**Discipleship, Mentoring and Spiritual Formation**

**Course Syllabus**

**Instructor: Kristi Ivanoff**

**Unalakleet Covenant Church, November 1-3, 2017**

This course will consider theological and practical discussions related to spiritual formation of the individual and its relation to disciple-making and mentoring relationships. Heavy emphasis will be placed on Jesus’ interactions with his disciples as seen in the Gospels and the role of the book of Proverbs as wisdom literature. Various Old Testament and New Testament texts will be included as well. Discussion will allow for class participants to reflect on and share about meaningful experiences and relationships as they relate to course topics. Issues especially relevant to ministry and life in Western Alaska/rural settings will be considered.

Topics to be discussed may include but are not limited to:

* Jesus’ priorities and “methods” in disciple-making
* Examination and consideration of spiritual practices and disciplines
* How does mentoring differ from discipleship and how do discipleship, mentoring and spiritual formation interrelate?
* Elements of progression toward spiritual maturity
* Discipleship and mentoring in the context of the local church
* Gender-related considerations in discipleship/mentoring relationships

**Pre-class assignments**:

1. Discipleship observations: Participants will choose one of the following Gospel sections to read, observe and learn from Jesus and how he interacted with his disciples, and what they said and did. Ideally, each section will be studied by at least one student. Please email kristi at [kristi.ivanoff@gmail.com](mailto:kristi.ivanoff@gmail.com) with your top three choices of which Gospel you would like to study. These are divided accordingly to require similar amount of time investment. She will respond within 24 hours to select your focus gospel.

Text section divisions: Matthew 1-15; Matthew 16-28; Mark; Luke; John 1-11; John 12-21; Acts

Prior to class, participants are asked to complete the following chart by filling in observations gathered in each instance of the word “disciple, disciples”. Please use the New International Version or New Revised Standard Version. You may go about this task by reading the entire book and then fill in the table with observations as you come across the words “disciple/disciples”. This will tend to give you to the best discernment of the context and will likely deepen/enrich your understanding. However, understanding there may be time constraints, you may opt to use a concordance or on-line Bible study application to search out all incidences of the words *disciple* and *disciples*  in the particular section you have chosen and fill in the requested information accordingly.

There is a formatted spreadsheet that can be downloaded for printing or for entering your information directly from a computer.

You are welcome to make your own version of the chart as long as all the same information is included in an easy to read format. This will be turned in, as well as used for discussion, so please be sure to write legibly in words/phrases that can be understood by someone else .

A sample entry has been done for you from the book of Matthew.

**II. During class assignments:** Students will be asked to reflect on a question or reading that will be given at the end of each day on Wednesday and Thursday. Some journaling may be requested as a prompt for discussion during the next class day.

**III. After class assignment:** Students will choose **ONE** of the following that will be due Dec. 15.

1)Read a book from the suggested reading list and complete a reading response (to be given during the course).

2) Write a 3-page typed essay reflecting on one of the “big 3”: discipleship, mentoring, spiritual formation from your own experience and/or lack of experience. (A more detailed description of this assignment will be made available at the course.)

3) Select a spiritual practice that was mentioned in the course that is new to you or one you do not regularly practice. Exercise/participate in this discipline three distinct times and journal after each time-- reflecting on and evaluating the experience including difficulties, insights, and blessings of the experience.

4) Do a topical Bible study from the book of Proverbs contrasting elements of wisdom and foolishness as it is discussed related to one the following topics. Write a two-paged compilation in the form of your choice with a reflection of how the understanding of this area has been significant in your own maturing or how you can apply it to a ministry context or discipleship relationship currently present in your life.

Money (wealth, greed, love of money)

Sexuality( adultery, lust, devotion)

Words ( power of good/ destruction of careless)

Topic of your choice with approval of instructor.

Gospel observation sheet: Disciple/disciples

Pre-class assignment chart will include:

Reference Location/setting What were disciples doing? What was being said? (by whom, to whom?) What was Jesus doing? What was Jesus teaching? Other observations--questions