

Wesley Theological Seminary
Course of Study School
New England Satellite School | Fall Session
September 9-10/October 14-15
Brunswick UMC, Brunswick, ME

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.

Class Expectations

In preparation for the September face-to-face 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)

- **Write a 4-5 page (double-spaced) paper due at the start of the first session, Friday, September 9th.** In this paper, students should: 1) provide a brief overview of the history of the church/community in your current ministry setting including demographical data (i.e. racial/ethnic composition of congregation and surrounding neighborhood(s) and socio-economic breakdown of both congregation and surrounding neighborhood(s)); 2) some issues in their current ministry context where transformational leadership is required; and, 3) what tools/practices the students hope to acquire that will assist them in leading a transformational change.

In preparation for the October face-to-face 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, October 14th. 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.