FLDC 5300/ECCO 5010 Vocational Excellence
Spring 2027
February 5-6, 12-13, 9am-5pmCST
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/269660032251715?p=UBtdqyxSSxmTMYL9aT
Meeting ID: 269 660 032 251 715

1 credit hour

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Rev. Cheryl Lynn Alexander-Bermúdez
clcain@northpark.edu
Rev. James Sequeira
jsequeira@northpark.edu

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 students will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical, theological, and distinctively Covenant (ECC) understanding of vocation, ministerial identity, and credentialed ministry.
2. Demonstrate growing self-awareness and spiritual, relational, emotional, and physical health for ministry.
3. Integrate character, accountability, healthy boundaries, and the ethical use of power into the practice of becoming a trustworthy and safe minister.
4. Know and apply Covenant ethical principles, denominational expectations, and resources to contemporary ministry situations.
5. Develop and cultivate sustainable rhythms of spiritual formation, stewardship, and vocational development that promote lifelong health, growth, and constancy in ministry.
6. Commit to collegiality, mutual accountability, ongoing growth in the pastoral arts, and shared responsibility within the Evangelical Covenant Church.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All readings should be read in advance of in-person sessions. Learning materials will provide general background for the experiences and will be referenced periodically during the sessions.

1) William Willimon, *Calling and Character* (Abingdon Press, 2000)

2) Kirk Byron Jones, *Rest in the Storm* (Judson Press, 2021)
3) Ruth Haley Barton, *Sacred Rhythms* (Intervarsity Press, 2006)
4) *The Covenant Book of Worship* (Covenant Press, 2003)
5) Vocational Excellence Reader, posted in Canvas.

ASSESSMENTS

Pre-Intensive

- **Complete three personality instruments** (upload results by February 1). Students may not attend class if they have failed to complete these tests. One of the keys to successful ministry is a deep understanding of oneself, 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. You are responsible for taking these three assessments and uploading the results to Canvas:
  1. Style Matters: Go to https://www.riverhouseepress.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. 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@riverhouseepress.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 upload these to Canvas and do not have to retake the assessment.
- **Sign up to meet with a spiritual director**. Prior to attending your intensive sessions, sign up for one meeting with a spiritual director in Canvas. Directors will be available during scheduled appointments before/after your class time and/or at an additional time post-intensive. Director availability will be posted in Canvas.
- **Write an "Adaptive Challenge"** to be completed prior to our first in-person meeting and presented in class. See guidelines in Canvas.

Post-Intensive
Submit an 8-12 page "Life Rule" (due March 5), including the following two portions: (1) Introduction: How are your practices of ministry going to be changed because of this course? What have you learned about yourself in this class: what are your potential concerns/vulnerabilities and benefits? (2) "Life Rule," incorporating all elements of the class. (See template in Reader for full instructions.)

GRADING SCALE
This class is Pass/Fail. The Seminary Grading Scale can be found in the Seminary Academic Catalog.

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.
5. Use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software to impersonate individual assignments.

For additional information, see the Seminary Academic Catalog.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Your experience in this class is important to me. 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 me 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- 5662). Student Engagement facilitates the interactive process that

establishes reasonable accommodations.

TITLE IX & EQUITY

In accordance with Title IX and Equity policies, North Park employees who become aware of any incident of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation based on sex, gender—including pregnancy or related medical conditions—and other protected classes are required by policy to notify North Park University's Title IX & Equity Team by submitting a report here. The Title IX coordinator will respond and manage concerns about students. The senior director of Human Resources will respond to and manage concerns about employees. You can obtain more information at the Title IX and Equal Opportunity web pages.

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 the Seminary Academic Catalog.