



TERM 5
Spiritual Formation and Ministry
September - December 2028

Instructor: Dr. Richard Hovey
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Retreat Dates/Location:
October 19-22, 2028 on Deer Island, NB

Note: For our Retreat Weekend arrival is on Thursday evening (October 19) for a time of welcome, settling in and an opening devotion time together. We will end our retreat time with lunch on Sunday (October 22).

Course Description: Our spiritual formation, by nature, overflows in our interactions with others. Each follower of Jesus is also one who ministers unto others as we enter into relationships. This course will deepen the students' understanding of the solicitude of God and how this serves as a foundation for our own ministry with others. Secondly, we will revisit the spiritual disciplines with a ministry unto others focus.

Objectives:

- To enable the student to approach ministry opportunities with a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, ministering out of a place of personal experience of a life lived with God which they are then able to lead others into.
- To encourage the student in ministering with their whole being, continuing the compassionate ministry of Christ with those they are in relationship with.
- To enrich the students' experience of ministry as truly a spiritual exercise.

Course Texts (in reading order):

The Sense of Call by Marva Dawn

The Search for Compassion: spirituality and ministry by Andrew Purves

Practices of Love: spiritual disciplines for the life of the world by Kyle Bennett

Reaching Out: the three movements of the spiritual life by Henri Nouwen

Assignments:

- Write a reflective review of Marva Dawn's *The Sense of Call*, highlighting parts of her book you agreed with and disagreed with; include in your review how this book challenged or encouraged you. (1000 words). Due: October 31 2028.
- Using the course texts, material covered in the retreat, as well as any additional resources you choose, develop a philosophy of ministry to use in guiding your own life of ministry. Feel free to use sources from previous semesters as well. Further instruction for this assignment will be given at the retreat weekend. (1500 words). Due: January 6, 2029.

Devotional Reading/Small Group Involvement:

Another element of 'Consumed' is having an active devotional life which finds expression in community. Our devotional guide this term, *Spiritual Classics: selected readings for individuals and groups on the twelve spiritual disciplines* (edited by Richard Foster and Emilie Griffin), provides select readings centered around the inward, outward and corporate disciplines of the Christian life. Students are encouraged to work through these readings, journaling answers to the reflection questions and trying the suggested exercises for at least one of the readings under each discipline. We will continue to meet weekly via Zoom to discuss and encourage one another in the devotional material as well as the course texts.

