**Penn West Academy for Ministry**

**Theology Course 2024-2025**

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**Course Objectives:**

1. To understand and express the connection between the Bible, its interpretation, and theology.
2. To identify theological methods, such as constructive, liberation, primary theology, secondary theology, feminist, historical, moral theology (ethics), and so on.
3. To engage in practical theological reflection, with a deeper relationship with God being the primary goal.

**Texts:**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together and Prayerbook of the Bible, DBW Volume 5, (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2004).

Dorothy and Gabriel Fackre, Christian Basics: A Primer for Pilgrims, (Grand Rapids: Eerdman’s, 1991).

Robert Wicks, Seeds of Sensitivity: Deepening Your Spiritual Life, (Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 1995).

**Optional Text:** Gabriel Fackre, The Christian Story: A Narrative Interpretation of Basic Christian Doctrine, Volume 1, Third Edition (Grand Rapids: Eerdman’s, 1996). *The Christian Story deals with the same information as Christian Basics but in more depth and in an academic way. It is not a required text but a good complement to it.*

***Year THREE—****In the Academy, we are on a four-year cycle. 2024-2025 is year THREE for me.*

**September 5 AND 7, 2024: Sacraments: Baptism**

Readings for Oct: Bonhoeffer, Life Together, pages 108-118.

Fackre & Fackre, Christian Basics, “The Lord’s Supper,” pages 68-72.

Assignment for October:

1. Look up how baptism is done in your local congregation. Is it out of the Book of Worship? Or somewhere else.
2. Reflect on the images you find there. What is your primary sense or image of the liturgical action?

**October 10 AND 12, 2024: Sacraments: The Lord’s Supper**

Readings for March: Fackre & Fackre, Christian Basics, “ pages 45-54.

Wicks, Seeds of Sensitivity, Chapter Three, pages 65-83.

Assignment for March:

Of the theories of communion taught in class (transubstantiation, consubstantiation, memorialism, vitalism), which one best expresses your spirituality? What are some negative and positive traits of your understanding?

**March 7-8, 2024: Salvation: Personal And Communal**

**Atonement**

Readings for May:Fackre & Fackre, Christian Basics, “Salvation,” pages 101-124.

Bonhoeffer, Life Together and Prayerbook of the Bible, “Editor’s Introduction,” pages 143-158.

**Assignment for May:**

1. Describe Fackres’ Four Models of the atonement (see page 53).
2. Teach the models of the atonement to a significant other, fellow classmate or church member from page 53. Which one are they most drawn to and why?

**May 9-10, 2025: Salvation: Justification & Sanctification**

Readings for September 2025:Bonhoeffer, Prayerbook of the Bible, pages 168-181.

Wicks, Seeds of Sensitivity, “Daily Mysticism,” Chapter Two, pages 38-61.

Assignment for September 2023:

1. I will ask you to present an image of Justification and Sanctification at the next class (Similar to my door image/two sides of one coin).
2. What image would you use to describe Justification and Sanctification?