

MN 387W WARTBURG INTENSIVE: MINISTRY WITH & AMONG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES Instructors:
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Fall 2021

Description: The need continues unabated for good compassionate pastoral care that propels congregations into transformational ministry with individuals, communities, and society. Such pastoral care includes awakening and leading the community of faith to embrace and partner with those who have disabilities. The gifts that persons with disabilities bring to the faith community invigorate a deeper understanding of the theology of the Cross, a greater realization of what it means to be the Body of Christ, and a heightened sense of community. This intensive is intended to alert students to the realities of disability, to the challenges involved in working for justice, and to the manifold opportunities for ministry with and among persons of differing abilities. Intellectual Disability will be emphasized.

Objectives: 1. Examine Western attitudes toward people with intellectual and other disabilities, as attitudes have changed over the centuries. 2. Reflect on prior experiences with individuals with disabilities, and how their presence informs current perceptions and congregational life. 3. Examine how the Lutheran Church has historically responded to persons with developmental disabilities. 4. Discuss the application of the ELCA's message, "People Living with Disabilities." 5. Develop skills in listening and responding to the unique needs of various persons with disabilities. 6. Begin to accumulate tools and resources that enable leaders to serve the particular concerns of people with disabilities and their families, as well as influence societal responses.

Procedure: The class will meet from Thursday evening until Saturday noon. It will include outside reading prior to the time together, with group discussions, some lectures, and a group of people with disabilities sharing their life experiences. A summative reflection paper will be required. Letter grade or Pass option for one hour credit.

Bibliography: Required - Craig L. Nesson, *Shalom Church*, Chapters 1, 3, 5, & 7; ELCA Social Message: *People Living with Disabilities*.

Recommended – Henri Nouwen, *Lifesigns*.