

THEO-100-SP21 Reflection #5

“Following the Path” & Quaker Clearness Committee

This reflection consists of two related parts:

2-Part
Reflection
based on
Chittister
& Palmer

- **Part I:** Asks you to reflect and comment on several of the key concepts found in Joan Chittister’s book, “Following the Path: The Search for a Life of Passion, Purpose, and Joy”
- **Part II:** Asks you identify a professional-vocational issue of interest to you and create a Quaker Clearness Committee to assist you in addressing that issue. This component has three (3) prompts: **(1)** Identify an issue of concern to you, **(2)** Build a five member Clearness Committee (per the requirements), and **(3)** Identify several personal strengths relevant to the issue at hand (again, per the requirements). The resource for this part of the reflection is Parker Palmer’s description of “The Clearness Committee” that is provided in Blackboard.

The minimum word length requirement is ~500 words for each Part and ~1,000 words for the assignment. Within each of the two Parts, a specific word count is provided for each prompt.

Minimum # words
= ~500 per Part
Total = ~1,000

Your response to each of the prompts in Part I of the reflection requires a brief, pertinent quote from Chittister’s book. Each quote/citation should be enclosed in quotation marks (“”), and the corresponding page number of the text shown in parenthesis. Footnotes are not required if you follow this procedure. (*Note: If reading an electronic version of the book, state the number of the chapter from which the quote was taken in lieu of a page number.*)

Quotes
required
for Part I

Similar to previous assignments identify your responses: **(1)** by stating Part I or Part II, then **(2)** listing the prompt number (#) within each Part. Please do not repeat or restate the prompt instructions before your comments.

Respond to all
Prompts in both
Parts I & II

Your reflection should be submitted to Blackboard by end-of-day Sunday, December 12, 2021, which is the end of course week 15. Please be attentive to this due date, as late submissions could conflict with the date of submitting final course grades to the University Registrar. Should you encounter or anticipate an issue with meeting the due date, please inform the instructor as soon as possible.

NOTE the
DUE DATE
SUNDAY,
DEC 12, 2021

Part I: Reflection on Chittister’s Following the Path



As you will hopefully discover, Chittister’s book presents a holistic approach to understanding and integrating one’s vocation into one’s life. In doing so, Chittister moves through the necessary and pertinent aspects of discerning and following one’s path; a path that reflects one’s personal interests & abilities, and one’s desire & need to contribute to the larger community.

In Part I: **(a)** Please comment on Chittister’s view of the four (4) aspects of call or vocation (listed below), and **(b)** State your own perspective on these important components of vocation. The response to each of the four items should be ~125 words in length. Also, for each of the four items, **(c)** include one brief quote from Chittister’s book that you found meaningful on that topic.

THEO-100-SP21 Reflection #5
“Following the Path” & Quaker Clearness Committee

Please note that you are to address each of the following four areas in ~125 words each, and include a brief quote from Chittister’s book, *Following the Path* for each of the four topics.

One ‘quote’
for each of
the 4
prompts

Words =
~125 for each
Prompt
Total =
500 words

1. Gifts: The personal abilities & capacities that one ideally employs and fulfills in one’s chosen vocation, profession, or significant life-work.
2. Call or Vocation: The activities that allow one to exercise their talents, interests, & skills in a manner benefitting the individual & the community
3. Purpose & Meaning: The personal goals & related commitment that motivate, inspire, and sustain the realization of one’s call or vocation
4. Happiness: The state of fulfillment realized in actualizing one’s gifts, achieving one’s goals, or the satisfaction gained in the pursuit of those goals



Part II: Convening a Quaker Clearness Committee

As described in the course and in Parker Palmer’s document on this topic (see the materials in Blackboard), the Clearness Committee is a process of discernment in support of a possible action or decision. The process allows an individual to ‘hear’ and gain confidence in their ‘inner voice’ with the assistance of a committee equally aligned to that goal. As stressed in Palmer’s summary of the Quaker tradition, the process and the committee are designed to focus on and serve the individual who is discerning/deciding their own way forward. Again, the committee’s sole purpose is to help clarify and support the ‘focus person’ in making a personal decision. The committee cannot and should not impose a solution or make a decision.

So in Part 2 of the reflection, you are to respond to the following three (3) prompts:

1. In ~150 words identify a vocational or professional issue of interest to you, one that would benefit from the input of others that you trust and have confidence in. A ‘vocational or professional issue’ could involve a decision to select or change a major, choose a particular career path, apply for or accept an internship, accept or change jobs, or any other matter or approach that represents ‘vocation’ to you.
2. In ~200 words: (A) Select at least five (5) people to be on your proposed Clearness Committee; (B) Explain why you would include them; and (C) State the question you think they would raise for your consideration in the session. Again, they should be individuals you have confidence in, both for their ability to comment on the issue and their ability-willingness to ask ‘open, honest questions’ in the spirit of the Quaker process.

#1 – State
your issue in
~150 words

#2 – Note:
State those you
selected, Why
you choose
them, &What
they would
suggest.

#2 – your
Committee
of at least
5 members
in ~200
words

THEO-100-SP21 Reflection #5
“Following the Path” & Quaker Clearness Committee



Two (2) of your five members should be significant figures discussed in the course. That is individuals such as: Moses, Jesus, Paul, Buddha, Muhammad, Paul Tillich, Terrence Tilley, Joan Chittister, Parker Palmer, or other figures associated with the traditions and philosophies we have discussed or you have become acquainted with through the course material.

2 of the 5 Members must be taken from the course

3. In ~150 words, describe your personal strengths/gifts that *each of your Committee members* would likely ‘call out’ about you in the closing portion of a Clearness Committee. These ‘comments’ should reflect some of the positive qualities that you bring to any vocational or professional pursuit.



Recap: Reflection Completion

Final paper length should be in the range of 1000 to 1250 words.

Once again, the total minimum word count for the entire reflection should be **~1,000** words, ~#500 words for each Part, which is distributed among the prompts in each Part as specified in these instructions.

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Again – The **Reflection #5**
Due Date is the end of week 15
Sunday, December 12, 2021