

**COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO  
METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL OF OHIO**

**COURSE 124 – Transformative Leadership  
Winter 2023  
SYLLABUS**

*This course will begin with a prework assignment. The class begins online February 17-18, 2023; then continues online and concludes with the final assignment due March 25, 2023.*

**Instructors:**

Rev. Dr. Tom Hanover, retired clergy from West Ohio Conference UMC  
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**COS 124 – Transformative Leadership: Course Objectives**

This course forms the student’s identity as pastoral leader and change agent in congregations, The United Methodist Church, and the world.

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course forms the student’s identity as pastoral leader and change agent in congregations, the United Methodist Church, and the world.

Students will be able to:

1. Identify and understand the attributes of good leaders, Biblically and theologically.
2. Evaluate and strengthen their own identities and skills as pastoral leaders.
3. Explain and reflect on the nature of change in the local congregation and wider society.
4. Implement visioning, strategizing, and planning processes in their local congregations.

**Required Textbooks:**

- 1) Lewis Parks & Bruce Birch, *Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly: A Biblical Model of Church Leadership* (Abingdon Press, 2004)
- 2) Marva Dawn and Eugene Peterson, *The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call* (William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2000)
- 3) Alan J. Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk – *The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World* (Jossey-Bass, 2006; ISBN 0-7879-8325-X)

***(Students are responsible for obtaining their own books):***

## Course Schedule:

### Pework Assignment

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry requires Course of Study Students to submit a “prework writing assignment” due by **February 17, 2023**, submitted through Populi. This is included in an expected 20 pages of written assignments.

### First Zoom Weekend: February 17-18, 2023

☞ The First Zoom Weekend will be Friday, February 17, 6-8 pm; Saturday, February 18, 9-11 am, and 1-3 pm.

### Online Environment: February 19-March 16, 2023

☞ This course continues and concludes with work online utilizing Populi, the MTSO online web access. Typical work includes reading assigned books or documents, engaging in on-line discussion groups, and writing reflections on case studies

### Second Zoom Weekend: **March 17-18, 2023**

☞ The second weekend is conducted online via Zoom; Friday, March 17, 6-8 pm, and Saturday, March 18, 9-11 am and 1-3 pm. All online engagement will be complete by **March 18, 2023**. Please note the **final written assignment** is due **March 25, 2023**.

### Final Course Project/Paper:

☞ Final Paper (8-10 pages) is due by **11:59 pm EDT, March 25, 2023**.

## Course Assignments

### Pework:

Read Parks & Birch, *Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly: A Biblical Model of Church Leadership*. Write 6-8 pages, double spaced, font 12, addressing the following topics:

1. Parks asserts: “It is the witness of the books of Samuel that the secret of leadership is a robust intimacy with God.” (p. 13) How would you compare the leadership of Samuel, Saul, and David?
2. Compare the “call” stories of Samuel, Saul, and David. How are these like or not like your “call” story? Each of these had their calls confirmed by others. Who is part of confirming your call?
3. Parks observes: “To be set apart for leadership is not a call to be isolated and lonely, but a call to recognize our connection to God as the defining element in our lives.” (p. 88) Also: “The leader of God’s people filled with compassion but doing the hard thing anyway is the preferred image of church leadership.” (p. 91) How does your call to ministry leadership set you apart? What brings joy? What brings pain?

February 17-18, 2023

First Zoom Weekend Outline

Friday 6:00-8:00 pm

Life Cycles and Discontinuous Change (obj 3)

The Case Approach (obj 1-4)

Saturday 9:00-11:00 am

Strength-based Leadership (obj 2)

Case Study Practice (obj 1-4)

1:00-3:00 pm

Biblical and Theological Reflection on Leadership (obj 1)

Class details

February 24, 2023

Read Marva Dawn and Eugene Peterson, *The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call*

Discussion Questions on Populi

According to Dawn and Peterson, pastors are unnecessary. What do they mean by that?

March 3, 2023

Read Case Study: *Walnut Ridge Church*

Write 2-3 page summary using the Case Approach. Post in Populi.

Discussion Question on Populi

According to Dawn and Peterson: "Christian community is developed by the Holy Spirit using men and women who are mature in their relationships, who have acquired the habits of the heart that make it possible to live in faith and faithfulness." (Chapter 8) How would this impact your leadership and the leadership of your key leaders?

March 10, 2023

Read Alan J. Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk – *The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*. Chapters 1-5.

Discussion Question on Populi

Looking at the graphic on page 41 (Three Zone Model of Missional Leadership, Roxburgh and Romanuk), where would you place your church and why?

March 17, 2023

Read Case Study: *Northville Church*

Write 2-3 page summary using the Case Approach. Post in Populi.

March 17-18, 2023

Second Zoom Weekend Outline

Friday 7:00 – 9:00 pm  
Leadership according to John Wesley (obj. 1)

Saturday 9:00 – 11:00 am  
Self-differentiated Leadership (obj. 1, 2, 3)

1:00 – 3:00 pm  
Discerning Vision (obj 4)  
Pulling it all together – Final Document

Final Document

“What is Transformational Leadership?” 8-10 pages.

Due March 25, 2023, 11:59 pm EDT

1. What are the attributes of good leaders, Biblically and theologically?
2. Describe and evaluate your own identity and skills as a pastoral leader.
3. Explain and reflect on the nature of change and how it affects your local congregation and community.
4. How can you go about implementing visioning, strategizing, and planning processes in your local congregation?

### Grading

Pework written assignment: 15% of grade.

On Campus and Zoom class participation: 10% of grade

Discussion Group Questions in Populi (3): 10% each, total of 30%

Case Studies (2): 10% each, total of 20%

Final Document: 25%

Discussion Group Questions

Students are expected to participate in the online chat room through Populi each week. Students are expected to contribute one original thought and respond to the thoughts of two others each week. Discussion questions are posted to guide the conversation. Extra participation and significant thoughtful contributions earn extra credit.

What I am looking for is reflection and integration. Reflection – What have you learned or experienced that is different from your previous experience? Integration – how does what you are learning connect with your work as a pastor?

### **COSO ATTENDANCE POLICY**

National policy from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) states that a student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school. A student missing 20% or more of the classroom work shall

not receive credit for the class. In the event of extenuating circumstances which require the student to miss up to 20% of the synchronous course time (whether in-person or on Zoom), the student should contact both the instructor and the Director prior to the start of the class to get approval and discuss make-up work. (Extenuating circumstances include emergency situations, illness, and dire circumstances, for example. Students are to provide back-up coverage at the local church while attending COS classes.)

**CANCELLATION AND WITHDRAWAL:** Student must notify the COSSO office if they will be unable to attend class for which they are registered. Although there is no penalty when withdrawing more than two weeks in advance of the beginning of a term, registration fees are nontransferable and nonrefundable. A \$50.00 late withdrawal fee is charged for all withdrawals within two weeks of the start of a class. All tuition and housing payments are applied to a future term.

Students withdrawing after the start of a term will be assigned a grade of AW (Administrative Withdrawal) and will be responsible for the full \$300.00 tuition amount. Any annual conference scholarship applied to the student billing record becomes the student's responsibility and is due by the end of the term. Housing payment is non-refundable.

**NO SHOWS:** Except in cases of immediate and dire emergencies, if a student misses any class without notifying the COSSO office, tuition and housing fees are due immediately, a \$50.00 no show fee is charged, and the student will receive an "F" in the class.

## **COSSO ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY**

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

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations in this category include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly passing off work of another as one's own.

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 as one's own work the work of another whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly 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 sanctions: (1) warning; (2) failing grade for the assignment and/or course; (3) probation; (4) suspension; (5) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio. In severe or repeat cases (regardless of the sanctions) a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.