

HOPE CSA, Inc.
Hands-On Pastoral Education using Clergy Sustaining Agriculture
Academic year 2010 (February 2010-January 2011)

Course:

Tending the Shepherds Who Tend the Flocks: Toward “Holy Health” in Pastor and People

Instructor:

The Rev. Jeffrey L. Hawkins, M. Div

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Location:

J.L. Hawkins Family Farm

10373 N 300 E / North Manchester, Indiana 46962

Meeting schedule: 8am-4pm

MONTH	THIRD MONDAY	THIRD THURSDAY	THIRD FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 2010	15	18	19
MARCH*	15	25-4th Thu	26-4th Fri
APRIL	19	15	16
MAY	17	20	21
JUNE	21	17	18
JULY	12* 2nd Mon	15	16
AUGUST	16	19	20
SEPTEMBER	20	16	17
OCTOBER	18	21	15
NOVEMBER	15	18	19
JANUARY 2011	17	20	21

Course Description: This course is aimed at pastoral leaders in congregations, though it is not strictly limited to professional clergy. The course is built upon the participant’s direct experience of creation on and the culture of a small, diversified, family farm as the context for practical and theological study of the nature of the church as *oikos* [household] within the *oikoi* of Creation and Kingdom. Attention is given to those understandings and practices that make for the *soteria* [“holy health”] of the household in its spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical, interpersonal, vocational, and environmental dimensions.

Objectives for the Student:

1. To integrate an “organic/agrarian” paradigm versus an “industrial/mechanistic” paradigm in the student’s understanding of church and practice of ministry.
2. To gain skill in thinking and functioning based on the biblical understanding of *soteria* as “holy health,” specifically:
 - a. To establish rhythms of pastoral life that are less chronic and more kairotic;
 - b. To nurture qualities of pastoral life that are less compartmentalized or reductive and more holistic;
 - c. To cultivate habits of pastoral life that are less reactive and more responsive;
 - d. To foster practices of pastoral life that are less mechanistic (centered on technique and technology toward “the achieved life”) and more organic (consistent with “the given life”).

Objective for the Instructor:

To guide participant activity and conversation toward increased insight and application of the “*oiko*-logical” understandings and habits that make for holy health, using the resources of nature and culture on a small, diversified, family farm, the resources of faith provided by the Church, and the resources of writers and thinkers from disciplines related to theology, agrarianism, nature, culture, and systems theory.

Methods:

1. Shareholding – participants may enroll in the HOPE CSA program as “shareholders,” receiving for their fees and labors not only the benefit of class time, but also shares of the harvest, making their effort a genuine investment rather than a simulation.
2. Laboratory – participants meet as a class for a full day each month at J.L. Hawkins Family Farm, engaging light outdoor farm labor as a central element in the “hands-on” aspect of pastoral education.
3. Meal – participants gather together around the table to share food and fellowship, as an extension of their labors to help produce the food they consume and a prelude to discussion.
4. Prayer – participants spend dedicated time in both solitary and communal prayer.
5. Discussion – participants discuss issues relevant to “holy health,” making use of learning from the day’s activities on the farm and the assigned reading.
6. Assigned reading – participants are assigned reading to complete each month.
 - a. The Bible
 - b. Textbooks:
 - i. *Life Together*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, edited by Geoffrey B. Kelly, from “Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, Volume 5” (which also includes *Prayerbook of the Bible: An Introduction to the Psalms*), First Fortress Press paperback edition, 2005. ISBN: 0-8006-8325-0.
 - ii. *Bringing it to the Table: On Farming and Food*, by Wendell Berry, 2009. ISBN: 978-1-58243-543-5
 - c. To read at your own pace in order to stay connected to Creation:
 - i. *Given: Poems* by Wendell Berry, 2005. ISBN: 978-1-59376-107-3
 - ii. *Leavings: Poems* by Wendell Berry, 2010. ISBN: 13-978-1-58243-534-3

Assignment Schedule:

Month	Bonhoeffer [pages-Kelly]	Berry	Other
Feb		pp. ix-xvi	
Mar	pp. 3-23	pp. 3-10; 105-118; 185-194	
Apr	pp. 25-35	pp. 11-18; 119-128; 195-200	
May	pp. 35-48	pp. 19-30; 129-138	
Jun	pp. 48-68	pp. 31-48; 139-148; 201-210	
Jul	pp. 68-80	pp. 49-56; 149-160; 211-212	
Aug	pp. 81-92	pp. 57-66; 161-172; 213-220	
Sept	pp. 93-107	pp. 67-80; 173-181; 221-224	
Oct	pp. 108-118	pp. 81-86; 225-227	
Nov	pp. 119-140	pp. 227-234	
Dec			<i>No meeting</i>
Jan		pp. 87-101	

Evaluation

Participants are asked to self-evaluate, using the six outcomes described by Jackson Carroll in *God's Potters*:

1. Develop and sustain regular spiritual disciplines;
2. Develop and nurture a pastoral imagination through ongoing habits of reflection on their practice;
3. Be life-long learners who reflect regularly on their philosophy and practice of ministry;
4. Nurture “holy friendships;”
5. Maintain appropriate, though not rigid, boundaries between personal and family life and pastoral work;
6. Be diligent in self-care concerning their “holy health,” which is understood in seven dimensions: spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual, vocational, social/interpersonal, and environmental.

Bibliography

- **2004** - *The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry*, edited by Norman Wirzba; *Great Possessions: An Amish Farmer's Journal*, by David Kline.
- **2005** - *Life is a Miracle: An Essay Against Modern Superstition*, by Wendell Berry; *Food for Life: The Spirituality and Ethics of Eating*, by L. Shannon Jung.
- **2006** - *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology*, by Eugene Peterson, 2005; *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold, 1949.
- **2007** - *Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight* by Norman Wirzba, 2006; *Eating Your Way Through Luke's Gospel* by Robert J Karris, 2006; *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, by Michael Pollan.
- **2008** – *The Hidden Lives of Congregations: Discerning Church Dynamics* by Israel Galindo, 2004; *The One-Straw Revolution: An Introduction to Natural Farming* by Masanobu Fukuoka, 1978; *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*, by Barbara Kingsolver, 2008.
- **2009** – *Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible*, by Ellen F. Davis, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-521-73223-9. *The Essential Agrarian Reader*, edited by Norman Wirzba, 2003. ISBN: 1-59376-043-4. *Scratching the Woodchuck: Nature on an Amish Farm* by David Kline, 1997. ISBN-10: 0820321540
- *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting*, by Marva Dawn, 1989. [ISBN: 0-8028-0457-8]
- *Making Sundays Special*, by Karen Burton Mains, 1987.
- *The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man* by Abraham Heschel, reprint 2003. ISBN: 1-5903-008-23
- *What Are People For?* by Wendell Berry, 1990. ISBN: 0-86547-437-0
- *The Spell of the Sensuous* by David Abram, 1996. ISBN: 0679776397
- *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv, 2005. ISBN: 1-56512-391-5
- *The Paradise of God: Renewing Religion in an Ecological Age*, by Norman Wirzba, 2003 [ISBN: 0-19-515716-8]

- *Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness*, by Eugene H. Peterson, 1992 [ISBN: 0-8028-0848-4]
- *Moving Beyond Church Growth: An Alternative Vision for Congregations* by Mark A. Olson, 2002 [ISBN: 0-8066-4346-3]
- *A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix*, by Edwin H. Friedman, published by the Edwin Friedman Estate, 6 Wynkoop Court, Bethesda, MD, 20817, 1999.
- *Leadership and the New Science: Learning about Organization from an Orderly Universe* by Margaret J. Wheatley, 1992. ISBN: 1-881052-44-3
- *Congregation: Stories and Structures* by James F. Hopewell, 1987 [ISBN: 0-8006-1956-0]
- *Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach*, by Peter L. Steinke, 1996 [ISBN: 1-56699-173-0]
- *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: The Prayers of Walter Bruegemann*, 2003 [ISBN: 0-8006-3460-8]
- *The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture* by Wendell Berry, 1977 [ISBN: 0871568772]
- *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography* by Kathleen Norris, 1993 [ISBN: 0-395-71091-x]
- *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, by Annie Dillard, 1974. ISBN: 0-06-091545-5
- *The Web of Life: A New Scientific Understanding of Living Systems* by Fritjof Capra, 1996
- *Like a Garden: A Biblical Spirituality of Growth*, by Sara Covin Juengst, 1996 [ISBN: 0-664-25634-1]
- *Breaking Bread: The Spiritual Significance of Food*, by Sara Covin Juengst, 1992
- *Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of a Garden Ecology*, by Eric Grissell, 2001 [ISBN: 0-88192-504-7]
- *The Green Earth: Poems of Creation* by Luci Shaw, 2002 ISBN: 0-8028-3942-8
- *Home from the Field: Collected Poems*, by Leo Dangel, 1997. ISBN: 0944024319
- *Grass Roots: The Universe of Home* by Paul Gruchow, 1995. ISBN: 1571312072
- *Practicing Our Faith*, by Dorothy C. Bass, 1997. ISBN: 0-7879-3883-1
- *Nature Reborn* by H. Paul Santmire, 2000, ISBN: 0-8006-3234-6
- *Gilead: A Novel*, by Marilynne Robinson, 2004. ISBN: 0739453017
- *Home: A Novel* by Marilynne Robinson, 2008; ISBN: 13-978-0-374-29910
- *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold, 1949. ISBN: 0345345053
- *The Man Who Planted Trees, A Story* by Jean Giono, 1985 [ISBN: 0-930031-02-4]
- *Being There*, by Jerzy Kosinski
- *Evocations of Grace: Writings on Ecology, Theology, and Ethics*, by Joseph Sittler, 2000
- *Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth*, by William Bryant Logan, 1996 [ISBN: 1-57322-004-3]
- *Eat Here: Reclaiming Homegrown Pleasures in a Global Supermarket* by Brian Halweil, 2004. [ISBN: 0-393-32664-0]
- *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio, 2005 [10:1-58008-681-0]