

**LS/SP503 TEACHING RETREAT:
THE ANGLICAN SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Dates: November 3--5, 2017

Instructor: Grant Rodgers

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Bethlehem Retreat Centre, Nanaimo

1 credit

Course description:

Anglicanism places a high value upon the sacramental and communal experience of Christ's creative and redemptive work. In addition to understanding the history and theology of Baptism in the Christian tradition, Anglican priests are expected to be competent leaders in presiding at sacramental worship, and to do so must be trained in three areas of sacramental practice:

- The planning and conduct of liturgical rites
- The integration of the presider's own personal engagement with the sacramental act while it is taking place, as distinct from the presider's public role in the liturgical act.
- The teaching, preparation and pastoral care of those seeking Baptism

In this three-day residential retreat, students will be expected to

- observe a discipline of corporate prayer, centered on the theme of Baptism, in the context of a community which prays, reflects, dines, and lives together
- reflect on the meaning of sacraments as that applies to the practice of Baptism
- develop a familiarity with the contemporary Anglican service of Baptism by examining its contents and components, and by comparing the contents and emphases of the BCP order for Baptism
- reflect upon a variety of baptismal theologies and approaches to initiation including infant and adult-only Baptism
- Consider how to develop baptismal preparation tools for use in a parish or other context
- reflect on Baptism from the point of view of those seeking it by creating a hypothetical "examination of the parish" by the candidates
- practice the liturgical movements, gestures and other aspects of ritual involved in presiding at Baptism

Course Competencies:

Students who complete the course will be more familiar with Anglican traditions and teachings about Baptism, and aware of the symbolism and use of water, font and liturgical space. They will be able to offer pre-Baptismal preparation to seekers who may or may not be familiar with Christian and Church practices, and will have developed at least the beginnings of a liturgical style for presiding that is personally and corporately appropriate.

By writing the 7 page assignment paper, participants will become better able to articulate their own their personal theology of Baptism, and how they would communicate the priority and meaning of Baptism in a parish context.

Texts:

The Mystery of Baptism in the Anglican Tradition; Kenneth Stevenson
Baptism Eucharist Ministry -- excerpts

Requirements:

- attendance at all sessions in the residential setting (Bethlehem Retreat Centre, Nanaimo).
- active participation in discussions and group work during the course.
- A one hour meeting with the instructor following the retreat to reflect on their learnings and to discuss their assignment. The assignment is to be completed and delivered to the Instructor prior to the last day of classes, and an hour-long interview with the Instructor, arranged by the Student with the Instructor, must be completed on or before the last day of term.

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be based on participation and interaction in the course presentations and communal life of the retreat, with VST's "Readiness for Ministry" criteria in mind, as well as the degree to which, through the written assignment, the student articulates his/her understanding of Anglican theory and practice.

Students will give evidence in their written assignment of having heard and understood the material presented at the retreat, and demonstrate familiarity with the assigned text(s). The student will meet with the Instructor for a minimum of one hour to discuss and if necessary defend their written assignment.

Retreat Centre Fees:

Each student attending this retreat is responsible for paying their share of the accommodation charges stipulated by the retreat centre. The charge will be applied to the student's account as a separate charge at the point when the student registers for the course. After the end of the Add/Drop period, there will be no refund of the accommodation charge if a student withdraws from the course. Under the usual policy on Fee Refunds and Withdrawals, tuition charges for the course will still be eligible for a refund but the accommodation charge will not.