

School of Theology and Ministry – Seattle University
STMA 577, UCC History and Polity II (Polity and Ministry)
Thursdays, January 8 through March 13, 1:30 - 4:20 PM Hunthausen 160

SYLLABUS FOR WINTER QUARTER 2009

David W. Kratz and T. Gregory Turner, faculty

Part I of this course, Winter Quarter 2008, focused on the history and theology of the United Church of Christ. Part II outlined below shifts away from that more theoretical orientation to become a *practicum* on polity (how we organize things) and ministry (how we do things) in the UCC. We will rely on printed resources used in or reflecting upon actual ministerial service, both parish and non-parish based. We will draw into our weekly seminars a number of lay and clergy leaders in the UCC to share their experience with the week's topic. And we will require a major project-paper at the end of the course that seeks to integrate some aspect of the work of ministry with the theology-of-covenant on which life in the UCC rests; this includes a segment in which the students prepare a draft of their ordination papers. Each session will begin with a short meditation or spiritual reflection, and biblical themes and linkages will be used frequently.

Expectations for the Course: **attendance, readings done, short reflections and active participation** in class discussion for two thirds of the grade, and a **project paper** (see below) for one third of the grade. Each week assigned materials will be reviewed and discussed during the first half of the class, followed by a practicum session with an invited lay or clergy leader. Students will be asked to submit a one-page typed synopsis or reflection on the readings for that day and/or any questions arising from the practicum of the week before. These are required and will be used for guidance by the instructors, but they will not be graded. They will function as one part of the several items related to participation in class. The Project Paper, up to twenty pages, will focus 1. on the student's own experience of ministry and how it is understood in the light of the theology of covenant learned in Part I of the course; and 2. on the student's ability to convey that understanding to an ecclesiastical authorizing body. In addition, each student will be asked to provide an opening reflection of five minutes during one of the nine weeks of the course following session one.

Printed Resources:

1. Walker, Randi J., *The Evolution of a UCC Style: Essays in the History, Ecclesiology and Culture of the United Church of Christ* (2005), United Church Press ISBN 0-8298-1493-0
2. Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, *Practices of Faith in the United Church of Christ* (pamphlet series), order item EP128, United Church of Christ Resources, Inc.
3. Robert S. Paul, *Freedom with Order: The Doctrine of the Church in the United Church of Christ* (1987), United Church Press.
4. Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, *Manual on Ministry: Perspectives and Procedures for Ecclesiastical Authorization of Ministry*, from United Church Resources.
5. *Constitution and By Laws of the United Church of Christ*, download from UCC website, www.ucc.org
6. Kratz and Turner, editors: *Collection of Articles for UCC Polity II*, to be used in the course.

January 8 – INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON MINISTRY IN THE UCC.

Short "spiritual biographies," assuming no advance preparation, will be shared by all, including their statements about how they imagine themselves as ministers and, in that light, major questions they hope the course will address. This will be followed by an historical overview of ministry in the UCC by the faculty.

January 15 – COVENANT

A brief look, a review of sorts for those in last year's course, at the history of the denomination and the theology of covenant on which, we believe, ministry is based in our tradition.

Readings: Walker, chapter 5, and Paul, chapters 1-4

Practicum: Turner and Kratz lead discussion of "Covenant In Practice"

January 22 – THE STRUCTURE AND ECCLESIOLOGY OF THE UCC

To what does an ordained or commissioned minister of the United Church of Christ need to pay particular attention when it comes to the institutional theory and organization of his or her denomination?

Readings: Paul, chapter 5, the *Constitution of the United Church of Christ*, and “Formative Documents of the UCC” in *Collection of Articles*.

Practicum: Guest panel of David Anderson, former UCC Executive Council Member; Paul Forman, retired UCC parish minister, interim Conference Minister and attorney; and Diane Darling, local church pastor.

January 29 – THE MANUAL ON MINISTRY: THE “CODES”

What are the expectations for ministerial authorization and conduct in the UCC?

Reading: *The Manual on Ministry*, with particular attention to the sections of authorization for ordained ministry and the various Codes, including “The Local Church in Relation to Its Pastor.”

Practicum: Guests Gail Crouch and Tim Divine, both UCC pastors with long experience and relationships with denominational structures and students in ministry.

February 2 (Monday) – DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TOPIC AND PLAN FOR PROJECT PAPERS

February 5 – PROCEDURES OR ORDINATION: Discernment, Papers, Interviews

The role of the Committee on Ministry and what the prospective ordinand needs to do.

Reading: C. Dykstra, “A Way of Seeing: Imagination and the Pastoral Life,” in *Collection of Articles* and section of *Manual on Ministry* related to your planned form of ministry.

Practicum: Guest Cindy Baukele, Chair of the Committee on Ministry, and Kathy Turner, ACPE

February 12 – PRACTICES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A look at preaching, sacramental and worship leadership, pastoral care and community development, with a view to how these expected leadership tasks affect the role of the clergy.

Reading: *Practices of Faith in the UCC* (pamphlet series) and Theological Resources from the *UCC Book of Worship*, in *Collection of Articles*.

Practicum: Panel of Catherine Foote, Dan Stern and Terry Teigen on roles and resources

February 19 – INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP, Part 1: CONGREGATIONAL OR AGENCY ANALYSIS

How to achieve an overall framework for ministry and some assessment tools to get there.

Reading: “Five Development Tasks” in *Collection of Articles* (I will write this paper.)

Practicum: Guest, Mike Denton, Conference Minister, Pacific Northwest Conference UCC

February 26 – INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP, Part 2: SOME NUTS AND BOLTS

How To session on the ministry of volunteers, preparing and reading a budget, developing by-laws, working with church boards, pastoral visitations, etc.

Reading: Need a focus piece here on the work of the parish or institutional minister

Practicum: Guests Nancy Edquist, well known UCC lay leader, and Jim Halfaker, former state and regional UCC leader.

March 5 and 12 – PROJECT PAPERS presented to class

Students in turn will present their papers to the class as a whole for 20 minutes each, with 45 minutes committed to the presentation and discussion/critique following. Estimate of four or five papers per week.

David Kratz and Greg Turner are available as needed:

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