

COS #124 – Transformative Leadership
West Virginia Extension at Spring Heights Education Center
September 15-17 and November 17-19, 2017

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Goals for the course:

This course forms the student's identity as pastoral leader and change agent in congregations, the United Methodist Church and the world. This is a highly interactive course so be prepared to be actively engaged in the learning process.

Objectives for the Course:

- Identify and understand the attributes of good leaders, biblically and theologically
- Evaluate and strengthen their own identities and skills as pastoral leaders
- Explain and reflect on the nature of change in the local congregation and wider society
- Implement visioning, strategizing and planning process in their local congregations

Required texts:

Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly: Lewis A. Parks and Bruce C. Birch, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2004. ISBN 0-687-09285 – X (paper) ISBN 13:978-0-687-09285-7

Leadership and Self-Deception, The Arbinger Institute, San Francisco, 2002.

ISBN-10: i-57675-174-0; ISBN-13: 978-I-57675-174-9

The Strategically Small Church, Brandon J. O'Brien, Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, MI, 2010. ISBN 978-0-7642-0783-9

Finding Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change: Goleman, Larry, Alban Institute, 2010;
9781566993760.

Prior to September 15th:

Read all of Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly. After reading the book, explore the theology of leadership utilizing the book and the books of 1st and 2nd Samuel. Be certain to read the full biblical story that is mentioned in each chapter for better comprehension. After reading the book and associated passages, write a 3-5 page paper describing your theology of leadership. Be certain to include aspects of call, equipping, purpose and accountability as part of the theology.

Read all of Leadership and Self-Deception. After reading both books write a 3-5 page paper describing three significant issues that can adversely impact leadership and steps that can be taken to avoid these pitfalls. Be certain to reference the texts in your paper.

Bring the papers with you to class.

Prior to November 17th:

Over a 4 week period keep a log of all your pastoral activities including the event, and preparation time. An example would be:

Sunday: Led worship at 2 congregations – 9am – 1pm (4 hours)

Monday: Sermon preparation – 7pm – 8pm (1 hour)

Include all activities. The more complete this record the easier the following steps become.

Read The Strategically Small Church.

Do a 3-4 page assessment of your congregation answering the question: How are we

- Intimate
- Nimble
- Authentic
- Effective

As you do the assessment, if you discover an area where the congregation is in need of development, note this as well.

Read Finding Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change

Write the two most significant stories told in your congregation. (If you have more than one congregation, you can select one congregation as a point of focus) Then answer the following:

1. How do the stories define your congregation?
2. Why is this story retold?
3. Does it empower or limit your congregation? Why?
4. If you could tell a new story to the congregation, what would it be?

This entire paper should not exceed 5 pages. You will have to be concise in your writing.

Bring the paper with you to class with you.

The WV Course of Study offers a writing seminar on Friday before the first weekend and the services of a writing coach. If you are uncertain of how to footnote, how to formulate a paper or want some guidance in writing I would encourage you to take advantage of the assistance offered. It is free to all of the students and Mark is an excellent resource. There is information on the webpage.