

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO AT MTSO

2010 Summer Intensive

August 9-20, 2010

COS 412 – Wesleyan Movement

James Parnell

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

Critical reflection upon significant individuals, decisive events, and fundamental tenants of the Christian faith as found in the development of United Methodism. Using the categories of *grace and faith* as a focusing lens, students will appropriate particulars of the Wesleyan heritage and enter into the Church's ongoing task of interpreting, articulating, and enacting the gospel in contemporary life. The objectives include:

1. Review of factors in the English Reformation, the Puritan revolution, and German Pietism which illuminate the (Methodist) Evangelical Revival.
2. Introduction to John, Charles, and Susanna Wesley with emphasis upon the ministry and theology of John Wesley and the development of Methodist societies within 18th-century Anglicanism.
3. Examination of the transformation that occurred in transplanting of Methodism to America.
4. Consideration of significant theological and historical developments in Methodism and in the Evangelical United Brethren tradition in 19th and 20th century America.
5. Reflection upon pressing theological and church polity issues facing contemporary United Methodism
6. Appreciation for and appropriation of the contribution of historical theology.
7. Continued growth of the pastor's identity as theologian.

Required Books:

Douglas M. Strong, *Reclaiming the Wesleyan Tradition –John Wesley's Sermons for Today* (ISBN 081775198)

Stephen Tomkins, *John Wesley: A Biography* (ISBN 082824994)

Randy L. Maddox: *Responsible Grace, John Wesley's Practical Theology* (ISBN 0687003342)

Frederick, A. Norwood: *The Story of United Methodism* (ISBN 0687396417)

John G. McEllhenney *200 Years of United Methodism: An Illustrated History* **online** at

<http://depts.drew.edu/lib/books/200Years/200UM/toc.htm>.

Other Recommended Books:

Kenneth J. Collins: *The Theology of John Wesley: Holy Love and the Shape of Grace* (ISBN 0687646332)

John H. McElhenney: *United Methodists in America* (ISBN 0687431700)
The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2008

ASSIGNMENTS

Read the assigned book. Then, follow the instructions below in writing your answers. *Write in your OWN words*, except to quote from one of the books. IF YOU DO QUOTE, BE SURE FOLLOW PROPER CITATION. Papers should be typed and double-spaced and 12-point font.

- I. Read the entirety of the **Tomkins** text BEFORE you arrive for class. Be reading 11 – 38 of **Norwood** book on *American Methodism*.
- II. Print outs and helpful outlines, diagrams, and other pertinent material that the instructor will refer to during class lectures will be handed out the first day of class. **Copies of the Recommended Books will be on reserve at the Library.**
- III. Read chapters 11 – 38 of Norwood book on *American Methodism* to write a *short paper* (1,500 to 2,000 words total) on each of the following aspects of the history of American Methodism: **DUE 8/14/2010**
 - a) How and why did the Methodist Episcopal Church begin, be sure to include:
 1. The beginnings of the Methodist societies in America (be sure to include a discussion of the early Lay Preachers and Wesley's Missionary Preachers);
 2. The first conference in America
 3. The sacramental controversy; How Wesley's understanding of ordination helped him respond to that controversy;
 4. The Christmas Conference of 1784;
 5. What divisions and unifications occurred in American Methodism, and why? Be sure to include discussions of the events of 1830, 1939, & 1968.
- IV. Write *short essay* (2,000 to 2,500 words total) to discuss John Wesley's understanding of the Sacraments. Be sure to include answers to the following: What is the meaning of Baptism for John Wesley? Why should infants be included? What is the meaning of Holy Communion for the Wesleys? How often should Christians take it and why? What role do the Sacraments play in your Church and how well does it follow Wesley's understandings? **DUE 8/16/2010**
- V. **Group Project.** Using the Strong's text, *Reclaiming the Wesleyan Tradition*, you will be asked to present a section to the class.

VI. Final Paper Due A typed 3,000 to 3,500 word) *reflection paper* to answer one of the following questions:

- a) Wesleyan theology has often been referred to as “the middle way”. That is, it is somewhat at the center of various theological extremes. Do you agree with such an evaluation? Are you comfortable with this concept? If so, why? If not, why? What are the benefits of extreme position? What are the drawbacks? **(Instructor’s note: The intent of this assignment is to determine the degree and level of thought on the part of the student as to exactly what is “Wesleyan Theology?”)**

 - b) Why did Wesley want Methodism to become a Church, or did he want it to be a renewal movement inside the Church of England? List some examples that show why he did, or did not. Does the Methodist congregation you serve look anything like the early Methodist movement? What is similar and what is different? What would happen if you asked the congregation to follow the *General Rules*? If Wesley would join your congregation for worship service what might he say about the Church today?

 - c) As you consider your congregation and your ministry there, reflect on what difference this knowledge of Methodist heritage and theology makes. Is it significant, or does it seem “alien” to your current situation? What does this Methodist heritage of belief and practice offer to your congregation? What do you hope this class will help you to do in your pastoral ministry? How do you think it will affect the way you think about and preach the faith?
- DUE 9/07/2010**

Assignments will contribute to the final grade using the following formula:

15%	Attendance, Participation in Discussion
25%	Paper 1
20%	Paper II
15%	Group Exercise
25%	Final Paper

Students must be present for **every** class session and participation in class discussion is expected. Students must complete all assignments on time, as there are **no** extensions or make-up exams. **All written assignments** must be typed and double-spaced, and must show attention to the rules of grammar, punctuation, and academic citation.

Course Syllabus**

DAY	Text
1. <u>Course Introduction and Background</u> a. Course Introduction and Overview b. The Spiritual Context of 17 th & 18 th -century England	Tomkins
2. <u>Introduction to Early Methodism</u> [Pietism] a. The Life and Legacy of John Wesley b. The Development of Early Methodism c. The Cultural Content of England and Methodism's Response	Tomkins
3. <u>The Development of American Methodism</u> [Nationalism] a. Early American Methodism b. German-American "Methodism" (the E.U.B. Tradition) c. African-American Methodism	Norwood
4. <u>Further Development of the American Methodist Tradition</u> [Idealism] a. Holiness Tradition b. Itinerancy c. Camp Meetings	Norwood
5. <u>The United Methodist Church</u> [Pluralism] a. Connectionalism b. Theology, Polity, and Worship	<i>Book of Discipline</i>
6. <u>Wesley's Theology, Part 1 Faith</u> a. The Christian Life: Turning to God (Original Sin, Prevenient Grace, Repentance) b. The Christian Life: The Way to Salvation (Justification, New Birth, and Assurance)	Strong
7. <u>Wesley's Theology, Part 2 Grace</u> a. The Christian Life: Sanctification (Growth in Salvation) b. The Goal of the Christian: Perfect Love (Perfection)	Strong
8. <u>Wesley's Theology Part 3 The Sacraments</u> a. The Lord's Supper b. Baptism	Strong

9. Summary/Review: Characteristics of a Wesleyan Movement

Maddox

- a. The Unique Shape of Wesleyan Theology
- b. The Unique Shape of Wesleyan Ministry Practice

10. Contemporary Issues and Course Conclusion

- a. Contemporary Issues in United Methodist Church: Theology, Polity and Practice
- b. Course Conclusion

****I reserve the right to change this schedule to meet the needs of the student and time restrictions of this course.**

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements must be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting the published or unpublished words or ideas of another [including online resources] as if it were one's own work. A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly (whether intentionally or unintentionally) uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions:

- (1) warning
- (2) probation
- (3) suspension for the remainder of the course
- (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio
- (5) failing grade for the course.

Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's district superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry.

Cokesbury Bookstore

The Methodist Theological School in
Ohio

3081 Columbus Pike

Delaware, Ohio 43015

TEXT ORDER FORM

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO

COS 412

The Wesleyan Movement

Instructor: Jim Parnell

Summer Intensive 2010

Required Books

An Introduction to World Methodism

John Wesley: A Biography

Responsible Grace-John Wesley's Practical Theo

Reclaiming the Wesleyan Tradition

ORDERING INFORMATION

American Express

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Personal Cokesbury Account

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Check or Money Order

All sales, except on Church Accounts are subject to Sales Tax.

Discount price is a professional courtesy for clergy and does not apply on church accounts.

Prices and discount status are always subject to change

Shipping Charges are added unless purchase is picked up at the store.