

**A Pre-session Guide for
PTH979 Theological Reflection**
October 27-31, 2003
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Springfield, MO

Course Instructor: Byron D. Klaus, D. Min
Professor of Intercultural Leadership and President of AGTS

Course Readings:

Anderson, Ray S. The Soul of Ministry: Forming Leaders for God's People.
Westminster/John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 1997.

Anderson, Ray S. The Shape of Practical Theology: Empowering Ministry with
Theological Praxis. Intervarsity Press: Downers Grove, Illinois, 2001.

Killen, Patricia O'Connell and John de Beer. The Art of Theological Reflection.
Crossroad Publishing Company: New York, NY, 2001.

Kinast, Robert L. What Are They Saying About Theological Reflection? Paulist Press:
New York/Mahway, NJ, 2000.

Mulholland, M. Robert, Jr. Shaped by the Word: The Power of Scripture in Spiritual
Formation. The Upper Room: Nashville, Tennessee, 1985.

Paton, David and Charles H. Long, eds. The Compulsion of the Spirit. William B.
Eerdmans Publishing Company: Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1983.

Van Gelder, Craig. The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit.
Baker Books: Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2000.

Course Descriptions: Western theology has been historically challenged by a bifurcation between the practical and the conceptual dimensions of theologizing. Theological reflection is a method by which all the resources of Christian faith are brought to bear on the practical decisions of ministry. This course will focus on theological reflection as a skill for spirituality that will inform Pentecostal leadership for greater effectiveness.

Course Process: This course will serve church leaders by engaging them in lecture, discussion/interaction and case study analysis to develop the skills of theological reflection. The case study method will be a center focus of the course to develop the necessary skills of theological reflection that will sharpen the concrete decisions necessary in all ministry contexts.

Pre-Session Preparation: Obtain and read as much of the course reading as possible previous to class dates. A reading log will be given to students to report completion of pre-session reading. The most crucial pre-session assignment is an analysis of Chapter Two and Four of Ray Anderson's, The Shape of Practical Theology. These chapters critique the historical bifurcation that western theologizing has presented as acceptable. In grass-roots language, it has created a chasm between the practical and theoretical or the ideal and real. This has led to some assumptions that may need evaluation. One of these assumptions is that **“sound doctrine/orthodox theological creeds guarantees strong Christ-centered ministry.”**

Analyze this assumption through the lens of reading Anderson's Shape of Practical Theology (Chapters 2 and 4). Write an 8-10 page response that uses Anderson's vision for practical theology to analyze the above stated assumption.

Post-Session: Case study analysis—Write an 8-10 page theological reflection on a case study to be handed out in class. Write a 20-page research paper entitled: “A Practical Theology of Pentecostal Ministry”.

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