

**Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study School  
Summer 2015 Hybrid Session  
Online August 9 - 29/On Campus September 18 - 19**

**CS 124: Transformative Leadership**

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**Course Objectives**

This course seeks to form the student's identity as a pastoral leader and change agent within congregations, the United Methodist Church, and the world by helping students:

1. Identify and understand the attributes of good leaders, biblically and theologically
2. Learn how discerning and communicating a vision and narrative leadership are essential to effectuating change in congregations
3. Understand the dynamics of change in congregational life
4. See leadership as an interactive, collaborative process that inherently involves group processes and forms others as leaders

**Text Books**

*Church Leadership: Vision, Team, Culture, Integrity*, Revised Edition (Abingdon Press, 2010) by Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

*Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly: A Biblical Model of Church Leadership* (Abingdon Press, 2004) by Lewis A. Parks and Bruce C. Birch.

*Finding our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change* (Alban Institute, 2010) Larry Goleman, Editor.

Texts can be purchased through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

**Class Expectations**

In preparation for the August online session, students should read:

- *Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly: A Biblical Model of Church Leadership*
- *Finding our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change - Chapters 2,3,5 and 6 (omitting the preface, Chapters 1 and 4)*
- *Church Leadership* - Preface, Introduction, and Chapter 1 (pp xiii- 53)

In preparation for the September on campus session, students should:

- Read *Church Leadership* Chapters 2, 3, 4, and Conclusion (pp 55 – 134)
- Write a ten-page (double spaced) paper due at the start of the second session, Friday, September 18. In this paper, students should: 1) identify what they understand to be the most critical elements of effective church leadership based on the key themes and insights of the course, including the readings; and 2) reflect on how what they have learned is relevant to the fruitful fulfillment of their personal leadership in their current ministry setting.