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


ON RESERVE


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.]


__________. “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.]


__________. Methodist Connectionalism: Historical Perspectives (2009).

BOOKS TO KNOW ABOUT


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
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, A Constitutional 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, A Connectionalism and Itinerancy in Connectionalism.
Richey, et al chap. 2 A Itinerant
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

Four Areas of Focus (www.umc.org/focusareas).
Worldwide Nature of The United Methodist Church Study Committee (www.worldwideumc.org).
Call to Action Steering Team (www.umc.org/calltoaction).
Frank, Introduction & Conclusion
Frank & Wethington, ADoes 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.


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?).

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

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


**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**

3907 Ashridge Dr.   Louisville, KY 40241  
502-426-8898 (h)   macbroc@aol.com  
502-592-3977 (c)

**STATED CALENDAR**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>06 September</td>
<td>Course Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 October</td>
<td>Research &amp; Study Week (no classes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 October</td>
<td>Teaching Papers due</td>
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<tr>
<td>09 November</td>
<td>Last day to Withdraw, WP, WF</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 November</td>
<td>Thanksgiving break (no classes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>06 December</td>
<td>Final Class; Research Essay OR Book Reviews OR Commissioning Theological Exam Due; BofD Exam Distributed</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>BofD Exam Due</td>
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<td>14 December</td>
<td>End of Semester</td>
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Wesley Connection (tentative – watch for announcement):

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<tr>
<td>11 September</td>
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<td>09 October</td>
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