

ECCO 5010 – Vocational Excellence

Chicago, IL

January 22-25, 2026

1 credit hour

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This intensive focuses on issues of vocational identity and healthy professional patterns. In addition, it is designed to explore the meaning of credentialed and endorsed ministry in the Evangelical Covenant Church and the responsibilities and competencies of those called to these positions. Areas of inquiry will include: licensing, commissioning, ordination, ethical guidelines, formal care and discipline, collegiality, ministerial health and boundaries.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Articulate clearly a Biblical and theological understanding of vocational life and ministry.
- 2) Participate fully in personal and vocational assessments as they relate to the practice of ministry
- 3) Know the Rules for the Ordered Ministry and the Ethical Principles for Covenant Ministers as they apply to one's life and ministry. Become familiar with one's own denominational documents.
- 4) Describe and commit to ongoing development of the pastor/minister as leader.
- 5) Identify patterns and spiritual formation disciplines within the ministerial journey that contribute to health and excellence.
- 6) Create a "Life Rule", including a self-care plan, which embraces a spiritual and behavioral code that sustains ministerial health. (Note specifics in Reader distributed in class but outlined below.)

REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS

You are responsible for taking these three assessments and uploading the results into Canvas at least 2 weeks prior to the first class session.

1. Style Matters: Go to <https://www.riverhouseeepress.com/index.php/en/order/as-user> to order. Place the \$59 product in your shopping cart and proceed to checkout. There you will see a place to enter your coupon code, which is: **student14**

That will bring the price to \$16, and you can then pay with credit card or Paypal. You will be automatically transferred to the assessment as soon as you've completed the purchase, or you can login later with instructions that will be in the emailed invoice. If you have difficulties, send a note to center@riverhouseexpress.com - they normally respond within 24 hours and usually less. It takes about 15 minutes to pay and take the assessment, and you will receive a score report immediately, both on your screen and sent to your email. For best quality display of the report, follow the instructions at top of the report and view it either in a PDF or printed form.

2. Golden Personality Profiler: Go to: <http://www.goldenllc.com/golden-personalityprofiler-admin.php>. Click on "Take a Test" from the menu on the left. Click on "Golden Personality Profiler Take this Test." Then, click on "I want to use my credit card to purchase a Golden assessment." Follow the instructions on the site from there. The cost is \$29.95.
3. Wagner Enneagram Personality Style Scales: Go to: <https://www.wepss.com/>. Follow the instructions on the site to purchase the test for \$15.00.

If you have taken any of these assessments in the past 12 months and have access to your results, you may send your results to the instructors by uploading them into Canvas and do not have to retake the assessment.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- 1) All readings are considered pre-readings for the course and are expected to be read in advance. Learning materials will provide general background for the experiences and will be referenced periodically during the sessions.
- 2) The required texts are available at amazon.com
 - a. *Calling and Character* by William Willimon, Abingdon Press, 2000
 - b. *Rest in the Storm* (20th Anniversary Edition) by Kirk Byron Jones, Judson Press, 2021
 - c. *Sacred Rhythms*, Ruth Haley Barton, 2011
- 3) "Vocational Excellence Reader" (see the link below to download the PDF reader prior to the class.)

https://vikingsnorthpark-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/hmwiebe_northpark_edu/EYggLPedfbdKvI3-01oiuQ8BrOzltPynIVu4UJxxZMHd9A

ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING SCALE

1) Please download the PDF Reader before coming to class (see link above) as it will be used throughout the week. (Other resources will be posted throughout the class that can be downloaded.)

2) Work due before the class:

- a. Write an “Adaptive Challenge” (See information in Canvas under “Assignments”, to be presented in class, not to be submitted to the instructors.)
- b. Completion of the personality instruments. One of the keys to successful ministry is a deep understanding of one’s self, including one’s strengths and vulnerabilities. This knowledge can only increase the pastor’s capacity for healthy ministry. Inventories, conversations, and times for reflection comprise this process, which is designed to enhance self-understanding and identify practical steps for further growth as a pastor and person. These instruments are not an assessment of your call to ministry, rather an opportunity to explore who you are as you live into your call, being aware of the uniqueness of your personality and giftedness.
 - i. To this end, we require completion of the following:
 1. “Golden Personality Profiler” (4 letter personality scales)
 2. “Style Matters” (Conflict)
 3. “Wagner Enneagram Personality Styles Scales”
 - ii. **Students may not attend the class if they have failed to complete the assessments prior to the deadline.**
 - iii. If you have completed any of the above assessments in the last 12 months and can forward your results to your instructor.

3) Work due during the class:

- a. Prepare, present and participate in an “Adaptive Challenge” experience with colleagues in class. This written one-page assignment will be brought to class. Review the explanation for this posted on Canvas prior to the start of class.

4) Work due after the class:

- a. Meet with a spiritual director for one follow-up session
 - i. This assignment needs to be completed within 4 weeks of the class and details of your session – **date and name of Spiritual Director** -- must be noted at the end of the Life Rule, or your Life Rule will not be graded.
- b. Write an 8-12 page “Life Rule” including the following two portions:
 - i. Introduction to the Life Rule, responding to the following:
 1. How are your practices of ministry going to be changed because of this course?
 2. What have you learned about yourself in this class: what are your potential concerns/vulnerabilities and benefits?

- ii. "Life Rule" incorporating all elements of the class (see template in Reader for instructions).

5) Grading Scale

- a. This class is Pass/Fail
- b. The Seminary Grading Scale can be found in the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), p. 21.

ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES

- 1) Attendance and Participation: full attendance and participation throughout the entire class time is expected.
- 2) All assignments should be uploaded to Canvas and submitted as a **Word document**, please do **not** upload PDF or other file formats.
- 3) Include student name and assignment title on all assignments.
- 4) Make sure you are familiar with and follow the inclusive language in the [Student Writing Handbook](#).

ACADEMIC HONESTY

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another's work as one's own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another's answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one's answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25–27.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Your experience in this class is important to us. North Park is committed to creating inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established your accommodations, please share your accommodation letter with us so we can discuss how your accommodations will be implemented in this course. If you have not yet established services and have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations, please [email the Disability Access Specialist](#) or contact by phone (773-244-5737). Student Engagement facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations.

TITLE IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773-244-6276 or TitleIX@northpark.edu) for information about reporting, campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services.

As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University's Title IX coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student's safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking.

Please refer to North Park's [Safe Community](#) site for reporting, contact information and further details.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates they will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of incomplete from the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request.

Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as "I" until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of "I" will automatically be changed to "F." For the full policy, see page 15 of the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

- 1) Class Dates: **January 22-25, 2026**
 - a. Attendance and participation for all sessions is expected
- 2) Assessments are due prior to the start of the class and should be completed by Monday, **January 16, 2026**
- 3) Spiritual Direction Session: due within 4 weeks of the end of class, by **February 20, 2026** and details of your session (date and name of Spiritual Director) must be included in your Life Rule.
- 4) Life Rule is due by 11:59pm (Central) on **February 20, 2026**