

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Wanda Walborn

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Vivian Mbaukwu

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My philosophy of ministry

Being ordained is not about serving God perfectly, but about serving God visibly, by allowing others to learn everything they can from seeing me rise and fall. I must allow others to look at me, even if I would likely be much worse than they are or better. I will also allow people to see me just as I am. This quote reminds me of one of the trademarks of Martin Luther's ministry: to live and serve and share life among God's people as one of them. In his day, that was a revolutionary idea. While it's not such a new concept anymore, in my opinion, it's beneficial to be reminded of the high calling of humility and openness in the ministry in daily life. Whatever functions and duties a minister may have, at its core, he or she is a sinner redeemed by grace, just like everyone else. Yet, I do think that the Bible offers pastors a special and high calling (1 Timothy 5:17; James 3:1) and provides plenty of guidance on which to base a philosophy, or approach, to ministry. I will structure my approach in the sections that follow using the Scriptures that have most influenced my thinking, and I will group my ideas under the following broad headings:

The objectives of pastoral ministry,

The tasks associated with it,

The pastor's personal life,

The relationship between the pastor and the church.

The Mission of the Pastoral Ministry

The instructions Jesus gave his disciples in Matthew 28:18–20 serve as a clearer and more thorough beginning point for a philosophy of service than anything else. His assertion that the main objective of Christian service must be to make disciples who would follow Christ clearly delivers his message. Because he emphasizes that following him is based on his authority, identity, instructions, and presence, In other words, Jesus does not command the minister to carry out any task on their own, but to carry out each task in and through the strength and presence of Christ in order to conform people to the image of Christ. In his purpose statement for writing to the Romans, Paul summarizes Christ's commission beautifully: to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name throughout the nations. These phrases serve as the primary and most significant objective and serve as a banner over the multifaceted ministry of the local church pastor: make disciples.

To empower and equip believers to carry out the task of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11–16).

I tend to take action rather than delegate. Therefore, the Lord pressing these passages from Ephesians 4 onto me was one of the more significant breakthroughs in my ministry to date. To begin considering the thought that my purpose as a minister is not to perform as much "work of the ministry" as possible has been life-changing for me. I'm sure it's clear to some. Instead, it's to offer chances for others to serve and develop in spheres where God has endowed and prepared them for service. Before taking on the temporary minister position at Faith and Life Revival, I made several attempts to put this objective into practice. By giving our two lay worship leaders regular opportunities to use and improve their leadership and planning skills, By establishing administrative positions in the music ministry, and By starting a weekly shepherding group to support and encourage our ministry leaders.

The Mission of Pastoral Ministry

Acts 6:4 talks on the power of prayer and the ministry of the word.

A good framework for the general ministry responsibilities of the pastor-elder is provided by the division of labor between the activity of the apostles and deacons in Acts 6. Personally, it helps

me recall that my special mission is to serve the church by training myself to prioritize the ministries of prayer and the word.

Speaking and teaching

Colossians 1:21, Mark 1:38–39, 2 Timothy 4:1–5, and

The directive Paul gave Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:1–2 is the most soul-stirring scripture to read when I need inspiration for ministry. Preaching, in my opinion, should be the primary defining feature of any church. For me, the greatest privilege and opportunity in the world is to be trusted with the responsibility of proclaiming God's word on a consistent basis. My biggest desire and life's work is to acquire all the graces and abilities that go into becoming a God-honoring and captivating preacher. This is more than any other single ministry responsibility.

The primary ministry of the word also includes teaching, both as a component of preaching and as a separate ministry (such as classes, Bible studies, etc.). Teaching must be done well. We are people of the book as Christians. It is imperative that we handle the word of truth correctly since the Bible is the one and only infallible testimony to the faith that was once and for all entrusted to the saints (Jude 3). (2 Timothy 2:15). I believe the pastor's main responsibility is to help people comprehend the Bible and apply it to the specifics of their lives while also encouraging them to become more competent and passionate about handling God's word for themselves. According to the Bible, preaching and teaching are expected to have a lasting impact on people as the Holy Spirit transforms us week by week and year by year. Therefore, the presence or lack of an instant, public transformation should not influence how I preach or teach. This must be difficult for the majority of pastors. For myself, it most definitely is, so I pray for patience and faith to believe that God is constantly at work through the humbly faithfully clear, passionate proclamation of his word. I pray for the Lord to anoint and empower my preaching in that way as well. Like any other act of worship, preaching and teaching is an offering to God for him to use for his good pleasure, and I'm learning to rest in his perfect providence.

Leadership & Vision

Nehemiah 2:11–18

There are broken down walls in every person and in all sects of Christianity.

I believe that in some ways, the call to pastoral ministry is akin to Nehemiah's call to restore the crumbling walls of Jerusalem since we are fallen, sinful individuals in faulty

congregations. Like Nehemiah, we pastors ought to intentionally invest a lot of time in looking, listening, thinking, praying, and seeking to comprehend the complex life circumstances that are ever-present in every church. Those are the settings in which we are expected to lead, no matter what they may be. When the time is appropriate and the Lord has granted insight and clarity, we must have the courage and conviction to stand in front of God's people and exhort them to "rise up and build" toward a vision of life as disciples of Jesus Christ. I believe there are many different ways for strong visionary leadership to manifest itself, all of which are crucial.

These include one-on-one discussions, leadership development, and consistent preaching. But most significantly, I believe the pastor ought to live and breathe his/her vision. The pastor-leader needs it to be so obvious and compelling that it regularly transforms him /her personally and inspires him to find new ways to apply it to the church and his/her own life. Having a strong vision is obviously vital as well. In order to give focus and direction to what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ, it must be both wide enough to encompass the entirety of Christian discipleship and specific enough to address only that aspect of discipleship. It does not need to symbolize, in my opinion, but it must be a significant principle that Congregation can relate to and understand.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement

Acts 20:28; Matthew 10:5-8; Proverbs 18:1-2,13-14

Paul taught the Ephesian elders to pay careful attention to themselves and to the flock over which the Holy Spirit made them overseers. They were to care for the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood.

Jesus sent out the twelve apostles to the lost sheep of Israel to encourage them by proclaiming the nearness of God's kingdom and to minister to their physical and spiritual needs.

In keeping with passages such as these, I believe the personal ministry of the pastor among the people he's called to serve. Without it, even the finest preaching and strongest leadership would be unbalanced and ultimately unable to stand. In Christ and through the Holy Spirit, God cares for us intimately and personally, and as his ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) I think the pastor's calling is to do the same.

As a young pastor, I recognize I have much room for growth in every area of pastoral ministry, but probably none more so than in the ministry of pastoral care. Some of that is a result of my personality; but more than that, I think it just takes time and life experience to grow in empathy and compassion for the range of life situations represented in the church. It also takes wisdom, which is why I find so much help (and conviction!) from Proverbs when it comes to how I relate to people. Proverbs 18:2 and 13 inspire me to listen carefully and understand someone or anything before jumping to conclusions. Verse 14 enlightens me as to the cause. This is so that I may fulfill my role as a Christian and, in particular, as a pastor, which is to allow God to use me to uplift others rather than to bring them to their thigh. I ask for wisdom, kindness, and grace so that the church's members would experience joy rather than discouragement.

The Pastor's Personal Life

Providing a good example—1 Timothy 4:6–12; Luke 6:40

Timothy was given the assignment by Paul to serve as an example for the other Christians through his words, deeds, love, faith, and purity. Although Timothy was still a young man, he was told not to give up from his duty as an example, and I accept that as a personal challenge. God is calling me to keep a close eye on all of those things and to develop my godliness for the sake of his Kingdom. Seeing that living a godly life is not an individual effort for me or anybody else is undoubtedly part of that training. Godliness does not occur in an empty room or an academic haven. For the benefit of my soul, it takes place in a

network of family, church, and other people who labor together as the body of Christ. As a result, I need to seek a goal and vision for myself and my family in addition to my church's mission and vision as a pastor.

personal goals and objectives

I believe that the commission that Christ gives to the church in Matthew 28:18–20 also applies to each disciple personally. Thus, wherever God places me, it is my personal mission as a Christian to make disciples.

The relationship between the pastor and the congregation

The New Testament uses a variety of word pictures to express the various relational facets of pastoral service. Being reminded of one of these pictures has proven to be one of the few things that has helped me through challenging times. The three examples that follow all continue to influence how I think, behave, and feel as I gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a pastor.

1 Thessalonians 2:5-8, "Nurturing like a parent". Remembering to act and think like a parent in difficult conditions when tempers light to treat everyone with tact, kindness, and perspective might be useful. Sometimes it is necessary to be firm, but always with grace and love, much like a nursing mother caring for her own children.

Shepherding like Jeremiah 3:15: 1 Peter 5:1-3

God promised to provide his people shepherds after his own heart, who would provide them with knowledge and understanding, through the prophet Jeremiah. God fulfilled his promise by sending the Good Shepherd and his disciples, and he continues to do so by sending new shepherds to care for his Church in every generation.

Feeding the sheep

By setting pastoral care in the perspective of both the Old and New Testaments' teachings on shepherding, this informs the pastor's preaching and teaching ministry. I must deliver my sermons and lessons in a way that will nourish the church spiritually. My goal must always be to

apply the truth to our lives in a way that strengthens our spiritual selves rather than simply proclaiming it for the sake of it.

Leading the sheep

A shepherd leads the flock by facing off against danger and traveling the same paths they will. This once again sheds light on the responsibilities of pastoral ministry. The pastor's personal example and the organization's corporate vision and leadership must be practiced voluntarily and gladly, not under duress or for personal benefit. Exercise oversight "as God would have you," according to Peter.

Protecting the Sheep

The faithful pastor will defend the church in both public and private by spotting and dealing with the "wolves" that threaten our faith (Acts 20:29) and challenging those who disagree with solid theology (Titus 1:9). These threats can occasionally come from the outside, such as cultural influences and temptations.

Building like a laborer {1 Corinthians 3:5-11}

How much I learn and develop when studying the Bible is my favorite aspect of preaching. I gave a sermon on 1 Corinthians 3 a few months ago without any idea that it would have a significant impact on my ministry attitude.

Paul is attempting to convince the Corinthian Christians of their outstanding position before God as his Church in this chapter in order to prevent them from debating which teacher to follow. "Let no one boast in men, for all things are yours, whether Paul, Apollos, or Cephas, the world, or life, or death, or the present, or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's," he instructs them (1 Corinthians 3:21-23). It's extremely easy for me to take too much personal ownership of who we are and what we're doing because of my energy and love for what I want to see the church grow into. Another great temptation is to mistake the temporary setting of pastoral care for the establishment of the church and to conceive of my work as the "building" itself. The truth is that, as with any building project, the builder and the laborers

perform their duties for a season before leaving and being quickly forgotten. The edifice, the result of their labor, is all that is left. The building's quality will demonstrate whether or not they did a decent job. If not, a different worker will be requested to do the repairs. By God's grace, I hope to do great things by building on the groundwork that Christ and the forerun

MY STRENGTH

Worshiping, elevating, and glorifying God is the ultimate goal of human existence. As a soul that has been redeemed, it is my constant goal to worship God in spirit and truth. This is a suitable, sanctifying response to grace. The greatest commandment, "You should love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength," serves as an example of this (Mk 12:30).

My ministry and I are a group of repentant sinners who have been set apart primarily for God's worship. All means are used to achieve this ultimate goal, which is my ministry's first major objective and the grand culmination of all ministry.

My area of strength is evangelizing unbelievers so that they can continue to glorify the Lord through worship. By attempting to honor and execute His command in love and thankfulness, we (my ministry) want to glorify God through the loyal witness to Christ. My role in ministry is to serve as a lighthouse, actively and consistently sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others in our neighborhood and the surrounding areas.

My approach to ministry is to instruct believers by imparting Bible knowledge and developing leaders. So that they can instruct others to be rooted and built up in Him, as stated in Colossians 2:6-7. Teaching Christians the truths and practices of Jesus Christ is the first aspect of my ministry philosophy. My philosophy of ministry seeks to see believers develop into mature disciples of Christ who are equipped to reach out and show love to the World . Therefore, my leadership training process must include not only theological study and hands-on involvement, but also community and relationship development.

I always Understand that setting priorities is the first step in any philosophy of ministry, the following personal priorities have been created. My priorities must be clearly defined and carried out.

I always seek God first as the central priority in my life.

(2) Model a character of Christ Jesus, Christ set an example that all Christians should follow .

(3) Model the great commission by doing the work of an evangelist

I Lead others by establishing loving relationships . People make life changing decisions during unique occasions of challenge and reflection

I include bible study, prayer , and spiritual preparation for teaching . I see myself as both a leader and a teacher. I instill love in my members so they can better understand why Jesus did some of the things he did.

MY WEAKNESS

Lack of communication skills: Poor communication skills not speaking clearly has been my biggest challenge in leadership because I know that hone communication skills will build effective communication skills that help me relate to my team and convey my vision for the ministry as a whole. If I cannot communicate effectively, I would not get buy-in from others to pursue common goals. As a result, a good communication skills are essential leadership attributes.

I perceive my weakness in the area of courage and the two of my main hindrances to moral courage are my fear of the consequences and wrong obligations. lack the courage to address audiences, especially congregations, each time I wish to address the congregation, a spirit of fear will take over, making me sweat all over and making my stomach rumble. I immediately lose confidence and I know that all of these symptoms are the work of the enemy. But one thing I refuse to do is to acknowledge my fear. I refuse to sweep my fear under the rug. As a child God I have been fighting it because the Bible tells us that we should not be afraid that we must be contagious

My philosophy ministry will assist me both now and in the future in inspiring and motivating others at every turn. It's about creating a welcoming atmosphere where my congregation can flourish and make the best use of their skills. My willingness to help others will promote constructive dialogue and original thought. My leadership focuses on inspiring others and giving them the self-assurance they require to realize their greatest potential.

As a leader, I will always be mindful of people's emotions and channel everyone's enthusiasm for the greater benefit. I will respect others' beliefs, value their opinions, and listen to their worries with an open mind. I will be concerned with leading with integrity and fostering a favorable environment for development through my leadership platform. In the end, I will always be a capable leader who others can count on. My enthusiasm for devotion and innovation, in my opinion, is essential for being a successful leader. I ought to concentrate on achieving my objectives and coming up with cutting-edge plans that could enhance the ministry if I want to build a solid ministry. As a leader, I will be tenacious in seeing things through to the end and imaginative in igniting fresh perspectives. I would like to make a difference by providing what is required for the ministry as a whole. Along the way to achieving a goal, I respect commitment and perseverance and I will pay attention to the needs of others. I will lead in a way that encourages others to follow. I want to become more and more reliant on God to carry out his will as I concentrate on my calling to submit to him in a life of prayer and to humbly announce his word without compromise in every duty of ministry, with the help of God's grace and the accountability of others.

Ref :

https://tbcweb.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/church_docs/tbc_philosophy_of_ministry.pdf

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