



Learning Program in Outreach 2007-2008

Expectations

The outreach leader will be able to lead ministries in response to community needs and advocate for social justice in the church and community. The Outreach leader will complete the ETS one-year learning program in order to be recommended for licensure.

Knowledge

1. Basic familiarity with Bible, Theology, and Church History
2. Basic understanding of biblical and theological resources as they apply to ministry to the needy and dispossessed and call for social justice
3. Be familiar with two or three writers that have written and theologized about this ministry.

Skills

The outreach leader will be able to articulate the need of particular populations and develop strategies and actions for ministry to and with them and the church community by:

1. Identifying community needs and matching them to church resources
2. Create and work with a team to implement a program of ministry
3. Perform a community needs assessment

Assignments

The student in Outreach shall complete the assignments as described below. The development of each assignment, including the scope, topic and goals for each, shall be discussed, supervised and evaluated by a supervising priest and documented on the form provided, including a timeline for accomplishing the exercises by June, 2008:

Read the 4 required texts from the provided reading list and one additional book from the Additional Resources list, showing adequate preparation of texts in praxis/reflection papers.

AND

Using one or more of the Millennium Development Goals, design and lead a 2-hour class in your congregation about an issue of social justice. Address local, national and international themes associated with the issue you choose and engage the congregation in scriptural, theological, and ethical reflection about the issue.

AND

Complete one of the following three projects (or equivalent as approved by your supervising priest and mentor), present three incidents to your mentor group which emerge from this ministry and then theologically reflect in appropriate praxis/reflection papers.

1. With a team of at least 3 members of your congregation, design and implement a ministry project of community outreach.
2. With a team of at least 3 members of your congregation, develop a congregational ministry program which addresses a need in the community.
3. Involve at least 3 members of your congregation to perform a community needs assessment, document the findings of the assessment and develop a program to address the need

The written plan shall be presented to the mentor group and the mentors shall concur with the plan by October 2007. Incidents arising from your ministry shall be presented at least three times over the course of the year in your mentor group. Consideration of the incidents and the feedback your group gives you shall be used in the theological reflection papers.

In the final paper of the year consider these issues. Did you accomplish your goals? What roadblocks did you encounter? How did you respond to these challenges? Where did you seek support? What faith issues arise? What did you learn about yourself, about working with others?

BOOK LIST

Required:

1. Breuggemann, Walter, et.al. To Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly. Paulist Press: NY 1986.
2. Dudley, Carl. Community Ministry. The Albam Institute: Bethesda, 2001.
3. Lewis, Harold T. Christian Social Witness. New Church's Teaching Series. Cowley, 2001
4. Countryman, Wm. Living on the Border of the Holy. Moorehouse: 1999

Additional Resources:

1. Breuggemann, Walter. Prophetic Imagination. Fortress Press: Philadelphia, 1978.
2. Thurman, Howard. Jesus and the Disinherited. Beacon Press: Boston, 1996 (1st published in 1949 by Abingdon Press).
3. Guinan, Michael D., O.F.M. Gospel Poverty. Paulist Press: NY, 1986.
4. Coffin, William Sloane. Credo. Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.
5. Thurman, Howard. Jesus and the Disinherited Beacon Press Reprint Edition, 1996.
6. Schwab, A. Wayne. When the Members are the Missionaries. Member Mission Press: Essex, NY, 2002.