Leader

1. Creeds & Covenants
2. Spiritual Gifts
3. Discernment: making decisions together
4. Death & Dying: hard conversations
5. Restorative Circles & Group Spiritual Direction
6. Spiritual Leadership & Healthy Boundaries (Case study)
7. My Spiritual Calling (reflect on Spiritual Leadership Initiative)

**Huron grade descriptors:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| A+ | 90-100 | One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level |
| A | 80-89 | Superior work which is clearly above average |
| B | 70-79 | Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory |
| C | 60-69 | Competent work, meeting requirements |
| D | 50-59 | Fair work, minimally acceptable |
| F | below 50 | Fail |

**Student Code of Conduct**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work, and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: [https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf](about:blank).

**Statement on the Recording of Class Activities**

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student’s own private use.

Online courses within the Licentiate in Theology Program are recorded for student engagement purposes. These recording are only used by the registered students of the class and made available through a restricted video hosting site to respect both privacy and intellectual property. Should a student be uncomfortable with this practice, they can contact the Program Director of the LTh: Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca

**Support Services**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should contact the Program Director, Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at [grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca).

THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY HURON’S FACULTY OF THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

FOR THE FALL AND WINTER TERMS OF THE LTH PROGRAM, 2022-2023.