

# Pastoral Care and Christian Formation

## KCML Lecturer

Rev Dr Geoff New



**KNOX CENTRE  
FOR MINISTRY  
& LEADERSHIP**

## Content

This course will engage with the pastoral tasks you will need to navigate in ministry as well as the spiritual landscape you will need to venture into and lead people through. The spirituality of the pastor will be explored including spiritual formation of those you minister to. Pastoral skills such as listening, counselling and leadership will be developed. Some content will overlap in shared classes with the Worship course (e.g. funerals).

## Outcomes

- ◆ Development of your awareness of the spirituality of the pastoral care and your own place within that
- ◆ Consideration and engagement with basic pastoral care systems
- ◆ Development of pastoral care skills such as listening and presence
- ◆ Exposure to a range of leadership, ethical, pastoral and spiritual scenarios for forming and honing pastoral skill and courage
- ◆ Awareness of spiritual dynamics and discernment for seasons in life such as “when God hides”
- ◆ Development of pastoral awareness and skills for ministry to the bereaved, traumatised, addicted and those in conflict situations
- ◆ Exploration of professional self-care

## Block Course Modules

Intro to Pastoral Frameworks and Spirituality	Summer 2018 Intern introduction
Counselling and Conflict (including addictions)	Summer 2018
Grief, Crisis and Bereavement	Winter 2018
Safe Church – a case study	Spring 2018
Pastoral Care Systems/Connectivity; Pastoral Listening	Summer 2019
When God Hides	Winter 2019
Faith Formation and Life Stages in Community	Spring 2019

## Assessments

### ASSIGNMENT 1 - 20%

#### Pastor-Prayer-Congregation: 1000 words

**Due date:** 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018

This assignment will require reflection and engagement with issues of:

- i. Biblical & theological images for the pastor and pastoral work.
- ii. The interplay of presence and spirituality: pastor-prayer-congregation.
- iii. Power in terms of working with people in times of vulnerability, difference and uncertainty.

The overall intention of the assignment is to create a pastoral manifesto (cf Luke 4:18-19) as an aid to guide you in your pastoral work.

- ◆ What Biblical and/or theological images for pastoral work resonate with you and why? What implications do these images have for your formation as a pastor?
- ◆ Drawing on your own reflection, experiences and feedback from others – how do you handle power? Discuss a situation when you have been in a position of power? What happened and how did you conduct yourself?
- ◆ Complete your assignment by writing a pastoral manifesto (approx. 100 words)

You are expected to engage with 2-3 published works for this assignment.

### ASSIGNMENT 2 – 30%

#### Case Study: 1500 words

**Due date:** 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Choose a pastoral situation that you are, or have been, involved in and write a verbatim report and response to the situation.

### Verbatim Report

#### Preparing Your Verbatim Report

Apart from your name, professional confidentiality requires that no other names be written on this verbatim or any other information that would identify the person(s) being cared for. Use initials or create a different name to protect confidentiality.

## Writing the Verbatim Report

Write your verbatim report in the following format:

### **Intern**

Your Name:

Date of Pastoral Encounter:

Date Written:

### **Preliminary Data**

Age of person(s) involved in pastoral encounter:

Gender and ethnicity:

Location of Visit:

Nature of relationship with you:

### **Introduction: initial observations and facts**

Describe a pastoral incident or interaction from the context of your intern placement that raises some significant issues or questions for you. This may stem from a conversation, a structured event, something unexpected in the context of your placement, or arise in the interaction you are having with your mentoring minister.

Your introduction will need to describe the physical setting of the encounter (e.g. 4-bed hospital room; lounge in a private home; in a café during lunch-time rush; after a worship service etc). If relevant, describe any pastoral plans you made before the encounter.

- ◆ How did you prepare yourself for this pastoral encounter?
- ◆ What “space” were you in and how did this affect this encounter?

### **Pastoral Incident or Encounter**

This is to be as nearly verbatim an account as possible, coming from your memory. You are not allowed to tape record or take notes during the pastoral encounter. Do the best you can. Report pauses, interruptions, facial expressions, sounds, actions and other clues, which reveal the relationship between you and the person during the encounter. What are you feeling and thinking during the visit? Remember save interpretations until later. Record prayers in full.

When writing the verbatim, use letters and numbers in groupings as the pastoral encounter unfolds. For example: M1, P1, M2, P2. They serve like chapter/verse divisions in Scripture.

*Suggested key:*

M = ministry intern

P = person who is main focus of encounter

*If there are others present, allocate other letters/abbreviations as the case may be:*

Sp =Spouse

S = son

N = neighbour

(Etc)

**Example (your verbatim will obviously be longer than this example – this example is simply to show you the way you capture/write-up the actual conversation)**

**M1:** Hello Mrs Glover. My name is Susan and I am the ministry intern at St John's.

**P1:** Oh. Lovely to meet you. Yes – I had heard there were some changes at church.

**M2:** I heard that you were in hospital and so I thought you might appreciate a visit.

(Mrs Glover winces with what appears to be some kind of pain or discomfort)

**M3:** Are you ok? Is now a good time for a visit?

**P3:** Yes dear (pauses, winces, and places her hand on her side). It's lovely to see you. I'm fine.

(etc etc)

### **Analysis and Evaluation**

Describe what was going for you internally or subsequently in terms of your handling of the occurrence (emotions, thoughts, intentions). Describe any dilemmas, confusion, conflicts, unresolved questions that arose from this incident. This can range from the personal to the theological (and the expectation is there would be some of both).

Evaluate the pastoral response to the situation:

- ◆ What are the significant issues this person is addressing or not addressing? (i.e. physically, mentally and emotionally, socially, theologically)
- ◆ What does this say about the challenge you face in pastoral leadership?
- ◆ How did this pastoral encounter affect you? How did it affect the other person?
- ◆ What else could have been done?
- ◆ What actions/reactions of yours are going to be reviewed in the light of this?
- ◆ What have you learnt about yourself and others from this?
- ◆ How well do you think you exercised pastoral listening skills?

- ◆ Where was God in the situation? What have you learnt about God?
- ◆ If you were to preach about this – where in Scripture would you go to?
- ◆ What does this pastoral encounter tell you about your theology?

### **Ongoing Pastoral Care:**

What plans do you have for ongoing pastoral care for this person, either by yourself or through others?

### **Important Note:**

The key aspect of the assignment is to be found in your reflection and analysis of the situation. So the first part (summarising the situation, describing the pastoral response by way of a verbatim) are essentially you telling the story and setting the scene.

The second half (analysis and evaluation) – are where you write more autobiographically and engage with theological/Biblical concepts/images – and any publications on pastoral care which provide a voice into your formation and reflection in the aftermath of the situation. Maybe only 2-3 works need to be referenced. But I really want to read about “you” rather than read about what other authors are saying.

**Please note:** this assignment will also form the basis of your Pastoral Incident case-study for the Colloquium in April/May 2019. See Colloquium Guide for more details.

## **ASSIGNMENT 3 - 20%**

### **WHAT DO YOU SEE?: 1000 words**

**Due date:** 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Write a reflection on the intentional and instinctive pastoral care systems that you observe in your pastoral placement.

You might want to compare this with the material you prepared for assignment 1.

Consider the following as guiding principles:

- ◆ What is present? What is absent?
- ◆ What forces are moulding and influencing how pastoral care is formed and worked out in your setting?

- ◆ What would you want to retain and what would you want to reform?

This assignment will require discernment.

You are expected to engage with 2-3 published works for this assignment.

#### **ASSIGNMENT 4 - 30%**

#### **GRIEF-OUTRAGE-COMPASSION-HOPE: 1500 words**

**Due date:** 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

#### **Grief-Outrage-Compassion-Hope: 1500 words**

As a template - use the texts Luke 19:41-44 (grief); Matt 21:12-13 (outrage); Matt 21:14 (compassion and hope) as a source of inspiration and as a lens to consider and engage with a community (either faith community or wider community) situation. The catalyst for such engagement might be through the involvement of a church member in an NGO or not-for-profit, or local situation/initiative. This assignment is investigative and exploratory rather than initiating a response or action – although if action results that would be wonderful.

- ◆ Describe the community and a main issue(s) confronting that community.
- ◆ Is there anything about this community which evokes grief within you? (Luke 19:41-44)
- ◆ Is there anything about this community which evokes outrage within you? (Matt 21:12-13)
- ◆ In what ways might compassion and hope find a place in this community? (Matt 21:14)
- ◆ What form of pastoral response might be appropriate as a faith community?

You are expected to engage with 2-3 published works for this assignment.

#### **COLLOQUIUMS**

Each year you will attend two colloquiums. Each will focus on a pastoral incident or leadership issue. You will receive more information about this from your field work co-ordinator.

For one of the colloquia during the 2-year internship, you are to present the verbatim submitted from assignment 2. The verbatim is read out by others present at the colloquium but not the intern presenting the verbatim. Particular focus will be on listening skills, pastoral presence in the situation, discernment, spirituality and treating people with dignity.

## MINISTRY REFLECTION GROUP

Once each year – the intern is to invite the MRG to name three most pressing pastoral issues that they sense is upon their community of faith and how this impinges upon the intern's presence and ministry. Some exploration and wrestling with the answers is expected during the meeting.

### **Plagiarism statement**

It is the responsibility of the intern to make sure that all work submitted to KCML is their own. Generally, we follow the University of Otago's definition and policy regarding plagiarism (refer to <http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/plagiarism>) where plagiarism is defined generally as:

1. copying or paraphrasing another person's work and presenting it as your own;
2. being party to someone else's plagiarism by letting them copy your work or helping them to copy the work of someone else without acknowledgement;
3. using your own work in another situation, such as for the assessment of a different paper or program, without indicating the source.

Plagiarism can be unintentional or intentional. Even if it is unintentional, it is still considered to be plagiarism. Where it is found that plagiarism has taken place, penalties will be applied (see process and penalties <http://knoxcentre.ac.nz/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/KCML-Internship-Programme-Handbook-2016.pdf>)

## Indicative Bibliography

Lynne Baab *The Power of Listening: building skills for mission and ministry* (Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014)

Kathleen A. Cahalan, *Introducing the Practice of Ministry*, (Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2010)

Wesley Carr, *Handbook of Pastoral Studies: learning and practising Christian Ministry* (SPCK: London, 1997)

David Lyall, *The Integrity of Pastoral Care* (London: SPCK, 2001)

Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Wounded Healer* (New York: Image, 1979)

Eugene Peterson *The Pastor: a memoir* (New York: HarperOne, 2011)

Eugene Peterson, *The Jesus Way: a conversation in following Jesus* (Colorado Springs: Eerdmans, 2007)

Eugene Peterson, *Eat this Book: a conversation in the art of spiritual reading* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006)

Actually any publications or articles by Eugene Peterson or Henri Nouwen are well worth digesting. They speak to the human condition like few other authors/practitioners I am aware of. Nouwen's "Return of the Prodigal" is one such example. They also inspire a pastoral presence which is counter-cultural; especially to some forms of unhealthy church culture.

(November 2017)