NegotiatingBoundaries

Negotiating Boundaries in Ministerial Relationships:  Promoting Sexual Health, Preventing Misconduct

**Remember to register for NB as part of your semester course registration!  For the August workshop, you also need to preregister by completing a form in the Registrar's office.**

**Course Description:**

The primary goal of the course is to help each student develop critically reflective understandings of “professional ethics” as it applies to *maintaining boundaries* *in the practice of* Christian ministry.  This subject will be explored through the analysis of aspects of spiritual care and ministerial behavior, including sexuality, power, boundaries, and the personhood or character of the minister. The workshop, required of all M.Div. students, is a prerequisite for the Part-Time Internship with Practicum and the Summer Ministry Intensive programs.

**Course Objectives:**

* To become aware of my **power** as a professional ministerial leader, and to understand its potential for both healing and abuse;
* To be able to recognize and maintain personal and professional **boundaries**, and to be conscious of the consequences of not doing so;
* To become familiar with current **policies** and resources of my tradition as they relate to professional ethics and human sexuality;
* To gain an appreciation of the need to personally grow so that I am a **healthy leader** in the holistic sense, and to be able to help others do the same;
* To develop a beginning understanding of **pastoral care**strategies for those I serve.

**Class Topics:**

**Personal/Professional Needs and Boundaries  
Dual Relationships in Professional Ministry and Organizational Work  
Confidentiality and Privacy  
Defining Sexuality and Sexual Health  
Sexual Ethics  
Sexual Misconduct / Abuse Prevention and Policies  
Fiduciary Duty and Sacred Trust**

**NOTE: Lunch is provided by the Office of Supervised Ministry (pizza & salad).**  Feel free to bring your own snacks and lunch.  There are multiple breaks and an interactive pedagogical format is used throughout the day.

**Required Reading: Professional Sexual Ethics: A Holistic Ministry Approach, eds. Jung and Stephens (2013)**\*purchase in YDS bookstore or access free through the Yale library website: [http://muse.jhu.edu/book/28175 (Links to an external site.)](http://muse.jhu.edu/book/28175)  Search for the book via the quicksearch link (http://search.library.yale.edu/) and then click the online book option.

From **Professional Sexual Ethics**, read:  
Part I: Ethical Landscape of Ministry

1. Sexuality, Health, and Integrity - Kate M. Ott

3. Sexing the Ministry – Stanley Hauerwas

4. Erotic Attunement: Rethinking Love across Pastoral Power Gradients - Christina L.H. Traina

Part II: Sources of Wisdom

5. Sexual Ethics in Church History - Rosemary Radford Ruether

Part III: Practices of Ministry

9. Pastoral Care and Sexual Ethics - Joretta Marshall

11. Teaching Sexual Ethics in Faith Communities - Boyung Lee

Part IV: Pastoral Leadership

18. When Leaders Fall - Adam Hamilton

20. Sex and the Pastoral Life - Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Other parts of the text can be skimmed.

**In addition, check out the Additional Readings:**

For those interested in nonprofits, Nonprofit Quarterly has an [Ethics section,  (Links to an external site.)](https://nonprofitquarterly.org/category/ethics/)Read  the following short article on Nonprofit accountability and ethics[,  (Links to an external site.)](https://nonprofitquarterly.org/category/ethics/)[https://nonprofitquarterly.org/nonprofit-accountability-and-ethics-rotting-from-the-head-down/ (Links to an external site.)](https://nonprofitquarterly.org/nonprofit-accountability-and-ethics-rotting-from-the-head-down/)[(Links to an external site.)](https://nonprofitquarterly.org/category/ethics/)

**On Canvas**

Chapter 6, "Confidentiality" in ***Gentle Shepherding*** by Bush  
Chapter 2, "Ministry as Profession" and a short section from Chapter 5, "Dynamics of Power" (p 134-137), titled "The Lure of Friendship" both by Richard Gula in ***Just Ministry***  
If you have no background in sexual ethics, we suggest reading Chapter 6, "A Framework for a Sexual Ethic," from ***Just Love*** by Margaret Farley.

**Course Instructor:**

Kate M. Ott, PhD

Contact info:  kott@drew.edu

YDS Lecturer in Pastoral Care

Associate Professor of Christian Social Ethics, Theological School, Drew University