

Wesley Theological Seminary
Course of Study School
July 2016 Term 1 | July 11 – 21, 2016

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.

Pre-Class Written Assignments

- **Assignment One. Due June 1, 2016. To be submitted via Blackboard. See next page for details of this assignment.**
- **Assignment Two. Due on July 12, 2016. Bring paper to class. See next page for details of this assignment.**

Assignment One. Due June 1, 2016.

Part One of this assignment deals with your reading of *Ducking Spears Dancing Madly* by Lewis Parks and Bruce Birch, Abingdon Press, 2004. Select one or more of the quotes below from *Ducking Spears*. Reflect on the theological perspective presented by the quote, how you see it manifest in yourself and others, and how it might prompt you to lead differently. This part of your work should be five pages, double spaced.

- *God uses unexpected persons and works through surprising circumstances ... over and over again the biblical story tells us that men and women who become crucial to God's purposes would have been overlooked if measured only by the usual human standards. (p. 42)*
- *The power of God's Spirit constantly working to transform the church and the world, means that a central element of our life will be unmanagable and uncontrollable. God's Spirit seizes, surprises, upsets, transforms, and reorients. Without openness to this empowerment of the Spirit, the church cannot be made new. (p. 49)*
- *Leadership in the service of [God] ... must be carried out in recognition that God cares for and reigns over all of life, in all of its aspects. There is no leadership committed to intimate relationship with God that can be compartmentalized and limited to the realms of our comfort zones. God calls us to put off the robes of our comfortable roles and dance into risky futures as leaders who do not manage God but serve God. (p. 111)*
- *Leadership subjects our personal covenants to the claims of obedience to God's broader purposes for our lives...To be set apart for leadership is not a call to be isolated and lonely, but a call to recognize our connect to God as the defining element in our lives.(84 and 85)*
- *We are not particularly comfortable viewing ourselves as agents with power to do harm. Our self-image is that of a pastoral presence dwelling among the people of God, and we generally dislike confrontation. (p. 93)*

Part Two of this assignment deals with your reading of *Finding our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change* (Alban Institute, 2010) Larry Goleman, Editor. Based on your reading of this book, describe specific clues or strategies you might use to communicate more effectively in your current ministry context. This part of your work should be five pages, double spaced.

Assignment Two. Due on July 12, 2016.

This assignment deals with your reading of *Church Leadership: Vision, Team, Culture, Integrity*, Revised Edition (Abingdon Press, 2010) by Lovett H. Weems, Jr. Based on your reading of this book, discuss in turn each of the four key elements of leadership highlighted in this book. Describe why each is critical to effective leadership. Then discuss specific clues or strategies you might use to deploy this aspect of leadership more effectively in your current ministry context. This assignment should be ten pages, doubled spaced.