

WESTERN JURISDICTION COURSE OF STUDY
SYLLABUS WITH PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENT
Summer 2022

COS 423 – Mission

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This course introduces the theology, history, and scope of Christian mission, and the pastor's role in leading congregations in their mission as agents of God's transforming redemption, both in their neighborhood, and around the planet, the earth home we share with diverse peoples. Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical and theological framework to understand how the Christian mission has made Christianity a world religion.
2. Explain how the Wesleyan movement's emphasis on personal piety and social holiness has contributed lively hope for a transformed world.
3. Examine and reflect on the church's response, locally and globally, to creatively transform unjust social realities.
4. Analyze the mission field in their local ministry context and develop strategies for mission that participate in God's transforming work near and far in our wide world.

Required Reading: *Purchase these two!*

—*Methodist Mission at 200: Serving Faithfully Amid the Tensions*, edited by Thomas Kemper & David W. Scott (General Board of Global Ministries and Abingdon, 2020).

—*Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*, by Dana L. Robert (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009).

Supplementary Resources: *You do not have to purchase these, but they will be useful. The instructor is locating further online resources that will provide much of the insight that you might get from reading these resources in more detail.*

Mission through the lens of process-relational theology of John B. Cobb, Jr.

Jesus' Abba: The God Who Has Not Failed (Fortress Press, 2015).

Salvation: Jesus's Mission and Ours (Process Century Press, 2020).

Grace and Responsibility: A Wesleyan Theology for Today (Abingdon, 1995).

Transforming Christianity and the World (Orbis, 1999).

(Other resources will be suggested from Religion Online and Real Spirituality for Real Life.)

Some Classical Texts in Global Mission

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

To All Nations From All Nations: A History of the Christian Missionary Movement, Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi and Justo L. Gonzalez. (Abingdon, 2013).

The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity, Philip Jenkins
(Oxford University Press, 2002, 2007, 2011, 3rd edition).

The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission, Lesslie Newbigin
(William B. Eerdmans, 1978, 1995, revised edition).

Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission, David J. Bosch
(Orbis, 1991).

*Classic Texts in Mission and World Christianity: A Reader's Companion to David Bosch's
"Transforming Mission,"* Norman E. Thomas, editor (Orbis, 1995).

*The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the
Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries*, Rodney
Stark (Princeton University Press, 1996).

(Resources are available online, especially as referenced in the Kemper/Scott book
produced for the bicentennial celebration of United Methodist mission.)

On Missional Approaches to Witness by Local Congregations

A Field Guide to Methodist Fresh Expressions, Michael Adam Beck with
Jorge Acevedo (Abingdon, 2020). **(Recommended)**

*Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of the Church in
Our Time*, Alan J. Roxburgh (Morehouse, 2015).

See Board of Discipleship resources at website [SeeAllThePeople.org](https://www.seeallthepeople.org). You may
download Junius B. Dotson, *Engaging Your Community: A Guide to Seeing All
the People*, (Discipleship Resources, 2018).

See, Know & Serve the People within Your Reach, Thomas G. Bandy (Abingdon, 2013).

*A Missionary Mindset: What Church Leaders Need to Know to Reach Their Community
—Lessons from E. Stanley Jones*, Douglas Ruffle, (Discipleship Resources, 2016).

E. Stanley Jones and Sharing the Good News in a Pluralistic Society, F. Douglas Powe,
Jr. and Jack Jackson, general editors (Wesley's Foundery Books, General Board of
Higher Education and Ministry, 2018).

Transforming Community: The Wesleyan Way to Missional Congregations, Henry H.
Knight III & F. Douglas Powe, (Discipleship Resources, 2016).

Fresh Expressions: A New Kind of United Methodist Church for People Not in Church,
by Kenneth Carter and Audrey Warren, (Abingdon, 2017).

Walking with Nehemiah: Your Community Is Your Congregation, Joe Daniels, Jr.
(Abingdon, 2014).

How God Is Using the World to Shape the Church, Dottie Escobedo-Frank and Rob
Ryndars, (Abingdon Press, 2016).

COS 423 MISSION: TENTATIVE 2022 CLASS TOPICS
ONLINE: JULY 12, 14, AUGUST 2, 4; ON SITE: JULY 29-30
RON HINES, INSTRUCTOR

PART 1: *Abba's* Call: Jesus's Mission and Ours

1 Tuesday, July 12 Get Acquainted with One Another, Sharing our Calls to Mission.

- A How did you receive *Abba's* Good News? How are you sharing this Good News?
- B How does our instructor image and act on *Abba's* Good News?
- C Describe the Mission Field in which you are called to make a difference.

2 Thursday, July 14 Celebrate *Abba's* Mission of Compassion!

- A Celebrate the Biblical Witness of *Abba's* work in our world! (missional church)
- B Introduce biblical & theological testimony to *Abba's* Mission!
- C Celebrate a Movement of Compassion Flowing from Jesus Christ!

3 Friday, July 29, 10am Confess our "Christendom" Sins!

- A Global Christianity vs Empire (Own our failings in Christendom's history!)
- B Post-colonial Critique of Manifest Destiny and Doctrine of Discovery
- C Reconsidering American Exceptionalism

PART 2: A Wesleyan Witness: Make Disciples! Transform the World!

4 Friday, July 29, 2pm Spread "Scriptural Holiness" in "the World, Our Parish."

- A Affirm the Wesleyan Heritage in United Methodist mission.
- B Celebrate and Reflect on 200+ Years of Methodist mission.
- C Affirm Local Congregations in Connection as a Wesleyan Missional Strategy.

5 Saturday, July 30, 8:30a Witness for Christ in multi-cultural neighborhoods near & far!

- A Culture Christian Engagement with *Abba's* Mission in the Neighborhood!
- B Culture Christian Engagement with *Abba's* Mission in a Multi-Faith World!

6 Saturday, July 30, 1pm What do you need in order to respond to *Abba's* call to Mission?

- A Cultivate the "Missionary Mindset" (E Stanley Jones, Path 1, or Fresh Expressions)
- B View *Your* World through *Abba's* Lens!

PART 3: Discern Your Calling: Express Fresh Compassion Near and Far!

7 Tuesday, August 2 Celebrate Fresh Expressions of Grace in Action!

- A Affirm "missional church" theme from Social Gospel & Ecumenical Movements.
- B Draw lessons from "Fresh Expressions" and other renewal strategies.

8 Wednesday, August 4 Sharpen the Focus of *Abba's* Call to Mission at home & abroad!

- A For you and your congregation, revisit *Abba's* Call to Your Neighborhood!
- B For you and your congregation, claim a piece of *Abba's* global vision!

PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

1. Read the two required books.
2. Write no more than 800 words on *each set* of the following questions (A,B), and be prepared to share your responses in our first day of class.
 - A. Write your testimony of involvement with God's mission. Reflect on the story of John Stewart and his mission among the Wyandot in *Methodist Mission at 200*. When have you been a *recipient* of mission? When have you been a *subject* of mission? Reflect on your own experience with God's mission in the light of the "Global Ministries Theology of Mission Statement" (p. 119-122). Where do you find yourself in relation to this affirmation of mission in our United Methodist connection?
 - B. React to Dana Robert's summary of "How Christianity Became a World Religion." Does anything in that story make you ashamed of Christians in mission? What makes you proud to be a Christian in mission? What surprises you about that history? What questions does it raise for you?
3. Choose one of the Supplementary Resources, and write a response. Mention two new things you learned, two things you disagreed with, and two questions that the reading provoked for you. This paper should be roughly 800 words in length. *Be prepared to share this with the class when its content is relevant.*
4. These papers (for #2 and #3) will be *sent by email to the instructor before the class*. His email address is ronhines1970@gmail.com. *Papers should arrive by July 7.* (These initial papers comprise 25 percent of your course grade.)
5. Choose a missionary or mission project sponsored by your Annual Conference and *take notes* on what you learn by following that mission. *Be prepared to share with the class* your thoughts about relating your congregation to this person or project.
6. The last class day will provide opportunity to revisit *your understanding of your own personal calling* to engage in God's mission, and *your congregation's participation in God's mission*, both in its own neighborhood context, and as a citizen of the global family of life. This will be shared in a final paper of about 1000 words, which will also guide your oral report. (See paragraph below. It will determine 35 percent of your grade.) Possible questions that might guide your project are these:

What group is the focus of mission? What do you know about them? How do you know this about them? What do you not know? How can you find out more?
Where do power and the lack of power manifest themselves in this context? What is the Biblical basis of your engagement with them in mission? How have faith groups related to these persons in the past? How can you harm them with mission? What are the questions you have about what it would mean to be in mission with them? How can you bridge seeing "them" as other, and thus make mission more about "us"?

Class Participation and Mission Project Proposal

Forty percent of your final grade will be determined by your participation in class. The class will be conducted as a seminar, and you are expected to participate actively and honestly, asking questions both of others and yourself. You will be respectful of others, but you will also challenge them to think critically, just as you will graciously accept their challenges to you. You will bring lessons and questions from reading assignments and your own experience to bear on the issues we discuss during the class sessions.

Throughout the sessions you will focus on *designing a mission project, related to the context you described on the first day of class*. This will involve both a brief verbal presentation to the whole class as well as a *1000 word paper due no later than August 20*. Your paper and presentation on this project will form 35 percent of your final grade.

Questions about the course may be directed to the instructor at ronhines1970@gmail.com.