

Conrad Grebel University College University of Waterloo TS 677 Church and Ministry

Winter 2025

Class Time: Thursdays 1:00 – 3:50

Location: Conrad Grebel University College, Room 2201

Instructors: Dr. Scott Brubaker-Zehr and Dr. Jane Kuepfer

Office Hours: online, by arrangement; we will respond to digital communication within 24 hours of receiving it.

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Course Description:

This course explores the development of a theology of ministry, which includes the church's mission and institutional life and the personal calling to a life of ministry. It particularly delves into the relationship between ecclesiology and ministry. The Believers' Church tradition provides the primary perspective, augmented by the experience of the global and ecumenical church.

Course Objectives:

Students in this class will

- 1) grow in critical and appreciative understanding of the church in its local, denominational, and global expressions. (relates to MTS Program Objectives 2, 3, 4)
- 2) gain biblical and theological reflection skills necessary to understand pastoral identity, calling, and accountability. (3, 7, Applied studies – 2)
- 3) engage each other as partners in discernment and spiritual growth by practicing clear articulation of convictions, appropriate self-disclosure, and respectful and caring dialogue. (1, 2, 5, 6, 8)
- 4) begin to prepare a “ministry folder” which will include personal reflections on ministry, personality tests, etc. (1, 7, 8, AS – 2)

Required Reading Materials:

If you prefer a hard copy, the first two texts are available on Amazon, and the third can be ordered from CommonWord. **All are the same texts used last year if you'd like to borrow or buy from former students.** If you like to read online, the library has these e-books available to ‘borrow’ at no cost (links below).

Cahalan, Kathleen A. *Introducing the Practice of Ministry*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2010. \$20.85 on Amazon - [Direct link to e-book Cahalan - https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/Waterloo/detail.action?docID=4659043](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/Waterloo/detail.action?docID=4659043)

Karkkainen, Veli-Matti. *An Introduction to Ecclesiology (Revised and Expanded): Historical, Global, and Interreligious Perspectives*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2021. \$47.99 on Amazon - [Direct link to e-book](#):

Karkkainen: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/Waterloo/detail.action?docID=6467168>

Suderman, Robert J. *The Baby and the Bathwater: Aspiration and Reality in the Life of the Church*. Mennonite Church Canada, Tellwell Talent, 2021. \$11.99 [link to order or download: Suderman \(Publisher site\)](#) : <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/23953>

Penner, Carol. *Sacred Trust: fostering safe space in congregations*. Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. [Sacred Trust download](#)

Any other readings will be posted on LEARN.

Evaluations:

Assignment	Weighting	Due Date
Class Participation	10%	
Written Reflections on the Readings	25%	Prepared before class each week and submitted through Learn
Autobiographical Reflection	5%	Thursday January 9
Integrative Essay Part 1 on Ecclesiology	25%	Between Thursday March 20 and 27th
Integrative Essay Part 2 on Pastoral Ministry	25%	Between Thursday April 3rd and 10th
Presentation on Personal Theology of Church and Ministry	10%	April 3rd (last class)

Assignment Descriptions:

- **Class participation and Reflections on the Readings**
 - These portions of the final grade will be based on regular attendance and participation in class discussions and on reflections submitted on the assigned readings for the day.
 - Students are expected to come to each class with **written reflections** (not summaries) on the assigned readings for that day (one double-spaced page for **each** reading), naming some **new insights** arising out of the material, making **connections** between the readings and the student's own experiences of church and ministry and concluding with **a question** which would warrant further class discussion. Class discussions will begin with one student (chosen randomly) reading what they have written.
- **Autobiographical Reflection**

Please come to our first class prepared to introduce yourself verbally to your classmates, guided by the following questions:

What has been your experience of church? When have you seen the church work well? When have you seen the church fail? When the church is at its best, what does it look like? What are your struggles around the church? What is your vision for the church? Is there an image of the church that you find meaningful?

What has been your experience of call? Do you feel a sense of call to ministry? How would you describe it?

Please be prepared to share for about 7 minutes and to hand in (submit online through Learn) a summary of about 400 words (can be point form) after class.

- **Integrative Essay Part One on Ecclesiology**

What, in your mind, are some of the central components of a good ecclesiology? Karkkainen cites many theologians throughout his book (see Author index at the end of the book). Make a point of engaging with one of these theologians, from the text or notes, as you develop your own ecclesiology. Look up and read at least one article or book by this theologian and cite it as a second reference, in addition to Karkkainen. You may also want to reference Suderman and/or Root. The length of this essay is 2000 words.

- **Integrative Essay Part Two on Pastoral Ministry**

What, in your mind, are the central components of a healthy pastoral ministry? Who is the pastor? What is the role of the pastor? This essay will reference the readings and other materials beyond (including a ministry autobiography/memoir) as you develop your theology of pastoral ministry. The length of this essay is 2000 words.

- **Personal Theology of Church and Ministry Presentation**

Students will give a fifteen minute presentation of their personal theology of church and ministry to the class during our last class.

There is no final exam in this course.

Punctual submission of assignments is expected. Late assignments will be accepted only if you have talked to the instructor ahead of time for an extension. Marks may be deducted for assignments that are over one week overdue.

Attendance

Being present and participating in discussion is important for the pedagogical method of this course. Students are expected to prepare for each class by reading the required readings for the day and preparing a reflection paper. If you are unable to make the class, please let the instructor know by email that you will be absent. Please always check your email before setting out for class in case of changes due to winter weather or illness.

Link to Writing and Citation Help for Theological Studies:

<http://subjectguides.uwaterloo.ca/c.php?g=696803&p=4943771>

Course Schedule:

The following schedule may change from time-to-time to reflect the pace of the course and to better refine the course schedule. Changes to this schedule will be announced on Waterloo LEARN or through email.

Class will meet on Thursdays from 1:00-3:50 in person at Grebel, in Room 2201 (or by Zoom if necessary). Please follow LEARN closely for weekly announcements.

Week	Topic	Pre-reading
1 Jan 9	<p>What Do We Mean by ‘Ecclesiology/Church’ and ‘Ministry’?</p> <p>Welcome, intro and syllabus</p> <p>Instructor Introductions</p> <p>Student Introductions (7 minutes each)</p>	<p>Read:</p> <p>Karkkainen - Introduction</p> <p>Suderman - Forward, Prologue, Introduction</p> <p>Cahalan -Preface</p> <p>Prepare your 7 minute introduction for class (Submit your outline to Learn Dropbox (400 words) after class)</p> <p>What has been your experience of church? (and is there an image of the church you find meaningful?)</p> <p>What has been your experience of call?</p>
2 Jan 16	<p>Ecclesiology: Eastern Orthodox & Roman Catholic</p> <p>The church in the world (weeds and wheat)</p> <p>Ministry: Christian Discipleship</p>	<p>Karkkainen – pp. 9-42</p> <p>Suderman – pp. 1-20</p> <p>Cahalan – Chapter 1 – pp. 1-23</p>
3 Jan 23	<p>Ecclesiology: Protestant Reformation</p> <p>Images of the church</p> <p>Ministry: Gifts for Service</p>	<p>Karkkainen – pp. 43-68</p> <p>Suderman – pp. 21-36</p> <p>Cahalan – pp. 24-47</p>
4 Jan 30	<p>Ecclesiology: Free Church & Pentecostal/charismatic</p> <p>Ministry: Vocation to Ministry</p> <p>Our secular context</p>	<p>Karkkainen – pp. 69-94</p> <p>Cahalan – pp.48-68</p> <p>Root – “The challenge of being a pastor in a secular age” (posted on Learn)</p>
5 Feb 6	<p>Ecclesiology: Contextual & Global theologies</p> <p>Ecclesiology: The Life of the church - structure/governance</p>	<p>Karkkainen – pp. 95-162 (choose 3 of these 5 chapters and write one page of reflection for each)</p> <p>Karkkainen – pp.179-191 (no reflection paper required for this chapter)</p>

	Guest: Marilyn Rudy-Froese	
6 Feb 13 48pp	Ministry: Jesus and the Spirit's Charisms Ministry: Understanding Ministry as Practice	Cahalan – pp.69-98 Cahalan – pp.99-117
	Reading Week	
7 Feb 27 53pp + Root	Ministry: Learning to Practice Ministry Ministry: The Practice of the Trinity	Cahalan – pp.118-148 Cahalan – pp. 149-171 Root – “Invisible Gorillas and the Practice of Prayer”
8 March 6 52 pp	Ecclesiology: The Church as Mission Jack Suderman as guest	Karkkainen – pp. 163-178 Suderman – pp. 37-74
9 March 13 49pp+optional	Ecclesiology: Worship & Sacraments Ecclesiology: Unity	Karkkainen – pp. 192-222 Karkkainen – pp.223-239 + epilogue (Part 4 optional)
10 March 20	Personality, Self-awareness, and implications for ministry	(no reflection paper this week) Jueckstock & Vlach (2015) Claiming a substantive view of presence: The significance of the pastor's self Some suggested personality inventories to try: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enneagram: www.personalitypath.com • Myers-Briggs: https://www.16personalities.com/enfi-personality • Spiritual pathway assessment • The Spirituality Wheel (Corinne Ware)
11 March 27	Responsibility in Ministry (Healthy Boundaries, Clergy Ethics and Constancy, and Failures/ disappointment in the church) Engaging with a panel of pastors	Sacred Trust (on Learn) Finish writing integrative essay #1 . Due between Thursday March 20 and 27 th .
12 April 3	Articulating Our Theologies of Church and Ministry: Student presentations and discussion	Finish writing integrative essay #2 (due between Thursday April 3rd and 10th) and prepare for Personal Theology of Church and Ministry Presentation

Further Readings

Bolsinger, Tod. *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*, Intervarsity Press, 2015.

Epperly, Bruce. *Starting with Spirit: Nurturing Your Call to Pastoral Leadership*, Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2010.

Jones, L. Gregory and Kevin R. Armstrong. *Resurrecting Excellence: Shaping faithful Christian Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: William b. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006.

Koop, Karl and Mary Schertz, editors. *Without Spot or Wrinkle: Reflecting Theologically on the Nature of the Church*, (Occasional Papers 21, Institute of Mennonite Studies, 2000)
John Driver, "The Church: Missional Community of the Kingdom", pp. 121-136.

Lohfink, Gerhard. *Does God Need the Church?* The Liturgical Press, 1999.

Peterson, Cheryl. *Who is the Church? An Ecclesiology for the Twenty-First Century*, Fortress Press, 2013.

Root, Andrew. *The Pastor in a Secular Age*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.
The Congregation in a Secular Age. 2021.
Churches and the Crisis of Decline: A Hopeful, Practical Ecclesiology for a Secular Age. 2022.

Roxburgh, Alan J. *Structured for Mission: Renewing the Culture of the Church*, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity press, 2015.

Sawatzky, Erick, editor. *The Heart of the Matter: Pastoral Ministry in Anabaptist Perspective*, (Scottsdale: Herald Press, 2004).

Ross T. Bender. "That some would be pastors", pp. 15-23.

Gail Gerber Koontz. "Ecclesiology, authority and ministry", pp. 60-73.

Mary Schertz. "For God so loved", pp. 138-148.

Rebecca Slough. "Pastoral Ministry as improvisatory art", pp. 186-197.

J. Nelson Krabill. "Power and Authority: Helping the church face problems and adapt to change", pp. 213-227.

Erick Sawatzky. "What is at the heart of pastoral ministry", pp. 228-237.

Suderman, Robert J. *Re-imagining the Church: Implications of Being a People in the World*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2016.

Tickle, Phyllis. *Emergence Christianity: What It Is, Where It Is Going, and Why It Matters*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2012.

Willimon, William. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry (Revised Edition)*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2016.

Willimon, William. *Calling and Character: Virtues of the Ordained Life*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2000.

Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology, Spring 2013, Vol. 14, No. 1.
Gerald J. Mast. "The Church: Ark and art of salvation", pp. 12-19.
Gerald Gerbrandt. "Crazy Days: The priesthood of all believers revisited", pp. 20-27.
Irma Fast Dueck. "Getting *all* wet: Baptism and church membership", pp. 38-45.
Joanna Shenk. "Widening the circle of church", pp. 75-83.
Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology, Fall 2010, Vol 11, No. 2.
Rudy Baergen. "Teaching the Bible through preaching," pp. 5-12.

Suggested Ministry Autobiographies

Bolz-Weber, Nadia. *Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint*. Jericho Books, 2013;
Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People. New York, NY: Convergent Books, 2015.

Brown Taylor, Barbara. *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith*. 2006.

Daniel, Lillian, and Martin B. Copenhagen. *This Odd and Wondrous Calling: The Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers*. Eerdmans, 2009.

Evans, Rachel Held. *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church*. Nashville, TN: Nelson Books, 2015.

Gallagher, Nora. *Things Seen and Unseen: A Year Lived in Faith (1998) and Practicing Resurrection*. 2003.

Good, Martha Smith. *Breaking Ground: One Woman's Journey into Pastoral Ministry*. M.S. Good, 2012.

Harder, Gary. *Dancing Through Thistles in Bare Feet*. Herald Press, 2007; *The Pastor-Congregation Duet*. Friesen Press, 2018.

Harder, Lydia Neufeld. *The Challenge is in the Naming: A Theological Journey*. CMU Press, 2018.

Lebold, Ralph. *Strange and Wonderful Paths: The Memoirs of Ralph Lebold*. Pandora, 2006.

Miles, Sara. *Eat this Bread*. New York, NY: Ballantine Books, 2007; *Jesus Freak*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey Bass, 2010; *City of God*. New York, NY: Jericho Books, 2014.

Nouwen, Henry J. M. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1992.

Peterson, Eugene. *The Pastor: A Memoir*. HarperOne, 2012; *Under the Predictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness*. Eerdmans, 1994.

Roth, Brad. *God's Country: Faith, Hope, and the Future of the Rural Church*. Herald Press, 2017.

Spong, Martha, editor. *There's a Woman in the Pulpit: Christian Clergywomen Share their Hard Days, Holy Moments and the Healing Power of Humor*. Skylight Paths Publishing, 2015.

Steiner, Sue Clemmer. *Flowing with the River: Soundings from My Life and Ministry*. Pandora, 2013.

Notes:

Citations and Plagiarism and Format: Your sources must be fully documented, according to the Chicago Manual of Style. Using undocumented quotations from published sources or submitting work that is not your own will have serious ramifications for your academic career. Please submit all work double spaced, in a Word document.

Confidentiality: In the course of our discussions, students and instructors may share stories of a personal nature. It is expected that personal reflections and stories you hear in class will not be repeated outside the classroom without the express permission of the person who told the story.

The Land on Which We Meet:

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. In our words and our actions we will strive to live in right relationship with our Indigenous neighbours. Specifically, in this theological course we will keep the Truth and Reconciliation Commission all to Action #60 in mind:

TRC Call to Action #60: We call upon leaders of the church parties to the Settlement Agreement and all other faiths, in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders, Survivors, schools of theology, seminaries, and other religious training centres, to develop and teach curriculum for all student clergy, and all clergy and staff who work in Aboriginal communities, on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right, the history and legacy of residential schools and the roles of the church parties in that system, the history and legacy of religious conflict in Aboriginal families and communities, and the responsibility that churches have to mitigate such conflicts and prevent spiritual violence.

UWaterloo Policies

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Arts: [Academic Integrity website](#) University of Waterloo: [Academic Integrity Office](#)

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - [Student Discipline](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - [Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - [Student Appeals](#).

Other sources of information for students:

The Writing Centre: Writing Centre staff offer one-on-one support in planning assignments and presentations, using and documenting research, organizing and structuring papers, and revising for clarity and coherence. Make an appointment or drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit www.uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre

Note for students with learning differences: The [AccessAbility Services \(AAS\)](#) office, located in Needles Hall Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the ASS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Counselling Services: Counselling Services is a team of professionals that provides programming and services to help you lead a healthy and balanced life. We strive to provide a secure, supportive environment for students of all orientations and backgrounds. Counselling services are provided, at **no charge**, in a private and confidential setting to University of Waterloo students. Counselling Services provides in-person services as well as through phone and video. **To book an appointment, please call 519-888-4096.** [Link to more information](#)

Accommodation for Illness: Instructions for how to declare absences (due to extended illness or need to self-isolate) can be found here: <https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/help/students/how-do-i/self-declare-absence-graduate-students>