

Wesley Theological Seminary
Course of Study School
July 2017 Term 1 | July 10 – 20, 2017

CS124: Transformative Leadership
Dr. Ann A. Michel, Instructor
amichel@wesleyseminary.edu

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:

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

Parks, Lewis and Bruce Birch. *Duck Spears, dancing Madly: A Biblical Model of Church Leadership*. (Abingdon Press, 2004)

Goleman, Larry. *Finding Our Story; Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change*. (Alban Institute, 2010)

Pre-Class Written Assignments

- **Assignment One: Due June 1, 2017. To be submitted on Blackboard. See next page for the details of the assignment.**
- **Assignment 2: Due on July 11, 2017. Bring to class. See next page for the details of the assignment.**

Assignment One: Due June 1, 2017

Assignment One, Part One: Read *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 this 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 spaces.

- *God uses unexpected persons and works through surprising circumstances.... Over and over again in 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 life will be unmanageable 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 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 out personal covenant 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. (p. 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)*

Assignment One, Part Two: Read *Finding your 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 July 11, 2017

Based on your reading of *Church Leadership: Vision, Team, Culture, Integrity*, Revised Edition (Abingdon Press, 2010) by Lovett Weems, Jr., 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 of 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.