

LS/SP502a – VOCATION

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September 9th 2016

Time: 1:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Location: VST

PURPOSE: This brief retreat, conducted during Orientation Week, will especially engage incoming but also ongoing students in the Anglican ministry stream to reflect upon and share their own unique understanding of calling and where they see that calling taking them. Senior students may be able to offer deeper insight into to new students about pursuing their sense of calling in the seminary milieu.

PREREQUISITES: none

COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES:

Ideally participants will be better willing and able to reflect upon vocation as an open-ended, developing relationship and discipline, and be capable of identifying and applying specific qualities and characteristics of ordained vocation from various vocational discernment and “Readiness for Ministry” criteria.

FORMAT AND CONTENT:

The course takes the form of a half day retreat conducted on VST campus the afternoon of the final day of Orientation Week

Participants will reflect on their own sense of calling, and compare that to various criteria that have been identified by the Church and the College. This is a half credit course that is completed by the Ordination retreat in Spring term of 2017, which then provides a full credit requirement under Anglican Formation.

SUMMARY OF CONTENT:

What does it mean to be called? A Theology of Vocation: What is our understanding of God?

Questions you are sure to be asked a hundred times: Where, when did your call happen? What happened? Why do you think it happened?

Bishop Melissa Skelton: presentation: What the Church needs in ordained and lay leadership.

Called to what? What kind of church do we think we are called to?

Whose call is it anyway? To what degree does it belong to the whole church and not just your private possession? The ordained in relation to the laity

Biblical calls as examples; other famous calls in history – John Newton, John Wesley etc.

Vocation and ongoing formation: Listening, staying attentive; being open to new insight and experience; tending to our calling – spiritual practice; the evolution of a call

Readiness for Ministry criteria – being called meets up with expectations

Ordained ministry requirements – Diocese of New Westminster (and others)

TEXTS: None required

RECOMMENDED READING:

This is Our Calling; edited by Charles Richardson, foreword by Rowan Williams (SPCK)

The Preaching Life; Barbara Brown Taylor (Cowley)

A Sacred Voice is Calling: Personal Vocation and Social Conscience; John Neafsey (Orbis)

Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation; Parker Palmer (John Wiley and Sons)

The Five Stages of the Soul; Harry R. Moody and David Carroll (Anchor Books)

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance for the entire time period allotted is required. Students are expected to participate in class discussions.

The course will require a short written assignment (five pages) detailing the origin of their call and the reasons they have for trusting that it is genuine. This is to be discussed with the Instructor at a later date prior to the end of October 2016.

Credit will be recommended once the written assignment has been handed in, discussed with the instructor, and approved by the instructor. A re-write may be requested.

Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. Late assignments and requests for extensions will be referred to the Dean, Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls.