COURSE PURPOSE

This course is intended to lay the foundations for a biblical and theological approach to conflict resolution that will guide the lay leader and pastor in responding to interpersonal conflict in the church, family and community. This course will also address common conflicts within churches and biblical approaches intended to prevent or resolve those conflicts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce a systematic theology of biblical peacemaking.
2. To provide students with sufficient context that they are able to apply those peacemaking principles to ministry and life.
3. To learn biblical processes for use in resolving conflict and leading the church in reconciliation.
4. To learn how to prevent destructive conflict in the church and avoid unnecessary legal liability.
5. To examine issues related to the practice of church discipline.

Course Texts

Edling, David & Tara Barthel, *Redeeming Church Conflicts* ISBN 9781441238580


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Identify five (5) learning objectives** that you wish to achieve from this course, type out and turn in **on September 17**.
2. You are expected to have completed assigned readings in advance of the class and to participate in class discussions.
3. **Book reports**: write a critical paper of at least three (3) typed pages on each of the two books designated above. These book reports are **due November 12**, and should answer the following questions in a narrative format:
   a. What is the book about as a whole?
   b. What is the significance of the book?
   c. Do you agree/disagree with the author in any areas? Provide reasons.
   d. What dangers arise, if any, from positions advocated or statements made by the author?
   e. What impact did the book have on you?
   f. Did this book lead to any spiritual formations/changes in your life and or ministry?

4. There will be **one exam - a mid-term**.

5. There will be additional assigned readings each week from journal articles (handed out in class); a **one page response is required from each reading within two weeks from the date the article is distributed**.

6. All assigned readings and responses must be on time and complete, and class attendance must be in compliance with Seminary guidelines.

7. Design a questionnaire of at least ten (10) questions based on your readings and class discussions. Interview four (4) Pastors of different denominations, excluding the PCA; list their responses by denomination (names of Pastors optional). Write a **twelve (12) to fifteen (15) page paper**, incorporating your findings and observations. Your paper should reference and incorporate concepts from your readings from this course, Scripture and at least five additional reference sources, including journals and periodicals. **Due December 3**. This paper must be formatted in accordance with Turabian standards, including the title page. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade.

8. Prepare and give an **oral presentation** to the class on your survey results, making use of appropriate audiovisuals (e.g., PowerPoint) and handouts. Your presentation should last approximately 10 to 15 minutes. **Presentations will be on December 3 and December 10**.

Proper planning and timely completion of assignments is crucial.

All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six (6) weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six (6) weeks grace period, the student’s grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six (6) week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student’s transcript.
# COURSE ASSIGNMENT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Introduction and Course Orientation</td>
<td>Read Preface, Part I (Ch. 1 – 3) and App. B of <em>The Peacemaker</em> (Sande); Chapter 13* of <em>Redeeming Church Conflicts</em> (Barthel &amp; Edling).</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>Glorifying God in Conflict</td>
<td>Suggested parallel reading: Introduction and Ch. 1-2 of <em>The Peacemaking Pastor</em> (Poirier) (<em>TPP</em>)</td>
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<td>September 24</td>
<td>Get the Log Out</td>
<td>Read Part II (Ch. 3-6) of <em>The Peacemaker</em>; Chapter 14 of <em>Redeeming Church Conflicts</em>; other readings assigned in class.</td>
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<td>October 1</td>
<td>Confession/Restoration</td>
<td>Suggested parallel reading: Ch. 3 &amp; 6 of <em>TPP</em></td>
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<td>October 8</td>
<td>Forgiveness/Negotiation</td>
<td>Read Part IV (Ch. 10-12) of <em>The Peacemaker</em>; Chapter 16 of <em>Redeeming Church Conflicts</em>; other readings assigned in class.</td>
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<td>October 15</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
<td>Suggested parallel reading: Ch. 7-8 of <em>TPP</em></td>
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<td>October 22</td>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>Lectures and Readings</td>
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<td>October 29</td>
<td>ADR &amp; Conciliation; Church discipline</td>
<td>App. B &amp; D of <em>The Peacemaker</em>; other readings assigned in class.</td>
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<td>November 5</td>
<td>Marriage, divorce &amp; conflict coaching</td>
<td>Suggested parallel reading: Ch. 9-12 of <em>TPP</em></td>
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<td>Readings assigned in class</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading Material</td>
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<td>November 12</td>
<td>Perspective &amp; discernment in Church conflicts</td>
<td>Introductory material and Sections 1 &amp; 2 of <em>Redeeming Church Conflicts</em></td>
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<td>November 19</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<td>November 26</td>
<td>Leadership &amp; biblical response in Church conflicts</td>
<td>Sections 3 &amp; 4 and Appendix B of <em>Redeeming Church Conflicts</em></td>
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<td>December 3</td>
<td>Wrap up &amp; surveys</td>
<td>Oral reports on interview results</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>Surveys</td>
<td>Oral reports on interview results</td>
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**COURSE GRADING**

1. Mid-term Exam 30%
2. Book Reports 10% each
3. One-page Summaries 10%
4. Final Paper 25%
5. Oral Report on Paper 15%
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Church Conflict


**Church Discipline**


Commission on Theology and Church Relations of the LCMS. *Church Discipline in the Christian Congregation*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1985.


**Forgiveness**


Legal Liability


Couser, Richard B., and Mary Wilke. *Sexual Misconduct in the Church*. Orr and Reno Professional Association, PO Box 709, Concord, NH 03303-0709


Negotiation and Alternative Dispute Resolution


**Personal Peacemaking**


