Hartford Seminary Summer Course
Creating and Sustaining Innovative Faith-based Social Outreach
(RS-618)

This course explores the theological and practical dimensions of churches reaching out to distressed communities by creating faith-based nonprofit organizations. Congregations can be the key to leading and sustaining quality community redevelopment, improving the conditions of the culturally marginalized and helping individuals and families in crises to a more stable life and employment. Community, volunteer, governmental, economic and spiritual resources are combined to create highly efficient, caring centers. Course participants will learn both the biblical and theological bases for creating community outreach centers and also the nuts and bolts “how to” strategies and methods to do so. Examples of church-based social outreach nonprofits will be examined with at least one visitation to an active facility. Dr. George Cladis is Adjunct Professor of Ministry and is the Executive Pastor of the multi-site Liberty Churches in Massachusetts and the Executive Operating Officer of the faith-based New England Dream Center social service outreach.

Learning objectives

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Understand the role of change agents in social ministry; specifically, the theoretical roots of the study of contentious politics that leads to faith-based social change.
- Diagnose many of the social issues of desperate communities.
- Think strategically about micro-economic enterprise and social entrepreneurship as these relate to faith-based approaches to community redevelopment.
• Think strategically about the role of the faith-based non-profit as a significant force for social ministry.
• Compare and contrast various strategies for social ministry.
• Emphasize practical methodologies that are theologically sound for impacting a community through effective and relevant ministry strategies.
• Create a local strategy for faith-based community redevelopment.

Format

The class will meet daily (Monday-Friday) from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for one week. The format will include a variety of learning tools: PowerPoint presentations, videos, interviews and a visit to a faith-based, church-connected nonprofit social service center. Class time is expected to be highly engaging and participatory. Some class time will be devoted to writing a journal of learning for the day that will be turned in to the professor.

Responsibilities of the Students (Evaluation Basis for Graded Students)

• Read the required readings for the class.
• Read additional assigned readings specific to your interests as assigned by the professor.
• Write daily in a learning journal to be turned in daily to the professor.
• Attend classes on time; participate in class discussions.
• Write a ten page paper on the topic of Faith-Based Social Ministry related to your specific ministry context or interest. (Note, the length of the paper may be longer depending on the degree program track of the student). The paper will be turned in no later than four weeks after the class’ conclusion.

Course Structure and Schedule

Day One: The Theological Basis for Social Ministry. The conceptual basis for all that follows.

• Jesus and the question of Who Is My Neighbor?
• Theological categories of Hospitality and Service.
• The voice of the powerless; the sometimes unintentional oppressive forces of the powerful.
Day Two: The Faith-Based Non-Profit Organization

- The case for a faith-based non-profit: significant impact for community redevelopment.
- The pros and cons.
- Examples and types of faith-based non-profits.
- How to organize a faith-based non-profit and what to avoid when doing so.
- Innovative Funding of the non-profit.
- The professor’s experience with John Dilulio, former cabinet member in the Bush administration for faith-based initiatives; and combined church/state initiatives for social ministry relationships in CT and MA.

Day Three: Introduction to Social Entrepreneurism: the new marriage of ministry and business!

- What is social entrepreneurship and why is it so effective?
- Innovative approaches to social problems combining a social conscience with business models.
- Practical knowledge regarding overall structures and their elements including strategic partnerships in both the public and private sector.
- Legal structures including “B” (Benefits) Corporations, LCCs, L3Cs and Flexible Purpose Corporations.
- The huge advantage of the faith-based social enterprise.
- The professor’s experience in faith-based social entrepreneurship in the United States, Romania and Ecuador.

Day Four: A Visit to the New England Dream Center: A faith-based non-profit organization, and a social entrepreneurial enterprise.

This day will comprise of both the visit and reflection on the visit. Lunch will be served (no cost to students).

Day Five: The Church, Non-profit and Social Entrepreneurism: A powerful triad for community redevelopment, social ministry and renewing neighborhoods.

- Several examples in addition to the one visited the day before will be explored and discussed.
- Innovation in how to do “church” in the context of social outreach – the tremendous impact on an existing congregation.
• Tying up together all discussed in the week into a fabric of understanding the church, non-profit and social entrepreneurship as forces for spiritual and community renewal.

Required Reading

Books


Online Articles


Martin, Roger L. and Sally Osberg. Social Entrepreneurship: The Case for Definition available at http://www.ssireview.org/articles/entry/social_entrepreneurship_the_case_for_definition/


Suggested Reading

Books


**Online Articles**


Mooney, Margarita A. *Faith-Based Social Services: An Essential Part of American Civil Society.*

*The Four Lenses Strategic Framework: Toward an Integrated Social Enterprise Methodology.*
http://www.4lenses.org/SeTypology/se_in_context

http://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?case=2489373040996353778&hl=en&as_sdt=40000006

**Adunct Professor of Minstry: Dr. George Cladis**

George Cladis is the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Liberty Properties of MA: a real estate development and properties management (for profit) corporation. Liberty Properties of MA builds and maintains ecologically sound mixed housing neighborhoods and caring communities as a form of social entrepreneurism and community redevelopment.

Cladis is also the Chief Executive Officer of the non-profit New England Dream Center in Worcester: a center specializing in superior care for the developmentally disabled, the elderly, impoverished families, youth at risk (gangs), addiction recovery and workforce training.

Cladis is also the Executive Pastor of the multi-site Liberty Churches based in Shrewsbury, MA. Liberty is a large, multi-site congregation reaching out with a redemptive message. Cladis manages the pastoral staff and directors, financial and business affairs, and operations. Having both a ministerial and business background, he combines both professions in his work at Liberty.

Cladis teaches primarily graduate level seminars and is a published author (*Leading the Team-Based Church*, Jossey-Bass, 1999).
Specialties: Collaborative leadership and management, team development, community redevelopment, strategic planning, social entrepreneurship, and social ministry.