

PTF 601 : Public and Pastoral Leadership: Immersion in a 21st Century inner-city/global city context

Spring 2010 Term

Instructors

Rev. Ric Matthews, Minister of the Mission and Community Life

Email address: rmatthews@firstunited.ca

Telephone: 604-681-8365, ext. 127

Rev. Sandra Severs, Minister of Hospitality and Programmes

Email address: ssevers@firstunited.ca

Telephone: 604-681-8365, ext. 120

First United Church Mission

320 East Hastings Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1P4

Purpose

The course provides an integrated learning experience. It is both academic and deeply personal: intellectual and emotional; objective and subjective; intra personal as much as it is interpersonal and impersonal; observing the Spirit at work while also being open to the Spirit. Over an 11-week period, participants move in and out (physically and emotionally) of the cauldron that is the Vancouver Downtown Eastside. This dynamic and challenging context is a microcosm of today's world. It reflects the realities of inner-cities across the globe, the range of contemporary world views, the moral issues of the 21st century, the challenges facing faith communities, and the alienation that so many experience personally and collectively. Through direct engagement with this community and place, we create an exciting opportunity for grounding the lessons learned through other courses in a live context. The weekly classes provide tools and competencies for identifying, analyzing and responding to the context in which we provide ministry and leadership. The course as a whole develops deep skills in providing public and pastoral leadership within a contemporary global city. It achieves that through an immersion process that provides insight into ourselves, into the context in which we live and work, and into our place within that context.

Competence Objectives

Students will be able to articulate and practice leadership that is theologically rooted and grounded in an understanding of the organic nature of communities and organizations.

Students will be able to identify and critically examine key issues within a community and an organization and reflect theologically on those issues.

Students will demonstrate an awareness of the role of religious communities and organizations in public leadership.

Students will develop an understanding of the contextual realities of urban ministry and ways in which the church may more fully live out its understanding of its mission.

Format

The course takes place on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. at First United Church Mission. The class will combine a lecture format with time spent in conversation with outside volunteers, members of First United's community and staff. Opportunities for grounding knowledge in the context of the Downtown Eastside will be provided by engagement with individuals and agencies working in the neighbourhood. Time to reflect theologically on the experience of ministry will be provided in class.

Evaluation

Attendance of at least 80 % of the classes is expected as specified in the VST Student handbook.

Students are expected to read approximately 75 pages weekly; to complete all required readings before class; to participate in class discussions; and to demonstrate a willingness to engage in conversation with members of the First United Church community.

A weekly two page written in response to the readings and to questions posed by the instructors will be expected. The assignments will be collected at the beginning of each class.

Prerequisites

In order to enroll in PT 601 the following requirements must have been fulfilled:

Completion of two 100-level pastoral theology courses

Completion of at least one unit of theological field education

Required Readings

"Hope in the Shadows: Stories and Photographs of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside," edited by Brad Cran and Gillian Jerome. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2008 (available through Pivot Legal Society).

Paul, Greg. "God in the Alley: Being and Seeing Jesus in a Broken World." Colorado: Shaw Books, 2004.

Davey, Andrew. "Urban Christianity and Global Order: Theological Resources for an Urban Future." Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 2004.

Bosch, David. "Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology." Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1991.

Other readings will be available on reserve at the library.

Course Format**Week One – Introduction to the work of First United**

Students will have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the work of First United Church Mission and to situate First within the context of the Downtown Eastside. We will also explore implications of the wider context: the issues of our present time, the

place of the city within contemporary life, the role of Faith. Expectations of the course and administrative details will be clarified in this first gathering.

Pre-reading: Tutu, Desmond “God has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for our Time.” London, UK: Rider, 2004. [p. 19-128]

Week Two- Walking Tour of the Downtown Eastside

Much of today’s class will be spent outside walking around the Downtown Eastside. Please come prepared for inclement weather. If mobility is an issue, please talk to Ric and Sandra so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Assignment #1 is due today (reflection on Tutu and Week 1).

Pre-reading: Lorinc, John. “The New City.” Toronto: Penguin, 2006. [pgs. 14-81]

Week Three –Understanding the local context

Reflecting on our experiences of last week, we will situate the DTES within the larger context of the city, and include reflections on power/powerlessness, economic justice and race. We will take account of our own positions and biases and consider how these may affect how we experience and impact this course.

Assignment #2 is due today. (reflection on Lorinc and Week 2).

Pre-reading: Mitchell, Don. “The Right to the City: Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space.” New York: The Guilford Press, 2003. [p.13-36]

“Race, Space and the Law: Unmapping a White Settler Society,” edited by Sherene H. Razack. Toronto: Between the Lines, 2002. [p. 47-69, 121-156]

Week Four – Models of Ministry

The class will look at past and present models of ministry. How have faith communities responded to the needs of communities like the Downtown Eastside? How does the Church understand its identity and purpose in today’s realities? What is our personal understanding of calling and ministry? What are the opportunities and challenges of this present time?

Assignment #3 is due today (reflection on Mitchell, Razack and Week 3)

Pre-reading: Davey, Andrew. “Urban Christianity and Global Order.” Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 2001. [p. 3-42, 89-102]

Bosch, David. “Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission.” Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1991. [1-11]

Week Five – Alienation and the Hunger for More

The class will explore the issues of mental illness and addictions through the lens of alienation. How are these issues and the consequent issues of poverty and homelessness to be understood systemically not only in the DTES but in the wider community? How do we discern the work of the Spirit within this community? Where have I been comforted and challenged in ways that lead to wholeness? What interventions might address the educational/developmental, socio-economic, personal/emotional and psychological needs of the community?

Assignment #4 is due today (reflection on Davey, Bosch and Week 4)

Pre-reading: "Hope in Shadows: Stories and Photographs of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside," edited by Brad Cran and Gillian Jerome. Vancouver: Pivot Legal Society, 2008. [Selected stories- your choice]

Bosch, "Transforming Mission." [p.15-55]

Week Six – **Wednesday Night Celebration**

The class will gather for the Wednesday night dinner with the community and reflect on their experience afterward. How do we best provide an inclusive opportunity for a transformative encounter with the Spirit and celebration of community? What does worship look like within an inclusive contemporary inner city community? We will explore the extent to which the class members are visitors or members at the celebration. What makes the difference?

Pre-reading: Paul, Greg. "God in the Alley: Being and Seeing Jesus in a Broken World." Colorado Springs: Shaw, 2004.

Assignment #5 is due today (reflection on "Hope in Shadows," Bosch and Week 5)

Week Seven - **Building Healthy Communities/Exploring the Vision at First**

What constitutes healthy community? What does inclusivity mean in this context? How does one move an organization from one way of being church to another? What are the theological/biblical grounds for a new vision? The class will examine emergent models of being church in the inner-city.

Assignment #6 is due today (reflection on Paul and Week 6)

Pre-reading: Bosch, "Transforming Mission." [p.181-189, 349-367]

Legge, Marilyn. "Building Inclusive Communities of Life." Article found on-line @ [tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/9390/4/Legge-Building.pdf](https://space.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/9390/4/Legge-Building.pdf)

Week Eight- **Reflection so Far**

This class will provide opportunities for the group to reflect on learnings to this point and to share the results of their research to this point. This will include reflection and feedback on personal responses and role over the past weeks.

Assignment #7 is due today (reflection on Bosch, Legge and Week 7)

Pre-reading: Bosch, "Transforming Mission." [p.368-420]

Week Nine- **The Church in Partnerships**

As the church searches for new ways of working in the work, openness to creating partnerships with people of other faith traditions or of no particular faith tradition becomes increasingly important. How do we work together?

Assignment #8 is due today (reflection on Bosch and Week 8)

Pre-reading: Bosch, "Transforming Mission." [p.420-510]

Week Ten – **Public and Pastoral Leadership**

What kind of leadership is needed to address the needs of a community under stress? What is the nature of the prophetic and public voice of leadership in this time? How does prophetic and results-oriented leadership relate to participative decision-making and shared leadership?

Assignment #9 is due today (reflection on Bosch and Week 9)

Pre-reading: Bennis, Warren and Nanus, Burt: "Leaders: Strategies for taking charge" – 2nd edition. New York: Harper Collins, 1997 [p.1-79]

Week Eleven – **The Challenges of Organizational Change**

The focus will be on exploring personal theological models for individual and organizational change. Among the areas covered: the challenges of working in team ministry, working with volunteers and Boards; systemic blocks to change. We will also identify tools and techniques for implementing organizational change.

Assignment #10 is due today (reflection on Bennis/Nanus and Week 10)

Pre-reading: Watzlawick, Paul; Weakland, John; and Fisch, Richard: "Change: Principles of Problem Formation and Problem Resolution". New York: WW Norton & Company, 1974. [p. 31-91]

Bosch, "Transforming Mission." [p.511-519]