

## **Competency Exercise**

### **Leading the Church in Formation and Interpreting the Scriptures for the Church**

For the competency exercise joining Leading the Church in Formation and Interpreting the Scriptures for the Church, the student will prepare and lead a one-session Bible study lasting approximately one hour in her or his congregational setting on a date negotiated with the faculty. The student will choose a focus text for the Bible study, either: a) a lectionary text for the Sunday or week of the Bible study OR b) a biblical text that fits with a current Bible study being conducted in his or her congregational setting. This passage will be chosen in consultation with the faculty administering the competency exercise.

Before the Bible study, the student will turn in to the faculty a portfolio of the following materials:

- a critically written credo (2000 words) concerning the relation of Scripture and formation, which includes
  - a reasoned hermeneutic;
  - an expression of Scripture as a theological authority for the church, including the role of Scripture in formation;
  - an expression of the purpose of educational ministry for formation within the community of faith;
  - and a reasoned pedagogical approach to using scripture for formation.
- a critical interpretation of the primary scriptural text for the Bible study (3000 words) that demonstrates facility with exegetical methods, includes conversation with critical interpreters, and synthesizes the results of their study in terms of the theological value/sense of the text for the church;
- an annotated lesson plan of the Bible study (1500 words for these annotations; the word count for the annotations does not include scripture text, texts of prayers, etc.) that provides 1) an explanation of why this Bible study is appropriate for the particular cultural and congregational setting; 2) at least one learning objective and description of the pedagogical methods used to meet that objective; and 3) the educational, theological, and/or pastoral rationale for each pedagogical action. (The lesson plan length will vary. Further, the student is not expected to stick to the lesson plan word-for-word as she or he conducts the Bible study.)

Remember that a good Bible study will probably not tell the class everything you learned while studying this passage. It will focus on what is most important for helping them understand the text and the lesson that you draw from it.

*The Credo is due three weeks before you present your lesson in the church.*

*The Exegesis/critical interpretation paper is due two weeks before your lesson in the church.*

*The Annotated lesson plan is due one week before you teach the Bible study.*

*They should each be e-mailed as an attachment to the faculty member administering the exam.*

The date of the Bible study must be determined when the student receives the approval of their text to exegete from the Bible faculty member. The student may petition to change this date up to two weeks before the proposed date of the presentation.

Following the Bible study, the student will upload to an internet dropbox (different than the dropbox in LTS Online) a video recording of the Bible study following instructions provided by the Director of Technology. The URL for the video must be supplied to the faculty *no later than one week after the Bible study has been conducted.*

As part of their evaluation and grading of the exercise, the two faculty members (one from Leading the Church in Formation and one from Interpreting the Scripture for the Church) will take into consideration

- an evaluation form filled out by a lay committee in the congregation; and
- an evaluation form filled out by the student's onsite mentor.

Students will receive two grades for the exercise—one for each area covered. As part of the feedback provided to the student, the attached rubric will be used to signal to the student her or his strengths and weakness in the two areas. As stated in the common syllabus, a competency exercise not turned in by the required time will be lowered a letter grade *immediately* after the deadline passes and will be lowered by a letter grade for every day that follows. Given that students receive 1.5 credit hours for successfully completing this exercise, they should devote no less than 60 hours to completing the work assigned. The work will be evaluated with the expectation that at least that much work has gone into the project.