

2017 Course of Study School
Hiwassee College, Madisonville, TN
March 31 – April 1, 2017 & May 12 - 13, 2017

Course: COS 123 – Formation and Discipleship

Instructor: Bob Winstead

Texts

Tye, Karen B. *Basics of Christian Education* (St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2000). ISBN 9780827202290

Janet Marshall Eibner and Susan Graham Walker. *God, Kids, & Us* (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 1997). ISBN 9780819217301 (*Read through page 80 and take a look at worksheets 1 and 3*)

Job, Ruben P. *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*. (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2007). ISBN 9780687649662

Matthaei, Sondra Higgins. *Formation in Faith: The Congregational Ministry of Making Disciples* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2008). ISBN 9780687649730

***For Reference:** *Foundations of Christian Education: Shaping the Ministry of Christian Education in Your Congregation*, General Board of Discipleship of the UMC, 2010 (the text can be found on the GBOD website)

Assignment 1:

- A. Read *Basics of Christian Education* by Karen Tye, pp. 1-131 **and** *Formation in Faith* by Sondra Matthaei.
- B. Read *God, Kids, & Us* by Janet Eibner and Susan Walker, pp. 1-80 **and** *Three Simple Rules* by Ruben Job, pp. 7-63.

Assignment 2: (6 to 9 pages total)

This assignment is due the first weekend! (25% of course grade)

Provide a detailed written description and evaluation of your current educational ministry.

Part 1: (3 to 4 pages)

- Describe your congregation with particular attention to the education ministries you have. (*Note: if you are appointed to a multi-point charge please choose only one congregation on which to do this assignment.*) Begin with a general description of the congregation and setting, including a brief explanation of the community demographics and how these are represented in your congregation.
- Next, describe the way the congregation teaches. Include all educational programs like worship, Sunday School and Bible Studies or other small groups, special events like

Vacation Bible School, retreats, confirmation classes, etc. Be complete in your descriptions with number and size and age group of participants, teachers & curriculum materials used, events in the congregation, and other activities that help explain your situation.

- Conclude with a brief description of worship, describing how your worship is educational for children, youth and adults. Explain how you plan and order worship, and why you choose this structure for your worship.

Part 2: (2 to 3 pages)

- Assess and evaluate your educational ministry as described in Part 1 in light of your reading *Basics of Christian Education* by Karen Tye. Using the description found in Chapter Two, what is the *purpose* of education in your congregation?
- Using the different models of how people grow in faith explained in Chapter 2 of *Formation in Faith* by Sondra Matthaëi, consider how these models might assist you in designing a program for Christian formation in your congregation.

Part 3: (1 to 2 pages)

- Evaluate your educational ministry from a pastoral perspective. Here is the place for your personal assessment and evaluation. Describe what you are thinking and feeling about the successes and challenges for education in the congregation.
- Include:
 - Insights on the congregation's education ministry in addition to what the authors of the texts emphasize
 - Issues and challenges of education ministry in the church's life
 - what you think the pastor's role might be to address these issues

Assignment 3: (3 to 4 pages) (do ONE of the following two assignments – your choice.)

This assignment is due the second weekend! (25% of course grade)

Choice A-- If you choose Eibner & Walker, do this assignment:

The authors state the following fundamental assumptions and beliefs:

- 1) Children are capable of meaningful religious experience;
- 2) Children sense God's presence and respond to it;
- 3) Children have deep relationships with God; and
- 4) Children should be active participants in the ministry of the church.

Given these assumptions and beliefs, write a short paper describing the role of children as members of the congregation, how you see the congregation's ministries to include persons of all ages, and how you as a pastor might lead the congregation in the inclusion of children and families in the life and ministry of the church. You are encouraged to use examples from the congregation you serve, both ways that you see this happening and ways that you do not.

Please do not quote the book back to us – your thoughts and ideas are what is desired in this paper, as you engage and converse with the ideas of Eibner and Walker. However, you do need to cite all works referenced, including any quotes or ideas taken from secondary sources.

Choice B-- If you choose to work with the Ruben Job text, do this assignment:

In the introduction to his book, Ruben Job asks the following questions:

“Do we look at one another and see movement toward our oneness in Christ? Do others look at us and see God at work in our life together? Is our way of living life-giving rather than life-draining? Is our way of living one that will enhance the quality of life of each of us for as long as we live?”

Write a short paper explaining how you would answer these questions given your experience in the church today? Next, consider how your leadership as a pastor might be different if you were to begin following the “Three Simple Rules” for your own life. Finally, discuss how you might lead the congregation in following the “Three Simple Rules” as a way of serving in ministry together.

Please do not quote the book back to us – your thoughts and ideas are what is desired in this paper, as you engage and converse with the ideas of Ruben Job. However, you do need to cite all works referenced, including any quotes or ideas taken from any sources.

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