

United Methodist Worship: Form and Freedom

Instructor: Heather Murray Elkins
Spring Heights
Spring 2023

Course Description

The tradition of United Methodist worship is one of form and freedom shaped by the ministry of the baptized and the ministry of those called to Word, sacrament, and order. Discipleship, spirituality, evangelism and scriptural holiness are formed in worship. This course is designed to enable COS members to lead their community in worship with theological integrity, pastoral sensitivity and creativity. The class will study and demonstrate skill in presiding at the sacraments and prayer, engaging the Christian year in music and worship and leading special services such as weddings and funerals.

Type and Frequency of Class Meetings This course will consist of practicum work, lectures/presentations, and discussion. Each day will include prayer work involving class members.

Email: helkins@drew.edu

Course Requirements

1 st reflection paper	Satisfactory/Not Yet
2 essays	20% each (40 % total)
Embodiment/Prayer Work	20%
Teaching Project	40%

Course Grading Scheme

- A Excellent Work
- B Good Work
- C Satisfactory Work
- D Below Average Work
- F Unsatisfactory Work

Attendance Principle and Policy

Attendance is required for all sessions during the two intensive sessions.

Goals

Specifically, the course is designed so that you will:

1. *Gain theological and historical perspectives on the nature of United Methodist worship.*
2. *Demonstrate practical knowledge and experience in: a) presiding/leading in public worship and b) collaborative worship planning.*
3. *Interpret the pastoral rites of Christian marriage, and funerals and be able to lead such services well.*
4. *Learn how to orient worship in relationship to the Christian Year, daily prayer and scriptural formation.*
5. *Come to a clearer appreciation and knowledge of the relationships of sacraments and discipleship*
6. *Gain an understanding of the varieties of worship assemblies and the forms of worship which are appropriate to those contexts.*
7. *Learn about current UM resources for leading worship.*

Required Texts:

- UM Hymnal*
- Book of Worship*
- Robin Knowles Wallace: ***The Christian Year: A Guide for Worship and Preaching***
- Laurence Stookey: ***Let the Whole Church Say Amen!***
- Hoyt Hickman: ***Worshipping with United Methodists: A Guide for Pastors and Church Leaders***
- 2 essays by Ken Rowe: Baptism and Holy Baptism (provided on class website/e-mailed to registered students)

Required Online Sources:

Gayle Felton, *By Water and the Spirit*

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text>

Gayle Felton, *This Holy Mystery* <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion>

Taylor W. Burton-Edwards, *Living Into the Mystery*

- <https://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DRPDF9/living-into-the-mystery.aspx>)

Additional Suggested Resources:

Updated baptismal vows: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-collection-of-the-services-of-the-baptismal-covenant-revised-2008>.

Membership Vows in The United Methodist

Church <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/our-membership-vows-in-the-united-methodist-church>

The Meaning of Baptism in The United Methodist

Church: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/the-meaning-of-baptism-in-the-united-methodist-church>

- The Meaning of Holy Communion in The United Methodist

Church: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/the-meaning-of-holy-communion>

Requirements-Expectations :

Preparation for class:

- You are expected to read *Worshipping with United Methodists*, and *By Water and the Spirit* **before** the first session. The Baptism essay is assigned to be read in preparation for your 2nd assignment. You are expected to read *Living into the Mystery* and *This Holy Mystery* **before** the second session. The Holy Communion essay is to be read in preparation for your 3rd assignment. *The Christian Year* and *Let the People Say Amen* will be used **throughout** both sessions of the course.
- Embodiment Worship/Work: Each person will participate with one of two COS worship services and assist in daily prayer.
- Read the lectionary readings for Lent before the start of the first session and review those readings during the two sessions.
- You will be asked to share a story about a baptism as part of our opening work in the class. The story can be about your baptism, or another's that you were present for or participated in. The story should be no longer than 5 minutes.

In Class:

Handouts will be given throughout the class and are to be used in discussions.

Review of readings and worship planning will be done in small groups.

Written work Required:

- Write one reflection paper in preparation for first class: Seeing with New Eyes
- Write 1 essay on Christian Initiation.
- Write 1 essay on Serving Christ's Table.
- Develop a Teaching Project for your community as the final assignment.

Written Work Guidelines

First Assignment

Seeing with New Eyes

Due: First day of class.

Evaluation: Satisfactory/Not Yet

Length: 4 pages

Format: Printed, double-spaced

Style: COS guidelines.

Purpose: To help you to see the familiar patterns of worship where you are serving as a stranger might experience them. Take note of elements and dynamics of the setting, shape, language (verbal and non-verbal), gestures, and actions of worship.

Assignment:

- 1) What do you see as you approach the worship site from a distance? Give a physical description and its setting.
- 2) What happens (or doesn't happen) as you enter the building? Are you greeted, given directions?
- 3) What do the architecture and arrangement of the worship space, including the symbols present, convey about God, earth, and people. Be sure to consider children and those who may have accessibility needs. (hearing, sight, mobility)
- 4) What the movements, actions and gestures that might seem strange if you'd never been in a Christian worship service?
- 5) Is there a particular space or spaces in this structure that are considered more "holy" than other places? Describe them and how they function.

Second Written Assignment:

My Christian Initiation.

Due March 31th

Length: 6-8 pages

Font Size: 12 points, Times New Roman or equivalent

Margin: One inch

Spacing: Two

Submission: E-mail with attached files helkins@drew.edu or mail to me with self-addressed return envelope

1012 Grandview Ave, Wilmington, DE 19809

Style: COS approved

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to help you reflect theological and liturgically on the significance of this Christian practice for your ministry.

Assignment: You are to write an essay on your Christian Initiation. You are to offer the following:

1. A personal experience/encounter with this service/ceremony that was defining for your identity as a Christian.
2. Provide a theological understanding of this event, including:
 - a. Implications for your ministry.
 - b. Relationship of life rites/sacraments to God's work of salvation.
3. Analyze the following aspects:
 - a. What do the actions and texts convey about your value to the community?
 - b. Are there things you would do now that you are the worship leader?

Include references to assigned readings, and lecture material in your reflection.

Third Written Assignment: "Serving Christ's Table"

Due April 14th at the start of the second session.

Length: 9-10 pages

Font Size: 12 points, Times New Roman or equivalent

Margin: One inch

Spacing: Two

Submission: E-mail with attached files helkins@drew.edu or mail to me with self-addressed return envelope

1012 Grandview Ave, Wilmington, DE 19809

Style: COS approved

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to help you reflect theological and liturgically on the significance of this sacrament for your ministry.

Assignment: Required:

3-4 pages on UMC/Biblical Themes such as Thanksgiving or Salvation history **or** one of the actions/prayers in the service such as Prayer of Confession/Assurance of Pardon

and either 1) or 2) **6 pages**

1) A sermon on that text and theme

2) A lesson plan for teaching a biblical text/theme/prayer to children

Final Assignment: Teaching Project

Due: May 5th

Length: 5-6 pages excluding bibliography and appendices
Font Size: 12 points, Times New Roman or equivalent
Margin: One inch
Spacing: Two
Submission: E-mail with attached files or mail to me with self-addressed return envelope
1012 Grandview Ave, Wilmington, DE 19809
Style: COS approved

By the end of the course, you will have developed a core idea for a teaching project. The project is one that you will develop in the near future. It can rely on one of your papers as the basis for working with a specific community on the UMC understanding of a sacrament. Footnote key insights drawn from the assigned readings and any insight from the discussions you've had in your Households. This should be a primary learning experience that you had in this course that you will teach to another community/group.

1. Begin with a description of this primary learning experience of a sacrament that you had. Describe the event or reading from this class that prompted your interest in this project. (1-2 pages)
2. Describe the community/group that you will involve in this assignment.
3. What is the occasion or setting for the teaching? Describe the place and the length of time that this project will involve.
4. Describe what the learning or engagement process will be. What are the methods and materials you will use? Cite assigned readings and your paper as part of the materials you will use.
5. What goals do you have for your community/group that this teaching project will help to achieve? What decisions you are asking them to make that will lead to sacramental and social actions and connections?
6. Photos, images, electronic recordings, PowerPoint, original art work such as baptismal fonts, altar cloths, and hymns can be included as part of the final project, in addition to the project description.