



PS6103 Pastoral Theology: Pentecostal Perspectives

Ron Kadyschuk, PhD
rkadyschuk@horizon.edu

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Introduction

“Pastoral Theology. Is it an oxymoron?” asks Chris Simon (Alphacrucis College, Australia). Is it possible to have ‘practice’ without ‘theology’ or theology without practice? The tension between theory and practice is not new in the Church. Simon explains,

Pastoral Theology presents, in many ways, the most important continuing challenge to the church! For it is the integration of theory and practice. Too much theory, and the church can become a sterile place marked by 'head knowledge'. Alternatively, too much practice and the church can become a pragmatic institution ruled by societal trends -if it works, it must be good. Pastoral Theology seeks to wed the two aspects of Christian ministry.

It may be argued that it is in the ‘practice’ of theology that theological ‘enquiry’ is validated. J. Rodman Williams, in *Renewal Theology*, divides theology into its four traditional formats: systematic, biblical, historical and practical. He defines ‘practical theology’ as “the way Christian faith is practiced: through preaching, teaching, counseling, and the like.” Pentecostal ministry has great interest in the actual daily practice of the faith life. Earlier generations of pentecostals have even been ‘suspicious’ of too much ‘head knowledge’ being a deterrent to a full life in the Spirit.

Jurgen Moltmann affirms the need for a holistic Pentecostal perspective of the Christian life when he, speaking from within a mainline theological tradition, addresses the heart of Pentecostalism. Moltmann speaks directly to the integration of theory and practice, affirming that Christians need to express ‘a theology of life’ based on their understanding of how the Cross and the Resurrection flow into Pentecost. He says,

Pentecost, as Christians call this event, is not an appendix nor a supplement to ‘Good Friday’ and ‘Easter’, but the objective of Jesus’ self-sacrifice in his death on the cross and the goal of his resurrection. . . The theological commitment that comes with the experience of Pentecost should make possible an integrated theology of life. . . The first Christian Pentecostal congregation (Acts 2.17-21)

understood what occurred to them as the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel 2.28-32. (“A Pentecostal Theology of Life”)

Some church analysts have described the diversity of church and denominational cultures as representing Father, Son and Holy Spirit churches respectively. The paradigm does not imply that any one of the three emphases is barren of awareness and interest in the other two. However, ‘Father’ churches tend to be more liturgical and religiously global in nature; ‘Son’ churches highlight the Cross and elements of sacrifice and salvation; and ‘Spirit’ churches affirm various dimensions of the immanent (and imminent) presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecostal pastors seek to have ‘Spirit’ churches yet not lose the vitality of being a ‘Son’ and ‘Father’ church as well. It is a challenge to achieve effective and balanced ‘Trinitarian’ ministry.

This course is a study of pastoral ministry within the context of pastoral theology. To deal adequately with the ‘oxymoron’ question requires a closer look at the God-side (Theology) and the Church-side (Ecclesiology) of pastoral theology. As well, the pursuit of at least some answers to the question “What does it mean to be a ‘Pentecostal’ pastor?” calls for a consideration of how Pneumatology relates to Christology.

Required Textbooks

Fisher, David. *The 21st century pastor: A Vision Based on the Ministry of Paul*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Hunter, Todd. *Giving Church Another Chance: Finding New Meaning in Spiritual Practices*. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2010.

Nouwen, Henri. *In the name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. New York: Crossroad, 1996. Other editions are also available.

Trask, Thomas., ed. *The Pentecostal Pastor: A Mandate for the 21st Century*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1991. Kindle edition 2012. [Selected readings]

Students are responsible to acquire textbooks from a source of your choice.

Additional Required Reading

Select one book of your choice related to some aspect of pastoral theology and/or pastoral ministry. You may have a relevant book that has been sitting unopened on your shelf for some time. Check with Dr. Kadyschuk to approve your choice in advance of using it.

Supplementary Materials

For students who intend to pursue credentials with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (PAOC), the following denominational documents from the PAOC are available free of charge at www.paoc.org:

- *General Constitution, By-laws and Essential Resolutions*

- *Statement of Fundamental & Essential Truths*
- *Local Church Constitution*

You should purchase the following reference materials (or comparable titles) if you are planning for vocational ministry that includes conducting meetings and providing pastoral services:

Jones, O. G. *Parliamentary Procedure At a Glance*. New York: Penguin, 1971. A handy edition to keep at your side during formal meetings so as to ensure that the meeting follows *Robert's Rules of Order* properly.

Pearlman, M. *The Minister's Service Book*. Springfield: Gospel Publishing, 1991. A useful resource for various types of ministerial services, particularly for ministers in a Pentecostal context; not very contemporary in some places but still provides a 'bread-and-butter' approach to biblical material and orders of service for pastoral reference.

If this course is being taken as part of qualification for ministry credentials in another denominational group, contact Dr. K. to discuss the potential of substituting alternate, denomination-specific pastoral theology materials.

Course Objectives

Learning outcomes for this course in Pastoral Theology, around which the course content is structured, include:

- To increase personal understanding of biblical foundations for 'Pentecostal' ministry
- To examine the diversity of models available and being practiced for pastoral leadership in Pentecostal/charismatic contexts
- To enhance the God-honoring and congregational experiential value of each of the elements of a 'Pentecostal Worship Service'
- To articulate significant theological and ecclesial relationships between the Cross, the Spirit, and the Church
- To incorporate lessons into personal ministry from the models of Jesus as pastor to his disciples and the apostle Paul as pastor to the early Church
- To comprehend essential elements of pastoral ministry and congregational life within the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
- To expand personal capability to give ministry leadership in the church ordinances within a Pentecostal context
- To establish effective perspectives and methodologies for the diverse functions of pastoral care and counseling
- To broaden awareness and ability in what it means to pastor a 'pentecostal' church

Course Content

When offered in a one-week module format, the classroom time and post-module assignments include content from the following topics:

Note: When taken by Directed Study the course may not cover every topic listed below.

1. Biblical foundations for 'Pentecostal' ministry
 - Pentecostal theology, philosophy and practices
 - Pastoral roles as God's prophet and the people's priest
 - The 'call' and the 'anointing'
2. Models for leadership and administration in Pentecostal/charismatic contexts
 - Pastor as apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor-teacher (Ephesians 4.11)
 - Modes of church government (e.g., Presbyterian/congregational, 'Moses' model, G12, Pastor's Council, rule by apostle)
3. Elements of a 'Worship Service'
 - The Pentecostal pastor and 'liturgy'
 - Revitalizing ('repracticing') the traditional elements of church services
 - The meaning of 'order' of service –order versus spontaneity in Pentecostal worship
4. The Cross, the Spirit, and the Church
 - Essential relationships between elements of Christology, Pneumatology and Ecclesiology that impact pastoral ministry
 - Father, Son and Spirit churches: the diversity of focus in local churches (and denominations) and implications for liturgical practices
5. Jesus and Paul as models for pastoral ministry
 - Jesus the pastor in John 14-17
 - Paul the pastor to the early Church
6. Pastoral ministry within the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
 - The PAOC credentialing process
 - PAOC constitutions/bylaws, relationship of local church to national organization
 - Ministerial code of ethics
 - Denominational polity regarding local church administration, finances, budget processes, business meetings, pastor-board relationships, etc.
7. Pentecostal perspectives on the sacraments (ordinances)
 - Ministering the 'real presence' of Christ in the Lord's Supper
 - Alternate modes for administering communion
 - Elevating the significance of water baptism
 - The potential role of 'confirmation' in Pentecostal practices
8. Pastoral care and counseling
 - Models for 'pastoral visitation' in the 21st century
 - Pastoral involvement in life-cycle functions and events (e.g., baby dedication, water baptism, weddings, funerals)
 - Praying for the sick and believing for miracles
 - The role of forgiveness and 'absolution' in Pentecostal pastoral practices

- Diverse perspectives on the pastor's role as 'counselor'
- Pastoral conversation: The art of effective one-on-one ministry
- Personal life management

9. Pastoring a 'pentecostal' church

- The pastor and 'worship' (where the battlefield is often "not large enough to bury the dead" -Hamlet)
- Pentecostal preaching
- Ministering in 'the power of the Spirit' (e.g., spiritual gifts, Baptism of Holy Spirit)
- Altar calls, altar ministry and 'tarrying' services

Course Requirements

Definition of Terms

A *reflective response* is an overview of your personal response/reaction(s) to the material in the text. You share: specific highlights of the content that stimulate your thinking about the topic; concerns or issues that arise in your mind as you read the author's perspective(s); suggestions you might have to add to or take away from how the author approached the topic; etc.

A *critical review* is not a summary of the material; rather it is a personal reflection and evaluation of the content and issues raised by the author. Your goal is to demonstrate your understanding of the author's purposes for writing and your ability to interact with the material in a manner that illuminates the significance, strengths, weaknesses, etc., of what the author has to say.

1. Fisher book (35%)

Module format: written 20% + oral discussion 15%

Directed Study format: written 20% + skype interview 15%

- A critical review of Part 1: Four Crucial Questions for Pastors
 - Length: 4-5 pages
 - Include in your report two or three questions for each of the four chapters, questions that stimulate a discussion of the material
- A reflective response to Part 2: A Portrait of a Pastor
 - Length: 7-8 pages
 - Include in your report two or three questions for each of seven pastoral images described by Fisher, questions that stimulate a discussion of the material

For Module students-

- You will lead a discussion with the entire class on assigned portions of Fisher's material.

For Directed Study students-

- Complete parts a. and b. above
- Arrange for an interview with a pastor to ask him/her for responses to the questions you

have written

- Make brief notes on your interview to share during a skype session with Dr. Kadyschuk

2. Nouwen book (10%)

- Due Date: TBD
- A written personal response to the material in Nouwen's book; when your written response is complete and handed in, arrange a skype session with Dr. K.
- Length: The number of pages you can write in about an hour –legibly of course!
Note: I would prefer if you actually write this response rather than type it.

Your written response will address the following statement:

In his book, *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*, Henri Nouwen sets out three temptations that may arise in the life of a pastor and/or leader. Discuss the temptations in such a way as to demonstrate your understanding of the principles that Nouwen is trying to share in this book and the value of what he says for becoming a more effective pastor.

3. Hunter book (30%)

Hunter deals with the following elements of church service practices:

- Going to church
- Quiet prelude
- Singing the doxology
- Scripture reading
- Hearing the sermon
- Following the liturgy (within a Pentecostal context this item would include what we call the 'worship and praise' elements of a service)
- Giving an offering
- Taking communion
- Receiving the benediction

Written assignment:

- to dissect the elements of a church service,
 - to reflect on the nature, purpose and modalities for each element, and
 - to propose effective approaches to each element within a Pentecostal order of service as well as a comprehensive model for pastoral leadership of the congregation in Sunday (or alternate day) worship
- Due Date: TBD; when assignment is completed and handed in, arrange a skype session with Dr.K.
 - Length: Negotiable; when you have finished reading and thought about how you wish to frame your response, contact Dr. K. to establish whether the assignment response will be totally written, partially oral, and/or visually demonstrated (in an actual service), etc.

This assignment is an opportunity to reflect on any elements of Pentecostal worship that may have changed for the better or worse (in your perspective) over succeeding generations. For

example, Scott Ellington laments “The Costly Loss of Testimony” in his article of that title. Read this article (available on the populi course site) and be sure to comment on it in your response. [You don’t have to agree with Ellington; the article is intended to stimulate your thinking towards the issues being raised by this assignment]

4. Trask book (15%)

Written assignment: To ‘fill in the gaps’ of aspects of pastoral theology that you perceive would be valuable for your understanding and practice of Pentecostal pastoral ministry

- Breadth: Read articles in 8 to 10 areas of Trask’s book
- Due Date: TBD
- Length: 1-2 pages of critical review for each area of reading

The Trask text is an expansive book that covers many aspects of Pentecostal pastoring. If you are so inclined, you have an option to delete assignment 5. and expand the Trask reading accordingly. Consult with Dr.K. first.

5. Book of personal choice (10%)

Written assignment: Select a book that relates to the course (most likely from your own bookshelf if you have been collecting for any length of time)

- Write a book review that draws the content and value of the book into your personal ministry landscape (i.e., your present context, past experience, and/or thoughts about future ministry)
- Due Date: TBD
- Length: 3-4 pages

As stated above, this assignment may be collapsed into a larger reading of the Trask material if you so choose.

Bibliography

A Bibliography and list of selected Web Resources are available on the populi website for this course.