

Course of Study
Spring Heights,
Spring 2021
Faculty: Rev. Dr. Heather Murray Elkins
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COURSE NUMBER: **Worship & Sacraments**

Course Description

The tradition of United Methodist worship is one of form and freedom, shaped by the ministry of the baptized and the leadership of those called to Word, Sacrament, and Order. Discipleship, spirituality, evangelism and scriptural holiness are formed in worship. This course is designed to enable you to lead your community in worship with pastoral skill, theological integrity, historical grounding, and openness to emerging worship patterns.

Type and Frequency of Class Meetings

10 hours of online synchronous (class contact hours via Zoom)
10 hours of asynchronous (individual learning interactions)

There will be a 30-minute zoom session before the classes start to review syllabus and technology needs. Date and time will be announced via e-mail

Dates of Zoom Conference/Class:

March 20: 9:00-11:00 am
April 10: 9:00-11:00 am
April 24: 9:00-11:00 am & 1:00-3:00 pm
May 8: 9:00-11:00 am

Learning Outcomes:

1. Explore theological, pastoral and historical perspectives on the nature of United Methodist worship.
2. Gain a clearer appreciation and knowledge of the relations of sacraments, public prayer and discipleship.
3. Strengthen the ability to read and interpret scripture and worship texts with cultural sensitivity, ethical awareness, and critical understanding.
4. Demonstrate practical knowledge and experience in leading and planning worship on-site and on-line.
5. Incorporate UM resources in the pastoral rites of Christian marriage and funerals.
6. Learn to engage the resources of the Christian Year, the lectionary, and worship environments.

Attendance Principle and Policy

Your presence for each class is required since each presentation is a concentration of information and a process of formation. Unexcused absences will result in course failure. Only the COS Director can approve waiving this requirement

Required Texts:

- UM Hymnal
- UM Book of Worship
- Hoyt Hickman: Worshipping with United Methodist: A Guide for Pastors and Church Leaders
- Laurence H. Stookey: Let the Whole Church Say Amen! A Guide for Those Who Pray in Public
- Robin Knowles Wallace: The Christian Year: A Guide for Worship and Preaching

Required Online Sources

- Gayle Felton, By Water and the Spirit www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text
- Gayle Felton, This Holy Mystery www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion
- Taylor W. Burton-Edwards, <https://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DRPDF9/living-into-the-mystery.aspx>
- Updated baptismal vows: www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-collection-of-the-services-of-the-baptismal-covenant-revised-2008.

Suggested Online Sources

- The Revised Common Lectionary: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>
- Membership Vows in the United Methodist Church www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/our-membership-vows-in-the-united-methodist-church
- The Meaning of Holy Communion in The United Methodist Church: www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/the-meaning-of-holy-communion

Additional Materials as Assigned

Technology:

You will need access to a desktop or laptop to participate in this course. You will be invited via e-mail to join a Facebook class group a month before the first class. Course material will be presented through Zoom, YouTube, and assigned videos.

Graded Assignments:

New Eyes to See report:	10 %
Christian Initiation essay	25%
Funeral/Homegoing Service/Paper	25%
Communion essay/exercise	25%
Prayer + Reflection	10%
Participation	5%

Church @ Worship Events

Each assignment represents 3 hours of the 10 asynchronous hours required. Choose one.

- Design and lead a Creator/Creation service (outside the sanctuary)
- Design and lead an ecumenical service honoring health care workers.

Course Grading Scheme

A	Excellent Work
B	Good Work
C	Satisfactory Work
D	Grade does not meet requirement for course credit.

Inclusive Language

Students are expected to use inclusive language for people in all papers and worship services. This includes gender, race, culture, and differing abilities.

Requirements-Expectation

Preparation for First Class

1. You are to read chapters 1 and 2 of Worshipping with United Methodists and all of The Christian Year before the first Zoom class.
1. You are to write one reflection paper: Seeing with New Eyes and post it on the Worship Course site 1 week before 1st class.
2. You will be asked to share a story about a baptism (yours or another's that you participated in) in your Household group. The story should be no longer than 5 minutes.

Preparation for Second Class

2. You are to read the remaining chapters of Worshipping with United Methodists and By Water and the Spirit.
3. You are to write an essay on Christian Initiation. (guidelines to be provided)
4. You are to review the assigned Stookey exercises and write one prayer based on the exercise you've been assigned. (see assignment description)
5. You are to watch *This is the Night* video and prepare questions/responses for the Household discussions.

Preparation for Third Class

1. You are to read the services on Death and Resurrection and Weddings/Marriage Services in the Hymnal and BOW as well as the assigned readings posted on the Worship website.
2. You are to design your own funeral/homegoing service and write a reflection paper on the service. This assignment (service and essay) will be posted 1 week prior to class.
3. Stookey exercises. Prayer/reflection as assigned.

Preparation for Fourth Class

1. You are to read Living into the Mystery and This Holy Mystery.]
2. You are to review the UM services of Holy Communion in Hymnal & BOW.
3. You are to watch the movie Romero and be prepared to respond to posted questions in your Household discussion.
4. You are to prepare and share with your Household discussion group the posted comfort food exercise.
5. Stookey exercises. Prayer/reflection as assigned.

Final Assignment Due: May 14: Holy Communion Essay

First Written Assignment:
Seeing with New Eyes Report

Paper Specifications: Due: March 13

Length: 4 pages.
Font Size: 12 points, Times New Roman or equivalent
Margin: One inch
Spacing: Two

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to record the changes you've observed in the worship life of your congregation due to Covid. Observe critically and assess the practice of worship in your current ministry setting. Observe the changes in the dynamics of the setting, the use of technology, language (verbal and non-verbal) gestures, and actions.

Questions to consider:

1. Describe the physical setting for worship before and after quarantine.
2. How did the worship form model hospitality?
3. What did the arrangement of the worship space (include the visual symbols) communicate about God, creation, and humanity?
4. Where was the "altar" (the place where the holy and the human connect).
5. What changed for you as worship leader?

On-Going Assignment:
Let the People Say Amen

Assignment Specifications: Due: as scheduled

Length: 2 pages.
Font Size: 12 points, Times New Roman or equivalent
Margin: One inch
Spacing: Two

Purpose: The prayer assignment is to lead a class or your household with one prayer you've written using one of the assigned exercises from *Let the Whole Church Say Amen*.

You are to provide a text of your prayer but may pray it first free form. In addition to the prayer, you will write three to four paragraphs that show how the assigned Stookey exercise shaped your prayer. Post your prayer and your reflection on your assigned day.