METHOD OF JOURNALING

The journal is the main written requirement. We have designed the process to make the assignment manageable and useful to you as a learning tool.

In order to help focus your thinking about your practice of ministry, we would like you to address the following issues during the course of each week and suggest the following timetable. With each section we have given illustrations of issues and questions that might accompany them. They are offered as examples and not, obviously as an exhaustive list of possibilities. Please note that we continue to be looking for critical thinking about yourself, ministry in general and your practice of ministry specifically. Because the length of each person’s journals will vary accordingly we have resisted specifying a required length. You will know when you have written enough for each segment.

Day 1 – Reflect theologically about issues in your ministry setting and/or class that have arisen this week or that you anticipate arising in the near term. Are these new issues or are they continuations from an earlier time? How are you addressing these issues in your ministry? For example, if a fire has left a family in your community homeless, how might you lift up issues of hospitality and compassion for your congregation as a way to help them become mobilized to respond? What are the social justice issues related to the fire and how would you propose to lift them up in your ministry? What scripture would you use in a sermon about the fire?

Day 2 – Engage in critical reflection about the readings. At what point do you agree with and/or disagree with the authors? In what ways can you apply the readings to your practice of ministry? If you are unable to apply them, why do you think this is so?

Day 3 – General reflections on yourself as a pastoral/spiritual leader. How have the lessons and experiences of this week impacted you spiritually, intellectually, physically, and/or emotionally? How have they contributed to you growth as a ministering person?

Please note: Beginning with the second journal, each journal will be graded. Instructors will grade based on the quality and the depth of reflection and the attention to the issues outlined above.

9/2012