

RENOVARÉ Canada

A Vision for Spiritual Formation in Canada

CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND LEADERSHIP

SPIRITUALITY AND SCRIPTURE The Bible and Spiritual Formation



Instructor: Dr. Richard Hovey, DMin
Fall 2019

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Retreat: September 26-29, 2019

Students are asked to arrive at Queen's House (Saskatoon, SK) on Thursday evening for a time of introductions, settling in and an opening devotion time together. Instruction will start on the Friday morning at 9:00am. We will end our time together with lunch on Sunday.

Course Description

Scripture is not simply a history book to be studied, but a book which deals with people sought by God for the purpose of relationship. This course looks at how to experience Scripture as more than a historical account of God's work in history, but also as a source and guide for God's past and present work of establishing a people for Himself.

Objectives

- To enable the student to read scripture with both an eye to detail for proper interpretation as well as an eye to the transformative account which scripture gives of the God who desires a people for Himself.
- To encourage students in their reading of Scripture to identify and understand the grand story (metanarrative) within the text.
- To enrich the students' own personal ability to approach the Scriptures in a way that will draw them closer to the God of Scripture.

Course Texts

Life with God: reading the Bible for spiritual transformation by Richard Foster

Living Jesus: Learning the Heart of the Gospel by Luke Timothy Johnson

Eat this Book: a conversation in the art of spiritual reading by Eugene Peterson

Reading the Bible for the Love of God by Alan Reynolds

Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality by Richard Rohr

The Fire of the Word: Meeting God on Holy Ground by Chris Webb

Assignments

Pre-retreat

1. In a short paper, outline your personal engagement with Scripture reading. How do you read Scripture and why? (750 words).

Post-retreat

2. Using the course readings, write a reflective essay on the reading of Scripture for spiritual benefit. How has your practice of reading Scripture been challenged and/or confirmed? (1500 words).
3. Pick a passage of Scripture on which to write a paper using the thoughts you've gleaned from this course. (1500 words).

Retreat Outline

- Introductions & Opening Devotional (Thursday Evening)
- Approaching the Scriptures (Friday Morning)
- Apprehending Scripture (Friday Afternoon)
- Personal Retreat/Quiet Time (Friday Evening)
- Associating with Scripture (Saturday Morning)
- Personal Time (Saturday Afternoon)
- Applying Scripture (Saturday Evening)
- Closing Session & Chapel (Sunday Morning)

Devotional Readings/Small Group Involvement

Another element of the *Certificate in Spiritual Formation* is having an active devotional life which finds expression in community. Students will be encouraged to work through "The Apprentice Series" by James Bryan Smith. There are three books in this series: *The Good and Beautiful God*, *The Good and Beautiful Life*, and *The Good and Beautiful Community*. Over the duration of the Certificate in Spiritual Formation Year One students are encouraged to work through all three of these books, meeting regularly with a small group via Zoom to discuss and encourage one another in the material.

- *The Good and Beautiful God* – October/November/December
- *The Good and Beautiful Life* – January/February/March
- *The Good and Beautiful Community* – April/May/June

Each participant will also receive "A Year with God: living the spiritual disciplines" devotional guide edited by Richard Foster and Julia Roller.

