

Learning plan assignment

The demographic data suggests that the US is rapidly diversifying in religious terms. Most Christian congregations will be in a place in which there are at least a few members of other faiths present. Children from a congregation will encounter children from other faith communities in school, for instance, and people will encounter other faiths in their workplaces. Many will encounter such differences even in their own families. How could you, as a pastoral leader in a specific setting, support your community in learning what they need to know, and the practices they might engage, to be a helpful presence rather than a destructive one?

The goal of this assignment is to give you some pragmatic experience in designing a learning plan for a specific setting. In most cases I would recommend that you choose either your internship congregation, your home congregation, or some other congregation with which you are very familiar.

Once you've chosen your context, you need to work on the following questions:

- (1) what are the major learning challenges in relation to a theology of religious pluralism in your context?
- (2) what are the learning pathways that already exist in which you might be able to embed new content?
- (3) what new pathways might emerge as opportunities for engaging pluralism?
- (4) what resources/communities/people exist in the immediate environment that you should be working with?

Once you have answers to these questions, identify your proposed learning outcomes for the community. These will become the basis for using a backward design process to come up with appropriate exercises, and to develop appropriate resources.

There is a learning plan rubric available on our course website (<http://www2.luthersem.edu/mhess/web/EL3541.html>), which is the rubric I'll use to evaluate your work on this assignment.