

**LS/SP505 Teaching Retreat: Funerals and End-of-Life Ministry**  
**Instructor: Grant Rodgers, Director of Anglican Formation**

This is a weekend residential retreat format for one credit in the area of Anglican Formation. It takes place from Friday, February 8 – Sunday, February 10, 2019 at Bethlehem Retreat Centre in Nanaimo.

**PURPOSE:** In the context of a residential retreat, participants enter a discipline of corporate prayer throughout the day, praying the daily offices, becoming conscious of themselves and others in the context of community and of God. In this more contemplative setting, participants will be invited to examine their experience and theology of death in light of the fact that they will often be dealing with people whose understanding and experience of death may be very different than their own. They will be challenged to reflect on and express what they believe about death, afterlife, salvation, and the role of God. They will explore ways of understanding, caring for and supporting people in the face of their loss so they may be able to give meaningful expression to it in the form of the funeral liturgy.

**COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES:** Participants will have a better sense of the impact and practice of ministry at times of loss; they will be more sensitive to many of the issues people face at time of death. They will be able to identify basic aspects of grief and explore helpful ways of being of service to the dying and their families. They will know how to approach, plan and conduct a funeral either in the church or in another setting.

**PREREQUISITES:** Restricted to Anglican M.Div. students except by permission of the Instructor

**COURSE CONTENT:**

**Reflection and Discussion: personal experiences of loss**

**What is the Purpose of a Christian Funeral?**

**Ministry to the Dying**

**Ministry to the Family**

**Planning funeral services**

**Conducting the Service**

**Pastoral Follow-up**

**Required Texts:** Robert Atwell, *Peace at the Last: Leading Funerals Well*; (Canterbury)

**Copies of the text available from the Instructor**

**Other suggested reading:** David Kuhl, *What Dying People Want: Practical Wisdom for the End of Life*; (Harper Collins)

Thomas Long, *The Good Funeral: Death, Grief, and the Community of Care*; (Westminster, John Knox Press)

