Seminar III: Systems-Thinking for Healthy Ministry (Immersion Course)

DMLHM917, W1

4 Credit Hours

- Concentration(s): Leading Healthy Ministry
- Date of Course: 2018
- Location/Campus: TBA

Contact Information

- Anthony J. Headley, Ph.D., and Steve Stratton, Ph.D.
- E-mail: tony.headley@asburyseminary.edu, steve.stratton@asburyseminary.edu

Course Description

This is the third course in the concentration focusing on the health of the organizational system. It introduces participants to systems-thinking and the various models for understanding it from biblical and social science perspectives. The course considers the following elements: the application of systemic thinking to organization structure; its relationship to congregational and/or organizational health; and its role in the assessment and restoration of overall health. It explores the importance of systemic thinking for engaging in healthy ministry.
Cohort Thematic Focus

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon noted the importance of proper portions in life in order to maintain steadiness in life and in ministry. Balance is sought after by many, but difficult to attain. All too often our ideal for self-mastery, discipline and time management disappears in the daily grind of the urgent. Using the latest research, this cohort provides a comprehensive understanding of stress in ministry and explores the causes and nature of stress, along with effective coping strategies to maintain balance every day.

Welcome

Welcome to the course Systems-Thinking for Healthy Ministry. We (Anthony Headley and Steve Stratton) are both licensed psychologists and teach in the Department of Counseling and Pastoral Care. Tony has served as a pastor in the USA and Caribbean and Steve grew up as a pastor's kid. As such, we are fully aware of the impact of pastoral stress on personal and family life. We both have ongoing interest in the unique issues confronting people who serve in ministry. Additionally, we have written books and articles pertaining to this area and have presented related workshops and seminars. Of course, as licensed psychologists, we have also worked therapeutically with ministers. We are excited about teaching the concentration in Leading Healthy Ministry and look forward to working with each participant.

Program Level Outcomes

As these standards are designed into key processes throughout the D.Min. experience, upon graduation students will be able to:

1. Revisit foundations for sustainable ministry.
   - Being immersed in explicit Wesleyan practices of community-based formation around the priorities of scripture, reason, tradition and experience, participants will discover transformational habits for sustainable ministry lifestyles.
2. Foster ministry leadership vision, ethic and practice relevant to their ministry context and world.
   - By deeply engaging in analysis of one significant theme from their unique ministry context, participants establish a trajectory for life-long contribution.
3. Appreciate transformational demands within contemporary ministry organizational contexts such as congregations, non-profits and marketplace engagements through various analytic means of biblical, theological, social and cultural exegesis.
   - Participants must add to their biblical and theological exegesis, cultural-situational exegesis that informs ministry leadership practice on a daily basis.

Cohort Learning Outcomes

By the end of DMLHM917, students will be able to:
1. Identify effective steps for data analysis by choosing methods relevant to their Ministry Transformation Project. (PLO #2)

2. Assess the value of group spiritual formation through their Legacy Group experience. (PLO #1)

**Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of DMLHM917, students will be able to:

1. Develop an understanding of systems-thinking both from a biblical and social science perspective. (PLO #2)

2. Assess systemic factors related to congregational and/or organizational health. (PLO #3)

3. Apply systemic thinking to develop and enhance congregational and/or organizational health. (PLO #3)

4. Develop the initial research design and related procedures for anticipated ministry transformation project. (PLO #2)

**Course Requirements**

**Required and Suggested Reading**

The primary means of textbook delivery is through Kindle Readers. See D.Min. Handbook for acquisition procedures for both your Kindle and Program-sponsored textbook content. The Beeson Center sends users instructions to set up an Amazon account, including directions to sync the Kindle account to a computer or mobile device with the Kindle app. All users need two ways to receive Kindle info and access their account. Link for Kindle apps: http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html?ref=amb_link_365823462_2&docId=1000493771&

**Required Reading**


Chapters of books, as well as articles, will be provided.
Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Residency (90 Days)</th>
<th>Assignment Description</th>
<th>SLO</th>
<th>Method of Assessment</th>
<th>Value /Due Date</th>
<th>Evaluator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment Description</td>
<td>SLO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(none)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Residency (5 Days)*</td>
<td>Assignment Description</td>
<td>SLO</td>
<td>Method of Assessment</td>
<td>Value /Due Date</td>
<td>Evaluator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(none)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Residency (90 Days)</td>
<td>Assignment Description</td>
<td>SLO</td>
<td>Method of Assessment</td>
<td>Value /Due Date</td>
<td>Evaluator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #1: Ministry Transformative Project Research Design</td>
<td>#4</td>
<td>Develop the initial research design and procedures for the transformation project, incorporating course readings.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #2: Genogram</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Develop a genogram that includes both personal and vocational information and a written reflection on the results.</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #3: Systems Assessment</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Conduct a systems-related analysis of a sub-group within the church and write an assessment report.</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading

Asbury Theological Seminary uses the 4.00-point system for grading and evaluation. See the course catalog for further information.

Grading and Evaluation

The unit of credit is a semester hour, which is defined as one hour of classroom work per week for one semester, or its equivalent. The 4.00 point system is used to compute grade point standing. The grading system is:
A  *4.00 Exceptional work: surpassing outstanding achievement of course objectives.
A- *3.70
B+ *3.30
B   3.00 Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives
B- 2.70
C+  2.30
C   2.00 Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives
C- 1.70
D+  1.30
D   1.00 Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives
D- .70
F   .0 Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives
CR  Credit: assumes work of a “C” or better
NC  No credit: marginal work; will not receive credit
PC  Provisional credit
AUD Audit
WD  Withdraw
IP  In Progress
I   Incomplete work

* Meets Advanced Research Programs standard. (See specific degree graduation requirements.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Letters</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Letter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100.00 %</td>
<td>95.00 %</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>94.99 %</td>
<td>90.00 %</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>89.99 %</td>
<td>87.00 %</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>86.99 %</td>
<td>84.00 %</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83.99 %</td>
<td>80.00 %</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>79.99 %</td>
<td>77.00 %</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>76.99 %</td>
<td>74.00 %</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>73.99 %</td>
<td>70.00 %</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>69.99 %</td>
<td>67.00 %</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>66.99 %</td>
<td>64.00 %</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>63.99 %</td>
<td>60.00 %</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>59.99 %</td>
<td>0.00 %</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Assignment Guidelines

Only students who submit assignments on time can expect faculty feedback on their assignments. At the faculty’s discretion, late assignments can receive a grade, but additional feedback is not required from the faculty.

If students fail to submit any of the course assignments, they will receive a failing grade for the course. If the professor agrees to evaluate an assignment after final grades have been submitted, the student must complete a Grade Conversion Request form from the Registrar's office to remove the failing grade (“F”) from their record. This form is found on oneATS.
To locate the form:

- Go to one ATS (https://one.asburyseminary.edu)
- Sign into oneATS.
- On the left sidebar, in the Student Navigation section, click on the Registrar’s Office link.
- Click on the Forms and Petitions link.
- Click on the Grade Conversion Request link to download the form.
- Complete the form and submit it to the Registrar’s office per the instructions at the top of the form.

Generally the expectation is that students will be present at all class sessions and prepared to meaningfully participate. However, you may miss up to 6 hours of class [the equivalent of 2 block classes] throughout the intensive for any reason, without it impacting your final grade. If you miss between 7-10 hours (~ a 3rd block class) of class time, then your final course grade will be reduced by a corresponding amount. If you miss more than 11 hours of class time, you will fail the class.

Course Evaluations

After this course has been completed, you will fill out a course evaluation for the course by the end of the semester. To access the evaluation, click on the course evaluation link, https://asburyseminary.tk20.com. Then:

- Locate the Pending Tasks area.
- Click on the link that has the course information for your course(s).
- Click on the Course Evaluation Form tab.
- Complete all course evaluation fields.
- Click Submit.

Tentative Course Schedule

Online Interactions

- 90 days before seminar: Online course furnished with all course design/materials (students begin reading)
- 90 days before seminar: Online interactions may begin. Note: Online Course Opens April 1 for Summer; October 1 for Winter).
- 90 days after seminar: Post-session work due
- Grades Due: Last Day of Term
  - January cohort: Last day of Spring term
  - Summer cohort: Last day of Fall term

Final Projects

- Grades Due: Last Day of Term (Approximately 120 Days, 4 Months After Class)
Due 90 days after the last day of the seminar at the latest (calculate this date and announce to during class).

- Extensions MAY NOT be granted for poor planning/work overloads.
- Extensions may be granted due to illness, in extremely rare circumstances.
- Request an extension through an Academic Petition form (oneATS; under General Navigation\Departments\Enrollment Management & Student Services\Registrar\Forms and Petitions (downloadable forms)\Academic Petition; https://one.asburyseminary.edu/sites/default/files/1%20Academic%20Petition%202012-2013_0.pdf).

**Expectations/Education Philosophy**

The D.Min. learning experience is just that – an experience. Personal and community exercises challenge students to lean into new concepts and capacities. For knowledge to grow into understanding and activity to changed behavior, adults need to reflect. Reflecting critically in and on experience alters attitudes and perspectives, feelings and thoughts. John Wesley understood that humans are more than a brain; they are physical beings with emotions, relationships, spirits, and imaginations. Learning that transforms engages all of these dimensions. The Asbury D.Min. experience requires men and women to bring their whole selves to this three-year process. We approach the possibilities together, with expectations that only God can fulfill.

**Course Work/Hours**

A “Credit Hour” at Asbury Theological Seminary is an amount of work represented in student learning outcomes (SLOs) and verified by evidence of student achievement that reasonably approximates not less than fifty-five (55) minutes of direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two and a half (2.5) hours out of class student work each week for the equivalent thirteen weeks for one semester hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. Furthermore, at least an equivalent amount of work shall be required for other academic activities including internships, practicums, studio work and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours. A faculty member desiring substantial changes must clear it through the dean of the school.

The expectation for D.Min. courses is 1,800 – 2,400 pages of assigned reading per 4-hour course or the equivalent of out-of-course work (Faculty Handbook).

**Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all class sessions during residency.

**How to Submit Your Work**

All papers must include a formal title page and be formatted with MLA style formatting,
unless otherwise indicated by faculty.

Students will upload all assignments to their online course classroom.

To upload an assignment:

1. Log into oneATS (http://one.asburyseminary.edu).
2. Enter your username and password.
3. In the upper right corner of the screen, click on Online Courses.
4. In the Navigation section, click on My courses.
5. Click on the course number for your course (see Page 1 of this syllabus).
   a. Note: Make sure that the correct term and year appear in parentheses after the course number (e.g., SU = Summer, JA = January, etc.)
6. Upload your document in the assignment section as indicated by the faculty for your course.
   a. The assignment title should include your last name, the course and the assignment name, for example, doeDM800proposal
7. NOTE: To send an email to faculty for your course, email them directly using the email addresses on Page 1 of this syllabus. Do not use the “To the Professor” email feature in your online classrooms, as this system is not integrated with faculty’s daily email handling systems.

Incomplete Work

(Please note: You can only request an incomplete if your pre-residency assignments were completed on time, and if the “unavoidable emergency” caveat below occurs immediately before final assignments are due. A busy schedule or non-stop demands of family and ministry do not qualify as reasons for an incomplete; these are realities that all D.Min. students face.)

The official end of each term is 5 p.m. on the last day of the final exam week. The 5 p.m. deadline applies to handing in all course work. Each instructor may set an earlier deadline, but not a later deadline, for submission of any or all course work. Students must petition the Registrar for permission to receive an incomplete “I” grade and have the relevant faculty member’s support. The petition must be received before 5 p.m. on the last day of regularly scheduled classes (prior to the beginning of final exam week).

A grade of “I” denotes that course work has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency (documentation may be requested). Delinquency or attending to church work or other employment does not constitute an unavoidable emergency. Without an approved “I,” a letter grade will be recorded based on grades received for completed work and an “F” grade assigned to incomplete work.

Incomplete grades shall be removed one calendar month prior to the close of the following semester unless an earlier date is designated by the Office of the Registrar on the individual petition. If the work is not completed by the time designated, the “I” shall be changed to an “F” unless a passing grade can be given based on work already completed or unless special permission is granted by the Registrar. Professors are required to give either a grade or an “I,” if approved, to each student registered for credit in a course.
Students with incompletes in two or more classes will not be allowed to enroll in a new semester or term without permission from the Registrar.

**Appendices**

**Appendix 1: Rubrics**

See next pages.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Method of Assessment</th>
<th>Exemplary=4</th>
<th>Accomplished=3</th>
<th>Developing=2</th>
<th>Beginning=1</th>
<th>Evaluator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLO #1: Identify effective steps for data analysis by choosing methods relevant to their Ministry Transformation Project.</td>
<td>Dissertation Chapter 3</td>
<td>Outlines the most effective research methods for the project: providing thoughtful rationale for each method, addressing all research questions, and meeting the Institutional Review Board’s requirements.</td>
<td>Outlines the most effective research methods for the project: providing some rationale for most methods, addressing all research questions, and meeting the Institutional Review Board’s requirements.</td>
<td>Outlines research methods for the project: providing little rationale methods chosen, addressing 1-2 research questions, and meeting some of the Institutional Review Board’s requirements.</td>
<td>Outlines inadequate research methods for the project: providing little to no rationale for each method, addressing 0-1 research questions, and meeting few, if any of the Institutional Review Board’s requirements.</td>
<td>Dissertation Coach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLO#1: Develop an understanding of systems-thinking both from a biblical and social science perspective.</td>
<td>Genogram</td>
<td>Develop, at an exemplary level, an understanding of systems-thinking both from a biblical and social science perspective.</td>
<td>Develop, at an accomplished level, an understanding of systems-thinking both from a biblical and social science perspective.</td>
<td>Develop, at a developing level, an understanding of system-thinking both from a biblical and social science perspective.</td>
<td>Develop, at a beginning level, an understanding of systems-thinking both from a biblical and social science perspective.</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLO#2: Assess systemic factors related to congregational and/or organizational health.</td>
<td>Systems Assessment</td>
<td>Assess, at an exemplary level, systemic factors related to congregational and/or organizational health.</td>
<td>Assess, at an accomplished level, systemic factors related to congregational and/or organizational health.</td>
<td>Assess, at a developing level, systemic factors related to congregation and/or organizational health.</td>
<td>Assess, at a beginning level, systemic factors related to congregation and/or organizational health.</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLO #3: Apply systemic thinking to develop and enhance congregational and/or organizational health.</td>
<td>Systems Assessment</td>
<td>Apply, at an exemplary level, systemic thinking to develop and enhance congregational and/or organizational health.</td>
<td>Apply, at an accomplished level, systemic thinking to develop and enhance congregational and/or organizational health.</td>
<td>Apply, at a developing level, systemic thinking to develop and enhance congregational and/or organizational health.</td>
<td>Apply, at a beginning level, systemic thinking to develop and enhance congregational and/or organizational health.</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SLO #4:** Develop the initial research design and related procedures for anticipated ministry transformation project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry Transformation Project Research Design</th>
<th>Develop, at an exemplary level, the initial research design and related procedures for anticipated ministry transformation project.</th>
<th>Develop, at an accomplished level, the initial research design and related procedures for anticipated ministry transformation project.</th>
<th>Develop, at a developing level, the initial research design and related procedures for anticipated ministry transformation project.</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Appendix 2: Policies

Accessing Library Resources

1. General Questions:

The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs. The Information Commons can be reached at our website: asbury.to/library, via phone at 800.2ASBURY or 859.858.2100, and via email at information.commons@asburyseminary.edu. Students are also encouraged to send questions to the Information Commons via SMS/text at 859.903.0464.

2. Materials Requests:

To search the library catalog for available materials, use the links on the library website or the search box located in your online course center. Students on the Kentucky or Florida campuses can use their student ID cards to check out materials in person. Books can be mailed back or returned to the library at either campus.

Online students may request books, photocopies, or emailed attachments of journal articles/portions of reference books from the library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.

3. Research Assistance:

Students should contact the Information Commons for research assistance. Help is available for general research questions including how to find course materials online or navigate online library resources. Advanced research appointments are available for students needing assistance in the research process.

4. Online Databases and Resources:

Asbury Scholar - Users can perform a search for books, journal articles, eBooks, and more by using Asbury Scholar. Search results of all material types can be aggregated conveniently in a single results list, or narrowed down as specifically as a user requires. A search box and direct links to Asbury Scholar can be found on the library’s website at asbury.to/library.

Complete Resource List - Alternatively, direct links to resources have been arranged alphabetically on the Complete Resource List. In some cases this may allow the user to access site-specific features not otherwise available. To access the library’s online resources including the library catalog, online journal databases, encyclopedias, and more, go to the Complete Resource List at http://guides.asburyseminary.edu/resources.
5. Technology Questions:

Students can receive support for accessing their online classroom, using electronic resources, or other technological problems related to Asbury Seminary coursework by contacting the Information Commons. Longer appointments for training in supported Bible software or supported bibliographic management software are also available.

Plagiarism

Academic integrity is expected from every student. Plagiarism, that is, “presenting…another’s ideas or writings as one’s own,” is considered a serious violation of trust and not acceptable. Detailed information including penalty for plagiarizing is to be found in the Student Handbook.

Turnitin

If your course is using Turnitin.com as a form of detecting plagiarism, students would find this information useful for checking their own work.

The following is a sample Turnitin.com statement:

In this course we may utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an large database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you may be expected to submit assignments in both hard copy and electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as an instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process, visit http://www.turnitin.com.

Copyright Policies

The copyright law of the United States (title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specific conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement. This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would involve violation of copyright law.

Online Media Copyright Information

By using this material, you are consenting to abide by this copyright policy. Any duplication, reproduction, or modification of this material without express written consent from Asbury
Theological Seminary and/or the original publisher is prohibited.

**Americans With Disabilities Act Information**

Asbury Theological Seminary provides reasonable accommodation for qualified students with disabilities on an individualized basis. If you are a student with a disability, and believe you are in need of reasonable accommodations in this class, you will need to make an appointment with an Accommodations Officer, located in the Office of the Registrar on the Kentucky campus or in the Enrollment Management Office on the Florida campus. Students are required to provide documentation of a disability prior to receiving classroom accommodations. Since accommodations may require early planning at or before the start of the term and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact an Accommodations Officer as soon as possible.

**Online Section Descriptions and Communication Guidelines**

The Online Classroom is built upon the open-source Moodle platform. By logging into http://one.asburyseminary.edu and clicking on the Online Campus tab (upper right corner) you will have access to this course and be able to collaborate with participant-colleagues and me throughout the course.

The following are functions with which you should familiarize yourself:

1. The Course Information Center contains many features to be used throughout the semester: a) Course News and Announcements, where I will post items important for the entire class; b) Syllabus, where a copy of the syllabus is provided; c) To Professor, which is a way for you to post a message directly to me and we can discuss an issue privately; d) Course Questions, which is a public forum where you can publicly post any questions you have regarding the course so others may see your message and respond. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the schedule, the assignments, or anything else that may be of interest to other participants and me you should post it to the Course Questions Forum; e) Prayer Forum, which is a public forum where you can post prayer concerns and praises for all to see. This is a way for us to build community; f) Open Forum, which is a public forum where you can post anything that is not course-related for all to see. Examples include someone getting married, an upcoming birthday, discussions on topics not course-related, etc. This is a way for us to build community.

2. Modules, which are located below the Course Information Center, will contain forums where group discussions will take place, documents or other files to download or view online, and assignment links where you will post your assignments to me. Modules will be clearly labeled so you can follow along during the semester.

**Online Support Contact Information**

For technical support, library research support, library loans and Online media contact
Information Commons:

email: information.commons@asburyseminary.edu
Phone: (859) 858-2100;
Toll-free: (866) 454-2733

For general questions and administrative assistance regarding the Online program, contact Dale Hale:

email: ExL.Office@asburyseminary.edu
Phone: (859) 858-2393

Withdrawal from Seminary

A student who, for any reason, finds it necessary to withdraw from school at any time other than at the close of a term is required to obtain official approval. Permission to withdraw shall be secured from the Office of the Registrar. A grade of “F” shall be recorded for all courses from which a student withdraws without permission or after the deadline stated in this catalog. A student who withdraws from Asbury Theological Seminary and later decides to return as a student will be required to reapply for admission. Lack of attendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

Statement on Inclusive Language

It is the policy of Asbury Theological Seminary to use inclusive or non-sexist language in all Seminary publications, literature and communications. The faculty of Asbury Theological Seminary has adopted the following statement recommending the use of nondiscriminatory language by all members of the Seminary community.

Rooted deeply within the history and heritage of Methodism is the active participation in the lifting of oppression in any form so as to extend and implement the freedom of the gospel to all whom God has created and seeks to redeem. The record of Wesleyans on behalf of women is impressive and honorable and should be furthered by the modern offspring of Wesley.

Language does make a difference. When terms create certain feelings, we respond to these feelings for the sake of fostering relationships. We do not bind ourselves to etymology or even historical usage, for history is always thrusting us into new situations and struggles. We are constantly adapting our language in order to be responsible and effective communicators.

Language does not create a problem nor does language solve a problem, but language may contribute to both sometimes in obvious ways, more often in subtle ways. It is the intent of the “Suggestions for Inclusive Language” to help sensitize the Asbury Theological Seminary community to some of the cultural problems related to using previously accepted gender specific references as generic terms and to provide help in moving beyond our present habits.
to more just expressions.