**2025 Course of Study School**

**Online COS format**

**February 7-8 & March 7-8, 2025 (required zoom classes)**

**Course**: COS 124 – Transformative Leadership

**Instructor:** Rev. Dr. Robert C. Brown

**Contact information**: Robert C. Brown (404)731-0128 ([rbrown19911993@gmail.com](mailto:rbrown19911993@gmail.com)) Email me if you have any questions.

**Target Course Outcomes**

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

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.

**Texts**

O’Brien, Brandon J. The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, and

Effective. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 2010. (ISBN 9780764207839)

Weems, Jr., Lovett H. Church Leadership: Vision, Team, Culture, and Integrity (Revised

Edition). Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2010. (ISBN 9781426703027)

Nouwen, Henri J. M. In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership. New York:

The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1989. (ISBN 9780824512590)

\*For Reference:

Cosgrove, Charles H, and Dennis D. Hatfield. Church Conflict: The Hidden Systems Behind

the Fights. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994. (ISBN 978068708523)

**PREWORK**

Carefully follow all assignments directions for these assignments

Assignment 1 – Ministry Self-Assessment

Assignment 2 – This is a reading assignment. Complete before attempting to do Assignment 3.

Assignment 3 **This assignment is due by midnight - February 5**. Emailed to the Instructor (35% of course grade) Email to Instructor [rbrown19911993#@gmail.com](mailto:rbrown19911993#@gmail.com)

**Assignment 1:** As a process of self-evaluation, answer the following: (Be Prepared to discuss your responses in class on the first weekend)

1. What are your 3 strongest assets for ministry?
2. What is one of your growing edges and/or areas for improvement?
3. What aspect of ministry brings you the most joy as a pastor?

**Assignment 2:**

Read all 3 required textbooks in their entirety. As you read, make notes in the margins about qualities/characteristics of Christian leaders. You will need these for Assignment 3 paper.

**Assignment 3**: (8-10 pages)

**This assignment is due February, 5, 2025 by midnight Emailed to the Instructor rbrown19911993@gmail.com (35% of**

**course grade)**

As you begin this course, please take 1 page to share (a) your greatest leadership challenge and (b) your greatest leadership asset in your current ministry setting/context. (1 page) Identify at least three different qualities/characteristics of effective biblical leadership found in each of the 3 required textbooks and write at least one 1/2 page paragraph about each quality/characteristic. Please do not duplicate qualities/characteristics found in multiple

textbooks. At the end of this assignment, you should have discussed at least 9 unique qualities/characteristics of effective biblical leadership (approximately 6 pages total)

Reflecting on your own current ministry context, describe at least 5 specific examples of how/where these qualities/characteristics of effective biblical leadership that you identified in question #1 are either currently used or could be introduced in your ministry context or setting. (3 pages)

**FINAL ASSIGNMENT**

**Assignment 4**: (4 to 6 pages)

**This assignment is due March 9, 2025 by midnight Emailed to the Instructor. (35% of course grade)**

Write a “plan of action” that you will use as the pastoral leader of the congregation. This plan should include, but not be limited to, 2 or 3 goals for ministry in partnership with laity, objectives and strategies that you will implement to accomplish these goals, and how you will partner with volunteers (and staff, if applicable) as you work toward these goals.

We will discuss on the first weekend how you will use your “SELF ASSESSMENT” from Assignment # 1 to help determine

your “plan of action” and begin working on this assignment together in class. The intention of the assignment is not to limit your ministry in any way, but to help you focus your leadership of the congregation.

**Online Class Meetings via Zoom (all zoom classes are required.)**

**Instructor will email the zoom link for the class – THE SAME ZOOM LINK WILL BE USED FOR ALL THE SESSIONS OF THIS CLASS. It is the students’ responsibility to check their email and to notify the instructor 5 days prior to the zoom class by email if they have not received the zoom link**