

COS 223: Worship and Sacraments
June 27 –July 5, 2016
Western Jurisdiction Course of Study

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This course is designed to assist pastors in understanding and leading worship and developing appropriate liturgy within the United Methodist Church. Its purpose is also to help them articulate a theology of worship and to offer the sacraments within the preaching, worship and community life of the congregation and in the context of the Church year. It will also involve examination and discussion on other Church rites and services such as Marriage, Death and Resurrection, Healing.

Objectives of the course:

1. Examine biblical and theological meanings of Baptism and Holy Communion.
2. Explore ways to ways to integrate preaching and the sacraments within the worship both as teaching and transformational experiences.
3. Examine and critique the student's own theology and practice of worship/sacraments.
4. Explore the rhythms and themes of the Church's liturgical year as related to worship and the sacraments.
5. Interpret theologically the rites of the Church and be able to conduct those services.

Required Texts:

Bible

United Methodist Book of Worship/United Methodist Hymnal

Gayle C. Felton, United Methodists and the Sacraments, Abingdon, 2007

Laurence Hull Stookey, Baptism: Christ's Act in the Church, Abingdon, 1982

Laurence Hull Stookey, Eucharist: Christ's Feast With the Church, Abingdon, 1993

Laurence Hull Stookey, Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church, Abingdon, 1996

Barbara Brown Taylor, The Preaching Life, Cowley Publications, 1993

Some Suggested Texts for Book Reports

William H. Willimon, Word, Water, Wine and Bread, Judson Press 1980

William H. Willimon, Sunday Dinner, Upper Room Books, 1981

William H. Willimon, Remember Who You Are, Upper Room Books

Mark W. Stamm, Sacraments and Discipleship, Discipleship Resources, 2001

Mark W. Stamm, Let Every Soul Be Jesus' Guest, Abingdon, 2006

Course Requirements: Grades will be determined by:

1. Regular attendance and participation in class.

2. Completion of assignments and required reading during class.
3. Book report presented in class
4. Preparation of a sermon/outline and worship service around one of the sacraments.
5. Completion of Pre-class assignments.

Pre-class assignments:

1. **Book Report:** Books may be chosen from the Suggested List (above) or from your own reading in the area of worship and/or sacraments.

The report is to be written and will also be presented orally in class.

The student presenting the report will lead the class discussion on the following:

Why did you find this book helpful?

How did you/ will you apply it?

What questions did it raise for you?

What new insights did it offer?

Book reports will also be presented beginning on the second day of class.

2. Read Stookey, Baptism: Christ's Act in the Church, (Chapters 1-2)

Write a brief paper (2-3 pages) reflecting his understanding of these questions:

The meaning of "*sign*" and "*covenant*" as they are related to baptism.

The work of baptism in the believer and in the community.

3. Read Stookey, Eucharist: Christ's Feast With the Church (Chapter 1)

Write a brief paper (2-3 pages) reflecting his understanding of these questions:

How does the sacrament of communion reflect both God's invitation and our task?

How does this sacrament relate to both our individual and communal lives? How does it shape both who we are as persons and who we are as a faithful community?

4. Read Stookey, Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church (Chapter 1)

How does following the Church's liturgical year help us, "*maintain our contact with past and future*"? How does it help us bring God's future into our present?

Write a brief statement (1-2 pages)

5. Write a brief paper (1-2 pages) in response to this question: What is worship? What is its place in Christian life and discipleship?
6. Submit a written question, issue or situation regarding the theology or practice of worship or the sacraments which you would like to discuss during the class sessions.

EXTRA CREDIT: View **one** of the following movies and write a 1-2 page review of it in terms of its presentation of Baptism or Holy Communion:

Places in the Heart
Tender Mercies
Babette's Feast
O Brother Where Art Thou?

Pre-class assignments are due by June 17, 2016. Late papers will not be given class credit.