

COURSE DESCRIPTION- GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This Course forms the Student's identity as pastoral leader and change agent in congregations, The United Methodist Church, and the world.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a Biblical and Theological understanding of Polity.
2. Understand and explain the Polity of The United Methodist Church, including conferencing, oversight, and discipline.
3. Articulate the nature of Stewardship Biblically and theologically.
4. Identify techniques and develop skills as effective administrators of local churches, including financial management.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Holy Bible - New Revised Standard Version - The Gospel of Matthew

Lacey Warner: The Method of Our Mission

Lovett Weems: Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit

2012 Book of Discipline. Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House. (2016 Ed. If Available)

Dick Wills, Waking To God's Dream. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 1999

Henri Nouwen, Spirituality Series - A Spirituality of Fundraising: Upper Room Books, 2010.

REFERENCE TEXT (Required)

New Interpreter's Bible Commentary — single volume (not Summary volume) — The Book of Matthew (Vol.8).

PREPARING THE ASSIGNMENTS

Before you begin your reading assignments, write a one page statement on your understanding of Administration and Polity. (Question 1)

After you have written this statement, read in full the first 3 required texts below.

Then answer Questions 2 and 3.

READING ASSIGNMENTS FOR COURSE OF STUDY CLASS 224 - ADMINISTRATION AND POLITY

1. Holy Bible. Read the Gospel of Matthew - in its entirety.

2. 2012 (2016 - if available) Book of Discipline.

Read the following Sections and Paragraphs: [If 2016 Book of Discipline is available, adjust Section and Paragraph Numbers to coincide with 2012 Reading Assignments].

A. First two paragraphs - The Preamble To The Constitution

B. The Mission and Ministry of the Church

Section I — The Churches — Paragraphs 120-124

C. Sections II, III, IV, V — The Ministry of All Christians, Servant Ministry and Servant Leadership, Servant Ministry, Servant Leadership-Paragraphs 125-137

D. Responsibilities and Duties of Elders and Licensed Pastors — Paragraph 340

3. Lacey Warner: The Method of Our Mission - Read the entire text.

4. Lovett Weems: Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit - Read the entire text.

Reference Texts - Required

New Interpreter's Bible Commentary: The Book of Matthew (Vol.8)

Wills, Dick, Waking To God's Dream.

Nouwen, Henri. The Spirituality Series: The Spirituality of Fundraising.

AFTER READING THE FIRST THREE TEXTS, ANSWER QUESTIONS 2 AND 3.

[Questions 2 and 3, completed after your reading for our first Class, plus your one page statement as to your current understanding of Administration and Polity, written before you begin your reading, are due the First Week- End of Class.

Questions 4 and 5 will be due the Second Week-End of the Class.]

[Grades will be determined with 80% coming from the written responses to the questions, and 20% will be based on class participation and discussion.]

[Each page is to be double-spaced and fill an entire page. As you use headings and margins, you MUST fill an entire page (or pages) with content, starting below the headings) pertaining to the question asked.

It is required that you attend the Composition Class taught by Mark Jarrett.

(You may call Mark Jarrett for consultation about your writing skills before Class begins, see him outside of Class at Spring Heights, and/or consult with him at any time thereafter to improve upon your writing skills and style.)

QUESTIONS 1, 2, AND 3 ARE DUE WHEN YOU COME TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SPRING TERM.

2. Write a statement of purpose for your personal ministry - which includes specific references to both the Book of Matthew and the Sections assigned in the Discipline. — Jesus's words and deeds and Disciplinary references which you have found to be enlightening, empowering, or helpful. Also use your Reference Book - New Interpreter's Bible Commentary (Vol.8). Be sure references are cited and quoted as required. 2 Pages
3. Using Warner's text, The Method of Our Mission, write a synopsis of what you have found helpful, using specific references and quotations from each of the Warner's 4 Sections. For your last page, sum up your understanding of how the United Methodist Church is organized for Mission in this present age. 3 pages

QUESTIONS 4 AND 5 ARE DUE WHEN YOU COME TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SPRING TERM.

4. How do you interpret the assigned readings from the 2012 Book of Discipline (2016 if available) to apply to your local congregation? [Adjust Paragraph and Page Numbers if using 2016 Book of Discipline]. Be specific in addressing concerns, activities, and that are or could be taking place given the makeup of your church and community (geographical location, socio-economic situation, age groupings within the congregation, needs of the community, etc. including Disciplinary paragraph references). 2 Pages

5. Using Weems' text, Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit, write a synopsis of your understanding of the Practices, and Passions of Leadership exhibited by John Wesley in his ministry and as outlined by Weems. Conclude with a one page perspective on your own ministry and how you incorporate Wesley's Model of Pastoral Leadership into your own style of ministry. Briefly incorporate, with proper citations, any spiritual and purposeful insights you have received while reading Henri Nouwen's and Dick Wills' Books. 5 Pages

In all of your answers, utilize quotations and specific references within the texts and cite them properly.

EVALUATION AND REFLECTION

Be prepared so that in Class you may share with others what you have learned through your readings, writing, pondering, and prayers concerning ADMINISTRATION AND POLITY.

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