

**PT131C - Spiritual Conversations: Pastoral Ministry with
Children, Youth and Families**

Vancouver School of Theology January 13-15, 2022

Continuing Education Certificate course

Thursday January 13	6 pm – 8 pm
Friday January 14	9am – 4:30 pm
Saturday January 15	9 am – 4:30 pm

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DESCRIPTION:

In ministry with children, youth, and their family we create space for spiritual conversations. Families seek support from ministers and congregational leaders on how to talk about God, death, and other existential questions such as, “Who am I?” and “What am I meant to be doing in my life?” with the children and youth in their lives. This short course is intended to deepen our understanding of the importance of listening to children and youth. We will discuss ways to support families in their conversations regarding death, life and meaning. We will explore power, posture, and intention in supporting young people in their spiritual journey. This course will examine ways to partner with families and caregivers to support them in their spiritual nurture of their children.

GOALS:

- To develop and deepen an understanding of the spirituality of children and youth.
- To identify ways to support children, youth, their family, and other caregivers in their experience of death and life.
- To identify hallmarks in the way children and youth make theological meaning

OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify the many ways that children and youth make theological meaning.
2. Discuss supporting children and youth in conversations about God.
3. Explore ideas of how the community of faith can partner with parents, grandparents, and other caregivers in the spiritual nurture of their children and youth.
4. Explore ways to support conversations about death, dying, and life with children, youth, their families, and other caregivers.

EXPECTATIONS:

1. We will be in person and/or online via zoom for our classroom and will be synchronous only. If joining online, you will need access to a computer with audio and video and reliable internet. Please arrive ontime and be ready to begin with readings at hand.
2. Participate in class by actively listening and engaging in thoughtful conversation. As

this is a short intensive there are no unexcused absences, 100% attendance is expected.

3. Bring a spirit of openness to learning and new ideas.
4. Value and respect the opinions and views of all participants and the instructors.

ASSIGNMENT:

This is a three-day intensive course worth 1.5 continuing education (Certificate) credit hours. It can also be taken as an auditor. *This course is not available for diploma or degree credit.* Work in the course consists of classes including readings done ahead of the course, discussion, small group exercises, and an assignment.

For all students: Attendance is expected during all three class sessions. It is assumed that participants will come prepared to engage the assigned reading and be open to other interactive strategies as we move through each session. All Students including auditors are expected to do all the required readings and participate in class discussions. 100% attendance is required.

For Certificate students:

Choice 1: Write a 5-6-page paper (12pt font, 1.5 spaced) in which you use at least three of the readings and how they connect and inform your ministry or personal context.

Choice 2: Create an outline of an event or series of events for children, youth and/or families using a topic discussed in class. Please include:

- the purpose of the event or series
- the intended participants
- the goal of the event
- the way you will evaluate the event

As well, write a 3-page paper (12pt font, 1.5 spaced) in which you use at least one of the readings and how they connect and inform your designed event.

DUE DATE: March 11, 2022

REQUIRED READING (please read prior to beginning of the course):

Campen, Tanya M.E. *Holy Work with Children: Making Meaning Together*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2021

REQUIRED READINGS (please read prior to beginning of the course)

All posted to the course in CANVAS

Borgo, Lacy Finn. "Learning From Jesus." In *Spiritual Conversations with Children: Listening to God Together*, 7-17. DownersGrove, IL: IVP, an imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2020.

Borgo, Lacy Finn. "Posture, Power, and Patterns." In *Spiritual Conversations with Children: Listening to God Together*, 35-57. DownersGrove, IL: IVP, an imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2020.

Collicutt, Joanna, Lucy Moore, Martyn Payne, and Victoria Slater. "Taking Care When Talking with Children about Death and Loss." In *Seriously Messy: Making Space for Families to Talk Together about Death and Life*, 39-46. Oxford: BRF, 2019.

Csinos, David M. "Waymarks for the Road Ahead: Future Directions for Research and Pastoral Practice." In *Little Theologians: Children, Culture, and the Making of Theological Meaning*, 204-213. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2020.

Dean, Kenda Creasy, and Ron Foster. "A Rhythm of Life: Practices that Shape the Soul." In *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry*, 105-122. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1998.

Dean, Kenda Creasy, and Ron Foster. "A Circle of Friends: Inviting Spiritual Friendship." In *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry*, 123-136. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1998.

Hay, David, and Rebecca Nye. "The Social Destruction of Spirituality." In *The Spirit of the Child*. Rev. ed, 33-48. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2006.

Hay, David, and Rebecca Nye. "A Geography of the Spirit." In *The Spirit of the Child*. Rev. ed, 63-78. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2006.

Stonehouse, Catherine, and Scottie May. "The Church Partnering with Parents." In *Listening to Children on the Spiritual Journey*, 123-138. Ada: Baker Publishing Group, 2010.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Borgo, Lacy Finn. *Spiritual Conversations with Children: Listening to God Together*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, an imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2020.

Collicutt, Joanna, Lucy Moore, Martyn Payne, and Victoria Slater. *Seriously Messy: Making Space for Families to Talk Together about Death and Life*. Oxford: BRF, 2019.

Csinos, David M. *Little Theologians: Children, Culture, and the Making of Theological Meaning*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2020.

Dean, Kenda Creasy, and Ron Foster. *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry*. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1998.

Kizinna, Doris E. *Go Deep: Spiritual Practices for Youth Ministry*. Kelowna, BC: CopperHouse, 2009.

Nye, Rebecca. *Children's Spirituality: what is it and why it matters*. London: Church House Publishing, 2009.

Smith, Traci. *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2017.

Smith, Traci. *Prayers for Faithful Families: Everyday Prayers for Everyday Life*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2020.

Stonehouse, Catherine, and Scottie May. *Listening to Children on the Spiritual Journey*. Ada: Baker Publishing Group, 2010.