MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Studies in ministry leadership are designed to provide an exposure to, and an understanding of, pastoral ministry and transformational leadership in the varied social contexts and forms of the church, missions agencies, and parachurch organizations. Attention is given to theory and practice in the Christian worker’s implementation of spiritual leadership through worship, church governance, discipleship, evangelism, and service activities of the church.

Objectives for students

- Critically examine the theory and practice of transformational leadership in a variety of ministry and cultural settings;
- Manifest a growing appreciation for one’s capacity to provide transformational leadership;
- Develop the leadership, management, and ministry skills required for effective service in and through the local church and/or mission agencies;
- Identify the resources to facilitate one’s lifelong development as a spiritual leader;
- Effectively implement a variety of leadership tools and processes for organizational leadership, including strategic planning, decision making, congregational analysis, team building, conflict management, and organizational change; and
- Implement leadership practices that contribute to the healthy, sustained growth of the local church and/or mission agencies.

Core Courses

ML505 • Holistic Discipleship. 3 Credits.
An investigation into the ways that our spirituality is tied to our emotional, physical, intellectual, and relational health. This class is designed to encourage each student to develop an integrated and holistic understanding of spirituality with special emphasis on what it means to love God with your heart, soul, strength, and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself.

ML506 • Discipleship in Community. 1.5 Credits.
This course introduces the biblical and theological foundations underlying approaches to discipleship within a congregational context. The role of Christian community for personal spiritual growth, Christian education, and congregational health is studied. Methods and ministry approaches for accomplishing discipleship in community, for various contexts and in different age groups, will be analyzed and discussed.

ML507 • Missional Outreach and Evangelism. 1.5 Credits.
This course introduces the biblical-theological foundations for evangelism. Various approaches to reaching those outside the Christian faith are studied. Students will begin formulating a working theology to inform their practice. The role of Christian community in holistic missional outreach is considered. Best practices for outreach (including personal evangelism, attractional approaches, and continuing discipleship) are analyzed.

ML523 • Introduction to Transformational Leadership: Theory and Practice in Global Perspective. 3 Credits.
Various leadership theories are explored. A model of transformational leadership theory is presented, with application made to the learner’s personal context as well as a diverse range of global contexts. Biblical and “secular” approaches to leadership practice are compared and contrasted and applied to the student’s ministry context.

ML526 • Leading Congregational Worship. 1.5 Credits.
This course introduces the biblical-theological foundations of Christian worship expressed in diverse public assemblies of the Church. Students will explore their own identity as worshipers of God. The student should come to understand the essence of Christian worship, considering cultural and generational contexts, and grow in one’s ability to plan and lead a congregation in worship as the Church develops in the 21st Century.

ML527 • Leading Celebrations in the Christian Life Cycle. 1.5 Credits.
This course offers biblical-theological foundations, and practical skills, for marking special celebration/worship moments in Christian life and community. Ceremonies such as dedication, baptism, communion, weddings, memorials/funerals, and holy days will be explored. Students will be equipped to plan and lead in Spirit-led and resourceful ways, connecting and integrating theological insight with pastoral practice.

ML603 • Missional Leadership Development. 3 Credits.
This course introduces biblical foundations and strategies to develop leaders in rising generations. It discusses the biblical purposes of Christian leadership and the Church; examines the cultural and generational characteristics of rising leaders; surveys leadership development models used in ministry; and studies practical, multiplicative strategies that would develop rising leaders within an organization. The final project offers students the opportunity to create a simple, yet comprehensive, plan to develop leaders and foster a leadership development culture.

ML606 • Missional Spirituality. 3 Credits.
A study of how to embody the love for God and neighbor from the inside out, the theological foundations and spiritual practices centered in the Great Commandment and what it means to live as incarnational missionaries who love the Lord with all our heart, mind, and strength.

ML609DI • Dynamics of Christian Worship. 3 Credits.
A study of the biblical and theological foundations of worship, the nature and meaning of worship, and the many aspects involved in the practice of worship. Consideration is given to worship patterns, structures, forms, rituals, standards, and the planning and leadership of worship. At Bethel Seminary of the East, this course includes a Guided Learning Experience. Crosslisted with SP609DI.
ML610 • Communication and Organizational Leadership. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to address the essential elements of leadership communication. A model for leadership communication is presented, and students are challenged to process a wide range of material related to the foundations of leadership communication, organizational culture, organizational conflict, and organizational change.
Special Notes: Crosslisted with CP610.

ML615 • Organizational Leadership and Church Governance. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to address the role of organizational leaders in congregational and ministry settings. Attention is given to both the pastoral and governance dimensions of leadership, with special focus on relevant strategies and approaches for guiding congregations and ministry communities. This course will focus on the leader's role in working with church staff and board, understanding diverse congregational polities, effectively communicating as a leader, fostering a healthy organizational culture, and navigating conflict and change that may arise in these churches and ministry organizations.

ML623DE • Researching Context of Ministry. 1.5 Credits.
Research strategies for developing urban ministry - includes Spradley's Ethnographic Interview, Eichler's Consensus Organizing, Bakke's survey of a community - with the purpose of understanding one's context for the strategic shaping of ministry.

ML634 • Leading and Theologizing in Global Perspective. 3 Credits.
This course considers the rationale and models for doing contextual theology (contextual theologizing), and how this impacts and intersects with leadership studies in relation to the development and implementation of contextual models for ministry. The course provides a survey of the leadership models and theological methods and criteria they employ. Selected cases emphasizing the role leaders play in this process are examined.

ML625 • Storytelling and Scripture Development. 1.5 Credits.
The principles and practices of oral scripture development in the contexts where orality is the preferred vehicle of biblical knowledge - comparing biblical worldview with the belief systems of Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Animist, and Traditional Ancestral as each hear biblical truth.

ML630 • Team Leadership in Global Perspective. 3 Credits.
This course examines the biblical purposes and function of leadership through a cross-cultural (or global) understanding of how to first serve and then to lead. Aspects of vision casting, influencing change, and becoming missional leaders who foster the development of effective team ministries will be discussed. Principles and practices required for, developing and maintaining high performance, sustainable ministry teams are examined. Special emphasis is given to identifying and discussing the critical knowledge, skills and abilities required for sustained leadership success in a team-based, entrepreneurial organizational setting. Cases are presented from a wide range of global contexts. The application of intercultural competence is explored.

ML631DE • Leadership Communication in Global Perspective. 3 Credits.
This course addresses the essential elements of effective leadership communication in a cross-cultural or global context with attention to understanding cultural contexts and barriers to effective Christian witness. The course will examine the dynamics of the communication process and the ways in which various cultures, audience segments, or value orientations condition the interpretation and communication of the Bible and other messages. A model for leadership communication is presented, and students will be challenged to process a wide range of material related to the foundations of leadership communication, organizational culture, organization conflict, and organizational change. Cases are presented from a wide range of global contexts.

ML632DE • The Global Mission of the Church. 3 Credits.
This course includes a biblical and historical overview of the key leadership principles and practices involved in the global diffusion of Christianity. The course draws on insights from a variety of disciplines including the Bible and biblical theology for evangelism, leadership studies, the history of Christian missions, and the social sciences particularly cultural anthropology. Learners are provided opportunity to develop in intercultural competence, to develop a personal philosophy and the theology of missions and evangelism and to formulate a missional approach to ministry appropriate to their particular cultural and situational context.

ML633 • Stewardship, Change and the Missional Community. 3 Credits.
This is a course in applied anthropology and cultural and leadership dynamics with special attention given to how culture change occurs, the dynamics and variables that effect change, and appropriate strategies for the effective change agent, whether an individual or an organization. A biblical theology of stewardship is explored and application made to the work of securing the welfare and progress of a missional community, with an emphasis on dealing with change. A process for gaining feedback on personal leadership performance as well as the collective performance of the community is presented and applied to the learner's context. The course focuses on contemporary areas of social responsibility for Christian advocates and agents of change. Cases are presented from a wide range of global contexts.

ML634 • Leading and Theologizing in Global Perspective. 3 Credits.
This course considers the rationale and models for doing contextual theology (contextual theologizing), and how this impacts and intersects with leadership studies in relation to the development and implementation of contextual models for ministry. The course provides a survey of the leadership models and theological methods and criteria they employ. Selected cases emphasizing the role leaders play in this process are examined.

ML674 • Ministry with the Sacraments. 3 Credits.
This course is an in-depth look at the what, the why, and the how of sacramental ministry in the church, especially as practiced in the Anglican tradition. We begin with a sacramental worldview and theology, move to the dominical sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist, and conclude with the rites of Confirmation, Matrimony, Reconciliation, Uction, and Ordination.
Prerequisites: TS512 (St Paul programs).
ML675 • Presbyterian Polity. 3 Credits.
Designed to give students a theological, historical, practical, and pragmatic understanding of how things happen within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It also is designed to prepare students to pass the Polity Section that is part of the ordination examination for the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

ML676 • Reformed Worship and Sacraments. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the history, tradition, and structure of Reformed worship. The course answers questions, gives practical applications, and considers the meaning and observance of the sacraments.
Special Notes: Crosslisted with HS676 and TS676.

ML679 • Worship in the Prayer Book Tradition. 3 Credits.
This course is an overview of the theological principals, historical developments, and practical considerations that have shaped Christian worship throughout the ages, with special attention paid to the development and use of the Book of Common Prayer in England and throughout the Anglican Communion. In addition to studying the shape of worship, we will also look at the use of time, space, music, and art in historical and contemporary worship.

ML707 • Change Strategies and Conflict Resolution. 1.5, 3 Credits.
Effective leaders must be prepared to take their ministries through seasons of change, as well as to manage the conflict that inevitably results. Without change, a ministry will become ineffective and irrelevant and will eventually die. If conflict is not resolved, a ministry may leave a trail of wounded people in its wake, or even self-destruct. This course teaches two of the skills most essential for 21st century ministry leadership. Students learn strategies for bringing about transformational change in their ministry. They also learn how to lead people to greater wholeness and maturity in Christ through a biblical process of conflict resolution. One and one half or Three hours.

ML726 • History and Theology of Ministry. 3 Credits.
This course invites the student to a survey of important theological expressions and models in the history of Christian ministries from the first century through the present day. We consider selected themes (WISHMAP), illustrated by classic and contemporary sources, within a chronological framework. The goal is for these “voices” to enlighten and inspire our lives in faithful, fruitful service for Jesus Christ and the kingdom.

ML730 • Planting Missional Churches. 1.5 Credits.
The study of how to plant and grow missional churches; what it means for a church to have a missional vision; how to determine methodologies appropriate for the context; case studies of churches that are effective models of missional strategies. Campus: San Diego.

ML774 • Theology of Leadership and Vocation. 3 Credits.
This course will enable students to articulate a theology of leadership in an increasingly post-Christendom context and will also explore the nature of vocation as understood historically and in the present. The course explores the theological nature and biblical rationale for effective leadership and also explores, more broadly, vocation as a gift and responsibility, but does so in the context of reflection on the nature of the kingdom of God. The course culminates in in-depth communal and personal reflection on the question of vocation.
Special Notes: Crosslisted with TS774.

ML780 • Senior Integrative Seminar: Global Leadership in the 21st Century. 3 Credits.
A summative and integrative reflection on the MATL program is offered. Integrative cases featuring content from each of the three centers are used to prompt a collaborative discussion around leadership issues learners are likely to encounter in their immediate context, as well as a wide range of global contexts.

ML791 • Case Studies in Transformational Leadership. 3 Credits.
This course provides students the opportunity for integrative reflection on the biblical foundations, contemporary research, and historical and contemporary practice of transformational, serving leadership. The course focuses on biblical, historical, and contemporary case studies of transformational leadership as it is expressed in a variety of cultural and community contexts.

Mentored Leadership Development
ML551-596. Mentored Leadership Development. 0.75 Credits.
The Mentored Leadership Development (MLD) courses are uniquely designed experiences. Each MLD course and sequence of courses is tailored to a particular degree program. The focus of MLD coursework is on facilitating students as they integrate the seminary learning experience into their ministry contexts and walk through specific developmental goals. Through a process of self-examination, developmental assessments, facilitated mentoring, group supervision, and reflection, students demonstrate the capacity for practical application of learning outcomes from the Three Centers learning philosophy. Prerequisites: St. Paul programs: SP001, SP510 with exception of M.A.T.L.

Research
ML670 • Independent Study in Ministry Leadership. 0.5-9 Credits.
Research and study by arrangement with the professor. (Permission is required.).