

Church Leadership in a Multi-Cultural Context

Institute for Christian Studies Diocese of Central Florida

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Discovering how to appreciate, understand, and dialogue with those different than us is part of the missiological task. The ancient miracle of “tongues” to hear the gospel in one's own language was more than just a linguistic phenomenon, rather, an intentional act of God to connect with those who sought to feel included in what God was doing in Jesus Christ. This course seeks to continue this miracle of communication by empowering future leaders who will do ministry in a multi-cultural context. It will also enlighten as to the obstacles to this inclusion, such as the myriad subtle threads of cultural and social alienation that slip through our theological formation. Our aim is to offer an Incarnational response to leadership that will change the way we think of ourselves and those different from us.

Recommended reading: These are references to draw from that may be useful when working in a multicultural context.

Norman Shawchuck & Roger Heuser, *Leading the Congregation: Caring for Yourself While Serving the People*, Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon Press, 1993. (Chapter 16, Church Leadership in a Multi-Cultural Context: An Emerging Paradigm, Gerardo J. de Jesus)

Anderson, Ray S. *The Shape of Practical Theology*. Downers Grove, Ill. Intervarsity Press, 2001.

Cone, James H. *God of the Oppressed*. New York: Seabury Press, 1975.

Costas, Orlando E. *Christ Outside the Gate: Mission Beyond Christendom*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Publishers, 1982.

Elizondo, Virgilio. *The Future is Mestizo: Life Where Culture Meets*. Bloomington, Ind. Mystic Store Books, 1988.

Sanford, John A. *Ministry Burnout*. New York: Paulist Press, 1982.

Thomas, Piri. *Savior Savior Hold My Hand*. Garden City: Doubleday, 1972.

Post-class assignment: A 1-2 page (double-spaced) reflection paper that will be integrative in scope with what was learned in class. The aim is to demonstrate pastoral / theological understanding of the materials presented in the videos. Assignment is to be submitted to the Archdeacon at kalday@cfdiocese.org by email no later than the date on the current ICS course schedule.