

SPD 592 Credo II, 1 hr/1.5 CEU
Thursday 10–11:30 a.m. * Fall Term

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| Instructor Name | Rev. Claudell Hefner County M.A. |
| Office Hours | TBA |
| Telephone | work: 816-251-3535 ex. 2160; home: 816-525-3205 |
| E-Mail | countych@unityonline.org |
| Required Texts | Armstrong R. S., (2005) <i>Help! I'm a pastor: A guide to parish ministry</i> . Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press. |
| Other Required Reading | Papers and handouts assigned in class. Downloads from email. Interview Questions |
| Recommended Reading | See Bibliography |

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to facilitate the student's verbal and written articulation of his or her ministerial credo. In this course the student is encouraged to review and reevaluate his/her credo and articulate how this credo could be implemented in the various aspect of the student's chosen ministry. The student may be required to respond to critical questioning by a credo review team.

Learning Objectives

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

1. Articulate personal beliefs as they apply to their vision of ministry in both verbal and written format, to both a Unity based and non-Unity audience.
2. Identify how his or her credo applies to both their personal and professional life.
3. Compare and contrast credo with normative Unity beliefs in both content and expression, and mitigate (diminish) any differences.
4. Integrate the Association of Unity Churches International requirements if their vision is for an alternative ministry.

Course content:

- ❑ Review and reevaluate the initial credo. (personal)
- ❑ Describe their ministry in light of their updated credo. (professional)
- ❑ Articulate how their personal beliefs and world views impact:
 - i. Worship services (messages, music, meditation)
 - ii. Pastoral services (counseling, hospital, prayer)
 - iii. Administration (policies, procedures, personnel, & management)
 - iv. Education (teaching, writing, workshops)
 - v. Leadership (leadership style, ministry design)
 - vi. Governance (boards, structure, stewardship, volunteers)
 - vii. Self-care
 - viii. Personal vision, mission, and values statements
 - ix. Prosperity consciousness
- ❑ Life-long learning plan for themselves.
- ❑ Development of a servant ministry consciousness in themselves and others.
- ❑ If Alternative ministry, (See instructor) follow the guidelines found on the AUCI website for such ministries and write section describing how credo applies.

Schedule

| Week | Date | Topic, Objective, Strategy | Assignments | Paper/Exam/Activity |
|---------------|-------|--|---|---------------------|
| 1 | 10/2 | Credo Groups Review syllabus Evaluations for Credo I Format and directions Credo II Evaluators Personal vision, mission, and values | Review Credo I with Credo Group. Does it still work for you? | Review and write. |
| 2 | 10/9 | Overall Church Identity | | |
| 3 | 10/16 | Leadership Style & Servant Ministry Consciousness | | |
| 4 | 10/23 | Pastoral | | |
| 5 | 10/30 | Worship (Rbt Fish) | | |
| Lyceum | | | | |
| 6 | 11/13 | Governance | | |
| 7 | 11/20 | Administration | | |
| 8 | 12/4 | Education | | |

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|----|-------|--|--|--|
| 9 | 12/11 | Prosperity Csn, Self Care and Lifelong Learning. | | |
| 10 | | To be determined | | |

Assignments for the Master of Divinity and Certificate program:

1. Credo group of 3 or 4 students meets outside of class
2. Spend time in silence for guidance and discernment of credo ideas.
3. Revision of Credo I
4. Credo II : The final paper will cover the major areas of ministry and how the student intends to consciously apply his or her belief system. (see Course Content). If Alternative ministry, follow the guidelines found on the website for such ministries and write additional section describing how credo applies. (see instructor for further clarity)

Credo II will be evaluated by the course instructor, the advisor, and a faculty member that the student chooses.

Grading

| Assignment | Possible Points | Meets Learning Objective |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Revision of Credo | 0 | 1,2,3 |
| Credo II | 70 | 1,2,3,4 |
| Credo Group & Class Participation | 30 | 2,4 |

Final Grade Determination:

90-100 points = A

80-89 points = B

70-79 points = C

Below 70 is failing

Expectations of Students

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it.

Classroom Protocol

To maintain an atmosphere of learning, please be on time, respect each other's ideas, balance speaking and listening, share the center stage, prepare for each class, return from breaks on time, take adult breaks if needed, and take everything to prayer.

Late Assignment Policy

A late assignment, without prior discussion with the instructor, will have a point deducted for each day late.

Attendance Policy

There will be a lot of activities done in class. Please be there. There are points for participation. Excessive absence will be noted and points deducted.

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 the assistance from others as long as the student submitting the assignment is actually doing the work.

If the 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. Please call, email, or talk to me before you go to anyone else.

Selected Bibliography

Armstrong R. S., (2005) *Help! I'm a pastor: A guide to parish ministry*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Linn, J. (1995). *What church members wish ministers knew*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press.

Linn J. (1993). *What ministers wish church members knew*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press.

Scazzero, P. (2003). *The emotionally healthy church: A strategy for discipleship that actually changes lives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.