

Wesley Theological Seminary
Course of Study
2016 July Intensive
Term 2 | July 25-August 4, 2016

COS 423 – Mission
Faculty: Jason Micheli
email: JasonMicheli@vaumc.org

Please read this study guide in its entirety before beginning your work.

This course introduces the theology and scope of mission, and the pastor's role in leading congregations in their mission as agents of God's transforming redemption.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical and theological framework for Christian mission.
2. Explain the Wesleyan relationship of personal piety and social holiness.
3. Examine and reflect on unjust social realities and the response of the church locally and globally.
4. Analyze their ministry context and develop strategies for transforming mission.

Required Texts:

- Robert, Dana L. *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*
- Volf, Miroslav. *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good*
- Daniels, Joe, Jr. *Walking with Nehemiah: Your Community is Your Congregation*

Supplemental Texts:

- Bandy, Thomas. *See, Know & Serve the People Within Your Reach*

Other Tool:

MissionInsite is a demographic tool that is designed for church leaders. It draws on data from the Census and Experian. You will need to use this tool as a part of your work to prepare your second paper. See attached document to sign up to use MissionInsite for this educational purpose free of charge.

Assignments:

Two papers of 10 pages each, written in size 12 font, Times New Roman, double spaced. Follow the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* for in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes and Works Cited.

A. ON MISSION PAPER DUE BY JUNE 1, 2016: SUBMITTED TO BLACKBOARD

Using *Christian Mission* and *A Public Faith* as a basis, articulate your understanding of what it means to be a church on mission. You may organize your paper in any manner you prefer, and answer the following questions:

1. What three things have you learned about mission? Why are they important to you and your ministry?
2. Identify at least three important questions that were raised for you in the course of your reading and why these are important questions to be answered from a practical perspective. These questions should be things you don't understand, things you disagree with and/or need further explanation or clarity about given other things you have read/observed.
3. How is the Wesleyan relationship of personal piety and social holiness related to these texts?
4. What applications do you see to your ministry and the mission of your congregation? How will the concepts articulated make an impact on your ministry?

B. NEHEMIAH EXERCISE AND REPORT DUE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS (July 26, 2016)

Using *Walking with Nehemiah*, a MissionInsite report run on a 7 minute drive or 15 minute walk from your congregation, and at least 12 Relational 1:1 conversations, answer the questions at the end of steps 1-6 in the text and then reflect on implementation implications raised in steps 7-9.

1. Whom or what does your heartbreak for? In your answer, please and reflect on the unjust social reality this points to and the response of the church locally and/or globally.
2. What do you need to pray for? What needs to change in your prayer life so that your prayers are in line with God's will?
3. Are you all-in? If not, which of the three steps in the chapter do you need to take to be all-in?
4. What risk is God asking you to take so that your position can be used for good? And answer the congregational questions on page 46 as well.
5. What does your community inspection reveal? In addition to relational 1:1s, demographic analysis and identifying "mayors," also include:
 - a. the needs for justice, advocacy, reconciliation, and compassion you discovered in your community
 - b. community organizations that are currently operating in those arenas
 - c. ideas you have for how needs could be met—including what you see as things your congregation is uniquely positioned to address
6. What needs to be shared to gain the commitment of others in your congregation and community?
7. As you reflect on the implementation aspects described in steps 7-9, what will you be most mindful of as you lead your congregation to rebuild lives, congregations and communities?

NOTE: This report will be duplicated and distributed to class members for purposes of consultation and discussion during the course.

Additional information:

1. All written work shall be submitted via Blackboard. You should received have a login to the Wesley system either with your confirmation packet if this is your first time to Wesley, or in previous mailings. **If you do not know your log on, please contact Sara Sheppard.** ssheppard@wesleyseminary.edu

2. Please be sure **to include the date, your name and conference on each paper** you submit via Blackboard.

3. Be aware of the Seminary policy on plagiarism. If you do not know what plagiarism is, please go to the website and find the policy in the student handbook. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade.

4. If you need help with writing, you can contact the Writing Center at Wesley. Their contact information is 202-885-8671. The staff there is happy is assist you with writing inquiries, ***but it not their job to write the paper for you.***

Grading:

Wesley grades on a standard A through C- scale. Late papers will receive a grade reduction. Assignments due June 1 that are received after the deadline will receive a reduction of a whole grade. Assignments received after the first day of class will receive a half grade reduction. ALL course work must be received before the end of the last day of class for each term. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade and the student will have to repeat the course.

Final grades will be mailed out to the student, the GBHEM in Nashville and the student's conference representative by the end of September. Grades are not submitted on-line