

Syllabus
CONS 37: *The Future of Ecumenism*

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Virginia Theological Seminary
Third Quarter, 2007
Thursdays, 8:55 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
VTS Classroom: Addison 111

Last updated: 1/18/07

Course Description:

This course will analyze where the ecumenical movement is going and what it has to offer for the life of the church in the 21st century. The structure will be organized around the theological marks of the church (“one, holy, catholic, and apostolic”). Issues to be addressed include: the porous nature of parish membership today, the rise of non-denominational and ecumenical parishes, new ecumenical initiatives like Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A. and Churches Uniting in Christ that are broadening the ecumenical conversation, the papacy of Benedict XVI, recent ecumenical agreements (such as Methodist-Episcopal and Lutheran-Methodist interim Eucharistic sharing), and the ecumenical movement’s new approach to consensus decision-making. NOTE: the first week of class will involve attendance at some sessions of the National Workshop on Christian Unity, which will meet at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington January 29 – February 1, 2007. NWCUCU registration is \$50. Scholarships for registration will be available through the Consortium.

Course Goal: To understand the potential future directions of the ecumenical movement and the relevance of the movement for the church in the early 21st century.

Course Methodologies:

Lectures by instructors, attendance at sessions of the National Workshop on Christian Unity (which will meet in Arlington January 29 – February 1, 2007), instructor-led class discussion of assigned readings, class discussion of readings and case studies, and final written assignment.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Strategize ways to address issues of unity and division in the church;
- Relate the marks of the church and the ecumenical concepts of hospitality and *koinonia* to parish life;
- Describe ways in which the ecumenical movement is changing and relate them to the student’s future ministry.

Final Course Assignment – Options:

OPTION A: Write a 15-20 page research paper on a topic of your choice related to the topics covered in this course. Note: submit your thesis statement to the professors for approval before beginning the paper.

OPTION B: Select and read three books from the course bibliography and write a 5-page double-spaced book review for each, including the four elements of a book review:

- 1) describe and summarize the author's key points and key arguments,
- 2) analyze and evaluate the author's claims and conclusions,
- 3) compare and contrast it with what someone else has written on this topic or with content from the course itself,
- 4) critique it from your own perspective – in what ways do you agree with the author? Disagree? Why?

Be sure to footnote material from the book and include a bibliography for this book and any other works that you consult in preparing the paper

OPTION C: Interview someone who is involved in some form of ecumenical ministry (get the professors' approval of your choice before proceeding). Prepare a list of interview questions about that person's experience in ecumenism (minimum of 12 questions). A face-to-face interview is greatly preferable, but if distance is too great, a telephone interview may be substituted.

Then write a 15-20 page (double-spaced) paper about what you have learned about the future of ecumenism. The paper should include the following elements:

- 1) **Description:** describe the person's ecumenical involvements and his/her perspectives on the future of ecumenism.
- 2) **Analysis:** analyze what is working well and what is not in that ecumenical ministry. What are the current challenges or impediments?
- 3) **Comparison and Synthesis:** compare what you heard and observed to the lectures, readings, and discussions of this class: what was congruent with what you learned in this class? What was different? Be sure to engage the relevant publications from the class assignments and bibliography.
- 4) **Conclusions:** provide your own assessment of the future of ecumenism in this context.

Include a bibliography and your interview questions at the end of the paper (not to be included in the paper page count)

Grading:

Class attendance, evidence of having read the assignments, participation in class discussions: 20% of grade

Final Assignment: 80% of grade

An "A" written exercise or paper is excellent in thought and in composition. It has a clear thesis which is stated explicitly and defended throughout the text. It has a coherent structure and flow. Grammar, punctuation, and formatting are correct. Bibliographic citations and footnotes are properly selected and formatted. An "A" assignment addresses every part of the assignment and connects the parts into a coherent whole. An "A" paper

has a clearly identifiable introduction, a well-developed body, and a clearly articulated conclusion that relates back to the thesis. A “**B**” written exercise or paper is good and has a clear thesis, but lacks in one or two of the other necessary components. A “**C**” written exercise or paper is acceptable degree-level work, but is flawed in some significant way. An “**F**” written exercise or paper has failed to meet the minimum requirements of the assignment.

Required Text:

Kessler, Diane C., ed. *Receive One Another: Hospitality in Ecumenical Perspective*.
Geneva: WCC Publications, 2005.

All other readings assignments will be available through the Blackboard course website.

Schedule:

February 1:

Class meets at the Key Bridge Marriott for attendance at sessions of the National Workshop on Christian Unity

February 8:

Reading assignments in preparation for class:

Kessler, Diane C., ed. *Receive One Another: Hospitality in Ecumenical Perspective*.
Geneva: WCC Publications, 2005, chapters 1 & 2.

Review syllabus, readings, course final assignment options

Discussion of National Workshop on Christian Unity sessions attended

Lecture:

Mitzi Budde: Topics: The Nicene Creed and how it is used ecumenically; the marks of the church as a hermeneutic for ecumenical conversation

John Crossin: Topics: an overview of the history of the ecumenical movement and the National Workshop on Christian Unity

February 15: Topic: The Church is One

Reading assignments in preparation for class:

Kessler, Diane C., ed. *Receive One Another: Hospitality in Ecumenical Perspective*.
Geneva: WCC Publications, 2005, chapter 3.

Lutheran-Episcopal Guidelines for Worship Planning:

<http://www.elca.org/ecumenical/fullCommunion/episcopal/guidelines/index.html>

Lutheran-Methodist Guidelines for Interim Eucharistic Sharing:

<http://www.elca.org/ecumenical/ecumenicaldialogue/unitedmethodist/GuidelinesEucharisticSharing.pdf>;

and Sample Service:

<http://www.elca.org/ecumenical/ecumenicaldialogue/unitedmethodist/ELCA-UMC%20communion.pdf>

Methodist-Episcopal Guidelines for Interim Eucharistic Sharing:

<http://www.etdiocese.net/pages/UMCsharing.pdf>

Discussion of Case Study on the planning process that went into the National Workshop Lutheran-Episcopal-Methodist joint Eucharist

Lecture: Mitzi Budde: Topics: bilateral dialogues, goals of the ecumenical movement, koinonia ecclesiology, reception

February 22: Topic: The Church is Catholic

Reading assignments in preparation for class:

Kessler, Diane C., ed. *Receive One Another: Hospitality in Ecumenical Perspective*. Geneva: WCC Publications, 2005, chapter 4.

John T. Ford, "Theological Language and Ecumenical Methodology," in *Ancient Faith and American-Born Churches: Dialogues Between Christian Traditions*, edited by Ted Campbell, Ann K. Riggs, Gilbert W. Stafford (New York/Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2006), 15-23; available at: <http://www.nccusa.org/unity/fandoford.html>.

John T. Ford, "Corporate Episcopé," in *Call to Unity, Resourcing the Church for Ecumenical Ministry*, Issue No. 7 (December 2006), Consultation on Episcopé, Churches Uniting in Christ, 15-18. Available on Blackboard

Ellen K. Wondra, "Expression of Episcopé in the Episcopal Church," in *Call to Unity, Resourcing the Church for Ecumenical Ministry*, Issue No. 7 (December 2006), Consultation on Episcopé, Churches Uniting in Christ, 19-26. Available on Blackboard

Anna Case-Winter, "Expression of Episcopé," in *Call to Unity, Resourcing the Church for Ecumenical Ministry*, Issue No. 7 (December 2006), Consultation on Episcopé, Churches Uniting in Christ, 27-32. Available on Blackboard

John H. Thomas, "Gifts of Episcopé" in *Call to Unity, Resourcing the Church for Ecumenical Ministry*, Issue No. 7 (December 2006), Consultation on Episcopé, Churches Uniting in Christ, 33-39. Available on Blackboard

Guest Lecturer: The Rev. Dr. John T. Ford, Catholic University of America
Topics: Where are we in ecumenism? Examples: the Roman Catholic Church, Churches Uniting in Christ; An Ecumenical Methodology: resonance, dissonance, nonsonance.

March 1: Topic: The Church is Holy

Reading assignments in preparation for class:

Kessler, Diane C., ed. *Receive One Another: Hospitality in Ecumenical Perspective*. Geneva: WCC Publications, 2005, chapter 5.

Kessler, Diane C. "Ecumenical Spirituality: The Quest for Wholeness of Vision," chapter 5 in *The Vision of Christian Unity*. Indianapolis: Oikoumene Publications, c1997, pp. 91-104. Available on Blackboard

"Pascal Night," chapter 3 in *Twelve Tales Untold: a Story Guide for Ecumenical Reception*, edited by John T. Ford and Darlis J. Swan. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, c1993, pp. 34-42. Available on Blackboard

Discussion of case study: "Pascal Night"

Lecture: John Crossin: Topics: Spiritual Ecumenism, holiness, Eucharistic ecclesiology, discernment models in ecumenism, morals

March 8: Topic: The Church is Apostolic

Reading assignments in preparation for class:

Kessler, Diane C., ed. *Receive One Another: Hospitality in Ecumenical Perspective*. Geneva: WCC Publications, 2005, chapters 7-8.

Avis, Paul, ed. *Paths to Unity: Explorations in Ecumenical Method*. (London: Church House Publishing, 2004; also available online at <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/info/papers/unity.pdf>), Read Chapter 7: Christopher Hill, "Seeking the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church: Do Bishops Exhibit or Obscure it?", pp. 107-128.

Hutter, Reinhard. *Bound to Be Free: Evangelical Catholic Engagements in Ecclesiology, Ethics, and Ecumenism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004, **Chapter 10**, "Christian Unity and the Papal Office," pp. 185-193. Available on Blackboard

Gatta, Julia. "Reception and Women's Ordination: An Anglican Experience in Southern Africa," chapter 9 in *Twelve Tales Untold: a Story Guide for Ecumenical*

Reception, edited by John T. Ford and Darlis J. Swan. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, c1993, pp. 95-101. Available on Blackboard

Discussion of case study: "Reception and Women's Ordination"

Lecture:

Part I: John Crossin: Topics: the role of the papacy, the fraternal dialogue on the papacy, Roman Catholic-Orthodox on the papacy

Part II: Mitzi Budde: Topics: Protestant approaches toward apostolicity/historic episcopate; *Called to Common Mission* (Lutheran-Episcopal); Christian Churches Together; *The Gift of Authority* (Anglican-Roman Catholic)

Course evaluations

Resources for Final Assignment:

Aune, David E. *Rereading Paul Together: Protestant and Catholic Perspectives on Justification*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, c2006.

Avis, Paul, ed. *Paths to Unity: Explorations in Ecumenical Method*. London: Church House Publishing, 2004; also available online (accessed January 4, 2007): <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/info/papers/unity.pdf>.

Benedict, XVI, Pope. *God is Love: Deus Caritas Est*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2006; also available online (accessed January 4, 2007): http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20051225_deus-caritas-est_en.html.

Benedict, XVI, Pope. *An Introduction to Christianity*. Revised 2nd ed. Ft. Collins: Ignatius Press, 2004.

Braaten, Carl E. and Robert W. Jenson, eds. *In One Body through the Cross: The Princeton Proposal for Christian Unity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Braaten, Carl E. and Robert W. Jenson, eds. *The Ecumenical Future: Background Papers for In One Body through the Cross: The Princeton Proposal for Christian Unity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Buschart, W. David. *Exploring Protestant Traditions: An Invitation to Theological Hospitality*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006.

Campbell, Ted, Ann K. Riggs, and Gilbert W. Stafford, eds. *Ancient Faith and American-Born Churches: Dialogues Between Christian Traditions*. New York/Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2006.

Dulles, Avery. *Models of the Church*. Expanded ed. Garden City, NY: Image Books, 1987.

Foraker, Greg A. "Yearning to Be One, Y'all: Reflections on a Roman Catholic/United Methodist Dialogue in Knoxville, Tennessee, Summer 2001," *Ecumenical Trends*, 31:1 (January 2002): 10-11.

Granberg-Michaelson, Wesley. "The Future of Ecumenism in the 21st Century," October 21, 2005 (accessed January 4, 2007):
<http://www.rca.org/NETCOMMUNITY/Page.aspx?&pid=443&srcid=427>.

Grdzeldze, Tamara, ed. *One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic: Ecumenical Reflections on the Church*. Geneva: WCC Publications, 2005.

Groppe, Elizabeth Teresa. *Yves Congar's Theology of the Holy Spirit*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Hanson, Mark. "Growing Together, Growing Apart: The Changing Landscape of Ecumenism." Lecture given at Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, September 28, 2004 (accessed January 4, 2007),
<http://www.etss.edu/HansonBlandly1.shtml>.

Hutter, Reinhard. *Bound to Be Free: Evangelical Catholic Engagements in Ecclesiology, Ethics, and Ecumenism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Creed: What Christians Believe and Why it Matters*. New York: Doubleday, 2003.

Kasper, Walter. "The Current Ecumenical Transition." *Origins* 36 (Dec. 7, 2006): 407-414.

_____. *That They May All Be One: The Call to Unity*. London: Burns & Oates, 2004.

Kinnamon, Michael. *The Vision of the Ecumenical Movement and How It Has Been Impoverished by Its Friends*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2003.

The Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church. *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, c2000; also available online at
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/documents/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_31101999_cath-luth-joint-declaration_en.html.

The World Methodist Council Statement on the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, [2004]:
<http://www.elca.org/ecumenical/ecumenicaldialogue/unitedmethodist/WMC.pdf>

Justification by Faith through Grace: Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification: Study Resources for Congregations and Parishes. [Ottawa]: Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops; Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, c1999.

Matlins, Stuart M. & Arthur J. Magida, eds. *How to be a Perfect Stranger: the Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook.* 3rd ed. Woodstock, Vt.: SkyLight Paths Pub., c2003.

McPartlan, Paul M. *Sacrament of Salvation: An Introduction to Eucharistic Ecclesiology.* Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1995.

Morris, Jeremy and Nicholas Sagovsky, eds. *The Unity We Have and the Unity We Seek: Ecumenical Prospects for the Third Millennium.* London, New York: T & T Clark, 2003.

Puglisi, James F., ed. *Liturgical Renewal as a Way to Christian Unity.* Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2005.

Rausch, Thomas P. *Towards A Truly Catholic Church: An Ecclesiology for the Third Millennium.* Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2005.

Rusch, William G. et al, eds. *Justification and the Future of the Ecumenical Movement: the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification.* Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, c2003.

Ryan, Thomas. "An Ecumenical Spirituality for the Third Millennium: What Gifts Do the Churches Bring?" *One in Christ* 39 (April 2004): 17-27.

World Council of Churches. "Called to be the One Church." Adopted at WCC 9th Assembly February 14-23, 2006 (accessed January 4, 2007): <http://www.wcc-assembly.info/en/theme-issues/assembly-documents/1-statements-documents-adopted/christian-unity-and-message-to-the-churches/called-to-be-the-one-church-as-adopted.html>.

_____. *Confessing the One Faith: An Ecumenical Explication of the Apostolic Faith as it is Confessed in the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381)*, new revised version. Geneva: WCC Publications, 1991.