2023 -2024 Classes License to Preach School

***All Classes Online Format  
​  
All students will be given access to the Digital Theological Library free of charge, after they complete registration.  Many of your books can be found there and it will be a way to save a significant amount of money.***

**COURSE OBJECTIVES: You will obtain Knowledge and skills in the following areas:**

**Knowledge (K-1): The call to servant leadership is lived out through various leadership styles which are natural and appropriate to different persons in as three hours of asynchronous learning.**

1. **Skill: The ability to develop a consciousness of the servant leadership style of Jesus.**
2. **Skill: The ability to understand and name one’s strengths and weaknesses and the impact of those traits on leadership style.**

**Knowledge (K-2): Develop an awareness of the polity, structure, and connectional nature of the UMC as presented in the Discipline and understand the UMC (local church, district, the annual conference, jurisdictional, and General Conference.)**

1. **The ability to access others United Methodist pastors, conference staff, and general church agencies to interpret the connection to the congregation. Resource: The United Methodist Book of Discipline**

**Knowledge (K-3): The UMC’s understanding of the church, the charge, and the local church membership as contained in the Discipline, (Paragraph 201-205 and Paragraph 214-242) and familiarity with the structural and administrative responsibilities of the charge conference, the church council, and the four administrative committees of the church (Paragraph 243-252,258).**

1. **Skill: The ability to outline the necessary steps for the construction of a local church budget, using the disciplinary responsibilities of the charge conference, church council, S/P-PRC (Staff/Parish, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee), and finance committee.**
2. **Skill: Ability to access The Book of Discipline to answer questions that might arise.**

**Knowledge (K-4): The meaning and methodist of apportionments and the reporting forms used to keep both personal and financial statistics audited within the local church.**

1. **Skill: Ability to use the membership, baptismal, and financial report forms of the local church, as well as the pastor’s report to charge and annual conference.**
2. **Skill: Appreciate, appropriate, and support the value of the itineracy in carrying out the mission and ministry of the church.**

**Knowledge (K-5): The ability to create a Ministry Action Plan (MAP)**

1. **Skill: Develop a mission statement for your church.**
2. Skill: Write an action plan describing the steps your church will take in creating a strategy to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
3. Evaluate the success of the MAP to determine next steps.

**Leadership and Administration *March 11 - 25, 2024***  
*3 Zoom classes (2 hours each) + 2 hours on Course Connect=8 hours total*

The course begins on March 11, 2024 and ends on March 25. 2024.

1. **On Course Connect, watch the Intro Video by Instructor before the first day of class. (10 minutes contact time)**
2. **Pre-Class Work**: (*K-1*)
3. **Forum Discussion-Introductions** (**20 minutes Contact Time**)

Use the Course Connect discussion forum to Introduce yourself to the group by March 11, 2024. Be sure to include the following:

Who are you?

Where do you serve?

What are your strongest gifts?

Read and respond to 3 classmates’ intros by March 14, 2024

1. **Complete an online spiritual gifts assessment** before March 15, 2024. (**20 minutes Contact Time**)

(<https://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/spiritual-gifts-online-assessment>)

Write a **one-page** reflection paper explaining why you agree or disagree with your spiritual assessment. Upload to Course Connect by March 15, 2024. **(20 minutes)**

**Spiritual Gifts Clusters**

**Nurturing Gifts: Nurturing congregations tend to be very committed to building fellowship,**

**visitation, small groups, Sunday school, and member care. The focus is primarily turned inward.**

**• Wisdom**

**• Shepherding**

**• Exhortation**

**• Helping**

**• Discernment**

**• Faith**

**• Compassion**

**Outreaching Gifts: Outreaching congregations tend to be very missional in nature, serving the**

**community in a variety of ways and reaching out to people in the area. The focus is on the world.**

**• Apostleship**

**• Evangelism**

**• Working Miracles**

**• Compassion**

**• Healing**

**• Servanthood**

**• Prophecy**

**Witnessing Gifts: Witnessing congregations tend to emphasize worship, Christian education,**

**and church growth. Faith sharing is central to the life of the fellowship. The focus is local.**

**• Knowledge**

**• Faith**

**• Prophecy**

**• Teaching**

**• Evangelism**

**• Exhortation**

**• Healing**

**Organizing Gifts: Organizing congregations tend to be highly structured, very organized, and**

**program-rich. Committees and work teams involve large numbers of people. The focus is on the**

**institution.**

**• Knowledge**

**• Administration**

**• Giving**

**• Leadership**

**• Helping**

**• Teaching**

**• Wisdom**

**In the work with congregations between 1986 and 2001, Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues did not appear frequently enough to emerge in a cluster pattern. Most likely, Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues would align with Outreaching and/or Witnessing clusters.**

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1. **Read the required text**: *Administration in the Small Membership Church,* by John Tyson, in its entirety before the first zoom class meeting on March 11, 2024.
2. **Watch the Lecture on "Leading Yourself Well" by Andy Stanley** https://youtu.be/6sT60VeHmd0 by March 18, 2024. (**40 minutes Contact Time**)
3. **Reflection on *Leading Yourself Well* Assignment**

After watching the video lecture on "Leading Yourself Well" write a **two-page** reflection paper describing three new practices you will incorporate into your life to improve how you lead yourself. Examples include, "Keeping a calendar", "Taking a Sabbath", "Subscribing to Ministry Podcast", etc. Share how you hope this will improve your ministry. (**30 minutes Connect Time**) (Upload to Course Connect by March 18, 2024)

1. Read *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, 2016;

(Paragraph 201-205 and Paragraph 214-242) to familiarize yourself with the structural and administrative responsibilities of the charge conference, the church council, and the four administrative committees of the local church (Paragraph 243-252, Paragraph 258). (K-1-2-3-4-5)

1. **Simple Governance (K-1-2-3)**

Watch the Simplified, Accountable Leadership Structure training videos on the Center for Vitality website. To assist your leadership in discernment and equip them in basic principles of the leadership model.

Create a **2-page** Simple Governance model for your church. Upload your model to Course Connect by March 25, 2024

1. **We will discuss in detail the element of a** **Ministry Action Plan (MAP) with the class. We will work develop a Ministry Action Plan in the in-person session on March 11, 2024. (3 pages MAP)**

After reading the required text, write a three-page action plan describing the steps your church will take in creating a strategy to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (Use the text *Administration in the Small Membership Church* by John Tyson as a guide on how to lead the congregation in creating a ministry plan.) upload to Course Connects by March 25, 2024

**Grading Scale:** Maximum Points

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| At least 5 Sharing Comments on Course Connect | 5 |
| Forum Discussion-Introductions | 5 |
| Complete an online spiritual gifts assessment | 10 |
| Read the required texts | 20 |
| Watch the Lecture on "Leading Yourself Well" by Andy Stanley | 10 |
| Reflection on “Leading Yourself Well” Assignment | 10 |
| Simplified Accountability Plan | 15 |
| Ministry Action Plan (MAP) | 15 |
| Class participation | 10 |
| **Total points achieve** |  |

***N0TE: 8 written pages 6 hours Zoom Time 2 hours Contact Time (90-100 =A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D)***

Leadership and Administration Books Required:

**Administration in the Small Membership Church** by John Tyson

**The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church,** **2016.**

**The Circuit Rider, the online conference newsletter,** sign up and bring a copy with you to class.

**Obtain a copy of your local church budget** and bring it with you to class.

Answer these questions and be prepared to share your responses with classmates.

1. List some of the servant leadership styles of Jesus.
2. Name one of your leadership strengths and discuss the impact it has on your leadership style.
3. Name one of your personality weaknesses and express how it has impacted your leadership style.
4. What is the polity of the United Methodist Church as presented in the Book of Discipline?
5. Why is the principle of the United Methodist Church said to be Connectionism?
6. How many Jurisdictional Conferences are there in the United States based on geographical location?
7. How many Annual Conferences are in the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference?
8. What Jurisdictional Conference is the Mississippi Annual Conference geographically located?
9. Explain the interrelationship of the various levels of decision-making and ministry in the United Methodist Church.
10. What is the function of the Annual Charge Conference?