

**Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study
CS 223 Worship and Sacraments Summer 2023**

**Online Asynchronous Videos
and
Mandatory Zoom Meetings
Friday June 2, 9:00-10:00 am
Monday-Friday July 17-21, 8:00-10:45 am**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Mount Elewononi
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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 designer of and 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 Christian time.
2. Articulate a Wesleyan theology of 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 of Word and Table with attention to flow, and reflect theologically on the use of hymns, media, contemporary music, and lay leadership.

Texts

1. Laurence Stookey *Let the Whole Church Say Amen!* This is a workbook with space to write in the pages, so please buy a paper copy.
2. Hoyt Hickman *Worshipping with United Methodists: A Guide for Pastors and Church Leaders*
3. Ruth, Lester *Flow: The Ancient Way to do Contemporary Worship*
(You may access electronic copy of this from Wesley Library)

Optional Books

Smith, James K. A. *[You are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit](#)*

Vogel, Dwight W., OSL, *[Food for Pilgrims: A Journey with St. Luke](#)*

Required Reference

4. *United Methodist Book of Worship* If you don't own a copy, please buy one
5. [By Water and the Spirit](#) – download and print out
6. [This Holy Mystery](#) – download and print out

7. Taylor Burton-Edwards *[Living into the Mystery: A United Methodist Guide to Celebrating Holy Communion](#)*

The video lessons in this course are presented in a specific order. Please do not jump ahead and do work before you've watched the videos (and read the relevant books and documents). Small group discussion is an important aspect of this course. You will be matched with 1-2 other students with whom you will discuss the videos, and hold one another in prayer outside of our Zoom meetings. The written assignments are meant to show how you are integrating the ideas presented in this class into your pastoral work of planning and leading worship with your specific congregation.

Program Schedule

Prelude

- As soon as you register, please fill in his Basic Info Google Doc [here](#). This is Assignment #1.
- Sign up for the Safe Harbor Discord server using the link Sarah sends you.
- Friday, June 2, 2023 turn in second assignment to Blackboard – please write it before you read any of the assigned books, or watch any videos. You may turn it in as soon as Blackboard accepts it. This is Assignment #2.
- Attend the orientation meeting for the course on Zoom on June 2, 2023 at 9 a.m.

Part 1

- **Safe Harbor Groups** You will be formed into small groups of 2 or 3 called Safe Harbor Groups. You will then meet through the Safe Harbor Discord Server (or phone conference if necessary) for 30 minutes at a mutually agreed upon time each week starting June 9. The group may change the time from week to week, or skip a week and meet twice the next (to accommodate vacations) but please make every effort to meet for 30 minutes on each recorded lesson.
- **Teaching Videos** Watch the teaching videos on your own before your group meets.
- **Meet in your Safe Harbor group** to share how the videos connect to your understanding and ministry setting, and pray for one another.
- Drop in and talk with Sarah in the Safe Harbor Parlor during office hours as needed
Times: TBA

Part II

The Zoom meetings from 8-10:45 on July 17-21 are still being planned. The aim is for interactive learning activities and discussion of the material we have read.

Assignments are also being revised to fit this particular course....here is what I've determined so far...

1. [Basic Information form](#). Please use this link and fill out the Google form as soon as you register for the course.
2. **What You Want to Learn From this Course** DO THIS BEFORE YOU READ THE ASSIGNED BOOKS OR WATCH THE VIDEOS. Write a letter to me describing what you hope to learn in this course. You have likely been leading worship for quite a while already. Discuss actual quandaries you currently have about United Methodist worship; issues that have come up for you and/or your congregation(s) since you began your pastoral ministry. What do you hope to better understand? What questions do you, or your congregation members have about:
 - a. Attending to the liturgical year
 - b. Administering Baptism and Holy Communion
 - c. Conducting funerals
 - d. Conducting weddings (2 pages)

This assignment is meant to help me cover these topics in our time together.

3. **Become a Book of Worship Trivia Champ** Review the table of contents of the BOW, read all of the introductions to each section, and read over the rubrics (*red italics*). Make note of any questions you have and be sure to ask Sarah by email. Take the BOW trivia quiz found on Blackboard. You may use your BOW while answering the quiz. (Due July 16)
4. **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. Post a couple of your favorite original prayers that you wrote with Stookey's guidance, clearly indicating which exercise in the book that they come from on Blackboard by July 16.
5. **Writing Liturgy**
You will be given specific instructions for designing your own worship service, and putting to use what you are learning about Communion via This Holy Mystery. This will be a service you are meant to actually use with your congregation.
6. **Analyzing Liturgy**
You will be given another student's worship service from assignment 5 and asked to evaluate it based on the specific criteria presented in this course – with the intent of making your colleagues work stronger. Your work from Assignment 5 will also be critiqued by a fellow student.
7. **Worship as Spiritual Formation**
A major theme of this course and By Water and the Spirit is that Baptism and Confirmation are not just worship services, they are meant to mark a commitment on the part of the congregation and the individual to the ongoing work of Spiritual Formation.

This paper will have you discuss how these ideas are influencing your practice of ministry and work as a pastor.

8. Weddings

9. Funerals

- 10. If you only knew then what you knew now....** Save this for last. 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. What new questions have been stirred up by this class? (1 page)