

St. Michael's Seminary Fall 2008

The following courses will be offered by St. Michael's Seminary at the Maryland satellite campus for the fall 2008 semester. Classes are conducted at Holy Apostles Church 346 Old New Windsor Rd. Westminster, MD. 21158

Classes will meet five weekends over the semester (one weekend each Aug. to Dec. exact dates will be announced). TH 550 will meet Friday evening. Saturday morning begins with Holy Communion (all students participate in the service). BS610 follows a critique of the morning service. Lunch is provided and CH601 is held in the afternoon. All students, regardless of status, are expected to attend and participate in the morning service (students only attending the Friday session may be exempted but all postulants for holy orders in the CEC must attend the morning service).

BS-610 – Biblical Unity

This course will be taught over a two year period by the rev. Dr. Jeffry Welch, D.Min. Dr. Welch also teaches the Old and New Testament classes to create a consistent approach to Biblical Studies. This course is designed so that students can enter at any point during the two year cycle. Tuition will be pro rated by semester.

Course Description:

The Bible is *The Book* for Christian leaders who are called to equip God's people to know His ways. It is impossible to know the ways of the Lord unless we know His Word as revealed to us in the Holy Bible. Therefore, the basic presupposition of this course is that the Bible *is* the Word of God. As Christians we believe in the sacrament of the Word and of the Table. Both sacramental mysteries are essential if we are to walk in the wholeness that God has ordained for us. His Word proclaims His glory and His desire to share this with us, that our joy may be complete.

The Unity of The Bible is designed to close the gap between the analysis of the Bible vs. the synthesis of the Bible. For too long we have been long on analysis and short of synthesis. Many leaders come out of seminary filled with abstract theories of the Bible and never are able to bring the message of Scripture alive to their people.

Therefore, our approach in this course is to proclaim the whole council of God (Acts 20:27). "The future is with men of upright minds." (Ps. 94:15-Moffett). We not only want to know what is in the Bible, but what the Bible means. **Our goal** is to discover and express the basic theme that gives coherence to the Bible's teachings. We seek, by God's grace, to put the Bible together so that we can make better sense of the whole. We cannot have 'upright minds' if we do not know the 'whole council of God'!

As you set sail on this great epic journey gird up your mind. This course will make serious spiritual and intellectual demands upon you. Our goal is not information, but transformation of our ability to hear with our heart and not our head.

Our text is The Bible. Our guide is the book by Daniel Fuller, The Unity of The Bible.
Our syllabus is the application and record of what we learn. Our mission is to teach
others the whole council of God.

You may be overwhelmed by the time given to this course. Do not succumb to this thought! The church is suffering from a famine of the Word of God. This is an extreme problem that requires an extreme strategy. It is useless to go through seminary and lose your heart in a mass of disjointed subjects. Only by developing a sacramental love for God's written love letter to us, The Bible, will we be able to communicate His redeeming message to those the Lord gives to our care. Only a passionate love of God's Holy Word will bring His people to maturity.

We will spend over two years (30 months) in this study. During this time you should read the complete Bible about three times. You will have the opportunity to memorize and meditate upon Holy Scripture. Enjoy this. We are not in a hurry. You are participating in the epic story of the unfolding drama of God's redemption of mankind.

Practical Application for Parish Ministry:

When they have successfully completed this course, students will see the following results:

Spiritually:

- The Lord will impact your mind with the authority of His Word. You will be prepared for the future because you will have an upright mind! (Ps.94:15) .
- You will develop a God entranced vision of all things! .
- You will understand God and His glory in a deeper way. You will know that God passionately desires to impart His glory to you. *You will see Jesus Christ is all of Scripture.*

Intellectually

- You will be acquainted with the major historical events and teachings of the Bible.
- You will develop an understanding of how to read an ancient text such as the Bible.
- You will learn to apply the Bible to your life and practice leadership principles found in the Bible.
- You will experience God's unfolding drama of redemption and the need for the universal redemption of mankind from sin. You will learn the Message to communicate to a lost world.
- You will put the Bible together by seeing the Unity of The Bible. As men in Holy Orders we will defeat biblical illiteracy.

Being:

- You will learn to hear God's voice through the Bible
- You will learn to trust the Bible and speak God's word with evocative power. .
You will discover your purpose in life.
- You will clarify your purpose in life.

Doing:

- You will become a biblical leader.

- You will be able to teach The Unity of Bible.
- You will have the conviction that unless we know and understand the Bible, believe it and teach it, we will not have a ministry that lasts. We will not finish well unless the Bible is central in our lives and ministry.
- You will give the Lord a life that counts by putting the Word of God first in all our thoughts and actions.
- You will be able to teach others (make disciples) the Word of God (2 Tim 2:2).

CHURCH HISTORY:

CH-601: History and Theology of the Ancient-Ecumenical Orthodox Traditions: Orthodox, Roman, and Celtic/Anglican

This course will be taught by The Rev. Dr. Martin Eppard, D.Min.

Purpose of this Course: This course is intended to give the student a working knowledge of the historical sources of the Charismatic Episcopal Church's Sacramental stream: Roman Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and Anglicanism. It is also intended to provide the student with a critical evaluation of Reformation theology and practice.

Course Objectives:

- 1) The student should be able to articulate the significant points of agreement and divergence between Roman Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and Anglicanism, and to explain the historical and theological reasons for those divergences.
- 2) The student should be able to defend the position of the Charismatic Episcopal Church as being a true part of the Church Catholic.
- 3) The student should be able to explain how the CEC embodies the ideals of the Reformation in its Faith and Practice without sacrificing its Catholicity.

Practical Application for Parish Ministry:

- 1) The student will be able to deal with parishioners' and visitors' questions and reservations about the Faith and Practice of the CEC with a sensitive understanding of the Faith Traditions from which the questioners may be proceeding.
- 2) The student will be equipped to minister out of the fullness of the Catholic Tradition.

TH-550 MINISTRY AND GOVERNMENT

This course will be taught by The Rev. Dr. Darren Jones, JD.

Purpose of this Course: This course is designed to give the student an overview of the governmental structure of the CEC and a picture of the representative authority of God. Students will also learn how Government by Consensus works within this governmental structure.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course the student:

1. should recognize the way authority operates in the life of the Church;
2. will be able to identify principles pertaining to authority and Church leadership;
3. understand how consensus government works at every level of Church government;
4. discover how direct and delegated authority work in the hierarchy of the Church and how we are to appropriately respond to each.

Practical Application for Parish Ministry: Those who complete this course will be prepared to take their place within the governmental structure of the Church. They will understand how government by consensus works from the councils of the parish through the Patriarch's councils and be able to explain this governmental model to others.