

**AIM INSTITUTE | Philosophy of Ministry**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**2022 | Fall**

**COURSE:** Philosophy of Ministry

**Course Term:** Thursday Weekly Zoom Debrief begin September 15 at 7:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time) for 12 weeks except September 29 and November 25

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will explore the key biblical mandates and foundational priorities established in scripture for ministry in the church and in the community. We will examine the differences between Old Testament and New Testament leadership, covering specific topics like team building, servant, and collegial leadership. We will explore the proper expression and application of spiritual authority and power and together we'll unpack important aspects of discipleship, conflict resolution, and ministerial ethics.

This course will explore key elements which form a biblical philosophy of ministry leadership with specific emphasis application in the local church. Old Testament and New Testament leadership will be examined. Specific topics include servant leadership, plural or collegial leadership, the expression of this leadership in teams, leadership which commissions, and leadership which liberates.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Answer the question, what is a philosophy of ministry? Why is it important?
- Explore biblical patterns of ministry leadership and underlying philosophical foundations.
- Develop an understanding of the biblical mandates for ministry and the foundational priorities of the church.
- Explore biblical principles of conflict resolution, discipleship, leadership development, and team building.
- Evaluate biblical and contemporary leadership practices.
- Equip student to write a personal philosophy of ministry addressing the key areas addressed in the course including the Biblical mandates, discipleship, leadership and team building, and a personal response to authority and power.

**INSTRUCTOR:**

John Guido and his wife Marilyn have served in Ecuador since 1988. A large church with many community ministries has been raised up. The work in Cuenca includes a hospital,

Christian school, hospital, after school programs for underprivileged children, an FM radio station, and medical missions. John has pastored five congregations and was instrumental in planting 10 churches in Ecuador and Peru. He is one of the founding team members of Arco Ministries and a member of the Coordinating Team of Alliance International Ministries. In addition to 47 years of ministry experience, John has a Master's degree in leadership development from Azusa Pacific University.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

This directed study format enables you to receive college level instruction while studying at home. (Note, AIM Institute does not offer accredited college credits.) Course elements include:

- Weekly video assignments
- Required textbook reading assignments
- Contact time with the instructor and classmates is provided in a weekly Zoom debrief classroom.
- Study questions are for your personal benefit as well as preparation for the weekly debrief.
- Course will be graded as pass or fail. Bear in mind your weekly preparation will have a direct bearing on how much you gain from the course.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

- The first of twelve debriefs will be on **Thursday Weekly Zoom Debrief begin September 15 at 7:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time) for 12 weeks except September 29 and November 25**
- You will receive a Zoom invite by email for each debrief.
- Preparation can be done at any time before the debrief.
- To maximize the use of your time, we will not cover information from the videos in the debrief unless there are questions.
- Completion of the course requires a project. Students to write a personal philosophy of ministry.
- A complete schedule with weekly assignments will be sent to you after you are registered.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- This is an intensive course; students should plan to participate in all class sessions.
- Complete all course reading, watch videos, and writing assignments (approximately one hour per week.)
- Complete course project.

## TEXT

- “Upside Down” by Stacy T. Rinehart, Navpress, Colorado Springs, CO (originally published in 1998, copies are available from a number of sources online.)

Online registration form is available at <https://aimteam.org/aim-institute/pomf22-app/>