

## **DS521 UCC Studies: Faith Formation in an Intercultural Church**

### **January Interterm 2020**

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#### ***A Note About January Interterm UCC Studies:***

*With recent restructuring and continuing change in The United Church of Canada, VST is offering two UCC Studies courses during January Interterm. The goal of these courses is to prepare learned and able leaders to contribute to the health and well-being of the church at all levels through its polity/governance and faith formation. These two courses can be taken separately or consecutively. The first course (DS525 January 8-10) will consider the development of recent changes in the polity of the church and provide opportunity to understand the United Church's current organization of its life – from communities of faith to regions and the denominational council - in a context of faithful discipleship. Students who have previously taken DS525 may want to register to audit this updated course. The second course (DS521 January 13-15) will engage and enable students in the leadership of faith-forming and community-shaping in an intercultural church. These courses are required for United Church MDiv. students.*

#### **Purpose:**

This course equips students to be leaders in The United Church of Canada with an understanding of the church's history and contemporary ethos in education and faith formation. The seminar will provide an opportunity to study, reflect on and discuss issues that are critical to faith formation in intercultural congregational ministries.

#### **Competencies Related to Course**

- an ability to describe, interpret and analyze current faith formation and educational issues facing the United Church with an awareness of their historical development
- an ability to locate understand and articulate the United Church's social, cultural and ecclesial locations
- an ability to envision and employ the commitment of the United Church to becoming an intercultural church
- a knowledge of the various ways that the United Church supports and facilitates faith formation for all ages.

#### **Format of the Course**

This 1.0 credit class will meet January 13-15, from 2-5:30. The course is taught as a seminar with instructional input. Participation is through active listening, collegial group work, in-class discussions and guest presentations. Preparation for the course includes pre-reading and writing. A final paper/project will be due by the end of the term.

## Required Reading

Hyeran Kim-Cragg, "Beyond Adult-Centered Worship," in Kim-Cragg, *Interdependence: A Postcolonial Feminist Practical Theology*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2018, pp. 57-80.

Greer Anne Wenh-In Ng, "The United Church of Canada: A Church Fittingly National," in Paul Bramadat and David Seljak, eds., *Christianity and Ethnicity in Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008, pp. 204-246.

Hyeran Kim-Cragg and Don Schweitzer, "Excerpts from 'Intercultural Ministries: Living into Transformation,'" in Kim-Cragg and Schweitzer, eds. *An Introduction to The United Church of Canada: Key Texts with Introductions and Commentary*. Daejeon, South Korea: Daejangan Publisher, 2013, pp. 79-91.

Students are required to become familiar with these documents and web collections prior to the course.

Executive of the General Council, The United Church of Canada, March 24-26, 2012, "Intercultural Ministries: Living into Transformation," pp.143-168.

[https://commons.united-church.ca/Documents/Governance/General%20Council%20Executive/GC40%20Executive%20\(2009-2012\)/Meeting%20Documents/2012-03-24%20GCE%20Workbook.pdf](https://commons.united-church.ca/Documents/Governance/General%20Council%20Executive/GC40%20Executive%20(2009-2012)/Meeting%20Documents/2012-03-24%20GCE%20Workbook.pdf)

<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/faith-formation>

Other documents will be noted on the syllabus.

## Course Expectations and Assignments

- 100% attendance of the class
- Appropriate preparation for participation in class activities and discussion
- Preparation for the course includes pre-reading and writing (250-300 words). A final paper (1000 words)/project will be due by the end of the term. Details will be included in the syllabus.