Please submit all precourse assignments via email to the COS office by August 26, 2013. Directions to email assignments are below.

Course Description
This course focuses on the pastor’s understanding of human nature with attention to methods and skills in pastoral care and counseling. Students participate in an assessment of their personal interactive styles.

Course Objectives
1. Examination of basic styles and types of pastoral care and counseling
2. Analysis of pastoral-care experiences through such methods as case studies, verbatim, incident reports, and tapes
3. Practice in the skills of pastoral care and counseling with classes, feedback, and appropriation of insights gained
4. Focus on the counseling process from initial contact to completion, including referral as appropriate
5. Formation of pastoral theology through reflection on the uniqueness of the pastoral dimensions of care and counseling
6. Sensitivity to the life situations and relationships of individuals receiving care and counseling

Required Textbooks

All three books must be read and thoroughly digested prior to our first class meeting. Please read them in this order:
1. Pray Without Ceasing
2. Images of Pastoral Care
3. Becoming a Healthier Pastor

Assignment A
After reading Pray Without Ceasing write a 5-6 page paper noting the following:
1. Ideas and insights I really liked and which I believe will assist me in my ministry.
2. Ideas or concepts with which I disagreed or found difficult to fully understand (tell me your reasons and why).
3. Your critical evaluation of the book. What was good. What was difficult. What is the author wanting to accomplish with this book?

4. If you were to have opportunity to sit down and have lunch with the author, what questions would you want to ask?

Please understand that this is NOT a book report in which you tell me in a general way what the book is all about. (I’ve already read it!) This is a reflection paper that allows me to see how you have engaged the text and its ideas. Papers less than the requested minimum of a full five pages will automatically lose a letter grade. This assignment must be emailed to the Candler COS office PRIOR to our first class meeting. See the posted date for its reception in that office.

Assignment B
After reading Images of Pastoral Care you will write a series of brief reflection papers based on selected chapters from each of the three sections of Dykstra’s book. Choose 2 chapters from Section One, “Classical Images of Care.” Choose 2 chapters from Section Two, “Paradoxical Images of Care.” Choose 2 chapters from Section Three, “Contemporary and Contextual Images of Care.” Select these two chapters from each section that you find meaningful and helpful in thinking about your work in ministry. Write 2 ½ - 3 pages on each chosen chapter. Note the central image/metaphor being discussed and detail how this can be applied to the work of being a pastor. If space allows, include a paragraph that describes a situation out of your own ministry that can be seen as reflecting this image. You will be writing SIX reflection papers in total. These papers will accompany you to the intensive weekend and be turned in to your instructor there.

Assignment C
After reading Becoming a Healthier Pastor use the tools presented by Richardson to begin creating your own draft of a genogram for three generations (yourself, your parents, your grandparents). Use the symbols and signs offered in the book for your work. This may well require you to contact members of your family-of-origin to gain certain information. (Was Uncle Dickie married once or twice? How did Grandpa Nolan die?) We will spend almost an entire day concentrating on this in class where you will have an opportunity to complete this work in consultation with your instructor and your fellow pastors in the course. The key point to this book and our classroom discussion will be to start to recognize interactive emotional patterns embedded within yourself that come as a legacy from your family and your experiences growing up. We will be concentrating on how this pattern both assists and hinders your work in the church. (And it does both for ALL of us!) Your beginning work on a genogram and your research needs to be done prior to our weekend together. A final genogram will be created on site and reviewed with the instructor and class. There is ample material on the internet about genogram and their construction so please look beyond the book if you’d like additional information, simply put in the search term “genograms” and go from there.

Your Teacher
This class is being taught by the Reverend Skip Johnson, Ph.D. Skip is an ordained UM elder in the North Georgia Conference. He has served local church appointments in Texas and the Atlanta area where he has had responsibilities for pastoral care ministries. Currently he is a part time Associate Professor of Pastoral Care at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur and also the Training Director for Pastoral Counseling with the Care and Counseling Center of Georgia. He is a Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Georgia. I can be reached at (404) 687-4693 x 222 or by email at skipj@mindspring.com.
DIRECTIONS FOR EMAILING PRECOURSE WORK

Please read all the directions below before emailing your assignments to the COS Office. Any emails received that do not follow the directions below will not be accepted. You will receive an email confirmation of receipt and if your email is not submitted correctly an email indicating you will need to resubmit your assignments.

1. Email only michelle.levan@emory.edu, do not email the instructor your assignment.

2. Emails must be received no later than 11:59pm on August 26, 2013 deadline.
   a. Please note that the cut off time is EASTERN STANDARD TIME zone, so email your assignments accordingly.
   b. Any precourse work received after August 26th at 11:59pm will be subject to a late penalty.
      1. Precourse work received between August 27th – September 1st is 1 letter grade deduction.
      2. Precourse work received between September 2nd – Sept. 6th is 2 letter grade deductions.
      3. If you do not have your precourse work completed by check-in you will not be allowed to attend this course.

3. The course number and the phrase “precourse work” should be the subject of your email:
   Example - Precourse Work 113
   a. You will need to send a separate email for each course you are registered to attend.

4. Precourse work must be sent as an attached document and not in the body of the email.
   a. Any version of Microsoft Word or WordPerfect documents will be accepted; PDF and Mac-Pages documents will be accepted.
   b. All of your assignments for each course must be in one document, multiple documents are not acceptable. You should send only one attachment with course all assignments.

5. Your FULL name, phone number and email, should all be clearly included at the beginning of your email:
   Example: Michelle Levan
            404.727.4587
            michelle.levan@emory.edu

6. Plagiarism Policy and Plagiarism Defined paragraphs must be included in the body of your email (both are below), not within your precourse work. The inclusion of the policy and definition in the body of the email, verifies that you agree to it and your email will represent your signature. If the email does not include the plagiarism policy and definition it will not be accepted. Your email, with the plagiarism policy and definition will be printed and used as cover sheet for your precourse work, because it has the verification of date and time received, and your agreement to the plagiarism policy and definition, and your contact information.

   Plagiarism Policy
   I have read the plagiarism definition below and verify that this assignment represents my own work, except where credit is given. I have also made copies of this assignment and I will bring them with me to class in the event that any of my work is misplaced.

   Plagiarism Defined
   “You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone’s words or ideas but fail to credit that person. You plagiarize even when you do credit the author but use his exact words without so indicating with quotation marks or block indentation. You also plagiarize when you use words so close to those in your source, that if your work were placed next to the source, it would be obvious that you could not have written what you did without the source at your elbow. When accused of plagiarism, some writers claim I must have somehow memorized the passage. When I wrote it, I certainly thought it was my own. That excuse convinces very few.” From page 167 of The Craft of Research by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, published in 1995 by The University of Chicago Press in Chicago.

7. If you do not follow the procedure your precourse work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!!!!!!