PT 651 (Fall 2014)  VST Studio for Strategic Leadership

Opening Litany/Recollection of Purpose

We are here to engage

- The **God** who **calls** and **sustains** us in ministry
- The **world** which God loves and in which we offer service
- The **means** through which we offer ministry
- **Each other** as those who seek to serve faithfully, effectively & with joy
- The promises and challenges of **our heart, soul and spirit**
- The **tradecraft** of leadership

Session times (all gatherings in the Chapel of the Epiphany)

- Three - Five hour sessions – 10:00 – 12:30; 1:30 – 4:30 pm (Sept 15, 22; Oct 27)
- Three - Three and one quarter hour sessions - 1:45 – 5:00 pm (Oct 6; Nov 3, 17)

Group presentations and work

- No Leadership Situations or Virtues presentations September 15 and 22

Leadership Groups

- Membership assigned
- No more than 6/group (planning for 2 groups)
- Leadership situations must be written up on one page and submitted

Preparing a leadership issue for discussion

There is no rigid formula; however, this outline (from Scott, *Fierce Conversations*, p. 253) provides a helpful approach.

1. Identify the issue
   - one or two sentences: a concern, challenge, opportunity, chronic problem

2. It is significant because
   - what’s at stake? Future impact if not resolved

3. My ideal outcome
   - specifically I want ____________

4. Relevant background information
   - how, when, why, genesis of issue, key players, major forces in play

5. What I have done up to this point
   - actual actions; future options under consideration

6. The Help I want from this group is
   - solutions; confidence; sentimental affirmation; clarification; alternatives; blanket condemnation of “those who don’t get it” ....
The process used to explore a leadership issue

i) Presentation of a leadership situation or issue that provoked wonder, insecurity, doubt, hope, etc. (4 minutes) [accompanied by a 1-page point form sheet]

ii) Clarifying questions by members of the studio (3 minutes)

iii) “I wonder” explorations by members of the studio (5 minutes)

Leadership Virtues

- maximum of 4/session = 16 opportunities to schedule a presentation
- presented to the home group
- Task: In 7 minutes tell the story of your engagement with a leadership virtue or characteristic. This presentation will not be an abstract discussion but will emerge out of your experience of the presence or absence of the virtue or characteristic in some situation requiring the practice of leadership.
- a one page summary to be submitted (does not necessarily ≠ presentation to the group)
- Format: speak for 7 minutes; 5-7 minute group fills out evaluation; 7 minute – feedback & learning for presenter
- Evaluation to include: extent to which I was engaged; relevance to my ministry – points of coherence, points of resistance

Final Paper for Fall 2014

Options:

1. Choose one key aspect of our social context and explore its implications for the mission of the church. Pay particular attention to the theological, ethical and leadership challenges this dimension of our societal context presents to mission. (1500 words)

2. Christian leadership involves alignment between four “stories”: God’s; that of the society in which ministry occurs; that of the ministry platform; and that of the leader. Identify the key movements in your story and explore how they relate to your understanding of God’s story and the ministry to which you might be called within this society. (1500 words with no more than 300 words devoted to the key movements of your story)

Participant Requirements For Each Gathering of the Studio

In addition to spending 10 – 12 hours on your leadership project each week, you will be expected to:

1. Be physically, emotionally, spiritually and intellectually present for the studio session and other studio participants.

2. In the week during which the studio gathers write a blog (no more than 250 words) in response to the previous class (by Thursday).

3. Write an analytical reflective piece (no more than 350 words) each week (by Sunday; 4 pm) in response to the required readings.
4. Present, twice per term, some aspect of a leadership situation in which you are involved. This includes a one-page summary of the situation as per the format below (mandatory).

5. In 7 minutes tell the story of your engagement with a leadership virtue or characteristic. This presentation will not be an abstract discussion but will emerge out of your experience of the presence or absence of the virtue or characteristic in some situation requiring the practice of leadership. Submit a one-page summary of your presentation.

6. A one-page briefing note on some key aspect of our social context that relates to the mission of the church.

7. Prepare a 1500 word integrative paper (or other project agreed upon with the Studio leadership) to be submitted, by email, no later than 3 pm December 2, 2014.

8. Attend 80% of the Studio sessions and give notice of and reason for absence.

Core Texts


2. Michael C. Donaldson, Mimi Donaldson, Negotiating For Dummies. For Dummies; 2 edition (Jan 19 2007) or [Kindle]


5. Gil Rendle, Journey in the Wilderness. Abingdon. 2010 or [Kindle]

September 15 (5 hr: 10:00 – 12:30; 1:30 – 4:30 pm) – Paying Attention to Leadership

- Introductions
  - Personal + leadership field situation
  - To the Studio – scope, dynamic, expectations, leadership situations, Home groups
- Overview of Theories of Leadership
- A Model of Christian Leadership – The Leadership Matrix
- Importance of Paying Attention
- The place of vulnerability in The Studio and in leadership
- Understanding confidentiality

**Assignments this week**

Read/View:

4. Annette Simmons, *The Story Factor*, chapters 1-4
5. Watch the movie (or read the book), *The Shipping News*
6. Family of Origin material

**Analytical Reflection** (no Sunday blog)

Prepare Family of Origin material.
September 22 (5: 10:00 – 12:30; 1:30 – 4:30 pm) –
Paying Attention to the Roots of Our Story
• Family of Origin

Read/View:


3. Annette Simmons, *The Story Factor*, chapters 8-9


Analytical Reflection
Sketch your answer to Kerry Robinson’s advice: “remember what it is you love most about the church, and membership in it. Name it. Claim it. And be radically grateful for it.” What is it that you love most about the church? And, what is it that most inhibits your commitment to the church?

September 29 – No Studio Session

Assignments

Read/View:


Watch:

a. Isabel Allende: Tales of passion

b. Andrew Stanton: The clues to a great story

c. J.J. Abrams: The mystery box

Analytical Reflection:

Using Ben Campbell Johnson’s modes of Godspeech as a guide, through which mode, if any, does God most often speak to you? Johnson talks about “intentional listening.” If you have a practice for intentional listening, what is it?
October 6 (3: 1:45 – 5:00 pm) – Paying Attention to How God Speaks to Us

- God in our story
- Spiritual gifts
- Leadership virtue
- Leadership situations

Assignments
Read/View:
1. John Kotter, Leading Change, Part II: chapters 3-10
3. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wviYuKDIKs#t=98](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wviYuKDIKs#t=98)
4. Gil Rendle, Journey in the Wilderness, Chapters 1-3

Field trip/Analytical Reflection:
Visit an Apple Store for at least 30 minutes.
Task: Pay Attention! What do you notice? What five aspects of the Apple store most reflect the ethos and values of our society?

October 13 – No Studio Session (Thanksgiving holiday)

Assignments
Read/View:
Michael C. Donaldson, Mimi Donaldson, Negotiating For Dummies, chapters 6, 8-12

Field trip/Analytical Reflection: [no Moodle posting]
Task: The next session of the Studio will engage key aspects of our social context as they relate to the mission of the church.

Prepare a one-page briefing note that includes key messages and talking points about one aspect of the context to which the church should pay particular attention as part of its mission. Students will choose a topic from a list including but not limited to: mental health issues, addictions, drug culture, authority, technology, demographics shifts, generational differences, immigration, etc. The briefing note will be handed in.

October 20 – No Studio Session (VST reading week)

October 27 (5: 10:00 – 12:30; 1:30 – 4:30 pm) – Paying Attention to the Social Context

- Dominant stories: Postmodernism: Post Christendom; Consumerism
- The Studio will engage key aspects of our social context as they relate to the mission of the church. The conversation will pay special attention to points of intersection and the theological, ethical and leadership challenges these aspects present to mission.
In preparation for the conversation students will prepare a one-page briefing note that includes key messages and talking points. Students will choose a topic from a list including but not limited to: mental health issues, addictions, drug culture, authority, technology, demographics shifts, generational differences, immigration, etc. The briefing note will be handed in.

- Leadership virtue
- Leadership situations

Read/View:
1. (YouTube) Ira Glass on Storytelling - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loxJ3FtCJIA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loxJ3FtCJIA)
3. Gil Rendle, *Journey in the Wilderness*, Chapters 4-7

Fieldtrip/Analytical Reflection:
Visit IKEA for at least 60 minutes, preferably on a Sunday morning (or Saturday) around lunch time.
Task: Pay Attention! What do you notice? What issues and practices form the IKEA experience? To what does IKEA pay attention?

Identify the learning that the church might gain from the IKEA approach.

November 3 (3: 1:45 – 5:00 pm) – Paying Attention to the Ministry Context
- The importance of congregational stories paying particular attention to matters of purpose and authority
- Leadership virtue
- Leadership situations

Read/View:

Analytical Reflection: Within the context of your leadership project (or ministry), and in order to create focus and commitment, clarify:
- *What*: what you want to be part of creating
- *Why*: why does this really matter to you (if not, why not)
- *How*: what is the process that will take you where you need to go
- *Who*: the roles and responsibilities of the players involved
- *When, where*: the next step(s)
November 10 – No Studio Session

Read/View:
Read: https://medium.com/@elleluna/the-crossroads-of-should-and-must-90c75eb7c5b0

View Stefan Sagmeister, http://www.ted.com/talks/stefan_sagmeister_the_power_of_time_off#

Analytical Reflection: About what parts of your life and/or dimensions of your soul do these two pieces make you wonder?

November 17 (3:1:45 – 5:00 pm) –
Paying Attention to the Interactions (on the Leadership Matrix)

- Authenticity, integrity, mission, call, ...
- Leadership virtue
- Leadership situations

Read/View:

Analytical Reflection:
One of the major themes that form the foundation of The Studio for Strategic Leadership is the need for leaders to pay attention to themselves, the context of their ministry platform, the societal context and the presence and movement of God.

Identify five factors with which you struggle that inhibit your ability to pay attention.
Name three practices you use to help you pay attention.

November 24 – No Studio
No blogs; refine the practice of gratitude for this period of grace.

December 1, 5:00 pm – Paper due
Options:
1. Choose one key aspect of our social context and explore its implications for the mission of the church. Pay particular attention to the theological, ethical and leadership challenges this dimension of our social context presents to mission. (1500 words)

2. Christian leadership involves alignment between four “stories”: God’s; that of the society in which ministry occurs; that of the ministry platform; and that of the leader. Identify the key movements in your story and explore how they relate to your understanding of God’s story and the ministry to which you might be called within this society. (1500 words with no more than 300 words devoted to the key movements of your story)