

M316INT (a and b) – Ministry in a Post-denominational Age, January 14 and 15, 2012 (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.

Course Requirements:

- Complete all readings as assigned (see below)
- Full attendance
- Participation in class discussions
- Submit four, two-page papers to be written at the conclusion of the class. Topics will be assigned during the class sessions and will be **due by March 2, 2012.**
- For those taking the course for full credit, post a one page statement in which you introduce yourself to the rest of the class, and describe your particular learning objectives for the course. **Due by October 21, 2011.**

Reading List: Although most reading will be provided during the class, students are asked to read the following short essays in preparation for the course. Both will be posted on the LiveText course site:

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

Faith Formation 2020 Institute ["Thirteen Trends and Forces Influencing the Future of Faith Formation in a Changing Church and World."](#) Online link provided. 2009.

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.

Putnam, Robert and Campbell, David E. American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us. Simon and Schuster, c 2010.

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

Robinson, Anthony B. Transforming Congregational Culture. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, c 2003.