PT610 Theology and Practice of Spiritual Care
Canadian Theological Seminary
Winter 2007
Instructor: Peter Ralph, Th.M., D.Min.

I.   DESCRIPTION
Various aspects of spiritual care giving in the context of the local church and
beyond will be examined. This course will help the student develop a
theology of spiritual care through class discussions, role-play assignments
and the study of scripture. Special off-campus experiences or lecturers
may be scheduled as available. This exposure will broaden the student's
understanding beyond the limits of the classroom.

II.   OBJECTIVES
A.   To understand the theology of spiritual care as represented in the Bible.
B.   To understand skills in primary spiritual care functions.
C.   To explore the character traits and skills appropriate to spiritual care
giving.
D.   To develop a contemporary perspective of spiritual care ministry, in the
context of the local church and beyond.

III.   REQUIRED TEXTS
Moe, Kenneth Alan. *The Pastor's Survival Manual.*
Wright, H. Norman*. New Guide to Crisis and Trauma Counseling*
Peel, Donald. *Ministry of Listening*

RECOMMENDED TEXTS
Shawchuck, Norman, and Roger Heuser. *Leading the Congregation: Caring for
Yourself While Serving the People*.

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*.

Gregory the Great. *Pastoral Care*.

Muse, J. Stephen. *Beside Still Waters.*

Peterson, Eugene. *The Contemplative Pastor*.

Peterson, Eugene. *Five Smooth Stones For Pastoral Work*.

Peterson, Eugene. *Working the Angles*.

IV.   REQUIREMENTS
A.   Attendance is required at all class sessions.

B.   Book reports will be submitted for the class texts. If the student has
already read the texts, substitutions may be made after consultation with
the instructor. The reports will include a brief summary and critique of the
book, as well as a personal reflection from the student, describing the

extent to which the book is relevant to the student's anticipated ministry, and the reasons for this estimation.
Due: Week of February 12 to 16

C.   One of the following projects will be completed by the student:

1.   A **handbook** on pastoral care will be developed from sources other than lecture notes or materials from current or previous courses or experience. These materials may be copied, bibliographic, special interest, etc. The handbook should cover a broad range of topics (seven or more) and should be substantial in each topic (at least five items per topic). The material should be new to the student and should reflect a familiarity with major sources of practical help found in journals and magazines. Possible topics include: weddings, funerals, baptism, deliverance, worship, preaching, discipline as each bears on spiritual care giving. The more successful project will include a wide variety of sources and media, including paper and electronic files on books, journals, pamphlets, and websites. The more successful project will also give strong attention to packaging, indexing, referencing, and to ease of use.

2.   A **major paper** of 15-20 pages which integrates biblical, theological, class, and reference material in developing the student's personal philosophy and theology of spiritual care. This paper is to deal with relevant biblical material, and theological as well as contemporary issues. It will reflect detailed research and personal reflection. It will conclude with two pages, which describe how the student's philosophy will be put into practice in ministry.

3.   A **reading log** of sections in books and articles in journals pertaining to any of the topics covered in class. The student will be expected to read not less than 2000 pages, and to choose material broadly. A list of suggested material is available on request. A report of reading will be submitted on the due date, with a one page per book or journal section review of the respective reading and its impact on the student.

Project Due: Week of March 19 to 23

All work is to be word processed in proper format according to CTS standards.

The course grade will be determined as follows:
Book Reports   40%
Project   60%