**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COS 124 Transformative Leadership**

January 12-13 & February 9-10, 2018

**Instructor**

Rev. Gregg Stierheim

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1. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will equip students with a skill set developed from current leadership trends and a study of biblical leaders to become agents of change in local congregations of The United Methodist Church and throughout the world.

**II. TEXTBOOKS:**

Farr, Bob and Kay Kotan, *The Necessary Nine: Things Effective Pastors Do Differently.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-1-501-80496-0.

O’Brien, Brandon and Jim Belcher, *The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, and Effective.* Bloomington: Bethany House Publishers, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-764-20783-9.

Parks, Lewis A. and Bruce C. Birch, *Duckling Spears, Dancing Madly: A Biblical Model of Church Leadership.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004. ISBN: 978-0-687-09285-7.

Witt, Lance and John Ortberg, *Replenish: Leading from a Healthy Soul*. Ada: Baker Books, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-801-01354-6.

**III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After taking this course students will be able to:

1. Be familiar and able to identify attributes of effective leaders from both a theological and secular perspective.
2. Evaluate and strengthen their own identities and skills as transformational pastoral leaders.
3. Gather tools and tips for identifying change in a ministry setting
4. Apply learnings tovisioning, planning, education, and management processes in local congregations

**IV. CALENDAR OF TOPICS AND READINGS:**

**Session One: January 12 and 13**

**Biblical Examples and Theologies of Leadership**

Two weeks prior to the first class session, each student should complete a Local Context Report (see below) and send electronically to Gregg @ [pastorgreggumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgreggumc@gmail.com) by midnight on Friday, December 29, 2017. Also, please read *Duckling Spears, Dancing Madly (*Parks and Birch)and Bob Farr’s *The Necessary Nine: Things Effective Pastors Do Differently* in their entirety prior to class on January 12. Come to class prepared to contribute your observations, reflections, and questions about each book in discussions and assignments. During class we will be discussing core concepts of transformative leadership and studying some biblical leadership models in order to understand different approaches to leadership and what transformative leadership looks like from God’s perspective.

After this session students will complete a Leadership Self-Assessment, which will be due by midnight on February 2, 2018, one week prior to the February session.

**Session Two: February 2 and 3**

**Sustainable Leadership: A Healthy Approach to Leading the Church and Beyond**

Prior to class on February 2, please read *The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, authentic, and Effective* (O’Brien and Belcher) and *Replenish: Leading from a Healthy Soul* (Wit). Please prepare a one page summary of your top 3-5 learnings from **each** book due at the beginning of class on February 2, 2018. Also, note assignments 4 and 5 below. Come to class prepared to contribute your observations, reflections and questions in discussions and assignments.

After this session students will complete the Ministry Action Plan, which will be due by 8:00 pm February 24.

**V: COURSE GRADE:**

**Assignments:**

1. Local Context Report:

* Submitted work should be less than 5 pages in total.
* Some demographical understanding of the community(ies) that they serve
* one year goals and five year goals for the church and for the pastoral leader. If serving a multipoint charge, feel free to decide whether goals for the entire charge are appropriate or for a single church. These materials may be discussed in the context of the class, but they will not be shared with in writing with fellow students or beyond the course.
* If no current ministry plan exists, name three 1 year goals and three 5 year goals for the church and for the pastoral leader.
* An example of a current leadership challenge that you are experiencing in advancing the goals listed previously. Please change or omit individual names, but you may list an office or role (e.g. Lay Servant or Finance Chair) as appropriate for your narrative.
* Assignment is due by midnight on Friday, December 29, 2017. **(15% of grade)**

1. Biblical Leadership Chart—Group Project:

* In class assignment
* Predetermined groups will work together to chart various biblical leaders, their contexts, qualities, struggles, and outcomes.
* Charts will be synthesized into a theological framework for leadership by identifying themes and traits of successful biblical leaders.
* To be completed during the first weekend session. **(15% of grade)**

1. Book Summaries:

* Submitted work should be no longer than 1 page for each book.
* Summarize your top 3-5 learnings from *The Strategically Small Church.*
* Summarize your top 3-5 learnings from *Replenish.*
* Due at the beginning of class on February 2, 2018. **(5% of grade)**

1. Leadership Self-Assessment:

* Submitted work should be no longer than 5 pages in total.
* Include a copy of the completed leadership assessment.
* Identify three of your best strengths as a leader and three of your own growth areas. Do these match the assessment?
* What personal traits of biblical leadership do you see in yourself?
* How can you best utilize your strengths in your current ministry context?
* What action will you take to address your weakest leadership skills?
* Use illustrations from your life experience to support your responses.
* Assignment is due by midnight on February 2, 2018. **(20% of grade)**

1. Ministry Action Plan: Each student will develop an action plan for the 6-8 months of ministry following the February session.

* Written portion of plan should be no more than 3 pages.
* Include a vision for their current ministry setting developed in coordination with church leadership.
* Develop a plan for implementing core learnings.
* Include steps to address the challenge raised in the case study.
* What steps will you take to address self-care?
* Complete action grid (to be distributed in class or electronically).
  1. Identifiable and measurable steps.
  2. Include gifts and skills of lay leaders in the ministry context.
* Due by 8:00 pm February 24, 2018. (**25% of grade)**

6. Class Participation:

Attendance is expected and required at all class sessions. Students may be excused for

emergencies, but whether an absence will be considered excused is solely at the discretion of

the instructor. Every student will be expected to contribute to class discussions and activities.

The class will establish a covenant for the course during our first session. (**20% of grade**)

**Method of Determining Grade**:

Local Context Report 15%

Biblical leadership chart 15%

Book Summaries 5%

Leadership Self-Assessment 20%

Ministry Action Plan 25%

Class participation 20%

**Total: 100%**

**VI: OTHER INFORMATION:**

**Instructor Contact:**

**Q**uestions and assignments should be sent to and need to be received by the due date at:

Rev. Gregg Stierheim

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5681 Main St.

Williamsville, NY 14221

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**Academic Statement:**

Please live into our covenant together regarding work ethic and plagiarism. Writing and grammar should reflect your level of commitment to the Course of Study.