

Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study
New England Satellite Spring Term – The Rock Church, Sandown, NH
April 17-18 and May 22-23, 2020

CS 223 Worship and Sacraments
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Course Description

This course examines worship within The United Methodist Church including liturgy, sacraments, and special services. Attention will be given to the pastor's role as leader in worship.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a theology of worship consistent with the Wesleyan tradition, including reflection on the theology and rhythm of the Christian year.
2. Articulate a Wesleyan theology of the sacraments and be competent in their administration.
3. Interpret theologically the rites of Christian Marriage, and of Death and Resurrection, and be able to lead such services well.
4. Construct a worship service, and reflect theologically on the use of hymns, media, contemporary music, and lay leadership.

Texts

1. Robin Knowles Wallace *The Christian Year: A Guide for Worship and Preaching*
2. Laurence Stookey *Let the Whole Church Say Amen!* This is a workbook with space to write in the pages. Please buy a paper copy so that you can submit it for review.
3. Hoyt Hickman *Worshipping with United Methodists: A Guide for Pastors and Church Leaders*
4. Taylor Burton-Edwards *Living into the Mystery: A United Methodist Guide to Celebrating Holy Communion*

Reference

5. *United Methodist Book of Worship*
6. By Water and the Spirit - <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text>
7. This Holy Mystery - <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion>

Program Schedule

- Friday April 17, 2020 through Saturday April 18, 2020 - Session 1 classes held
- Friday May 22, 2020 through Saturday May 23, 2020 Session 2 classes held

Assignment Instructions

Assignments 1 is due March 15 - to help the instructor plan for the lecture time, Assignments 2-5 part 1 are due April 17 and Assignments 5, part 2-8 are due May 22. All assignments are due by 1 p.m. on the first day of class via Blackboard. Your work must be received on time to receive

full credit. *Each assignment should be double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman (or similar) font, with one-inch margins.* Except for question one please read the textbook materials before you answer your questions. Your answers are to be in your own words, while showing you understand the main ideas found in the assignments.

Assignments

1. **Your Experiences Leading Worship DO THIS BEFORE YOU READ THE ASSIGNED BOOKS** Write a paper outlining actual questions or quandaries about United Methodist worship that have come up for you and/or your congregation(s) since you began your pastoral ministry. Consider the following in your context:
 - a. Attending to the liturgical year
 - b. Administering the sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion)
 - c. Conducting funerals
 - d. Conducting marriages (2 pages)
2. **Become a Book of Worship Trivia Champ** Review the table of contents of the BOW, read all of the introductions to sections, and read over the rubrics. Make note of any questions you have. Come to class on April 17 ready to play BOW trivia against your classmates and win amazing prizes.
3. **Let the Whole Church Say Amen** Read through this workbook and do all of the exercises. Please work through it as Stookey designed it to be done in short segments every two or three days, not all at once. Exercises 1-12 and Interlude C should be completed by 1 p.m. on Friday April 17. The remaining exercises should be completed by 1 p.m. Friday May 22. Bring your workbook to class for review by the teacher.
4. **Explanatory Letter** The daughter of an active member of your congregation sends you an e-mail asking if you will “do her wedding” six weeks from now. She has already booked the reception hall and paid for the photographer so the date is not flexible. There is nothing on your calendar or the church calendar that conflicts with this date. The bride was confirmed in your church years ago, but she and her betrothed now live 120 miles away. You don’t know anything about how they may currently be living out their faith. Write a letter describing the intents and purposes of the rite of Christian Marriage as outlined in the United Methodist Book of Worship. Then explain under what conditions you would be willing to conduct their wedding, or why you would not be willing to do so (2 pages).

5. Writing and Analyzing Liturgy

Part 1

- a. Carefully read pages 33-80 of the *Book of Worship, This Holy Mystery*, and *Living Into the Mystery*.
- b. Then read the Open Source Liturgy Project Document and Slides:
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TVIVusmL11ry4zByhtoQ2OvBzx-P47ROIyts_Aj_N0E/edit?usp=sharing

- <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SPL5-uSNf06Cd676WKp7cKvl0qNKo6r3xvN40SQIdMY/edit?usp=sharing>
- c. Read *A Native American Celebration of Holy Communion*
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-native-american-celebration-of-holy-communion>
- d. Read *Breaking Bread Behind the Wall*
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/breaking-bread-behind-the-wall-a-prison-communion-liturgy>
- e. Read *Holy Communion at the End of an Appointment*
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/holy-communion-at-the-end-of-an-appointment>
- f. Then following the core for developers, put together a communion liturgy for one of the following contexts.
 - i. The birthday celebration of a parishioner who has turned 100
 - ii. The end of a church retreat
 - iii. The dedication of a new food pantry
- g. Turn in this liturgy on April 17 with the rest of your papers (3 pages – please bring two copies of this paper to class)

Part 2

- h. Using the readings, class discussions and information offered by the Open Source Liturgy Project to evaluate a class-mate's communion liturgy. Does it follow the core? Is it scripturally based and theologically sound? Is there any wording or action that may inadvertently exclude someone, or that might be misinterpreted? What adaptations would you want to make before you used this liturgy? (2 pages)
6. **Worship as Spiritual Formation** After reading Hickman, Knowles Wallace and *By Water and the Spirit* reflect on worship in light of the mission of the United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Write a paper exploring how you might lead your congregation to observe the seasons of the coming church year in a way that deepens their understanding of their baptism and confirmation. How might such worship reinforce Sarah's Wesleyan Way of Salvation for the 21st Century and the understanding of baptism as the ritual point of entry into a lifelong process of growing as a disciples of Jesus Christ, rather than just the ritual that makes them a member of the congregation? Give attention to each of the four parts of the basic pattern as well as specific seasons and days that connect with baptism or renewal of baptismal covenant services – and more common ways and times in worship to “remember your baptism and be thankful.” (4 pages)
7. **Service of Death and Resurrection** Pick a well-known Christian person from history (i.e. John F. Kennedy, Michael Landon, Princess Dianna etc.) and construct a United Methodist funeral service that both allows the congregation to rightly worship God while honoring the unique person he or she was. Use the basic pattern and the guidelines of the Service of Death and Resurrection in the Book of Worship as the skeleton, but choose the music, scripture readings, prayers, media, and lay leadership with your person in mind. Create an annotated worship bulletin to be used for this service (if your current congregation does not use the basic pattern and use bulletins, assume that you are the

pastor of a church that does). Be sure to include a paragraph about the theme of your sermon as well as explanation of each act of worship – describing how it helps the congregation worship God and/or honors the deceased as a child of God. (1 bulletin plus 2 pages of annotations)

8. **If you only knew then what you knew now....** Write a summary of the most helpful things you have learned in this class. Review what you wrote for assignment 1 and reflect on which of your questions have been addressed. (2 pages)