



To all SSFM Students

Statement of Diversity, Academic Integrity, Attendance and Learning Covenant of Presence* Adapted from *Living in the Green and Uncharted 2019 conference*

SSFM Statement of Diversity

The Stevenson School for Ministry intentionally engages students to lead in a diverse world. To increase competencies for serving in a diversity of cultures, races, theological perspectives and amidst systemic racial injustice, our courses include resources, tools, and reflections on ways to engage as leaders in diverse neighborhoods and develop reconciling relationships. Such options include (a) listening campaigns in local communities, (b) partnerships with churches and organizations comprised predominately of different races or cultures (especially those targeted by oppression), (c) storytelling and speak-out events designed to facilitate truth-telling, healing and action, and (e) the use of diverse liturgical and music resources approved by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. Every student is required to complete the Becoming the Beloved Community course, and every course is called to examine the ways it provides resources, readings, and reflections that engage racial, gender and theological diversity.

Statement on Academic Integrity

Students are expected to perform academic work honestly and fairly. Acknowledging sources used in all assignments is expected. Students should neither hinder nor unfairly assist the efforts of other students to complete their work successfully.

Meeting expectations and the consequences of failure to meet those expectations are outlined below.

Failure to respect academic honesty includes but is not limited to:

- Plagiarism or the use, intentional or not, of any outside sources without proper acknowledgement. (*Students may not submit papers, projects, or any other coursework prepared by, copied from, or dictated by others, either outside or inside of SSFM*)
- Students may not offer a falsified excuse as a reason for an absence from an exam or for not completing a paper or other course requirements.
- Violations of copyright law and of regulations regarding the use of copyrighted material for educational purposes are a violation. This includes permission to use liturgical and musical resources.

In the first instance of an above violation, the faculty can request the student to resubmit an assignment for a lesser grade, but not a zero. If the violation occurs again, the penalty is an automatic zero. The student needs to be informed in writing, and a record of the violation will be kept. Impropriety will be disclosed to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs to assist the student in understanding the implications of the finding.



Statement of Attendance

Online course attendance expectations for the Stevenson School for Ministry:

Because absenteeism has a direct impact upon academic success and a student's ability to achieve course learning outcomes, SSFM expects the following:

- Regular attendance/participation in each online course as described in the course syllabus.
- Because each course offered through SSFM can be synchronistic and/or asynchronistic, each faculty member is to include attendance/participation expectations in their course syllabus.
- Attendance for online courses includes documentable participation in class activities, interaction with course cohort, completion of course assignments with specific due dates, and/or participation in online discussions as assigned.
- For courses that use ZOOM, regular attendance/participation in each session is required.
- Students may be excused from scheduled sessions by only prior permission and for serious reasons.
- Permission for an excused absence is reserved to the individual faculty member in consultation with the Dean, as necessary.
- All Zoom sessions are recorded and are available for students to review in order to make up a missed session.
- Two weeks of non-participation, unless excused, will result in the student needing to repeat the course.

Policy statement on Technology

"Most courses involve a high level of on-line content and interaction. Access to the internet at speeds that allow video streaming of content and a computer capable of processing same is essential. Additionally, SSFM uses the ZOOM platform for live on-line discussions. ZOOM requires internet access and a web browser that can handle simultaneous on-line streaming of audio and visual signals. If you live in an area that does not have adequate broadband service, it is suggested that you make arrangements to use equipment at another location for on-line meetings. If this is not possible, then voice-only (telephone) participation is possible and permitted but is not as effective since on-screen content or illustrations that may be used cannot be accessed." (from the Syllabus of The Rev. Dr. David Zwifka)

Learning Covenant of Presence:

Be present to the fellow students in your cohort, extending and presuming welcome during zoom sessions, discussion boards and research papers and projects. Spend the time needed to live into yourself in this learning space at your own pace and presume you are welcome to do so. Name and develop your own learning goals that result in the owned outcomes needed to further your formation.

We come together as children of God with similar and different experiences. We invite the opportunity to examine our daily realities critically and let similar and different contexts, gifts, challenges, and experiences drive possibilities in and through our learning and our practical application. We will respect the divergent ways in which different people learn. We will respect



each other's' integrity. We will be mindful of how power manifests between us with respect to race, age, gender, sexuality, ability.

We will freely contribute to our common work. We get to claim authorship of our own story, our own ideas and our own projects and share them for the sake of our common discernment of the Holy Spirit's work among us.

Listen Generously. Listen intently to what is said; listen to the feelings beneath the words. As Quaker Douglas Steere writes, "To listen another's soul into life, into a condition of disclosure and discovery, may be almost the greatest gift we can offer to another."

We are here to prayerfully and collaboratively imagine the growth of our ministries, programs, and practices. We are God's creative creatures, living in hope and possibility.

We are here to witness God's movement in and among our contexts and to build partnerships for the future

Hold each other with care and prayer. We show up tender, vulnerable, powerful, changing, and mysterious even to ourselves. We show up for a church that is changing, dying, and being resurrected.

Believe that it is possible for us to emerge from our time together refreshed, surprised, and less burdened than when we came. Expect that our work together can provide renewal, refreshment, and possibilities for what we can do together to create the future that is waiting to be born.

In the sacred space of our learning cohorts we hope that that the deepest gifts and goodness of our faith communities may be allowed to unfold. Assuring safety and confidentiality for each of our contributions to this conversation is the beginning. But the real end is that our faith communities live into their part of God's mission of reconciliation.

I accept responsibility to follow the policies of the Stevenson School for Ministry

Name _____

Date _____

(Please sign and email signed covenant to Assoc. Dean Marsha Roscoe:
mroscoe@diocesecpa.org)