



Learning Program in Christian Formation 2007-2008

Expectations

The Christian Formation Leader will be able prepared to teach classes in Christian formation settings such as Sunday school, baptism & confirmation classes; evaluate curriculum; train teachers to teach; and oversee formation efforts for the congregation. The Christian Formation Leader will complete the three-year ETS program in order to be recommended for licensure.

Knowledge

1. Basic familiarity with Bible, Theology, and Church History
2. The development and practice of the rites of initiation including baptism, confirmation, and reception into the Episcopal Church
3. The developmental stages of children and adults
4. The development and learning styles appropriate to each stage of life.
5. Faith development (i.e. James Fowler)
6. Spiritual disciplines & practices

Skills

1. Be able to create formation programs for all ages with specific learning goals, activities and evaluation.
2. Be able to design, supervise, manage, and evaluate a congregational formation program.
3. Be able to develop formation programs for the various sacraments of the church.
4. Be able to utilize different models for teaching and engaging others in the Biblical story for the various age groups and intergenerationally.

Assignments

Read the required texts and two additional texts from the provided reading list and show adequate knowledge of texts in assigned praxis/reflection papers

AND

Complete three exercises as described below. The development of each exercise, including the scope, topic and goals for each, shall be discussed, supervised by and evaluated by a supervising priest and documented, using the form provided, including a timeline for accomplishing the exercises by June, 2008.

Complete one of the following or as approved by your priest supervisor and mentors:

1. Develop a curriculum for confirmation course or Lenten study, etc.
2. Prepare an outline for a training workshop for Sunday school teachers who will teach children of a specific age.

AND

Complete two of the following or equivalent as approved by your priest supervisor and mentors:

1. Prepare and lead a 3-6 session Bible study for adults or children (at least one) and share this with your mentor group and write a reflection paper on it.
2. Prepare and lead a class for children or adults on one of the sacraments
3. Take a contemporary issue, prepare and lead a class on it for teenagers or adults, using Biblical, theological and ethical sources.
4. Prepare an outline of a series of classes for adults or teens and lead at least one lesson as planned.

The written plan shall be presented to the mentor group and the mentor shall concur with the plan by October 2006. 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 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 are the system and power dynamics in your team and community which influenced your ministry?

Book List: Christian Formation 2007-2008

Required:

1. Everist, Norma Cook. The Church as Learning Community: A Comprehensive Guide to Christian Education. Abingdon: Nashville, 2002.
2. Palmer, Parker. To Know as We are Known: Education as a Spiritual Journey. Harper Collins; New York, 1993.
3. Westerhoff, John. Will Our Children Have Faith. Moorehouse: Harrisburg, 2000.

Additional Reading: (read two or more of the following)

4. Groome, Thomas. Christian Religious Education: Sharing our Vision and Story. Harper: San Francisco, 1999.
5. Foltz, Nancy. Religious Education in the Small Membership Church. Religious Education Press: Birmingham, 1990.
6. Fowler, James W. Stages of Faith. Harper: San Francisco, 1995.
7. Cottrell, Stephen, and Croft, Steven. Emmaus: The Way of Faith. National Society, Church Publishing, Bible Society: London, 1996.
8. Nouwen, Henri. In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership. Crossroads Pub: NY, NY, 1996.
9. Farnham, Suzanne, et. al. Listening Hearts. Morehouse Pub: Harrisburg, PA 1991.
10. Forrester, Kevin Thew. I Have Called You Friends. Church Pub: NY, NY 2003.
11. Holmes, Urban, III What is Anglicanism? Morehouse Pub: Harrisburg, PA, 2002.
12. Smith, Martin L., SSJE. Christian Wholeness. Cowley Pub: Cambridge, MA
13. Ferguson, George. Signs and Symbols in Christian Art. Oxford Press: New York.
14. Cross, F.L., editor. The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church. Oxford University Press: NY, NY, 1997.
15. Achtemeier, Paul J. Harper's Bible Dictionary. Harper: San Francisco.
16. McManners, John, editor. The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity. Oxford University Press: NY, NY 1990.
17. Giles, Richard. Always Open: Being and Anglican Today. Canterbury Press: Norfolk, UK. 2004.
18. Schmidt, Frederick. What God Wants for Your Life. Harper Collins: NY, NY, 2005.