

COS 523: Our Mission: Evangelism

The Rev. Bryan L. Brooks
Calvary United Methodist Church
3701 Hillsboro Road
Nashville, TN 37215
Office: 615-297-7562 Cell: 615-691-1731
bryan.brooks@tnumc.com

September 16-17, 2016 & October 14-15, 2016
Martin Methodist College

Scope of Class:

Evangelism is a primary task of Christians and the Church. However, in contrast to narrow definitions of evangelism that have become popular, faithful evangelism must be holistic. Proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to those who have never heard it, initiating new persons into the life of Christian discipleship, reaching out to the world in service, nurturing already-committed disciples, and equipping the institution of the Church for the work of forming disciples after the example of Jesus Christ are all (but not the only) aspects of faithful evangelism. In this class, you will engage two foundational texts on Christian evangelism and consider practical approaches for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ that can be adapted to any setting of ministry.

Required Texts:

- 1) Mortimer Arias – *Announcing the Reign of God: Evangelization and the Subversive Memory of Jesus*
- 2) Scott J. Jones – *The Evangelistic Love of God and Neighbor*
- 3) Henry Knight and F. Douglas Powe – *Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith*

Reference Texts: (Note: These are suggested supplemental books. They are for further reading but not required.)

- 1) Doug Powe – *New Wine and New Wineskins: How African-American Congregations Can Reach New Generations*
- 2) Stephen Gunter, Elaine Robinson, ed. – *Considering the Great Commission*

Also, please bring a Bible of your choosing.

Pre-work Assignments

- 1) Read *Announcing the Reign of God* by Mortimer Arias and provide a one to two paragraph summary of each chapter. The summaries should display comprehension of the main idea(s) of each chapter. This will constitute 25% of your grade.
- 2) Read *Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith* by Henry Knight and F. Douglas Powe.
- 3) Provide a one-to-three page description of your current ministry setting including (10% of your grade):
 - a. Location
 - b. Size and type of community (e.g. rural, urban, suburban, campus, etc...)
 - c. Demographics of the community (predominant age groups, income sources, etc..)
 - d. Demographics of the congregation (predominant age groups, education levels, family types, etc...)
 - e. Any other information you think is pertinent to the health and growth of your ministry setting
 - f. Please use 12 point, Times New Roman font for this assignment.

Grading:

- 25% - Pre-work Assignment 1 above (reading and summary of *Announcing the Reign of God*)
- 10% - Pre-work Assignment 2 above (description of ministry setting)
- 30% - Assignment 3 to be given during the first weekend of class and handed-in during the second weekend (This will include reading *The Evangelistic Love of God and Neighbor* by Scott J. Jones and providing a one-to-two paragraph summary of each chapter.)
- 25% - In-class examination at conclusion of second weekend
- 10% - Class participation, including attendance and engagement with class discussion and exercises