

November 26, 2018

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Dear Course of Study Students;

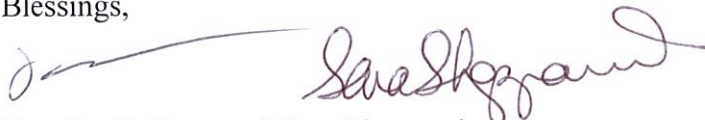
As you may have heard, a process is underway to transition the Buffalo Extension Course of Study to become a Satellite school administered by Wesley Theological Seminary and located at the UNY conference center in Syracuse, NY. For many years, the Buffalo Extension has served part-time local pastors well by offering them a place to take the majority of their courses close to home. This change will provide increased access to theological education for a larger number of local pastors, both part-time and full-time, and allow us to offer fifth year classes while benefiting from the location of the conference center in Syracuse, NY. In addition, as a Regional School we will be able to provide instruction via a number of formats adding to the ease and increased access to all of the Upper New York Annual Conference and other areas of the Northeast Jurisdiction.

No doubt you have a lot of questions about what this will mean going forward. In the short term, the Buffalo Extension School will operate according to its existing course schedule and location through the rest of the academic year until July 1, 2019, when it becomes the Wesley Satellite School in Upper New York. We are making plans for course offerings after July 2019 and will be working in consultation with identified stakeholders in the region to allow us to be aware of issues particular to the Upper New York context. Those details will be announced soon.

In a time of uncertainty in the denomination, we are convinced that--as has always been the case in the past--Christians who are committed to being a part of God's mission in the world will find that they can best do that with an education. We are humbled to be a part of the process of training local pastors who will be responsible for leading the UMC into the future across the entire Northeast Jurisdiction and denomination, and we look forward to working with you through the Course of Study.

Please feel free to reach out to either of us with questions or concerns.

Blessings,



Douglas D. Tzan and Sara Sheppard

Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study

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