

NYTS: PROGRAMS FOR LAITY.....second draft of

C E R T I F I C A T E   O F   C O M P E T E N C E   I N   M I N I S T R Y

New York State has authorized NYTS to grant certificates for the completion of courses and programs for laity. In addition to the possibility of graduate credit for those with B.A. or equivalency, these "certificate programs" can eventuate either in one-course certification (the form "This is to certify that...") or, over a period of some years, the Certificate of Competence in Ministry. The latter is referred to in the "MidCareer Exploration" leaflet as follows: "HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAM? It stops when you have gotten out of it what you want. If you want ordination, how long that would take must be determined by your communion working with you and the seminary. Alternatively, a Certificate of Competence in Ministry is projected for extended work. A strong factor, whatever your goal, will be the amount of time beyond group-time that you can give to your study and its clinical and other involvements."

GUIDELINES for CCM are identical with those of the seminary's overall educational goals:

1. Grow in depth, breadth, and integrity of Christian faith and in the skills of articulating it.
2. Learn to "do theology," i.e. relate faith and the issues of contemporary life; live out the action/reflection model, "the world/Word interface."
3. Acquire specific skills and competence for particular tasks of ministry in one's worlds: domestic and intimate relations, work, civic affairs, church and other voluntary institutions, leisure-recreation.

In the light of these Guidelines, CCM covers the following DIMENSIONS:

1. Bible: study methods (personal and group), biblical theology.
2. Group skills as both theory and experience; basic social psychology.
3. Psychology in Christian perspective: ways of viewing man's invisible dimension; paracounseling theory and experience.
4. Sociology in Christian perspective: ways of viewing man's collective dimension; "community"; "church"; "city" and "suburb"; "establishment/alienation"; the outsider function (saint and criminal); politics (all levels).
5. Management of the self-city: attention; devotion (prayer and worship); relation of inner/outer and individual/collective.
6. Theology: thinking as a Christian in church, world, and one's own worlds.
7. History: "history" and "our history" (Christianity; American Christianity).
8. Future: the future as hope; the future as responsibility; the promise of "the Kingdom"; the threat of revolution; the functions of order and violence.

REQUIREMENTS for CCM:\*

3 courses in Dimension 1

1 course in Dimension 2, plus intensive group experience (such as in MidCareer Exploration)

1 course each in Dimensions 3-8 (or as adjusted through the particular student's experience in MidCareer Exploration)

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\*Transfer of credentials to NYTS? Not necessarily all of these requirements need be met by courses in NYTS. Tutorials? Yes, possibly; not necessarily all of these requirements need be met in classes either at NYTS or elsewhere....For further information, see the dean of programs for laity, Willis Elliott.