



## **WSBM 301 CALLED TO CARE: FOUNDATIONS FOR CAREGIVING**

Dr. Ross Johnston

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Jan 24 – Mar 14, 2023

Tuesdays 7 – 8:30 PM

Winter 2023

Pastoral Care Course (Hybrid)

2 credit hours

Room: **TBD**

***WSBM exists to equip Willington Church – head, heart and hands – to be more biblically literate and to serve more effectively in church and related ministry.***

### **I. Special Notes**

**Hybrid Course:** This course is being offered in a hybrid format. Classes on **January 24** and **March 14** in particular will be ***in-person*** (students who receive exemptions ahead of time from the instructor will receive access to a *live streaming* option). On *other* evenings, classes will be *online* via Zoom. Class recordings will be provided for only a limited time to your class only.

Students are *strongly* encouraged to **turn on their videos** for Zoom classes. Students who do not wish to turn on their videos will be excluded from **break-out group discussions** (as members in small group discussions respectfully need to be able to communicate face-to-face with each other). Instead, these students will be sent to a “non-participating group,” where they will wait for the class to be brought back. As break-out group discussions constitute a vital part of course participation, this will impact Credit Students’ grades.

## II. **Course Description**

Who cares? This question often surfaces in modern life and language. Who should care? Shouldn't Christians? Why would we think that, and if true, how are we to go about it? Especially coming out of a pandemic! This 8-week class will explore the biblical foundations for caregiving, the role and ministry of caregiving, equipping of the caregiver, those who need care, skills of caregiving, downsides & dangers in caregiving, finding balance & direction in caregiving and benefits of caregiving. During the course you will be invited to demonstrate care in a practical way, as well as determine how God may be calling you to be a caregiver in your future. The sponsor of this course is the Willingdon Church Care Ministries.

## III. **Course Objectives**

Upon the successful completion of the course, Credit Students should have...

- understood the Biblical basis of caregiving and our duty to respond;
- seen how God has uniquely gifted them to care for others and, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, desired to serve;
- discovered & committed to arenas where they will invest their lives in caregiving ministry to others.

## IV. **REQUIRED Text**

- Kopp, Herb. *Soul Care: Caregiving in the Church*. Winnipeg: Kindred Productions, 2001.
- Course handbook (which will be provided to the students)

## V. Course Outline

Week 1 – Biblical Foundations for Caregiving (Jan. 24, 2023)

Week 2 – The Call to Caregiving (Jan. 31, 2023)

Week 3 – The Equipping of the Caregiver (Feb. 7, 2023)

Week 4 – Who Needs Care? (Feb. 14, 2023)

Week 5 – Skills of the Caregiver (Feb. 21, 2023)

Week 6 – The Reluctant Caregiver (Feb. 28, 2023)

Week 7 – Finding Balance in Caregiving (Mar. 7, 2023)

Week 8 – Outcomes of Giving Care (Mar. 14, 2023)

## VI. Course Requirements for ALL Students

Read Weekly Pre-Class Material, Attend Classes, and Interact in Online Break-Out Groups.

## VII. Course Requirements for CREDIT Students

### 1. **Pre-Class Weekly Reading, Attend All Classes, and Interact in Online Break-Out Groups (25%)**

Requires self-reporting that all weekly material was read and classes were attended.

The following assignments are due **March 14, 2023**:

### 2. **Course text reading & report (25%)**

Read Herb Kopp's 60-page book and write a 500-word response to how this book, *Soul Care: Caregiving in the Church*, has personally impacted your understanding of caregiving ministry for your life. Also suggest how this may change your future service.

### 3. **Self-analysis of a personal caregiving ministry experience (25%)**

Describe an experience in caregiving you engage in during the course, being careful to protect the identity and confidentiality of persons involved (i.e., use pseudonyms for names). Describe the

circumstances, the identified need of the person(s), and what you intended as your plan of action. What biblical mandate were you attempting to fulfil? After the experience is over, analyze how well you think you did, did you meet your objective, what could have been done differently or better? Finally, did you have any indication afterward that the person(s) felt cared for or was helped?

**4. Do an inventory of your spiritual gifts and ministry strengths or calling (25%)**

Complete the *Modified Houts Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire* that will be made available and/or other inventory tool(s) to assess what your ministry giftedness & strengths may be. In 300 words summarize what you discover and your reactions to your findings (Surprised by results? Confirmed what you thought all along? Other?). What kinds of caregiving ministry might this suggest you should seek to be involved in?

## VIII. **Recommended Reading**

- Kok, James R. *The Miracle of Kindness: Changing the World, One Act at a Time*. WestBow Press, 2011. Highly recommended!
- Gaultiere, Bill and Kristi. *Journey of the Soul: A Practical Guide to Emotional and Spiritual Growth*. Baker Publishing Group, 2021.
- Richards, Lawrence O. and Gib Martin. *A Theology of Personal Ministry: Spiritual Giftedness in the Local Church*. Zondervan Publishing House, 1981.

## IX. **Academic Policies**

### 1. **Course Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all the scheduled classes. If, for some reason, students need to miss classes, they will need to contact the instructor ahead of time. Students will be required to catch up on missed classes by listening to the recording. Students are responsible to obtain any missing materials or notes from other students in the class. Arrangements must be made with the instructor prior to missing an exam.

### 2. **Classroom Etiquette**

Students are expected to remember that they are in an academic classroom. It is inappropriate to engage in conversations with classmates during class. Cell phones must be turned off. iPods/Tablets/Smart phones are permitted if Bible software and word-processing programs are being used. Otherwise, please do not surf the net or check emails during class. Only students who have registered for a course are to be in attendance. The only exception is an "approved audit." If the class is conducted via Zoom, students should turn the video on unless there is a good reason not to.

### 3. **Assignment Format (Citation & Style)**

The default format for documentation of sources used and format of presentation for all the papers is *MLA Style*. The format guide is available at [Willingdon.org/wsbm](http://Willingdon.org/wsbm).

### 4. **Late Assignments**

Without the extension that has been granted already by the instructor, late assignments are subject to reduced grades. The work that is submitted late (from the *time* it was due) will receive a 5% reduction in grades. There

will be an additional 5% reduction for every 24 hour period that follows (including the weekend).

Assignments submitted one week after their due dates will *not* be accepted (unless, again, extensions have been approved already by the instructor).

## **5. Extension Policy**

The deadline for an assignment is considered to be part of the course requirements. Due to the additional workload for the instructor in grading late papers, and due to the school's intention to be fair to students who, often with considerable effort, submit their work on time, extensions for course work will be considered only in exceptional circumstances. A written request with reasons for extension should be directed to the instructor. If granted, the extension deadlines will be clearly established and will be final.

Extensions for course work are granted in cases where the student demonstrates there was an unforeseeable and unavoidable emergency. Emergencies considered as grounds for an extension typically include:

- Personal sickness or injury which prevents one from working
- Sickness, injury or death in the family which requires the student's attention
- Emotional or psychological crisis for which the student has sought professional help
- Unexpected increase in job responsibilities

## **6. Academic Integrity**

All students at WSBM are expected to hold to *uncompromised* academic integrity.

*Plagiarism*, whether intended or accidental, is an academic offense. In academic work, students are certainly expected to refer to and evaluate other people's works. Plagiarism unfortunately occurs when students' assignments fail to give credit to those from whom the students got certain *ideas*. In other words, students submitted the idea of another without reference to him/her (effectively claiming the credit that is due someone else and getting a grade for someone else's effort).

Therefore, whether students (1) *directly quotes* a source (i.e., "word for word" in its entirety or in its part), or (2) *paraphrase in their own words* the idea of another, they must keep track and provide a *clear reference* to the original source that they are indebted to (e.g., via footnotes).

Again, whether it was intended or not, plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Students are therefore expected to develop and exercise *proper citation*, a skill that is truly critical in academic work (please refer to the format guide at [Willingdon.org/wsbn](http://Willingdon.org/wsbn)).

Using unauthorized aids of any sort in exams or assignments, completing work in unauthorized collaboration with others, or the unauthorized use of class recordings are all breaches of academic integrity.

The penalty for a lack of academic integrity may include a failing grade either in the assignment, examination or course, depending on the severity of the offense.

## **7. Academic Standards**

Students must achieve at least a 60% grade to successfully complete a course. In order to graduate with the Certificate, any course taken and not completed must be repeated. Registration policies and procedures apply.

Students may appeal to the instructor if a course is not successfully completed, and at the discretion of the instructor, students may be granted the opportunity to re-submit a particular assignment.

## **8. Report Cards**

Report cards are issued (usually by email) in a reasonable amount of time following the completion of each course. Due to faculty schedules, there may be delays in the time frame for issuing grade reports.

Students are responsible to appeal any error in grades and to bring to the WSBM Administrative Assistant's attention within one month following the issued report card. Grade changes are allowable for computational recording errors and must be corrected no later than one month after the date the report card was issued.