

APPLACHIAN LOCAL PASTOR'S SCHOOL
COURSE OF STUDY 423 – MISSION
MAY 21-25, 2018, UNION COLLEGE, BARBOURVILLE, KY
INSTRUCTOR: DR. REX T. KANEY
Email: rexkaney@comcast.net

Course Description:

This course introduces the theology and scope of mission, and the pastor's role in leading congregations in their mission as agents of God's transforming redemption.

Course Target Outcomes: Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical and theological framework for Christian mission.
2. Explain the Wesleyan relationship of personal piety and social holiness.
3. Examine and reflect on unjust social realities and the response of the church locally and globally.
4. Analyze their ministry context and develop strategies for transforming mission.

Required Texts:

Robert, Dana. Christian Mission: How Christianity Became A World Religion. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009. (ISBN 9780631236207)

Volf, Miroslav. A Public Faith. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2011. (ISBN 9781587432989)

Cardoza-Orlandi, Carlos F., Mission: An Essential Guide. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002. (ISBN 0687054729)

www.umcmmission.org. The website of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

Supplementary texts:

Jennings, Theodore W., Good News to the Poor: John Wesley's Evangelical Economics. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990. (ISBN 9780687155286)

Dudley, Carl S., Next Steps in Community Ministry. Alban Institute Publication, 1999. (ISBN 1566991684)

McLaren, Brian D., Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007. (ISBN 9780849901836)

Expectations:

All students are expected to submit course assignments to Dr. Barbara Nye by April 5, 2018. A letter grade will be deducted for each day an assignment is late unless an extension is granted by Dr. Nye. Attendance is expected at all classes. **If a student is absent more than 20% of class time a grade cannot be received.**

All work should be typed, double-spaced and in the students own words. Avoid plagiarism by citing all sources used. Please utilize spell check and grammar check to assist in clarity of writing.

Pre-Course Assignments:

Summarize the basic themes found in Dana Robert's Christian Mission. Pay particular attention to ways in which Christian mission has evolved and the theological, social, political, and justice issues involved. (4 pages)

On page xvii, in the introduction of A Public Faith, Miroslav Volf indicates that he explores three simple questions in his book. Give a brief description of his answers to each of the questions and any reactions you have to those answers. (4 pages)

Summarize the main themes in each chapter of Mission: An Essential Guide, and give your reaction to the issues which he addresses. (4 pages)

Explore the website of the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Pay particular attention to the “Learn About Us” section which has a focus on theology in mission. Write a brief summary of that theology. Utilizing the “Get involved” section (or any others that will help) search to discover if there is a project in which your church has been involved or if there is one (or more) to which your church could be drawn. Give a brief description of these. Read the “Mission Minute” stories and summarize the common themes found among them. (2 pages)

Grading:

Grading will be based upon the following format: pre-work 25%, classroom participation and any classroom assignments 25%, and final examination 50%. The final examination will be “open book” and will cover all classroom lectures and textbooks. The exam will be sent via email directly to the instructor and will be due no later than 5 days following the last day of class.

Daily Outline:

Day one:

- Introductions and housekeeping
- Defining “mission”
- Exploring the biblical and theological foundation for mission.
- Assigning mini research projects for classroom presentations

Day Two

- The importance of mission in the life of the church
- Critical factors involved when engaging in mission
- The relationship of Christianity to other faiths

Day Three

- A Wesleyan understanding of mission
- Personal piety and social holiness as a single focus
- Exploring the global mission of the UMC
- Classroom presentations

Day Four

- Classroom presentations continued
- The role of the church in the public arena
- The church as pastor to the world
- The necessity of shifting assumptions

Day Five

- The local church and the global church connections
- Mission as a determining factor in the health of a local church
- Assessing the mission “health” of each congregation represented in class
- The role of the pastor in developing, shaping, and maintaining mission consciousness