



**SPD 553**  
**The Call to Ministry**  
Wednesday 10:30 a.m. - 12. 00 p.m. (1 Credit Hour, 2 CEU)

<b>Instructor Name</b>	Rev. E. J. Niles
<b>Office Hours</b>	Mondays 10 – 12 – Tuesdays 1 - 3
<b>Telephone</b>	816-600-5430 (H)
<b>E-Mail</b>	<a href="mailto:nilesej@unityonline.org">nilesej@unityonline.org</a> ejniles@etbible.org
<b>Required Texts</b>	Brumet, R. <i>Finding Yourself in Transition</i> . Unity Village, 1996  Muller. W. <i>How, Then, Shall We Live? Four Simple Questions That Reveal the Beauty and the Meaning of Our Lives</i> . New York: Bantam, 1996
<b>Other Required Reading</b>	Handouts
<b>Recommended Reading</b>	Levoy, Gregg. <i>Callings: Calling Following an Authentic Life</i> . New York: Three Rivers Press, 1997

**Course Description**

This course will assist students in identifying their call to ministry, exploring the feelings that arise in the transition to ministerial school and determining where the student is going in ministry. Students will have an opportunity to explore their personal beliefs, compare those with normative Unity beliefs, and mitigate any differences.

**Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the circumstances or insights that led to a call to ministry.
2. Recognize the impact of change on an individual’s life, articulate strategies for responding to change, and articulate how transitions are the opportunity for transformation
3. Develop an effective mission statement and integrate it into the call to ministry.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity:MD3 and the Diploma in Ministry

## Assignments

1. Read assigned books and handouts
2. Participate in classroom discussion and exercises as appropriate
3. Write a paper (approximately 15 pages/minimum (3,500 words) which articulates
  - a. The context, circumstances, and events from which your call to ministry arose.
  - b. The process of transition from your prior life to your current experience as a student. Identify significant awareness, insights and emotional responses to this experience and what you have learned from it, so far.
  - c. Articulate your personal statement and how you will integrate it into your call to ministry.

## Selected Bibliography

Campbell, J. (1968) *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Feinstein D. and Krippner, S. (1997) *The Mythic Path: Discovering the Guiding Stories of Your Past – Creating a Vision for your Future*. NY: Putnam.

Glass, J. *Profession: Minister*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1968.

Levoy, G. (1997). *Callings: Finding and Following an Authentic Life*. NY: Three Rivers Press.

Nouwen, H. (1978). *Creative Ministry*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday.

Spangler, D. (1996). *The Call*. New York: Riverhead Books.