

SPD 552 The Call to Ministry
Monday, 8-9:30 a.m. (1 Credit Hour, 1.5 CEU)

Instructor Name	Robert Fish, Ph.D.
Office Hours	Tuesday, Thursday, 2-4 p.m. Other hours by appointment
Telephone	X 2110
E-Mail	fishrs@unityonline.org
Required Texts	Brumet, R.. (1996) <i>Finding Yourself in Transition</i> . Unity Village Muller. W. (1996) <i>How, Then, Shall We Live? Four Simple Questions That Reveal the Beauty and the Meaning of Our Lives</i> . New York: Bantam
Other Required Reading	Handouts
Recommended Reading	

Course Description

This course will assist students to identify their call to ministry, explore the feelings that arise in the transition to ministerial school and determine the student is going in ministry. Students will have an opportunity to explore their personal beliefs, compare those with normative Unity beliefs, and mitigate any differences.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the circumstances or insights that led to a call to ministry.
2. Recognize the impact of change on an individual's life, articulate strategies for responding to change, and articulate how transitions are the opportunity for transformation
3. Develop an effective mission statement and integrate it into the call to ministry.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity:

MD3

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

C3

Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
1	2/9	The Call to Ministry	Handouts
2	2/16	Hearing the Call	Handouts, Muller Part 1
3	2/23	Responding to the Call	Handouts, Muller Part 2
4	3/2	The Transition Process	Brumet Chapters 1,2,3
5	3/9	The Ending and the Void	Brumet, Ch. 4, 6
6	3/16	New Beginning(s)	Brumet, Chapter 8
7	3/23	The Personal Mission Statement	Muller Part 3
8	3/30	Exploring Credo Identifying Gifts	Muller Part 4
9	4/6	Integrating Personal Statement with Statement for Ministry	Handouts
10	4/13	Evolution of the Call: Where do I go from here?	Handouts

Assignments for the Master of Divinity:

1. Read assigned books and handouts
2. Participate in classroom discussion and exercises as appropriate
3. Write a paper (approximately 10 pages/minimum 2,500 words) which articulates
 - a. The context, circumstances, and events from which your call to ministry arose.
 - b. The process of transition from your prior life to your current experience as a student. Identify significant awareness, insights and emotional responses to this experience and what you have learned from it, so far.
 - c. Articulate your personal statement and how you will integrate it into your call to ministry.

Grading

Assignment	Possible Points	
Class participation	40%	
Term Paper	60%	

Final Grade Determination:

Percentage	Points	Grade
90% - 100%	4.0	A
80 - 89%	3.0	B
70 - 79%	2.0	C
Below 70 %	0.0	F

Assignments for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

4. Read assigned books and handouts
5. Participate in classroom discussion and exercises as appropriate
6. Write a paper (approximately 10 pages/minimum 2,500 words) which articulates
 - a. The context, circumstances, and events from which your call to ministry arose
 - b. The process of transition from your prior life to your current experience as a student. Identify significant awareness, insights and emotional responses to this experience and what you have learned from it, so far.
 - c. Articulate your personal statement and how you will integrate it into your call to ministry

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Standards for Term Paper:

- Create a cover page which includes: Course name, instructor's name, due date
- Indicate student's name at the end of the paper
- Double space
- Cite all direct quotes or references
- Properly cite references and text citations. APA, Turabian, or Chicago Style are acceptable.
- Number all pages
- Indicate word count at end of paper.
- Preferred method of submission is electronically. Hard copy is acceptable.

Evaluation of the paper is based on the following factors:

- Depth of knowledge, insight.
- Comprehensiveness of response.
- Clarity in communicating ideas.
- Use of outside resource material (when appropriate).
- Grammar, sentence structure, spelling.

Expectations of Students:

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it. Students are expected to comply with the rules of engagement. Cell phones are to be turned off prior to entering the classroom.

Late Assignment Policy

All work is due on the day scheduled. Late assignments will be assessed five percent (5%) penalty per day, weekends and holidays included. In case of emergency or special concerns arrangements can be made for extended time. Arrangements must be made with the instructor prior to the due date.

Academic Honesty

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are prohibited. Students may seek assistance from others as long as the student submitting the assignment is actually doing the work. All work must be original, created specifically for the requirements of this course. Recycling old papers or cutting and pasting from previous work is not acceptable, even if the work was originally created by the student. Briefly quoting previous work is allowed if properly attributed.

If a faculty member discovers a student violating academic honesty the following penalty may be applied, depending upon the severity of the infraction:

1. A reduced grade for the assignment.
2. A grade of zero for the assignment.
3. An "F" for the course.
4. Remand the decision to the full faculty.

A report will be sent to the faculty, the Dean, as well as kept in the student's permanent file.

For further information about academic honesty, students are directed to review the Unity Institute Catalog and Unity Institute Student Handbook.

Special Concerns

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately so that any accommodations, if necessary, may be made.

Selected Bibliography

Campbell, J. (1968) *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Feinstein D. and Krippner, S. (1997) *The Mythic Path: Discovering the Guiding Stories of Your Past – Creating a Vision for your Future*. NY: Putnam.

Glass, J. *Profession: Minister*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1968.

Levoy, G. (1997). *Callings: Finding and Following an Authentic Life*. NY: Three Rivers Press.

Nouwen, H. (1978). *Creative Ministry*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday.

Shepherd, T. (2000). *Glimpses of Truth*. Carol City, FL: UFBL Press.

Spangler, D. (1996). *The Call*. New York: Riverhead Books.