

Meadville Lombard Theological School
Chancel Drama Practicum, Course 470

Instructor: John Tolley, X223, jtolley@meadville.edu
Course Syllabus

This course is offered to participants interested in studying the use of drama in ministry in both theory and practice. Students will study the history of drama within the religious setting, as well as its practical applications to modern Unitarian Universalist worship. They will learn basic tools of dramatic performance and direction, including text analysis, use of space and body, and some basic elements of setting, costuming, and props. Final project will be a full production, as a class, of a chancel drama to be presented at a Wednesday night vespers service, GA presentation or another public venue. Grades will be based on attendance – this is fundamentally a group project – participation in discussion and exercises, and a willingness to take risks and grow.

In addition, students will be required to hand in two written assignments:

- A reflection on how drama could play a part in their ministries, to be handed in at mid-term (3-4 pages)
- A final reflection on the process of the group presentation. (3-4 pages)

Recommended Texts include:

- Johnson, Albert. Best Church Plays: A Bibliography of Religious Drama, 1985.
- Meridith and Tailby. The Staging of Religious Drama in Europe in the Later Middle Ages, 1984.
- Script for final project: to be announced after first day of class