

Pastoral Competencies in the Anglican Tradition

Instructor: Byard Bennett (byard.bennett@cornerstone.edu)

Unit 1: Baptismal Teaching and Practice in the Anglican Tradition

Required Readings:

E.C.S. Gibson, *The Thirty-Nine Articles* (1915 edition), pp. 573-675 (on ministering in the congregation and sacramental theology)

Philip Edgcumbe Hughes, *Theology of the English Reformers* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1965), 189-208

G.W. Bromiley, *Baptism and the Anglican Reformers* (London: Lutterworth, 1953)

Assignment: After reviewing the service of baptism in the Prayer Book and completing the assigned readings listed, above, write a homily that could be used at a baptismal service.

- You should clearly indicate the Gospel and Epistle readings that will precede the homily and how you will transition from these to give an explanation of baptism. (Consider using Rom. 6 as the epistle text.)
- You should explain baptism in a way that assumes no prior knowledge of the Anglican tradition on the part of any friends and family members of the person being baptized who may be present at the service.

Unit 2: The Nicene Creed as an Outline for Teaching the Faith

Required Readings:

John Pearson, *An Exposition of the Creed* (use this edition:

<http://anglicanhistory.org/pearson/creed/article01a.pdf>)

Edward Walford's Analysis of Pearson, *An Exposition of the Creed* (pp, xvi-xxxvi of the 1889 edition of Pearson:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=chi.18043926;view=1up;seq=16>)

Assignment: Prepare an outline for a teaching series in an adult education class, using the articles of the Nicene Creed to explain the faith to persons who have not previously had any systematic instruction in the Church's teaching. After each article of the creed, give an outline in bullet points of major points to be covered and any illustrations to be used.

Unit 3: Confession and Absolution as a Pastoral Function in the Anglican Tradition

Required Readings:

Frank Hulme, *The Hand Outstretched: A Guide to Repentance* (London: A.R. Mowbray, 1925 or later edition)

K.E. Kirk (ed.), *Notes on Sins and Their Remedies, Together with The Christian's Mirror* (London: The Faith Press, 1935)

Francis George Belton, *A Manual for Confessors*, 3rd rev. edition (London: Mowbray, 1936 or 1955)

Kenneth Ross, *Hearing Confessions* (London: SPCK, 1974)

Assignment: Create a presentation designed for new church members (which may include persons from non-Anglican backgrounds) which explains how the priestly ministry of confession and absolution functions in the Anglican church and how it can practical help for spiritual growth.

- Explain the biblical basis for confession and the pronouncing of absolution. Consider discussing at the least some of the following texts:
 - Confession: Mt. 3:6=Mk. 1:5; 1 Jn. 1:5-10; James 5:15-16.
 - Absolution: Ps. 32:1; Mt. 9:2=Mk.2:5=Lk. 5:20; Jn. 20:23; Rom. 4:7-8; 1 Jn. 2:12.
- Explain the goal of confession and how this offers a different understanding of reconciliation and restoration than one finds in non-denominational churches that lack a formal rite of confession.
- Explain how information received from a penitent is covered by the “seal of the confessional, what this means, and whether there are any times when the priest must release information received in confidence (currently debated examples include intent to harm oneself or revealing abuse of minors or vulnerable elderly adults). For a sample discussion of this topic, see <http://anglicanpastor.com/confession-and-mercy-in-an-age-of-justice/>

Unit 4: Pastoral Spirituality and Health in Anglican Ministry

Required Readings:

Thomas Ken, “Directions for Prayer,” in *The Prose Works of the Right Reverend Thomas Ken*, ed. W. Benham (London: Griffith, Farran, Okeden and Welsh, 1872), 192-205.

Available online at <https://archive.org/details/proseworksofrigh187200kent>

Iain Matthew, *The Impact of God: Soundings from John of the Cross* (London: Hodder, 1995)

Criteria for Selection for Ministry in the Church of England (Ordained and Accredited Lay Ministry) 2005 (Church House Publishing)

Yvonne Warren, *The Cracked Pot: The State of Today’s Anglican Parish Clergy* (Buxhall, Suffolk: Kevin Mayhew, 2002)

Assignment: Write a rule of life that you intend to follow in ministry, using bullet points to summarize essential practices of prayer and things important to spiritual growth and relational health.