

## **CS-323 Congregational Care**

Fall 2025

Online Modules: **October 2025** (self-paced with flexible posting deadlines)

Weekend Intensive Class: **Nov 7-8:**

Friday, November 7, 2025 (10 am-3 pm on Zoom with breaks)

Saturday, November 8, 2025 (self-paced online learning module)

Instructor: Michael Koppel, M.Div., Ph.D.

Professor of Pastoral Theology and Congregational Care

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**October Online Modules:** Our class will have Blackboard online learning modules during the month of October. Class participants can pace their learning. Flexible posting deadlines will be in place to ease stress and to facilitate adult learning.

**Nov 7 and Nov 8:** We will meet on **Zoom**, Nov 7 (10 am to 3 pm with scheduled breaks); on Saturday, Nov 8, there will be self-paced online learning material).

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

Topic: CS-323 Fall 2025

Time: Nov 7, 2025 10 AM EST

<https://wesleyseminary.zoom.us/j/92266271115?pwd=fPVYHzEtZGJry0aBLBpan4mPR00bGp.1>

Meeting ID: 922 6627 1115

Passcode: 047240

### **Objectives:**

This course introduces participants to practices of congregational care and the pastor's responsibility in caregiving.

Participants will be able to:

- Implement and oversee appropriate types of care in varieties of settings, including homes, hospitals, and nursing facilities.
- Organize and support caring ministries within the congregation.

- Discern and implement appropriate boundaries, including the practices of confidentiality and referral.
- Reflect on and practice care giving skills, using role plays and case studies.

**Required Texts:**

Justes, Emma, *Hearing Beyond the Words: How to Become a Listening Pastor* (Abingdon, 2002); ISBN #: 978-0-6874-9499-6.

Koppel, Michael S., *Body Connections: Body-Based Spiritual Care* (Abingdon, 2021); ISBN #: 978-1-7910-1341-7.

**Supplemental Text:**

Wimberly, Edward, *Recalling Our Own Stories: Spiritual Renewal for Religious Caregivers* (Fortress, 2019); ISBN #: 978-1506454771.

**Reading and Writing Assignment:**

- 1) Please **read and reflect** on assigned course texts.
- 2) Complete the writing assignment described below. **Submit** your paper as one document to **Blackboard by Nov 6 at 11:59 pm EST**. Please use 12-point font, double-space, and \*.docx, \*.doc, or \*.rtf formats.

**Write a 5-page paper. Draw insights from the course reading.**

- In **4 pages** reflect on effective and ineffective care giving:  
 In two pages, describe a situation when you offered effective pastoral care and identify factors that contributed to it being effective care.  
 In two pages, describe a situation when you offered ineffective pastoral care and identify factors that contributed to it being ineffective.
- In **1 page**, describe your primary spiritual practice for cultivating pastoral awareness and self-care.

**Course Schedule**

**October Online Modules** Topics include: Qualities of Care; Hospitality and Care Presence; Using Ourselves Well; Congregations as Systems of Care. Please check Blackboard to access the modules and posting expectations.

**Nov 7-8: Weekend Zoom and Modules.** Topics to be covered: Positive and Negative Care Experiences; Care through Pain, Grief, Suffering; Care Teams and Referrals; Self Care and Spiritual Practice

### **Evaluation**

Class Writing Assignment	40%
Online Module Postings and Zoom Participation	60%

### **Grade Schema**

93 – 100 = A (Excellent/Outstanding)
90 – 92 = A- (Excellent/Outstanding)
88 – 89 = B+ (Very Good)
83 – 87 = B (Good)
80 – 82 = B- (Adequate)
78 – 79 = C+ (Adequate)
73 – 77 = C (Adequate)
70 – 72 = C- (Substandard)

The instructor assumes that everyone in the class is capable of receiving at minimum a “B” grade for the course. Final course grades are mailed to the student, GBHEM in Nashville and the participant’s conference representative. Grades are not posted online.

### **Class Policies**

Attendance: Please contact the instructor regarding late assignments and anticipated absence from online modules or face-to-face class time.

Inclusive Language: In oral and written contributions to the course, students are expected to use inclusive language for God and human persons.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is regarded as a serious offense and will result in substantial penalties, including the possibility of academic dismissal. The faculty regards the following as form of plagiarism or dishonesty: Copying from another student’s paper; giving or receiving unauthorized assistance to or from another student during an examination; using unauthorized material during an examination; borrowing or presenting as one’s own (i.e. without proper attribution) the composition or ideas of another.

Please refer to your Wesley Student Handbook (online) for more information about Wesley’s academic policies or contact the Course of Study office 202-885-8688.