**United Methodist Course of Study**

**Wesley Theological Seminary: Buffalo Extension**

COS 223 – Worship and Sacraments

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 **Course Dates: January 13-14 and February 17-18**

**Course Description:**

This course examines worship within the United Methodist Church including liturgy, sacraments, and special services. Attention will be given to the to the pastor's role in leading worship.

Objectives

 1. Examination and discussion of the liturgical year, its historical and

 theological development, and roots in Jewish worship

 2. Examination of the theology and practice of the sacraments

 3. Discussion of the rites of Christian marriage and funerals including

 appropriate counseling methods

 4. Reflection on worship practices, including traditional and non

 traditional liturgies, media, music and lay leadership

 5. Use of the lectionary in developing for reflection and evaluation of

 worship outlines for Lent, and a communion service with sermon, in

 two different styles

 6. Increase familiarity with the resources in the United Methodist

 Hymnal and the Book of Worship

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Required Texts

 1. *The* *Christian* *Year*: A *Guide* for *Worship* *and* *Preaching*,

 Robin Knowles Wallace, Abington Press, 2011, 9781426703003

 2.  *Rhythms of Worship,* John G> Stevens and Michael Waschevski

 John Knox Press 2014. 978-0-664-26017-0

 3. *Worshipping in the Small Membership Church,*

 *R*obin Knowles Wallace, Abingdon Press, 2008, 9780687651016

 4. *United Methodists and the Sacraments.*

 *Gayle C. Felton, Abingdon Press, 2007, 13 978-0-687-49215-2*

*Other Resources:*

 1. *The New Pastor's Guide to Leading Worship*

Barbara Day Miller, Abingdon Press, 2006, 9780687497201

 \*2. *Christian Funerals,* Andy Langford, Abingdon Press 2010

 978-1-4267-1138-1. (This is an especially great resource!)

 3. Let the Whole Church Say Amen, Laurence Stookey, Abingdon

 2001

Also bring your copies of *The United Methodist Hymnal*  (1989) (UMH), and *The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992) UM and Holy Communion; (Discipleship* Resources, 2006) ISBN 088177457X

**Written Assignments: READ ALL DIRECTIONS BEFORE ANSWERING QUESTIONS!! A self addressed, stamped envelope must be included for each set of papers.**.

**Formatting** All papers must be formatted 12pt Times New Roman, double spaced, 1" margins, page numbers.

**Citations** When quotinganother'swork**,** orreferencinganideapublishedbyanother**,** citethesource in a numbered footnote at the bottom of the page. Do not use end notes or parenthetical citations. Do not use lengthy, verbatim quotes . Include a bibliography of all sources.

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**Plagiarism** Plagiarismwillnotbetolerated, and may result in a failing grade for the assignment as determined by the professor. Cases of extreme use of another's work without citation may result in a failing grade for the class.

**Writing** **Style** Academic writing without grammatical errors is expected. You may use informal or sermonic quotes to amplify your answers but they should not be the bulk of the text. **Papers** **must** **be** **submitted** **both** **electronically** (Word.doc or PDF) **and** **by** **hard** **copy**.

**Overview**

The worship of the church brings together and focuses on the wholeness of the Christian faith. It is where the people of God come together in community prayer and fellowship, are nurtured by the sacraments and find expression for their faith. In this course you are asked to integrate what you have experienced as a worship leader, your previous studies, and the texts and bring it to bear upon your task as a liturgical leader. The assigned books are to be resources for constructing your answers, but will not necessarily provide the explicit answers.

 ASSIGNMENT - **Due** **at** **the** **first** **class** **January** **13**

**READ**: ***Rhythms*** ***Of*** ***Worship -***  Chapters 1, 3, 9 -11

***The******Christian******Year*** *pp. 1-31*

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Using **all the lectionary readings for each day,** summarizeeach Sunday of Lent 2016 as follows. ( Consult the BOW or other lectionary guide for suggested readings.)
2. In a few sentences, show how the lectionary readings for each individual Sunday connect with one another.
3. Indicate what you will preach on each week, and summarize the basic ideas in a paragraph or two, indicating the biblical text on which the sermon is based. (Continued on next page)

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1. Choose music which is both theologically and pastorally appropriate to the text.
2. Include a children's message and summarize in a few sentences, **even of you do not regularly have a children's message in your church.** (30 Points)

**READ: *Rhythms* *of* *Worship*** Chapter 4

 ***Worshiping in the Small Member Church.*** *Chapter 6*

***B***. Using the lectionary, develop a communion service bulletin and sermon in the style and format your congregation usually uses for Pentecost Sunday.

 1. Include a children's message with a synopsis of it's content.

 Choose praise songs or hymns, one of which is from the UMH

 2. Develop a second order of worship that represents a different

 style than what your congregation uses. (If your congregation

 generally uses a traditional format, the second one should be

 more contemporary.

 If you generally use a contemporary format, the second one

 should be traditional. (15 points)

**ASSIGNMENT : The following are due February. 17, 2017**

**Read: Worshiping in the Small Membership Church Chp. 7**

 **United Methodists and the Sacraments. Cup 2-5**

**C.** Answer the following:

 1. *Why* and *how* does music in worship enhance or diminish

 the message of the scripture?

 2. What is the main role of the choir or praise band? Why?

 3. Who should choose the music - the organist/choir director or the

 pastor? Give reasons for your answer.

4. Different circumstances require different selections of text and

 music. For **each** of the circumstances listed below, choose an

 appropriate text and 3 Hymns /Songs which are especially fitted for

 the funeral of the following:

 - an older church member

 - non-member, spouse of church member with small children

 - sudden death of youth (15 points)

**D.** On the Sunday of the Baptism of The Lord, you are receiving listed into

 your congregation a family as follows:

 **Father :** Unbaptized, and until recently, uninterested in religion. A

 year or so ago his attitude changed drastically. He is to be baptized

 and received into membership.

**Mother:** An active UM who will be transferring from another UM congregation

**Teenage Daughter:** Baptized in infancy, she has now received confirmation training and wishes to make her own affirmation of faith and be baptized

**Infant son:** To be baptized

**Grandmother:** Baptized and confirmed as a Roman Catholic, she lapsed into inactivity some years ago. Now, like her son (the father in this family) she has a deep commitment and wants to become a member of this congregation.

 3. Answer the following questions giving full consideration to each

 question.

 a. What is the purpose of Baptism?

 b . How has Wesley's understanding of grace affected the theology

 and practice of Baptism?

 c. What do Methodists believe about Baptism in reference to

 salvation and "re baptizing " a person? How does this impact on

 the pastoral preparation you give to the family?

 d. Give reasons for upholding the United Methodist position on

 infant baptism. What pastoral counseling would you give this

 family regarding infant baptism? (10 points)

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**E.** You are asked to serve as a consultant to a congregation that senses

 it needs to work on its understanding and practice of

 Holy Communion.

 Current practices can be summarized as follows:

* 1. Communion is observed on Holy Thursday and the first Sundays of January, July and October.
	2. Attendance drops on communion Sundays because many people think they are not worthy to receive and others complain of boredom or “ritualism”
	3. The form of the service usually used follows the “regular form” of the 1959 EUB Book of Ritual or no. 830 (without sung responses) in the Methodist Hymnal of 1964
	4. Individual glasses of juice and wafers are passed in the pews (EUB style) or are out in place on trays at the rail from which communicants serve themselves (Methodist style). Soft background music (organ or piano) is played during the distribution, and emphasis is placed upon the solemnity of this personal time with God.
	5. Hymns for the day tend to focus on the passion and death of Jesus, as does scripture reading and preaching
	6. Visitors are invited to receive communion, but not until they reach the age of about 12 years.

 As a consultant, you are asked to produce a written statement in three parts:

1. List the issues of concern. What changes in the practices of the congregation do you propose and for what theological reasons? How does the United Methodist understanding of Holy Communion relate to the changes you are suggesting?
2. Outline at least 5 ***concrete*** suggestions you can give for re-educating the congregation.
3. List 5 resources you recommend that the congregation might utilize to grow in their understanding of worship. Tell why you chose these particular resources (15 points)

**The remainder of your grade will be based on the quality and mechanics of your writing and your participation.**

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**BASIC PATTERN OF WORSHIP**

How does your bulletin compare with the basic pattern in the Hymnal?

 - What's the same

 - What's different?

 - Why is that important?

How does the inclusion of a sacrament or other special program influence the design of your bulletin?

 - What do you cut back on?

What does our order of worship say about our theology?

What does YOUR order say to your congregation about what is important?