

MINISTRY COMPETENCIES



NEW YORK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CONTINUING THE BIBLICAL SEMINARY IN NEW YORK

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NOTE: Flowing through this instrument are the NT leadership roles: propheteia-kerygma (evangelism), didache (teaching), diakonia (service), leitourgia (worship), gybernesia (government, management, lit. "steering"). "Preaching" as we practice it combines several of these.

A. CHRISTIAN MATURING in relation to

1. God (including nature/history; prayer and meditation; spiritual classics, especially the devotional use of the Bible)
2. The world (Word/world interaction; DM Document: "discernment and understanding of God's present activity, which includes "liberation")
3. The self (feelings, abilities, limitations, leadership style--in decision-making: paternalistic, autocratic, democratic, permissive?)
4. Others (listening/responding, etc.)

B. CHRISTIAN SERVING in Church and world

1. Consciencization in memory and hope (the biblical time-sense: the holy moment illumined by heritage and empowered by hope; traditioning for the here-and-now; the rabbinic function)
2. Counseling (spiritual direction, both educational and therapeutic)
3. Confronting (challenging "the powers" within/without self, Church, world; the prophetic function)
4. Administering institutions (ad-ministering="ministering to" and includes negotiating)
5. Priesting (the liturgical function)
6. Group participation/leadership (convenor, moderator, facilitator, etc.)
7. Beyond the Church (politics, culture, leisure, etc.)

C. CHRISTIAN ENABLING (cultivating others' leadership-potential)

1. General skills of the enabler
  - a. Encouraging trust and thus honesty
  - b. Sharing leadership and thus responsibility/accountability
  - c. Facilitating communication and thus significant dialog toward action
  - d. Modeling the creative use of conflict, so that conflict is experienced as rewarding enough to be viewed as opportunity rather than as evil
  - e. Referral/encouragement to training one does not oneself manage
  - f. Training in spiritual attention and thus "devotion" (the comprehensive term for Christian commitment, including personal-family-group-church spiritual exercises)
  - g. Training in witnessing
  - h. Training in counseling
2. In-Church skills
  - a. Discovering and releasing "the gifts" the Spirit has given within the congregation (talent-scouting methods, etc.)
  - b. Developing cleric/laic collegiality
  - c. Leading the congregation's discovery of its distinctive mission within the mission of the whole Church local and larger
  - d. Facing the crucial issues in the congregation and its relationships
3. Beyond-Church skills: training and deploying the troops
  - a. In politics (facing crucial issues)
  - b. In voluntary organizations (building, critiquing, merging, redirecting)

VISUAL OF B & C Elliott

ministering | enabling ministry

IN church	B.1-6	C.1,2
BEYOND church	B.3,4,6,7	C.1,3

--written by '73f D.Min. staff  
--adopted for D.Min., 14 May 74