Instructor: Grant Rodgers
Vancouver School of Theology
Office Number 316
Tel. 606-822-9815 or 604-315-2891
Email: grodgers@vst.edu

September 7, 2018
Time: 12:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Location: VST Epiphany Chapel

LS/SP 502a – ANGLICAN VOCATION

PURPOSE: This brief retreat, conducted during Orientation Week, will engage students about the meaning and purpose of vocation in the Anglican Communion, in relation to their own. Invited resource persons, who have experience in various forms of ministry, will offer their insights and experience relating to pursuing and practising their sense of calling.

PREREQUISITES: none

COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES:

Participants will become willing and able to reflect upon vocation as an open-ended, developing relationship and discipline. After reflecting upon various vocational discernment and “Readiness for Ministry” criteria, participants will be capable of identifying, articulating and applying specific qualities and characteristics of ordained vocation in their own lives.

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 consider that in light of various criteria that have been identified by the Church and the College. This is a half credit course that is completed by LS/SP 502b, Ordination in the Anglican Church of Canada, which then provides a full credit requirement under the Anglican Formation of their degree program.

SUMMARY OF CONTENT:

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

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

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

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 rather than being your private possession? The ordained in relation to the laity.

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

Reflections on Call and Vocation by people serving in various forms of ministry

Readiness for Ministry criteria – being called meets up with expectations

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

TEXTS: Book of Alternative Services; The Bible

RECOMMENDED READING:

David G. Benner, Basil M. Pennington, The Gift of Being Yourself, The: The Sacred Call to Self-Discovery
Kenneth A. Cahalan, and Douglas J Schuurman, Calling in Today’s World: Voices from Eight Faith Perspectives
William Countryman, Living on the Border of the Holy
Brutus Green, Being called out: vocation as a model of Anglican ministerial training and priesthood: in Theology, March/April 2010 Vol CXIII No 872, ISSN 0040-571 X2010
Donald R Hands and Wayne L. Fehr, Spiritual Wholeness for Clergy: A New Psychology of Intimacy with God, Self, and Others
Harry R. Moody, David Carroll; The Five Stages of the Soul: Anchor Books
James Neafsey, A Sacred Voice Is Calling: Personal Vocation and Social Conscience
Parker Palmer, Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation: John Wiley and Sons
Charles Richardson, ed.; This is Our Calling: SPCK
Barbara Brown Taylor, The Preaching Life: Cowley

ASSIGNMENT: LS/SP 502a – ANGLICAN VOCATION ASSIGNMENT:

Prepare and preach the homily at the Tuesday Eucharist for the VST Anglican Community, prior to the end of term, integrating themes of personal call, response and vocation.

Or: A short written assignment (five pages) detailing the origin of their call, the reasons they have for trusting that it is genuine, and plans they have for keeping that calling viable. Once completed, this paper is to be discussed with the Instructor at a later date prior to the end of October 2018.

In either case, a follow-up conversation with the Instructor will be required, prior to the end of classes for the term, and the student is to initiate this.

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

Credit will be recommended once their homily or their written assignment has been handed in, discussed with the instructor, and approved by the instructor.

After the discussion, the Instructor will indicate to the student whether or not approval is to be given. If the paper and the discussion do not reflect substantial understanding and appreciation of the subject matter, evidence of learning from the retreat, and indication of some meaningful reading on the topic, a re-write will 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.