Session #1
A Lutheran Theology of Pastoral Leadership

Objective: To explore the relationship between/among Lutheran theology, pastoral leadership, and Bowen Systems Theory. (“What is a pastor called to do, and where does ‘leadership’ fit in that call?”)

Resources:
Text:
The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church
Edited by Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert (Fortress Press, 2000)
OR
Edited by Theodore G. Tappert (Fortress Press, 1959)
The Augsburg Confession, Articles IV, V, VII, & XIV.

ELCA Statements:
ELCA Constitution, Chapter 7 -“Ministry” (www.elca.org).
Constitution for Synods (of the ELCA), Chapter 14 - “Ordained Ministers.”
Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA, Chapter 9 - “The Pastor.”

Articles:
“A Theology of Pastoral Leadership”
“Beggars and Critters”
“Pastoral Theology in Luther’s Tradition: A Remembering”
“The Pastoral Office and Pastoral Compensation in the Lutheran Tradition”

Session #2
A Review of Bowen Family Systems Theory

Objective: To develop a common language and understanding regarding Bowen Theory. (“What are the key concepts in Bowen theory and what do they mean?”)

Resources:
Text:
Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue by Edwin H. Friedman (The Guilford Press, 1985); Chapters 1 & 2.
(Forward by Gary Emanuel, PhD and Mickie Crimone, PhD in 2011 edition)
Publication/Website:
One Family’s Story: A Primer on Bowen Family Systems Theory by Michael E. Kerr, MD (Georgetown Family Center, 2003)
OR
The Bowen Center for the Study of the Family, at www.thebowencenter.org “Eight Concepts” under Bowen Theory link)

Class Video:
Keener, The Silence at Bethany
Video Outline, The Silence at Bethany

Session #3
Pastoral Leadership in a Congregational System

Objective: To explore the basis/basics of faithful/effective pastoral leadership. (“How does a pastor use Bowen theory to lead in a faithful and effective way?”)

Resources:
Text:
Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue by Edwin H. Friedman (The Guilford Press, 1985); Chapters 8 & 9.
(Forward by Gary Emanuel, PhD and Mickie Crimone, PhD in 2011 edition)

Articles:
“A Theology of Pastoral Leadership”
“Friedman on Pastoral Leadership”
“Friedman’s Theology of Leadership”

Class Video:
Friedman, Reinventing Leadership (www.amazon.com)
Video Outline, Reinventing Leadership

Session #4
Differentiation and Pastoral Leadership

Objective: To explore the relationship between/among differentiation, differentiated leadership, and (theories of) life-span development. (“Where/how does ‘differentiation’ fit in maturational development across the life span?” This specific example is based on “Constructive Developmental Theory” in the Piagetian tradition; leaders may select a theory of their own choosing.)
Resources:
Text:

Faith Development and Pastoral Care by James W. Fowler (Fortress Press, 1987); Chapters 4 & 5.

Class Video:

Me, My Brain, and I

Sessions #5-8
Case Presentations by Participants

Objective: To integrate Lutheran theology and Bowen Family systems theory into one’s understanding and practice of pastoral leadership, and to grow and mature personally and vocationally in the process through the sharing and critiquing of case studies written and presented by the group’s members from their own ministerial practice.

Two cases will be presented and discussed in each of these four sessions. The following resources give a suggested format for the writing, presenting, and discussing of cases: “On Case Study as a Method,” “Getting Cases for Learning,” “Process for Case Analysis.” These resources are contained in the next section of this document.

A Note about the Resources

Resources from the Augsburg Confession, ELCA and related constitutions, and those by Friedman and The Bowen Center are foundational. Others are illustrative suggestions. Group leaders may wish to substitute and/or add appropriate resources. Those resources not previously provided to group leaders or currently owned by leaders, will be provided to them in advance of beginning the group sessions. Duplication of certain videos will be made, and where that may not be possible, other videos may be considered as substitution.

(February 2017)