

**Wesley Theological Seminary**  
**Course of Study – Spring Weekend Term 2019**  
**January 18-19, February 2, and February 23, 2019**

**The first session will take place at the Comfort Inn in Exton, PA with classes beginning at 7pm-9pm, Friday, and 9am-3pm, Saturday. The two following Saturday sessions will take place at West Chester UMC in West Chester, PA.**

**CS-323 Congregational Care**

**Instructor: Truman Brooks**

[tbrooksumcwc@gmail.com](mailto:tbrooksumcwc@gmail.com)

**Course Goals:**

This course introduces students to practices of congregational care and the pastor's responsibility in caregiving.

Students will be able to:

1. Implement and oversee appropriate types of care in varieties of settings, including prisons, hospitals, nursing facilities, and homes.
2. Organize caring ministries within the congregation.
3. Discern and implement appropriate boundaries, knowing when and to whom to refer people, and when and when not to share information.
4. Reflect on and practice skills of sensitive caregiving, using role play and analysis case studies.

**Required Texts:**

Jeanne Hoeft, Shannon Jung, Joretta Marshall, *Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities* (Fortress, 2013). ISBN#978-0800699543.

Larry Webb, *Crises Counseling in the Congregation* (Abingdon, 2011). ISBN#978-1426726989.

Ed Wimberly, *African American Pastoral Care and Counseling: Oppression and Empowerment* (Pilgrim, 2006). ISBN#978-0829816815.

**Writing Assignment:**

Complete the writing assignment described below: total of 10 double-spaced pages, Times Roman 12 point font. Please staple together in one document. Reflect intentionally on the questions and write about the most essential points.

1. Write a **two page** double-spaced summary of **each of the required texts**. The first report is due on the first session (Hoeft book). In your summary, include
  - a) main points of the book, and
  - b) lessons you have learned for your own ministry.
2. **Three page** double-spaced paper on Care giving:
  - a) Write one page on a situation in your ministry when you offered **effective** pastoral care.
  - b) Write one page on a situation in your ministry when you offered **ineffective** pastoral

care.

c) In one page, **note what you think contributed** to the **effective** or **ineffective** care.

3. **One page** double-space paper on spiritual practice:

Describe your primary spiritual practice, including what you do and how often. If you do not currently have one, what can you imagine doing on a regular basis.

4. On 3 X 5 index cards, write one care situation that you would find difficult in each of these settings- prison, hospital, nursing home, and at a parishioner's home. (One card per setting.) Also, on an index card write the most effective congregational care system you have experienced in any setting in any church you have experienced. (We will discuss these positive examples.)