

# UNITED METHODIST TRADITION

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rev. Susan Hood

[shood1024@msn.com](mailto:shood1024@msn.com) Phone: \_\_\_205-270-9587\_\_\_

**Class Dates: Monday, August 11, 2025 – Monday, August 25, 2025**  
**ALL STUDENT WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MONDAY,**  
**SEPTEMBER 1, 2025**

**Class Times: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. CST.**

### Zoom Invitation:

**Topic: Licensing School UM Tradition**

**Time: Aug 11, 2025 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)**

**Every week on Mon, 3 occurrence(s)**

**Aug 11, 2025 06:00 PM**

**Aug 18, 2025 06:00 PM**

**Aug 25, 2025 06:00 PM**

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93885972610>

**Meeting ID: 938 8597 2610**

### Dial by your location

• +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

• +1 669 444 9171 US

**Instructor will announce class updates via Course Connect. Please communicate with the instructor through Course Connect. If you have an urgent need, you may also email, call, or text me. My contact information is at the top of this document.**

## Purpose

A licensed local pastor in the United Methodist church is called to preach and teach “the faith which was once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3)—and specifically the United Methodist understanding of Christian faith. Whether leading worship, providing pastoral care, guiding and administering a congregation, or pursuing any of the other numerous duties of a pastor, a pastor’s work is theological. This course will introduce the major themes of the United Methodist tradition in order to equip licensed local pastors for their responsibilities in the church.

## Course Goals

**Knowledge: Develop an understanding of the “Wesleyan Quadrilateral.”**

Skill: Know the distinction of the four components.

Skill: Develop an ability to use the quadrilateral in articulating one’s own theology.

**Knowledge: Develop an awareness of distinctive Wesleyan Beliefs.**

Skill: Appreciate the differences between Wesleyan doctrines and other Christian traditions.

Skill: Develop a working awareness of Wesley’s understanding of grace (prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying).

Skill: Connect the theology of an individual’s personal “call to ministry” and how it is developed from the moment of salvation into a life of discipleship.

**Knowledge: Begin to learn United Methodist history.**

Skill: Review early Methodist history and examine its connection with ecumenical history.

Skill: Express the relationship of works of mercy and works of piety.

### Required Reading

The following texts shall be read before the in-person class session on August 11, 2025.

*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2020/2024* (available at:

<https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions>)

- ¶ 102. Section 1—Our Doctrinal Heritage, pages 47-56 (Recommended not required)
- ¶ 103. Section 2—Our Doctrinal History, pages 56-65 (Recommended not required)
- ¶ 104. Section 3—Our Doctrinal Standards, “The Articles of Religion,” pages 65-72 (**Required**)
- ¶ 105. Section 4—Our Theological Task, pages 80-91 (**Required**)

The following sermons and selections from the United Methodist Hymnal shall be read before the in-person class session on August 18, 2025.

- “Free Grace,” John Wesley (available at <http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/the-sermons-of-john-wesley-1872-edition/sermon-128-free-grace/>)
- “The Scripture Way of Salvation,” John Wesley (available at <http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/the-sermons-of-john-wesley-1872-edition/sermon-43-the-scripture-way-of-salvation/>)
- Selections from *The United Methodist Hymnal*, including one Charles Wesley Hymn, the Nicene Creed (#880), and the two versions of the Apostles’ Creed (#881 and #882)

## Assignments

### 1. Forum Discussion

Use the Course Connect discussion forum to introduce yourself to the group. After briefly noting who you are and where you serve, answer these two questions: 1) “Why are you a Methodist?” and 2) “What do you hope to learn in this class?” As a means of introduction, read each of your classmates’ introductions and respond briefly as you are able. **Post your response to the questions by August 10, 2025. (10 points)**

### 2. Book of Discipline Reflection

Submit a reflection of NO MORE THAN 2 PAGES on the “Book of Discipline” readings that are listed in the Required Readings section. Note, this is ¶ 104, “Articles of Religion” pages 65-72, and ¶ 105 Our Theological Task, pages 80-91.

Choose any/all of these three questions to guide your reflection:

- 1) In light of the reading, what are the most important features of Methodist teaching to you?
- 2) What do you find most challenging, difficult, or surprising in the reading?
- 3) What topic might you emphasize if you were preaching this Sunday at your current congregation? Why? What scripture would you select?

**Read “The Book of Discipline” assignment before class on August 11, 2025. We will discuss it in class so be prepared to share your general thoughts. The paper described in this section is due before class on August 18, 2025. (30 points)**

### 3. Student’s Choice Assignment (Choose ***Either*** the Hymn Reflection ***OR*** the Creed Reflection, not both!)

#### a) Hymn Reflection

Submit a reflection of NO MORE THAN 2 PAGES on any hymn by Charles Wesley. (Those hymns can be found in the index of the United Methodist Hymnal on page 992.) Considering what you have learned in class and your reading, what major themes of Wesleyan theology do you see in this hymn? **Due August 25, 2025. (20 points)**

#### b) Creed Reflection

Submit a lesson plan of NO MORE THAN 2 PAGES outlining how you would teach either the Apostles’ or Nicene Creed to a confirmation class. Allow your understanding of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral to guide your teaching plan. **Due August 25, 2025. (20 points)**

#### 4. Sermon Reflection

Submit a summary of 600-900 words (No more than 3.5 Pages) of either “Free Grace” or “The Scripture Way of Salvation.” The summary should put Wesley’s sermon into your own words while aiming to explain his points to a modern Christian (say, at your own church). Consider where you see scripture, tradition, reason, and experience in the sermon. Consider also how Wesley explains grace in the sermon. **Due September 1, 2025. (30 points)**

For all assignments, proofread your work. You may (and are encouraged to) use outside sources but be sure to appropriately cite words and ideas that are not your own. Assignments should be uploaded to Course Connect.

#### 5. Class Participation and Reading

A zoom course without student participation is a drag! I’m counting on you to read the materials and be prepared to share your thoughts. Our Zoom time will include lecture and discussion. **(15 points)**

### Grading

<i>Component</i>	<i>Maximum Points</i>
Assignment 1 – Introduction and Forum Discussion	5
Assignment 2 – “Book of Discipline” Reflection	30
Assignment 3 – Hymn Reflection or Creed Reflection	20
Assignment 4 – Sermon Reflection	30
Class Participation and Reading	15

90-100 - A  
80-89 - B  
70-79 - C  
60-69 - D  
<60 - F

### Contact Hours

6 hours classroom time

3.5 hours assignments (approximately 15 minutes for assignment 1 and the rest on written work)