

American Baptist Churches of Maine

Institute for Ministry

Summer 2024

Syllabus for Core Course

Pastoral Ethics

Instructor: Rev. Ted Chaffee, Pastor

First Baptist Church of Belfast

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Location: China Lake Baptist Camp

Notice: All arrangements for room and meals must be made separately and directly with China Lake Conference Center. Call to reserve your spot at (207) 358-9594.

Time: From Friday, August 23 at 10:00am

Through Sunday, August 25 at 12:00 noon

Required Readings:

Trull, Joe E. and R. Robert Creech. Ethics for Christian Ministry: Moral Formation for 21st-Century Leaders. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2017.

Morrison-Reed, Mark. After Running Through the Thistles the Hard Part Begins. The 180th Berry Street Lecture. Handout.

Martin, James. *The Meaning of the 21st Century*. Chapter 1: The Transition Generation. (Handout) New York: Riverhead Books, 2007.

Berry, Thomas. *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*. Introduction and Chapter 1 (Handout) New York: Bell Tower, 1999.

Internal Revenue Service. *Charities, Churches, and Politics*. (Handout)

American Baptist Churches. *The Covenant and Code of Ethics*. (Handout)

Anonymous. *Well, It Wasn't What I Expected*. (Handout)

Recommended Books

Berry, Thomas. *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*. New York: Bell Tower, 1999.

Gushee, David P. and Stassen, Glen H. *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003.

Martin, James. *The Meaning of the 21st Century: A Vital Blueprint for Ensuring Our Future*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2007.

Willimon, William H. *Calling and Character: Virtues of the Ordained Life*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

Course Overview

This course seeks to prepare students to make sound ethical decisions in their roles of church leadership. Using readings and discussions participants will learn to root their ethics of ministry in the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, become familiar with the scope and categories of Christian pastoral ethics, and gain the tools necessary to responsibly meet ethical challenges in contemporary ministry.

Course Objectives

- Explore the connection of personal and ministerial integrity.
- Develop a practical understanding of the ethical issues of today's ministry.
- Practice ethical decision-making on case studies.
- Study the Code of Ethics upheld by the American Baptist Churches of Maine, the Minister's Council, and the Committee on Ministry.

Class Schedule

Class 1: Friday Morning. The Greater Context of Pastoral Ministry.

Readings: The Meaning of the 21st Century, Handout

The Great Work, Handout

Discussion: The Destiny of the Earth and the Church's Mission

Class 2: Friday Afternoon. Forming a Ministry of Personal Integrity

Reading: Trull and Creech, Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-72

Discussion: Who and What Am I?

Class 3: Friday Evening. Developing a Ministry of Integrity.

Readings: Trull and Creech, Chapters 4-5, pp. 73-126

Morrison-Reed, After Running Through the Thistles (Handout)

Anonymous, Well, It Wasn't What I Expected (Handout)

Discussion: The Stuff of Ministry

Class 4: Saturday Morning. Promoting peace and justice as pastor.

Reading: Trull and Creech: Chapter 6, pp. 127-150

Discussion: Community Ministry

Class 5: Saturday Afternoon. Dealing with issues of sexuality and power.

Reading: Trull and Creech, Chapter 7. pp. 151-176

Discussion: It's Everywhere!

Class 6: Saturday Evening. Developing your personal code of ethics.

Reading: Trull and Creech, Chapter 8, pp.177-210.

American Baptist Ministerial Code of Ethics, handout

IRS, Charities, Churches, and Politics

Discussion led by Rev. Al Fletcher, Resource Minister of ABC of Maine

Class 7: Sunday Morning. The ethics of worship.

Reading: Joint Study of Romans 12:1-21

Concluding Worship

Evaluation:

Each student will be expected to be present in class and to participate enthusiastically. The following written assignments will be due October 1.

1. A copy of your personal code of ethics.
2. A 10-page (approximately) paper on an ethical topic or issue raised in class on which you choose to dig deeper.

Or

3. Two 5-page papers on ethical topics or issues raised in class on which you'd like to clarify your thinking.