

**West Virginia Extension Course of Study**  
**COS #423**  
**Missions**  
**Summer Term 2020**  
**August 14-16 and October 16-18, 2020**  
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**Course Objectives:**

- **To develop a solid biblical and theological foundation for missions**
- **To review the history of the church in mission**
- **To understand a community approach to missions**
- **To gain understand of community needs**
- **To incorporate missions as an integral part of ministry**
- **To motivate congregational participation in missions**

**Required Texts:**

1. Robert, Dana, *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*, Blackwell Publishing, West Sussex, 2009; 9780631236207.
2. Volf, Miroslav, *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good*, Brazos Press, Grand Rapids, 2011; 9781587433436
3. Jennings, Theodore W., *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley's Evangelical Economics*, Abingdon Press, 1990; 9780687155286.

**Supplemental Texts:**

4. Outler, Albert C. and Heitzenrater, Richard, *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1991; Print 068720495; E-book 9780687204953
5. Francis, Leah Gunning, *Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community*, Chalice Press, St. Louis, 2015; 9780827211056
6. McNeal, Reggie, *Kingdom Collaborators: Eight Signature Practices of Leaders Who Turn the World Upside Down*, InterVarsity Press, 2018: 9780830841431

**For Weekend of August 14-16**

- Read *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good*
  - Write a 3-4 page paper developing a biblical/theological understanding of missions incorporating the ministry of ascent, the ministry of prophecy and the importance of community as integral parts of the understanding. **This paper should be mailed or emailed to Mike no later than August 2, 2020**
  - Read *Christian Missions: How Christianity Became a World Religion*
  - From the text select three ideas/events/aspects of missions that changed the church's concept or practice of missions and how these relate to current mission work. Be prepared to present one of your three in class. The paper should be 3-4 pages in length.
  - **Bring this paper to class with you.**
  - Read *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley's Evangelical Economics*
- Supplemental Material:**
- Some of *John Wesley's Sermons* that may prove helpful are:
    - Upon our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, VIII (1748)
    - The Use of Money (1760)
    - The Good Steward (1768)
    - The Dangers of Riches (1781)
    - The New Creation (1787)

## For Weekend of October 16-18

- Complete the project described below and bring this to class.

### Supplemental texts for this could be:

- *Ferguson and Faith*
- *Kingdom Collaborators*

### Project for 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend:

The purpose of this project is to allow you to incorporate all of the material contained in the readings and presentations during the first weekend into an outline of engaging in missional ministry. The steps listed below outline a process for you to engage that will allow you to reflect and develop a ministry. It is best to do the steps in sequence. This will take some time for you to create your design so plan accordingly.

Step #1 – Read all of the assigned texts

Step #2 – Do an assessment of your community. Some resources you may find helpful include:

- Census data
- Mission Insite or another community data collection (Your Annual Conference may have something specific)
- Visiting faith based programs and other non-profits including speaking with staff and neighbors who utilize the resources available
- Outline strengths and weaknesses of the community

Step #3 – Prayerfully begin asking which specific area of focus is God calling to be addressed.

Remember, this may not include starting something new; it could be working with another group that is already taking place.

Step #4 – What needs to be developed? Some ideas to consider include:

- Personal skills development
- Congregational education
- Partnerships
- Resources – this could include space, volunteers, finances, etc.
- Relationships with those seeking to serve (don't be afraid to ask their opinions on what is needed, and how best supplied, or of what you are considering)

Step #5 – A timeline of steps that need to be taken to bring the missional ministry into reality

Your written project should include the following items:

1. A summary of the assessment of the community that identifies where you obtained the information. Keep this part of the project to 2 pages. You will have to be concise.
2. A description of the need that is the focus of the project and why you feel God is calling you to this mission. This should be 1 page.
3. A listing of what needs to be developed, why it needs developed and how you will develop it. This part of the project should be 3-4 pages.
4. The timeline outlining the process and a preliminary estimate of when each step will be developed and how long it will take. This part should be 2-3 pages.
5. **The project should total between 8-10 pages.** Please keep the paper to this length. It forces you to think through all the things you want to say. Bring this project with you to class on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend.