

## UNITED METHODIST POLITY (MS1062)

Michaelmas Term, 2012

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Charles Brockwell

### BASIC BOOKS FOR THIS COURSE

*The Wesley Study Bible* (2009). You and your churches will want to use this regularly.

*The Book of Discipline* (2008). The 2012 *Discipline* is scheduled for publication in January 2013.

*The Book of Resolutions* (2008). There will also be a 2012 *Book of Resolutions*.

*Decisions of the Judicial Council*. Available at [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org).

Frank, Thomas E. *Polity, Practice, and the Mission of the United Methodist Church* (2006 edition). Out of print but available from Amazon.

Tuell, Jack M. *The Organization of the United Methodist Church* (2009-2012 Edition).

### ON RESERVE

Asbury, Francis. "Valedictory Address to William McKendree," in Thomas A. Langford, ed., *Wesleyan Theology: A Sourcebook* (Durham, NC: Labyrinth Press, 1984), pp.67-85 [Also in the 3 ring binder.]

Brockwell, Charles. "Freedom of the Pulpit and the Dignity and Integrity of Pastoral Ministry in the United Methodist Church: The Most Important Issue of General Conference 2012." [In the 3 ring binder.]

\_\_\_\_\_. "Judicial Council Decision 1032." [In the 3 ring binder.]

\_\_\_\_\_. "Methodist Discipline: From Rule of Life to Canon Law, *The Drew Gateway* 54.2-3 (Winter-Spring 1984), pp.1-24. [Also in the 3 ring binder.]

\_\_\_\_\_. "Security of Appointment and the Dignity and Integrity of Pastoral Ministry." [In the 3 ring binder.]

\_\_\_\_\_. "The United Methodist Church as a Connectional Covenant Community. [In the 3 ring binder.]

Frank, Thomas E. & Mark W. Wethington, "Does Connectionalism Have a Future in The United Methodist Church?" *Quarterly Review*, 24:1 (Spring, 2004), pp.80-86. [Also in the 3 ring binder.]

Frank, Thomas E. *Polity, Practice, and the Mission of the United Methodist Church* (2006 edition).

Richey, Russell E.; Dennis M. Campbell & William B. Lawrence (eds.). *Connectionalism: Ecclesiology Mission and Identity* (1997).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Doctrine in Experience: A Methodist Theology of Church and Ministry* (2009).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Marks of Methodism: Theology in Ecclesial Practice* (2005).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Methodist Connectionalism: Historical Perspectives* (2009).

#### **BOOKS TO KNOW ABOUT**

Rowe, Kenneth E. (comp. & ed.), *United Methodist Studies: Basic Bibliographies* (4th edi., 1998). A 5<sup>th</sup> edition of *Basic Bibliographies* is being compiled and edited by Chris Anderson. For 200 page online version see <<[www.drew.edu/uploadedFiles/depts/Library/methodist/resources/UM\\_Biblio\\_5th\\_ed.pdf](http://www.drew.edu/uploadedFiles/depts/Library/methodist/resources/UM_Biblio_5th_ed.pdf)>>.

*The 2010 United Methodist Directory & Index of Resources* (Nashville: Cokesbury).

#### **FIVE THINGS MS 1062 WILL DO FOR YOU**

Teach you to think theologically about United Methodist connectional polity as ecclesiology -- practical divinity for Christian life together, rooted in Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience.

Give you confident working knowledge of our *Book of Discipline*.

Equip you with two teaching papers for use to interpret UM connectionalism and discipline to your people.

Engage you in an in-depth research based project.

Energize you to lead your people into affirming our *Discipline* as a discipleship document. "[In the church] things should be done decently and in order" (I Corinthians 14:40).

## **PRINCIPLES OF UNITED METHODIST ECCLESIOLOGY**

### **United Methodist Connectionalism as Ecclesiology**

Brockwell, "The United Methodist Church as a Connectional Covenant Community"

Asbury, AA Valedictory Address≅

Frank, chaps. 1 & 2

Richey et al, Preface; Introduction;

chap. 1 AConnectional≅; chap. 4 ACatholic≅

Richey, AIntroduction≅ in *Connectionalism*.

Richey, chap. 9 in *Methodist Connectionalism*

## **DISCIPLINE AND *THE DISCIPLINE* 1739 - 2012**

### **The Origin and Evolution of The Book of Discipline**

Brockwell, "Methodist Discipline: From Rule of Life to Canon Law≅

Frank, chap. 4

Richey et al, chap. 3 ADisciplined, Disciplining≅

Tuell, chap. I

## ***THE UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF DISCIPLINE***

### **Canons of Connectional Identity**

Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task;

The Ministry of All Christians;

Social Principles;

Resolutions

BD, &s 101 - 104; 120-142; 160 - 166  
*The Book of Resolutions* (not assigned reading)  
 Frank, chaps. 4 & 5  
 Tuell, chaps. I & II

### **Canons of Connectional Law**

#### **The Constitution of the Connection**

BD, pars. 1-61  
 Everett & Frank, AConstitutional Order . . ., ≅ in  
*Connectionalism*.  
 Frank, chap.  
 Tuell, chap. I

#### **The Connection: The Governing Conferences**

BD, &s 500s & 600s  
 Frank, chaps. 9 & 10  
 Tuell, chap. VI  
 Richey, chap. 3 in *Methodist Connectionalism*

#### **The Connectional Table**

BD, pars. 901-907

#### **The Connection: Parish Governance and Property Law**

BD, & 200s & 2500s  
 Frank, chap. 6 & 11  
 Tuell, chap. III & VIII

#### **The Connection: The Ministry of the Ordained**

BD, &s 132 - 142, 300s  
 Frank, chap. 7  
 Heitzenrater, AConnectionalism and Itinerancy ≅ in  
*Connectionalism*.  
 Richey, et al chap. 2 AItinerant ≅  
 Tuell, chap. IV  
 Richey, chap. 4 in *Methodist Connectionalism*

#### **The Connection: Superintending Ministry**

BD, &s 400s  
 Frank, chap. 8

Tuell, chap. V

**The Courts of the Connection & the Connection in Court**

BD, &s 2600s & 2700s

*Decisions of the Judicial Council* (Google for  
Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church)

Frank, chap. 12

Tuell, chap. IX

**The Connection: General Councils, Boards, and Agencies**

BD, &s 700s through 2400s

Tuell, chap. VII

**Issues in the Connection Today**

"2010 State of the Church Report"

([www.umc.org/stateofthechurch](http://www.umc.org/stateofthechurch); [www.umc.org/sotc2010](http://www.umc.org/sotc2010)).

Four Areas of Focus ([www.umc.org/focusareas](http://www.umc.org/focusareas)).

Worldwide Nature of The United Methodist Church  
Study Committee ([www.worldwideumc.org](http://www.worldwideumc.org)).

Call to Action Steering Team

([www.umc.org/calltoaction](http://www.umc.org/calltoaction)).

Frank, Introduction & Conclusion

Frank & Wethington, *Does Connectionalism Have a  
Future in The United Methodist Church?*

Richey, et al Postscript

Richey, chap. 13 & Conclusion in *Methodist  
Connectionalism*

Tuell, chap. X

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Semester grades will be based on three written exercises and an examination:

1) Two teaching papers on Principles of UM Polity. Both papers are required.

Topic 1) United Methodist Connectionalism and the Theological Quadrilateral (20%).

Topic 2) United Methodist Discipline 1739 to the Present (20%).

2) A Research Based Writing Project (40%)

Option 1) A Research Essay on a topic of United Methodist Ecclesiology, selected in consultation with the professor;

Option 2) Reviews of Twelve Assigned Books (see the list below);

Option 3) Your Responses to the Doctrine and Theology Questions for Commissioning and Provisional Conference Membership (BD par. 324.9.a-p). Option 3 is open to you if you are applying for commissioning at your upcoming annual conference session and have completed History and Doctrine of Methodism (E.T.1054).

3) Content of *The Book of Discipline* (20%).

This will be 150 brief answer questions from the *Discipline*.

To be eligible for a passing grade all of these exercises must be completed.

### **TEACHING PAPERS**

Imagine you are teaching these topics to a seminary class, a clergy group, or a lay group in your church. Using our readings and class discussions, prepare papers you would distribute to them on these subjects. We cannot discuss all of our assigned readings in

class. These papers must show that you have read them.

### **GUIDELINES FOR A RESEARCH ESSAY**

A RESEARCH ESSAY is less formal than a traditional term paper, but more in-depth than an opinion paper.

The RESEARCH component means reading and internalizing at least ten sources. These will be listed in a bibliography at the end of the essay and will be reflected in your exposition.

The ESSAY aspect means that you do not have to have endnotes. When you mention, quote, or draw directly upon a source you will only have to give a reference in parenthesis. ESSAY also means that you are "at full liberty" to express your own research based views.

Your research essay should be 2500 - 4000 words (10 - 15 pages double spaced) plus the bibliography.

Suggestion: 1) Select a topic from the Books for Review listed below, and treat it in-depth.

### **BOOKS FOR REVIEW [NOT ON RESERVE]**

Write a 2-3 page review of each book. I am open to substitutions for some of these titles.

Dunnam, Maxie E. & H. Newton Malony (eds.). *Staying the Course: Supporting the Church's Position on Homosexuality* (2003).

Harnish, John E. *The Orders of Ministry in the United Methodist Church* (2000).

Howell, Leon. *United Methodism @ Risk: A Wake Up Call* (2003). Alongside this read the 15 page pamphlet by Riley B. Case, *A Good News Response to United Methodism @ Risk* (2004?).

Jones, Scott J. *The Future of the United Methodist Church: Seven Vision Pathways* (2010).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Staying at the Table: The Gift of Unity for United Methodists* (2008).

Lawrence, William B. *Methodism in Recovery* (2008).

Messer, Donald E. & William J. Abraham (eds.). *Unity, Liberty, and Charity: Building Bridges Under Icy Waters* (1996).

Richey, Russell E.; William B. Lawrence & Dennis M. Campbell (eds.). *Questions for the Twenty-First Century Church* (1999).

Robbins, Bruce W. *A World Parish? Hopes and Challenges of The United Methodist Church* (2004).

Sample, Tex & Amy E. DeLong (eds.). *The Loyal Opposition: Struggling With the Church on Homosexuality* (2000).

Shaller, Lyle E. *The Ice Cube is Melting: What is Really at Risk in United Methodism?* (2004).

Slaughter, Michael. *Hijacked: Reseponding to the Partisan Church Divide* (2012).

#### **DOCTRINE AND THEOLOGY COMMISSIONING EXAM**

This is 2008 *Discipline* par. 324.9.a-p (pp. 225-226). This option is available if you are applying for commissioning and provisional membership in conference at your upcoming annual conference, and if you have completed History and Doctrine of Methodism (E.T.1054).



**EXAM ON BOOK OF DISCIPLINE CONTENT**

150 short answer questions. Exam booklet not needed; answer in the space provided.

Administered on the honor system; closed book; two hour time period at a single sitting; return the finished exam to Charles; keep a back up copy. I will provide a handout to help you prepare for this.

**GRADING POLICY**

Grades are not curved. LPTS employs the plus/minus system within letter grade levels.

Mere attendance or absence is not a factor in grading. Your ownership of our class experience, however, can provide evidence that will give you a boost, if needed, in the evaluation process.

On the other hand, excessive absence is a symptom of problems which need to be addressed. If you miss more than two class sessions you will be assigned supplementary readings for written reviews. These reviews will not be for letter grade, but will be required for completing the course. Their purpose is to help you maintain the academic integrity of this brief introduction to United Methodist ecclesiology. If you miss as many as four sessions I will request the dean to withdraw you from the course.

PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR AN INCOMPLETE EXCEPT UNDER THE MOST COMPELLING CIRCUMSTANCES! CONSULT THE CURRENT LPTS CATALOG UNDER "ACADEMIC STANDARDS" FOR REGULATIONS GOVERNING INCOMPLETES.

**CONTACTING CHARLES**

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502-592-3977 (c)

**STATED CALENDAR**

06 September      Course Begins  
18 October      Research & Study Week (no classes)  
25 October      Teaching Papers due  
09 November      Last day to Withdraw, WP, WF  
22 November      Thanksgiving break (no classes)  
06 December      Final Class; Research Essay OR Book  
Reviews OR Commissioning Theological Exam Due; *BofD*  
Exam Distributed  
13 December      *BofD* Exam Due  
14 December      End of Semester

Wesley Connection (tentative - watch for announcement):

11 September      12:30p.m.  
09 October      12:30p.m.  
13 November      12:30p.m