

PC 56: THE HEALING MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

Profs. Martha Robbins, Fred Smith, Doug Ronsheim
Term III, 2002

Description of the Course:

What is the role of the Church in developing faith-based ministries of healing both within the Church and within the community? In this course, students will examine biblical, theological, and pastoral perspectives of health, healing, and wholeness, and then critically evaluate various models of the Church's healing ministry within mainline Christianity. Student teams will identify an area of need in congregations or communities and develop specific models of healing ministry for addressing that need, grounded in biblical, theological, and pastoral understandings.

Course Requirements:

(1) Attendance; (2) Field Trips; (3) Class team development and presentation of a model of healing ministry; (4) Final Paper: A Critical Evaluation of the biblical, theological and pastoral foundations of the project in Healing Ministry developed by you or your team.

Required Reading:

Gunderson, Gary, Deeply Woven Roots (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1997).
Remus, Harold, Jesus As Healer (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1997).
Packet of Articles

Recommended: Wagner, James, An Adventure in Healing and Wholeness: The Healing Ministry of Christ in the Church Today, (Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1993). Contains excellent bibliography.

Also Recommended

Carter, Rosalynn with Susan K. Golant, Helping Someone With Mental Illness (New York: Random House, 1999).

Health and Medicine in the Religious Traditions, (New York: Crossroad).

Kelsey, Morton, Psychology, Medicine & Christian Healing, (New York: Harper & Row, 1988).

Numbers, R. & D.W. Amundsen (eds.), Caring and Curing: Health and Medicine in Western Religious Traditions. (Macmillan, 1986).

Sanford, John. Healing Body & Soul: The Meaning of Illness in the New Testament, (W/JK, 1992).

Zach, Thomas. Healing Touch: The Church's Forgotten Language (W/JK, 1994).

THE HEALING MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Term III, 2002
Wednesday 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Professors:

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Part I: Hearing the Call. *The class will explore biblical understandings of Health, Healing and Wholeness. We will ask the questions: Is the Church called to heal as Jesus healed? How do we understand the Healing Ministry of the Church?*

Week 1 / March 6th Health, Healing and Wholeness

- Share our sense of call to Christian Ministry (of health)
- Definitions and Guiding Principles of Health Ministries
- Overview of Course
- Introductions

Week 2 / March 13th Biblical Understandings of Healing, Health and Wholeness

- Old Testament Understandings of healing, health and wholeness
- New Testament Understanding of healing, health and wholeness

Readings:

Gowan's article *Salvation As Healing*

Jesus as Healer, Chapters 1-4

Introduction to I am my Body by Wendy Moltmann

Week 3 / March 20th The Church's Healing Ministry as the Body of Christ

- Answers in back of Jesus as Healer- Class discussion
- Class discussion on other reading

Readings:

Insights -- Journal articles
Jesus as Healer, Chapters 7-8

PART II: Responding to the Call. *Visit sites focused on Faith-based Ministries of Healing to discover their vision, theological framework, preparation for and sense of participation in the Church's mission of healing in their work. (Both within the congregation and the community)*

Week 4 / March 27th Healing Body of Christ in Action

- Visit Center for Healthy Hearts and Souls
- Visit Families and Youth 2000

Readings:

Deeply Woven Roots by Gary Gunderson Chapters 1-5
Interfacing with the African American Church by Barbara Rogers and Douglas Ronsheim

Week 5 / April 3 Healing Body of Christ in Action

- Visit East End Cooperative Ministries
- Visit East Liberty Health Center

Readings:

Deeply Woven Roots Chapters 6-9
The Characteristics of Northern Black Churches... by Stephen B. Thomas et al.

Recommendation: Attend Gary Gunderson MUI Lecture, Thursday, Apr. 4, 7:00pm

PART III: Embodying the Call. *In the following classes we learn how others are embodying the call to develop Healing Ministries in the Church and Synagogue today. Next we will focus on how we can assist our Congregations in embodying the healing ministry of Christ, culminating with participants' reports on their projects..*

Week 6 / April 10 Equipping Congregations to do Ministry

- Guest Lecturer: The Rev. Debbie Rundlett, Assoc. Pastor for Small Churches
- Fred Smith – discussion on Health Ministries. Case Studies: Atlanta Health Ministries and the Interfaith Health Programs
- Video: Health ministries

Readings:

If Every Congregation and *Starting Point* (handouts from Carter Center)

Week 7 / April 17 The Faith Community and Mental Health

- Martha Robbins – Discussion of The Church’s Role in Mental Health and Addiction

Readings:

The Place of Spirituality and Religion in Mental Health Services by Roger Fallot

The Faith Community as a Support for People with Mental Illness by Jennifer Shifrin

Week 8 / April 24 The Congregation as Healing Community

- Rabbi Larry Hiemer- Chaplain, UPMC- Oakland Campus: *Healing Network*

Reading:

Freedman’s Article: *Spirituality, Well-Being, and Ministry*

Wagner, *Adventure in Healing and Wholeness*, Ch. 5 pp. 73-89 Recommended Book

Week 9 / May 1 Congregational Healing Practices

- Report on Tai`ze Healing Service at East Liberty Presbyterian Church/ Wed. 7 pm
- Research and attend and report on another type of Healing Service in Area
- Find your own Denominational Resources on Healing Ministries/Services to share with class

Reading:

Wagner, *Adventure in Healing and Wholeness*, Chs. 6 – to end of book

Week 10 / May 8 Project Reports

May 10 Senior Papers due

May 20 Papers due