

FINAL PROJECT TITLE CENTERED
IN CAPITAL LETTERS

by

Alice K. Jones

A final project report submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the Doctor of Ministry degree
at Hartford Seminary

May 2008*

Project advisor: Professor Walter Rauschenbusch

*insert month and year of final approval of final project

Harford Seminary
Hartford, Connecticut
USA

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

D.MIN. FINAL PROJECT REPORT

This is to certify that the D.Min. Final Project Report of

Your Name

has been approved by the Examining Committee for the final project requirement for the Doctor of Ministry degree on Month, Date, Year (of oral exam or of submission of final revisions if these were required after exam).

Examining Committee: _____
Professor Name, Advisor

Professor Name, Second Reader

Professor Name, Third Reader

Doris Brewer

- Personal:** Born: November 30, 1958 in St. Louis, Missouri
Ordained: Shiloh Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia (1980)
- Education:** D.Min., Hartford Seminary, Hartford, Connecticut (2003)
M.Div., Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, New York (1985)
B.S., University of Georgia, Atlanta (1980); *major:* biology
- Professional Experience:** Senior Pastor, Metropolitan Church Center, Hartford (1994-present)
Associate Pastor, Western Baptist Church, Albany, New York (1989-94)
Church and Community Director, Western Baptist Church (1988-89)
Chaplain, Judson College, Fayette, North Carolina (1986-88)
Youth Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia (1984-86)
- Honors:** Buttrick Prize in Homiletics for sermon, “The Rushing Waters” (1998)
Whittier-Saunders Award for community service, for organizing peer counseling network among high school students in Albany (1991)
- Community Service:** Board Member, Hartford Neighborhood Services (since 1998)
Board Member, Greater Hartford Inter-Faith Ministry (since 1997)
Board Chair, National Baptist Convention, Cromwell, Connecticut (1997)
Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, Hartford (1995-97)
Committee Member, Greater Albany War on Drugs Task Force (1989-94)
- Consultant Work:** Institute for New Church Plants--meet with Directors of Missions for various Baptist Associations in Connecticut. Developed strategies for starting programs in Bridgeport, New Haven, New Britain and Waterbury.
- Publications:** *Article:* “Understanding the Anointing,” in, *Walking the Path of Spiritual Gifts*, (Atlanta: Abundant Life Resources, 1999)
Pamphlet: “Premarital Counseling for Couples Coping with Tragic Loss” (Cincinnati: Judson Tracks, 1992)
Study Guide: “The Footsteps of Paul” (Wake Forest, North Carolina: Baptist Publishing House, 1988)

All page headings
are 2" from top edge

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| LIST OF TABLES | xi |
| PREFACE | xii |
| CHAPTER | |
| INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| Description of the Situation | 4 |
| Theological Resources | 12 |
| I. THE MARRIAGE RITE IN A BLENDED IMMIGRANT PARISH | 22 |
| A Short History of St. Gregory's Parish in Springfield | 23 |
| The First Wave | 25 |
| A Cohesive Community | 28 |
| The Second Wave | 31 |
| Points of Stress in Current Practice of the Rite | 35 |
| Language Barriers | 36 |
| Generational Transitions | 40 |
| II. SACRAMENTS AND CONTRACTS | 45 |
| Marriage as a Sacrament | 48 |
| Marriage as a Legal Contract | 57 |
| III. EXPERIMENTING WITH THE SACRED | 64 |
| Phase One | 77 |
| Phase Two | 85 |
| IV. CONCLUSIONS | 94 |
| A Blended Ritual | 99 |
| Evaluation | 104 |
| Looking to the Future | 110 |
| APPENDIX A. SELECTED LITURGIES | 113 |
| APPENDIX B. PARISH SURVEY | 122 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | 129 |

1 1/2"

1"

v
3/4"