



COS #124 – Transformative Leadership
West Virginia Extension at Spring Heights Education Center

September 30 and October 28 Zoom classes November 17-19, 2023 in person

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Goals for the course:

This course forms the student’s identity as a pastoral leader and change agent in congregations, the United Methodist Church, and the world. The class is highly interactive, so be prepared to actively engage 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 processes 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: 978-1-57675-174-9

The Power of Positive Leadership: Jon Gordon, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., Hoboken, NJ. 2017. ISBN – 9781119351702

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

Attendance

The instructor expects timely participation of students; tardiness is a sign of disrespect to others. Extenuating circumstances should be reported to the instructor and COS Dean immediately. (see COS "Attendance Policy" in Student Handbook)

Assignments, Evaluation, and Grading

All assignments are due and expected on time. If extenuating circumstances cause you to be unable to meet a given deadline, you must contact the instructor before the assignment is due to determine a new deadline. Failure to do so will result in a lower grade. Students will be evaluated on overall academic performance, written communication, and relational skills, including class participation. Each writing assignment represents 15% of your final grade. Use the Basic MLA Format outlined in the student handbook for all written assignments. Be sure to proofread!. Class participation represents 25% of your final grade.

Assignment due September 18, 2023: Read Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly. The Introduction states: *"Effective church leadership is the strongest indicator of a positive fate for a congregation."* Parks and Birch talk about the theology of leadership in regards to call, equipping, purpose, and accountability. Write a 3-5 page paper addressing the items below:

- After reading the book and associated passages from 1st and 2nd Samuel, reflect on the biblical model of church leadership.
- If effective leadership is crucial for successful ministry, what have you learned about the highs and lows of leadership, and how will you apply these learnings?

Class discussion Zoom class Sept 30, 9:00am – 11:00am

Assignment due September 25, 2023: Read Leadership and Self-Deception. Write a 3-5 page paper describing three significant issues that can adversely impact leadership and how to avoid these pitfalls. Use references from the texts.

Class discussion Zoom class Sept 30, 1:00p-3:00p

Assignment due October 23, 2023: Read The Power of Positive Leadership.

Go to: www.truity.com and take the free online Enneagram Test. Take a picture or draw the graphic of your results. Scroll down the page and take a picture or record your % for each area. You have the option to purchase a detailed report, but this will not be necessary for the class. Have a conversation with a person you trust to discuss the strengths and limitations of your personality. Submit a 1-2 page summary sharing what you have learned about yourself.

Class discussion Zoom class Oct 28, 9:00am – 11:00am and 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Assignment due November 8, 2023: Read Finding Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change. If serving a multi-point charge, select one congregation for this exercise. Talk with at least three

people in the congregation asking, “What is the story of our congregation?” Recognizing there may be variations of the story, write a 4-5 page paper reflecting on what you believe is the primary story of the congregation. After telling the story, reflect on these questions:

- How does the story define your congregation?
- Why do you feel the story is retold?
- Does it empower or limit your congregation? Why?
- If you could tell a new story to the congregation, what would it be?

Assignment due November 17, 2022: Keep a two-week log of activities including but not limited to worship including preparation, visitation including travel time, teaching, leadership development, community engagement, family and personal time, meetings, and regular job (if serving part-time). Read Strategically Small Church. Write a 3-4 page paper on insights you have gained from the process.