

PATHWAYS THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION, INC.



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PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES AND MINISTERIAL SELF-CARE

A Level 3 Synthesizing Course begins September 17, 2025

Ethics are a set of principles for appropriate conduct. While often based on morals, which is the understanding of what is right and wrong, ethics differs from morality. Some things that moral behavior generally considers “right” may not be appropriate conduct in terms of professional ethics. For example, it is morally good to foster friendships with others. However, the ethics of most professions discourage friendships with those to whom a professional provides a service. That’s not because friendship is wrong. Instead, it’s because the boundaries of the professional relationship need to be maintained so that a person receives a quality service from the professional that isn’t influenced by a friendship.

In this course, we will explore ethics and their application for professional pastoral ministers. We will consider the boundaries that define the relationships between professional pastoral ministers and congregants. We will also consider how the professional minister’s right to privacy helps to maintain appropriate boundaries and serves as an essential aspect for self-care.

PATHWAYS Fall 2025 Schedule, Six-week courses

What is the Bible? (Dickinson/MBS)	9/17/2025
Professional Boundaries and Ministerial Self-Care	9/17/2025
New Testament Hermeneutics	10/8/2025
Practicing Our Faith in the Public Square	10/8/2025
Living the Heart of Progressive Christian Theology	10/8/2025
Ecological Theology	10/8/2025
Preaching Liberation Theology	10/8/2025
Introduction to Spiritual Health (Pastoral Care)	10/15/2025

Go to the PATHWAYS [website](http://pathwaystheological.org) (pathwaystheological.org) to learn more and to apply for this and other courses.