

Course of Study School of Ohio
COS 113 – Pastoral Care for Spiritual Formation

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1. Course Description

This course explores the caring presence and actions of the pastor as a form of spiritual leadership and formation. Skills of effective pastoral care are presented and practiced, including effecting listening and response, awareness of cultural differences, timely intervention, and appropriate referral. Students are encouraged to reflect on their personal strengths, their need for growth in developing relational skills, their self-care and the development of personal spiritual practices – all in the context of the community of faith.

2. Textbooks

Emma Justes, *Hearing Beyond the words: How to Become a Listening Pastor*, Abingdon Press, 2006
Marva Dawn and Eugene Peterson, *The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call*, William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2000
Kevin M. Watson, *A Blueprint for Discipleship: Wesley's General Rules as a Guide for Christian Living*, Discipleship Resources, 2009
(Students are responsible for obtaining their own books):

3. Objectives

- Developing the pastor's identity as a spiritual leader and caregiver, with emphasis on the need for continuing spiritual and professional growth.
- Instruction, practice and feedback in basic communication skills, including verbal and non-verbal communication.
- Examination of basic methods for dealing with developmental issues and life crises, including when and how to refer a person to other sources of assistance.
- Exploration of ethical issues, including confidentiality, personal and professional boundaries, and the pastor's legal responsibilities.
- Introduction to a Wesleyan understanding of spirituality and spiritual practice.

Course Schedule:

Online Environment: **June 21- August 2, 2014.**

☞ This course begins with work on campus and continues with work online. Typical work online includes reading assigned books or documents, engaging in on-line discussion groups, and writing reflections on case studies. All online engagement will be complete by **August 2, 2014**.

On Campus Weekend: June 20-21, 2014. The On-Campus Weekend will begin at 2:30 on Friday and end by 2:30pm on Saturday. Friday class is 2:30 pm to 8:30 pm, with a dinner break at 5:00 pm; Saturday resumes at 8:30 am, with chapel at 11:15 am, lunch at noon, and class concludes at 2:30

Final Semester Project/Paper:

☞ Final Paper (8-10 pages) is due by **August 2, 2014**.