VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE in the EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Edgebrook Covenant Church
6355 N. Spokane Ave (just east of the intersection of Devon, Central and Caldwell Aves.)
March 12-15
9:00-5:00
(lunch will be provided on Monday, March 12. Bring a lunch or walk to nearby restaurants other days)

Carol Lawson ***David Kersten*** ***Timothy L. Johnson*** ***Debra Auger***

Purpose:
This course 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.

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 in The Evangelical Covenant Church
2. Participate fully in personal and vocational assessments as they relate to the practice of ministry
3. Know and apply the *Rules for the Ordered Ministry* including the crucial area of care and discipline
4. Recognize how the *Ethical Principles for Covenant Ministers* apply to one's life and ministry
5. Describe and commit to ongoing development of the core competencies of vocational ministry (preach/teach well, lead well, care well)
6. Identify patterns within the ministerial journey that contribute to health and excellence
7. Create a "Life Rule", including a self-care plan, which embraces a spiritual and behavioral code that sustains ministerial health
8. Participate in a variety of spiritual formation disciplines, both individually and as a group
9. Commit to and identify an accountable relationship that will help sustain one's public ministry

Requirements*:*

Note: 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, impactful 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. To this end this course will build on the work you did early in your time at seminary with Midwest Ministry Development Network

Full attendance and participation throughout the entire class time is expected. No early dismissals for travel plans can be accommodated. All readings are considered pre-readings for the course, and are **expected to be read in advance.**

Required Reading:
The required texts are available at Covenant Bookstore, and may be ordered directly through http://www.covenantbookstore.com/cecoexorpr.html Extra copies are also in the stacks at Brandel Library.

- ❒ *Pastor: the Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry* by William Willimon, Abingdon Press, 2002
  Note: If you are taking this course for your **Bivocational License**, read *Calling and Character: Virtues of the Ordained Life* by William Willimon, Abingdon Press, 2000 **instead of** *Pastor: the Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*
- ❒ *Rest in the Storm* by Kirk Byron Jones, Judson Press, 2001

- ❒ Reader for the course: *Vocational Excellence in the Evangelical Covenant Church* ***will be provided for you at class***

Other Recommended Reading:
The Gift of Being Yourself by David G. Benner, InterVarsity Press, 2004
Sacred Companions: The Gift of Spiritual Friendship and Direction by David G. Benner and Lawrence J. Crabb, InterVarsity Press, 2004
Leadership and Self-Deception: Getting Out of the Box by The Arbinger Institute, 2002
Restoring the Soul of the Church edited by Nancy Myer Hopkins and Mark Laaser, The Liturgical Press, 1995
Resurrecting Excellence by L. Gregory Jones and Kevin R. Armstrong, Eerdmans Publishing, 2006
Calling and Character by William Willimon, Abingdon Press, 2000

Written Assignment:

"**Life Rule"** including the following:

- Introduction to Life Rule (3-4 pages), responding to the following:
  - 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?
- "Life Rule" (3-4 pages) incorporating all elements of the class.

Due Date: April 12

All grades will be pass/fail.

NOTE: Paper should be double-spaced with 1 inch margins using Times New Roman or Arial font and not more than 12 pt. nor less than 10pt.

All work is due to the Manager for Covenant Orientation by Due Date above
Send paper by mail to: Covenant Orientation
8303 W. Higgins Rd
Chicago, IL 60631-2941

Or, email your paper as an attachment *with the student name and course title as the subject line:*
Covenant.Orientation@covchurch.org