

Ministry in a Post-denominational Age

January 16 and 17, 2010 (8:30 AM to 5:00 PM)

.5 credit

Instructor: Lee Barker

The decades-long decline of mainline denominations also has an impact on Unitarian Universalism. As such, this is an age that challenges our faith tradition and, at the same, time presents opportunities. UU ministers are on the front lines of these trends and will continue to be required to respond both personally and vocationally. In this half-credit course, the student will become acquainted with the latest demographic trends, engage in the discernment that will assist in vocational planning, and identify institutional (and ministerial) practices and techniques that will counter the trends. This is a course for all students whether they are leaning toward parish service, community ministry, or who have yet to establish a direction for their ministry.

A large portion of the grade will be determined by four, two-page papers to be written at the conclusion of the class. Topics will be assigned during the class sessions.

Full attendance is required.

Reading List:

Although most reading will be provided during the class, students are asked to read the following short book and essay in preparation for the course:

Matthews, Donald H. Can This Church Live? A Congregation, its Neighborhood and Social Transformation. Pilgrim Press, c 2004.

Adams, James Luther. "Guiding Principles for a Free Faith." On Being Human Religiously. Ed. Max L. Stackhouse. Beacon Press, c 1976, 3-21.

Other Readings, furnished during the course, will come from the following texts:

Constantine, Mark D. Traveler's on the Journey: Pastors Talk about Their Lives and Commitments. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, c 2005.

Finke, Roger and Stark, Rodney. The Churching of America 1776-2005: Wionners and Losers in Our Religious Economy. Rutgers University Press, c 2008.

LeBak, Tamara and Lortie, Bret, eds. Reverend X: How Generation X Ministers are Shaping Unitarin Universalism. Jenkin Lloyd Jones Press, c 2008.