Worship and Sacraments Syllabus

Licensing School

January 13-February 6, 2023

Faculty Information

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Class Goals and Projected Outcomes from Global Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM)

**Public Worship/Liturgy**

*Knowledge*: The forms, purposes, and theology of ritual, liturgy, and music, the basic elements in The United Methodist Hymnal and The Book of Worship.

*Skill*: Use liturgy effectively as it relates to the liturgical year, special services, or community occasions, with demonstrated sensitivity to the needs of the congregation.

*Skill*: Select hymns and other music to use in the service, and explain the reason for selection and appropriate use in worship.

**Baptism**

*Knowledge*: Understand the sacrament of baptism in the UM tradition, including the work of God in infant baptism and confirmation.

*Skill*: Communicate an understanding of God’s role in baptism, including infant baptism, believer baptism, and confirmation.

*Skill*: Understand and demonstrate the ability of conducting a service of baptism, related to the various modes of baptism and to the different ages of baptismal recipients.

**Holy Communion**

*Knowledge*: Understand Holy Communion as a means of God’s grace.

*Skill*: Demonstrate an understanding of this sacrament and an open table with Christ as the Host.

*Skill*: Demonstrate an understanding of the practical matters of conducting a service of Holy Communion.

**Weddings**

*Knowledge*: Awareness of the elements involved in premarital consultation, wedding rehearsal, and the service of Christian Marriage as indicated in resources provided by the church.

*Skill*: The ability to discuss openly and to enable others to discuss the issues relating to the marriage covenant, as well as the liturgy and symbolic ritual of the ceremony.

*Skill*: Demonstrate an understanding of the practical matters of conducting a wedding.

**Funerals and Memorial Services**

*Knowledge*: Understand the preparation, purpose, form, and content of the funeral or memorial service as well as pastoral understanding of the local situation.

*Skill*: Develop and identify passages of scripture, music and prayers for use in the service, employing the Book of Worship.

Skill: Identify and understand the practical performance of a funeral or memorial service, including liturgical and professional attire and proper funeral conduct.

*Skill*: Identify places in which family members and others can participate in the service.

Required Texts (Assigned by GBHEM)

*UM**Book of Worship* (pages 13-32, 81-85, 115-138, 139-157, 226-227, 238, 269, 298, 320, 368, 409)

 *United Methodist Hymnal* (Preface & Directions For Singing, 736)

 *Worshipping with United Methodists,* Hoyt L. Hickman

 [This Holy Mystery, Gayle Felton (downloadable)](https://www.umcsc.org/home/wp-content/uploads/This-Holy-Mystery-A-United-Methodist-Understanding-of-Holy-Communion.pdf)

 [By Water and the Spirit, Gayle Felton (downloadable)](https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/gbod-assets/generic/BWASWITHINDEXINTRO.PDF)

**Schedule of Topics and Assignments: Course Connect**

*Except where noted, all assignments on Course Connect are due by Monday, February 6.*

Pre-Work Assignment #1 (due by Friday, January 13):

 1. Introduce yourself.

 2. What is your favorite hymn, and why?

 3. What part of a worship service is most meaningful to you, and why?

 4. Comment on two posts from your classmates. What is your experience with the hymn that they shared? What do you have in common or differ from in the worship experience they share? What new insights have you gained from their post?

Assignment #2: Worship, Liturgy, and a Road Map

Watch the video, “Week 1 Lecture.” You will need the *UM Book of Worship* for reference. Respond to the following questions.

 1. Pages 13-15 of the *UM Book of Worship* give us a basic pattern or “road map” for worship: Entrance, Proclamation & Response, Thanksgiving & Communion, and Sending Forth. If you were designing a worship service in this structure, what are 2-3 things you would have in each part of the service and why? For example, in my church, the “entrance” would include acolytes bringing in the light. The reason we do this is to signify the presence of Christ to enlighten us in the hour ahead. You may use the *UM Book of Worship* and *Worshipping with United Methodists* for resources in answering this question.

 2. What does “liturgy” mean, and why is it important in worship?

 3. Comment on two posts from your classmates. What did you have in common? Which suggestions of theirs are ideas you want to you use in your worship services, and why?

Assignment #3: The Lectionary and the Christian Year

Watch these three short videos on the Christian year: “The Story as Told Through the Christian Calendar,” “Lectionary,” and “Liturgical Colors.” Answer the following questions. You may refer to the following pages in the *UM Book of Worship* to help answer them: 226-227, 238, 269, 295, 298, 320, 368-370, and 409

1. What are the seasons of the church year, and which colors accompany each season? What is your experience of observing these seasons in worship?
2. What is the lectionary, and why is it important? What are your experiences, if any, of using the lectionary in worship?
3. Some United Methodist congregations do not follow the lectionary or incorporate the liturgical colors in worship. How do you think the seasons and lectionary could enhance the worship experience?
4. Comment on at least two posts from your classmates. What did you have in common? How do you differ in your experiences?

Assignment #4 (Course Connect): Funerals

Watch this [You Tube video](https://youtu.be/hGNnl5ozLvU) interview with Dr. Tom Long about “A Christian Funeral” and read pages 139-157 in the *UM Book of Worship* to answer the following questions:

1. What did you find especially helpful, and why?
2. What did he say about funerals that surprised you, and why?
3. What are the differences in a funeral and a memorial service?
4. Comment on at least two posts from your classmates. What did you have in common in your responses? What did you learn from their posts that you hadn’t thought of previously? What questions do you have for them?

Assignment #5 (Course Connect): Weddings

Read pages 115-138 in *The United Methodist Book of Worship* on the topic of weddings, and answer the following questions. You may also refer to where the other readings mention weddings.

1. Notice that we refer to weddings in the UMC as a “service of Christian marriage.” What are your experiences, if any, of a service of Christian marriage that follows the orders in our hymnal and Book of Worship? How are weddings you’ve attended been similar to or different from the order of worship in our hymnal?
2. Many preparations are necessary for a wedding. What should be involved in pre-marital counseling, and why? Who should be involved in the planning of the service, and why?
3. Weddings are meant to be a worship service in the UMC. Look at the liturgies in the Book of Worship. What is familiar to you, and what surprises you about what’s in the service? Why?
4. Which suggested Scriptures in the Book of Worship are most meaningful to you, and why? Which Scripture suggestions surprise you, and why?
5. What questions do you have about officiating at a wedding?
6. Comment on at least two posts from your classmates. What do you have in common? What did you learn from each other? How are your experiences similar to or different from theirs?

Assignment #6 (Course Connect): Baptism and Holy Communion

Watch the video, “Week 2 Lecture,”. Respond to the following questions. Returning to the analogy of the order of worship as a road map, the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are two significant “locations” on our journey into the presence of God in community.

1. What are your experiences with infant baptism, believer’s baptism, and confirmation?
2. What are your experiences with Holy Communion? What does it mean to you that The United Methodist Church has an “open table”?
3. On page 26 of “This Holy Mystery,” we read that Holy Baptism is the non-repeatable rite of initiation into the body of Christ and Holy Communion is the regularly-repeated celebration of the communion of the body of Christ. Why should we not repeat Baptism and regularly repeat Communion?
4. Why is it important to celebrate Holy Baptism and Holy Communion in the community of faith, as opposed to privately?
5. Comment on at least two posts from your classmates. How are your experiences of Holy Baptism and Communion similar? What more do you want to hear about their stories? What questions do you have for them?

**Assignments for In-Person Class & Final Assignment**

In-Person Assignment (due by Friday, January 27, on Course Connect):

Upload an order of worship/bulletin. We will discuss these during our in- person sessions (1-2 pages)

In-Person Assignment (due by Friday, January 27, on Course Connect):

In *The United Methodist Hymnal*, choose one of the liturgies for Baptismal Covenant and one liturgy from the Services of Word & Table that you would like to discuss in more detail. Post on Course Connect the following information (1-2 pages)

1. Which ones you chose
2. Why you chose them
3. What questions you have about incorporating them into a worship service

Final Assignment (Due by Feb. 7, Submit via email): Assemble an order of worship to include either Holy Communion or Baptism on a Sunday during Lent or Advent. Incorporate Scripture from the Revised Common Lectionary of Year A for the Sunday you choose (5-6 pages). More information to be shared.