Spring 2016 Course #: PM 10308
Tuesday 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. / Room C101
Instructors: Jay Earheart-Brown/Debra Matthews
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Financial Leadership for Ministry
Course Syllabus

Course Description: How will you as a minister develop an approach to both personal and church finances that will reflect your theological convictions? How will you organize your own finances and provide leadership within your church in addressing financial matters? In this course, students seeking a Master of Divinity degree, we will seek to answer those questions by considering biblical and theological resources for developing a theology of finance, along with developing the tools needed for personal financial planning and the management of finances in a church setting.

Course Goals

1. Scholarship: develop a critical understanding of theologies of finance and money and how they draw upon biblical, theological, and cultural resources
2. Piety: develop one's own theological understanding of finances and money and how that understanding can be integrated with personal financial practices and pastoral leadership within the church
3. Justice: gain an understanding of the relationship between personal finances, and church finances within the cultural and institutional dynamics in contemporary society

Required Reading

Craig L. Blomberg, ***Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions*,** (IVP Academic 2000)

Mary Hunt, ***7 Money Rules for Your Life: How to Take Control of Your Financial Future*** *(Revell Publishing, 2012)*

Janet T. and Philip D. Jamieson, ***Ministry and Money: A Practical Guide for Pastors*,** (Westminster John Knox Press, 2009)

Luke Timothy Johnson, ***Sharing Possessions: What Faith Demands***, (Eerdmans, 2011)

Gil Rendle and Alice Mann, ***Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*,** (Alban, 2003)

Course Plan

Weeks 1-3: Understanding and Managing Personal Finances/Pastor's Compensation

Mary Hunt, ***7 Money Rules for Your Life: How to Take Control of Your Financial Future*** *(Revell Publishing, 2012);*

Personal Story Assignment Due

Weeks 4- 9: Developing a Biblical and Theological Approach to Money and Faith

Craig L. Bloomberg, ***Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions,*** (IVP Academic 2000); Michael Schut, ***Money & Faith: The Search for Enough,*** **(**Morehouse Education Resources, 2008.); Luke Timothy Johnson, ***Sharing Possessions: What Faith Demands**,* (Eerdmans, 2011)

Sermon/Lesson Plan Due
Reflection Paper Due on Blomberg, Class Presentations on Johnson and Clergy/Church employee compensation packet.

Weeks 10-13: Integrating Theology and Practice: Church Finances

Rendle and Mann, Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations, (Alban, 2003); Jamieson, Ministry and Money: A Practical Guide for Pastors, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2009)

Compensation Packets due Reflection Paper due on Jamieson; Presentations on Rendle/Mann
Final Integrative Paper due

Requirements/Evaluation for Grade

ALL course papers must be submitted through www.turnitin.com.
Instructions for submitting papers will be provided prior to the assignment's due date.

1. ***Attendance and participation in class sessions.*** Per MTS policy, failure to attend 1/3 or more of the course sessions will result in a failing grade for the course.
2. ***Reflection paper on the readings***: for each selected reading, students are required to prepare a four to five page reflection paper. These are due in the class for which the reading is assigned (see class schedule). Students are to critically engage with the reading in these papers. Students may wish to respond such questions as: How does this reading affect my perception of money in relation to my personal life, the life of the church, or the broader culture? What do I find difficult or challenging in this reading for my own theology and/or practice in relation to money? What help does this reading give for developing my own theology of money or for developing leadership within ministry in relation to finances?
3. ***Class Presentations:*** Student will be given an assigned reading and will present the material to the class and facilitate the discussion of the material.
4. ***Personal Story:*** Each student will prepare a personal story which shares an experience with the management of their finances and how the experience challenged or helped their approach to money. The story will be shared in the classroom setting.
5. ***Clergy/Church Employee Compensation packets:*** Each student will develop a compensation packet based on the readings and class presentations.

6. ***Sermon/Lesson Plan:*** Each student will write a sermon/lesson plan addressing the role of finance/money within the Christian life. This sermon/lesson plan could address one of the following concerns: a biblical and theological understanding concerning the management of personal finances; a biblical understanding of tithes and offering; passionate generosity; poverty, wealth, and wealth management; Christian economics; and faith and possessions. The sermon/lesson topic should be developed in consultation with the course instructors. Your scripture should be approved no later than the end of class on October 6th. (9-12 pages)
7. ***Final* Integrative Paper**: Each student will write a final integrative paper that develops a theological integration of one's approach to personal finances and a leadership approach to integrating theology and practice of money and faith in the. This paper must discuss at least two specific practices that would embody one's theological approach. (12-14 pages)

GRADES
The final grade will be determined based on the following percentages:
1. Attendance and class participation 5%
2. Reflection Paper 10%
3. Group Presentations 5% (Sharing Possessions)
4. Strategic Plan Presentation 5%
5. Compensation Packets 10%
6. Personal Story 10%
7. Sermon/Lesson Plan 25%
8. Final Integrative Paper 30%

Grading Scale
A 94 – 100
B 86 – 93
C 75 – 85
D 66 – 74
F 65 and under

A STATEMENT OF RESPECT
Because of the diversity among our students (race, gender, age, culture, experience and theological position), we have an opportunity in this institution to bear witness to our relationship with God who "so loves the world" by the way we relate to one another. Toward this end, we are encouraged to respect ourselves and each other as a value we practice within the classroom. Specifically, classmates should listen with care to one another, not allow personal agendas to dominate class time, refrain from using masculine language when referring to all people (use "humanity" rather than "man," etc.), and describe God with a wide variety of images.
This seminary's policy on Academic Misconduct (plagiarism and other forms of cheating) will be strictly observed. Students are urged to respect the dignity of each other by observing the Sexual Misconduct/Harassment policy. 4

Financial Leadership Course Schedule Spring 2016

	Class Discussion	Assignments Due	Instructor
January 26, 2016	**Intro Class**	Introductions, Syllabus Review, Class Overview	Dr. Jay & Dr. Debra 7 Money Rules /Video and Discussion
February 2, 2016	Developing personal and church banking relationships/	Personal Story Due	Dr. Jay & Dr. Debra **Chace Hamner Presenter**
February 9, 2016	Financial Management Personal Finances/Clergy Compensation		Dr. Jay and Dr. Debra **Bobby Peters Presenter**
February 16, 2016	Neither Poverty Nor Riches (Blomberg)	Reflection Paper Due	Dr. Jay and Dr. Debra
February 23, 2016	Neither Poverty Nor Riches (cont.)		Dr. Jay and Dr. Debra **Dr. Pete Gathje Presenter**
March 1, 2016	Sharing Possessions: What Faith Demands	Group Presentations	Dr. Jay and Dr. Debra Student Presentations
March 8, 2016	Sharing Possessions (cont.)	Group Presentations	Dr. Jay and Dr. Debra Student Presentations
March 15, 2016	Holy Conversations		Dr. Jay and Dr. Debra **Dr. William Rosser Presenter**
March 22, 2016	*Holy Week*		
March 29, 2016	Holy Conversations	Strategic Plan Presentations	**Presenter Billy Vaughn**
April 5, 2016	Holy Conversations	Strategic Plan Presentations	Dr. Jay and Dr. Debra **Rev Fekecia Gunn Presenter**
April 12, 2016	Clergy/Church Finances and Tax Preparation/ Clergy Compensation Packets		Dr. Jay and Dr. Debra **Dr. John Crittle Crittle Financial Presenter**
April 19, 2016	Ministry and Money	Sermon/Lesson Plan Due	Dr. Jay and Dr. Debra
April 26, 2016	Stewardship, Tithing Fundraising, Radical Generosity	Compensation Packets Due	Dr. Jay and Dr. Debra **Presenter Pastor Mary Moore**
May 3, 2016	*Reading Week*		
May 10, 2016	*Finals Due*		
May 20, 2016	*Grades Due*		