

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Course
Springfield, MO 65802
March 10-12, 2004

BTHE/PTHE 640 Women in Ministry Conference
(2 or 3 credits)

COURSE SYLLABUS

Barbara Cavaness, Ph.D., Instructor

Spring 2004

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course draws upon the context of the larger conference to provide a frame of spiritual growth and development. The course explores various aspects concerning women in ministry—including biblical, historical, and contemporary perspectives. Special emphasis is given to the spiritual formation and calling of women. Participants will be challenged to discern their unique gifts and seek God's will in partnering with men at work, at church, and at home.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of this course, the participants will be able to:

1. Engage in self-assessment of individual leadership and ministry competencies.
2. Increase exposure to the various avenues of ministry available to women and identify current and effective resources available for women in ministry today.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of what the Scriptures teach concerning the place of women in Christian ministry and interdependence between men and women.
4. Articulate a clear biblical theology as a basis for the validity of women participating in ministry in the church.
5. Explain the Assemblies of God position and practice regarding granting of credentials to women and offering women positions of leadership in the church.
6. Identify ways men and women in the Christian community can work together as a team—each bringing different gifts and strengths to the ministry.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

Barton, Ruth Haley. *Equal to the Task: Men and Women In Partnership*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Gill, Deborah M. and Barbara Cavaness. *God's Women—Then and Now*. Springfield, MO: Grace & Truth, 2004. (Available for purchase at the conference.)

The Role of Women in Ministry as Described in Holy Scripture. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing, 1990. (Available for downloading from the Internet at: http://ag.org/top/beliefs/position_papers/4191_women_ministry.cfm.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-Session

1. Read the Assemblies of God position paper, *The Role of Women in Ministry as Described in Holy Scripture*. Write a 2- to 4-page response, critiquing and interacting with the conclusions of the position paper and relating how you have observed the practice of this position in the church. List questions to which you would like to find the answers from someone at the conference.
2. Read Barton's *Equal to the Task*, and write a 4- to 6-page interaction paper. The paper should include a critique of the book, reaction to some of the book's premises/conclusions, and an assessment of how the text impacts your approach to interdependent team relations with partners at work, at church, and at home. (If you have previously read this book, please request a substitution.)

B. Session

1. Attend the pre-conference class session on Wednesday afternoon, 1:30-4:30 pm, at Central Assembly.
2. Attend all plenary sessions, six workshops, and as many round-table discussions groups as possible.
3. Attend a closing class session on Friday afternoon, 4:00 to 5:00 pm, at Central Assembly.
4. Take notes on each workshop attended. You need not restrict yourself to one track. Focus on the content of the presentation/discussion and on impressions, questions, and possible answers/conclusions.

C. Post-Session

1. Read Gill and Cavaness' *God's Women*, and write a 4- to 6-page interaction paper. Include a critique of the book, reaction to some of the book's premises/conclusions, and an assessment of how the text impacts your position on the interpretation and application of Scripture to women in ministry. What ideas in the book did you find most applicable to your current ministry context? Give suggestions that address any concepts in the book that bother you or improvements you think could be made in the book.

2. Write a 6- to 8-page reflection and integration paper on the conference. The paper should summarize the conference with an emphasis on the key concepts that influenced you the most. Relate the pre- and post-session assignments to what you learned in the various sessions of the conference. How will you implement the challenges and philosophies of the speakers into your ministry paradigm? Can you foresee how these new ideas will impact those with whom you work and those to whom you minister? Feel free to include an evaluation of the conference and any suggestions or improvements you would recommend.

Note: All papers must be typed, double-spaced, according to Turabian's 6th edition. You may use either footnotes or endnotes.

DUE DATE: All work must be postmarked no later than June 11, 2004.

(Late work will be penalized at the discretion of the professor. Work received postmarked after the due date will incur a \$15.00 change of grade fee, even if an extension has been granted by the instructor.)

Submit all work to: Dr. Barbara Cavaness
1435 N. Glenstone Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802

GRADING

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| Session attendance and reflection paper | 40% |
| Pre-Session Assignment #1 | 20% |
| Pre-Session Assignment #2 | 20% |
| Post-Session Assignment #1 | 20% |

THREE-CREDIT OPTION

The one hour of additional credit for the Women in Ministry Conference will require the reading of one more book, an approximately one-hour appointment with the professor, and the writing of a research paper. The meeting with the professor may take place before, during, or after the conference, by appointment with the AGTS faculty secretary or the professor herself.

Students will be asked to read **one** of the following books and write a 1- to 2-page reaction paper on it:

Becker, Carol E. *Becoming Colleagues: Women and Men Serving Together in Faith*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000.

Becker, Carol E. *How Church Women Can Avoid Leadership Traps and Negotiate the Gender Maze*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.

McNeal, Reggie. *A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 2000.

Schaper, Donna. *Common Sense About Men & Women in the Ministry*. Washington, DC: Alban Institute, 1990.

Based on your reading and the conference, write a 10- to 15-page research paper concerning some aspect of women in ministry. During the student's appointment with the professor, various topics will be discussed that are appropriate to the student's current ministry, interests, and past experience. Students should plan to cite at least ten sources in their paper, including journal and on-line resources. The following should be considered when preparing the paper: (1) logical development of content and application, (2) clarity, (3) judicious and proper use of quotations, (4) careful proofreading to eliminate grammar errors and typos. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, according to Turabian, 6th edition.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Barbara Cavaness, January 2004.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

A bibliography will be distributed during the pre-conference class session.