Course Learning Journal

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LDR 807-12 Leader Development: Transforming Self-Concept

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**Introduction**

LDR 807-12 was intended to provide a foundation to help students integrate the disciplines of developmental psychology, theology, spirituality, and moral development to transform one’s self-concept for healthy leader development. The course intends to help provide an introspective look so that the students might examine their self-concepts and be conscious of their transforming character with a focus on intentional development. The course is integral to the overall mission of OMEGA Graduate School by equipping students with the tools necessary to be conscious of their spirituality, moral development, psychological development, and their effect on their self-efficacy that students might matriculate and become social change agents. It does well to have this course as part of the initial core because it sets the foundation for what students will encounter during the rest of the graduate experience.

**Personal Growth**

This course was challenging, but in a way that made me want to engage with the material. It forced me to be heavily involved in academic research and to be intentional in ensuring I was looking for material germane to the course material. Far too often, while engaging the material, I wanted to speak to leadership development. Still, I had to remember the course material and subject, which required developing readings and writings focused on leader development. While they may seem like the same subject, their focus differs significantly. Leadership development tends to be organizationally focused, whereas leader development is personally or individually focused.

I was also stretched because I had to return to the habit of conducting research and writing. I was leery of entering a postgraduate course, especially in my late 40s, because I was not too confident I’d have the time necessary to complete the coursework and reading assignments while working in ministry full-time and attending to all my other obligations. Making it through this course and the different courses within the core gave me the confidence I needed to push forward in my studies.

**Reflective Entry**

As I engaged in the coursework, read the source material, prepared the papers, and interacted with the discussion post, I was able to take a look at my context and how I’ve functioned as a leader. Most leaders are afraid to evaluate their leadership abilities or confront their weaknesses or shortcomings because they see as admitting there were times when they failed in their leadership. Fortunately, I believe that recognizing where I have been unable to achieve the standard does not make me a failure. Further, realizing where I had failed offered me an opportunity to improve and strengthen my weaknesses and perfect my strengths.

My greatest asset during this time has been my reliance on my spirituality and faith. As Allen and Fry stated, “Spirituality, including religiously based spirituality, plays a role in many leaders’ lives and leadership” (2022). It certainly plays a role in my life and was undoubtedly relied upon even during the completion of this course. I recognized how I did not make leadership decisions absent my faith. As I seek to increase my leadership influence, it would do me well to involve myself in training that considers my desire and commitment to leading while also understanding that I do it from a place of faith in a church ministry context.

I desire that as I seek to lead others, I am careful to ensure I also do well in leading myself. I must be willing to receive the necessary leader training available to grow and effectively pour into those I’m charged with leading. How can I effectively pour into others when my pitcher is empty? While servant leadership has been the industry buzzword in corporate America, it does not necessarily speak to what I do in ministry. Our leadership style is more akin to steward leadership, understanding that we do not own those things entrusted to our care but have been charged with looking after them and making sure they are cared for, equipped to grow, and used for the glory of God. This paradigm-shifting leadership model has rekindled the fire within my ministry.

**Conclusion**

Overall, this course, with the exceptional instruction and guidance offered by Dr. McClane, has been masterful in helping me attain my professional and educational goals while also contributing to my personal growth. This course more than achieved its intended outcome and reached its target of equipping me with the tools necessary to be a better and more effective leader. OMEGA Graduate School has instilled in me the belief that I can complete the coursework ahead of me, matriculate from this fine institution, and take my place in society as a social change agent looking to make our world a better place for all humanity.

Works Cited

Allen, S., & Fry, L. W. (2022). A framework for leader, spiritual, and moral development. Journal of Business Ethics, 184(3), 649–663. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-022-05116-y>