**Healing Prayer in the Christian Story**

Church historian Amanda Porterfield declares that “healing has persisted over time and across cultural spaces as a defining element of Christianity and a major contributor to Christianity’s endurance, expansion and success.”[[1]](#footnote-1) This course will explore a variety of features in this deep and enduring impulse for healing ministry and prayer in the Christian mission. This selection will include:

* Biblical sources of the Christian healing impulse, especially the work of Jesus Messiah;
* Historical examples that illustrate religious, cultural and intellectual developments in Christian healing ministries through the centuries;
* A textbook – *Stretch out your Hand: Exploring Healing Prayer* – written by Tilda Norberg and Robert B. Webber;
* A study of anointing the sick with oil in the Mennonite Church; and,
* Personal stories by guests and participants of healing prayer – gifts of grace and episodes of pain.

The class will combine input, Bible study, media, personal stories, prayer, and group discussion.

1. Amanda Porterfield, *Healing in the History of Christianity*, Oxford University Press, 2005, p. 19. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)