

Wesley Theological Seminary – Course of Study
CS-124 – Transformative Leadership
March 2023 (individual online work)
April 14 – 15, 2023 (class sessions via Zoom)

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Ann A. Michel, Senior Consultant, Lewis Center for Church Leadership
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, theologically, and practically
2. Understand the dynamics of change in congregational life
3. Consider how discerning and communicating a vision is essential to effectuating change in congregations
4. See leadership as an interactive, collaborative process that inherently involves group processes and forms others as leaders
5. Identify and master best practices related to congregational leadership in areas such as engaging and equipping laity, developing new leaders, working with teams, mastering meetings, communications, and responding to conflict.

TEXT BOOKS

These books should be read before completing your pre-assignment, due March 17. Specific chapters from these books and other short reading assignments will be highlighted in the online learning modules.

Productive Leadership: A Guide for Ministry in the Small Church (Resource Publications, 2021) by Roy L. Spore.

The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, and Effective (Bethany House, 2010) by Brandon O'Brien.

Synergy: A Leadership Guide for Church Staff and Volunteers (Abingdon Press, 2017) by Ann A. Michel.

COURSE COMPONENTS AND SCHEDULE

MARCH

1. **Written Pre-assignment.** Due March 17, 2023 (25% of grade)
In this assignment you will be asked to assess your strengths and weaknesses as a leader in relation to the leadership demands of your ministry setting. Details of this assignments will be found on Blackboard and your work should be submitted via Blackboard.

2. **Online Learning Module 1:** Reflection Assignment due March 24 (15% of grade)
Details of this assignments will be found on Blackboard and your work should be submitted via Blackboard.
3. **Online Learning Module 2:** Reflection Assignment due March 31 (15% of grade)
Details of this assignments will be found on Blackboard and your work should be submitted via Blackboard.

APRIL

4. **Final Written Assignment.** Due Friday, April 14 (45% of grade)
In this assignment you will be asked to outline personal leadership goals and plans that draw on key learnings from our text books and course learnings. Details of this assignments will be found on Blackboard and your work should be submitted via Blackboard.
5. **Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15 - Live Class Sessions via Zoom**
Schedule and Login instructions will be announced via Blackboard.
Please plan to be available starting at 1 pm Friday April 14. We will finish by 1 pm on Saturday, April 15.

GRADING

Feedback on assignments will be provided via Blackboard. Final grades will be posted no later than May 1, 2023 as stipulated in the instructor's teaching contract. Assignments will be graded based on the following criteria:

- Demonstration of mastery of course teachings
- Application of key learnings from reading assignments
- Clarity and focus of written work
- Ability to contextualize course learnings and apply them to ministry context

Grades will be tabulated based on the following distribution:

Pre-class written assignment	25%
Online learning modules	30%
Final written assignment	45%