**Course Description:**

**ALPS/MTH LOCAL PASTORS’ SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY 423 – MISSION**

**March 14 & 15 and April 4 & 5, 2025**

 **INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Robert C. Brown**

**Email:** **rbrown19911993@gmail.com**

This course introduces the theology and scope of mission, and the pastor’s role in leading congregations in their mission as agents of God’s transforming redemption.

**Course Target Outcomes:** Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical and theological framework for Christian mission.
2. Explain the Wesleyan relationship of personal piety and social holiness.
3. Examine and reflect on unjust social realities and the response of the church locally and globally.
4. Analyze their ministry context and develop strategies for transforming mission.

**Required Texts**:

Robert, Dana. Christian Mission: How Christianity Became A World Religion. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009. (ISBN 9780631236207)

Volf, Miroslav. A Public Faith. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2011. (ISBN 9781587432989) Cardoza-Orlandi, Carlos F., Mission: An Essential Guide. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.

(ISBN 0687054729)

[www.umcmission.org.](http://www.umcmission.org/) The website of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

**Supplementary texts:**

Jennings, Theodore W., Good News to the Poor: John Wesley’s Evangelical Economics. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990. (ISBN 9780687155286)

Dudley, Carl S., Next Steps in Community Ministry. Alban Institute Publication, 1999. (ISBN 1566991684)

McLaren, Brian D., Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope. Nashville: Thomas Nelson,2007. (ISBN 9780849901836)

**Expectations:**

All students are expected to e-mail **pre-course assignments to Dr. Brown (****rbrown19911993@gmail.com****) by March 3, 2025.**

Participation is expected in all zoom classes on March 14- 15 and April 4-5, 2025. Instructor will send links.

All work should be typed, double-spaced and in the students own words. Avoid plagiarism by citing all sources used. Please utilize spell check and grammar check to assist in clarity of writing.

**Pre-Course Assignments: - Due to Instructor March 3, 2025 (****rbrown19911993@gmail.com** **)**

1. Summarize the basic themes found in Dana Robert’s Christian Mission. Pay particular attention to ways in which Christian mission has evolved and the theological, social, political, and justice issues involved. (2 pages)
2. On page xvii, in the introduction of A Public Faith, Miroslav Volf indicates that he explores three simple questions in his book. Give a brief description of his answers to each of the questions and any reactions you have to those answers. (2 pages)
3. Summarize the main themes in each chapter of Mission: An Essential Guide, and give your reaction to one of the issues which he addresses. (2 pages)
4. Explore the website of the United Methodist Church (www.umc.org). Pay particular attention to the “How We Serve” section which has a focus mission. Utilizing that section (or any others that will help) find and give a summary of **two mission projects** about which you did not know the United Methodist Church was involved. Look especially for projects which you think could become a part of your church’s ministry. (2 pages)

**Preparation for Zoom sessions. Make sure you have the following:**

1. **A reliable (fast) internet connection**
2. **A laptop/desktop computer with microphone and Web camera**

**It is the students’ responsibility to notify the instructor by email by March 3-- if the student has not received the video links for the class Zoom Sessions.**

**Grading:**

Grading will be based upon the following format: pre-work 30%, course participation and any classroom assignments 30%, and Missional Engagement Project 40%.

**Missional Engagement Project**

1. The Missional Engagement Project should be a “new” or “revitalized” missional engagement for the congregation you serve.
2. The Missional Engagement Project Paper will be no more than 6 pages answering the questions on the “MAP” (Mission Action Plan) and will be submitted by e-mail no later than 7 days following the last day of class which is **April 12, 2025.**  A letter grade deduction will be applied for late work.
3. Students will email their completed Missional Engagement Project to rbrown19911993@gmail.com
4. **The Outline for the Missional Engagement Project (MAP) is attached to this Syllabus**

**Contact Information if you have any questions –** **rbrown19911993@gmail.com** **(404)731-0128**

**ATTACHMENT to COS 423 Syllabus**

**Mission Application “Project” - Missional Engagement Plan “MAP”**

**Using the following “questions” as a guide and outline to write a Mission Engagement Plan that describes in detail a mission that the congregation will engage. (The Missional Engagement Plan should not exceed 5 pages – be concise, answer the “prompts” with details, dates, etc…)**

**WHY** – Explain/Describe -The Compelling Reason or Exigent Need presented by the Mission

**WHAT** – What “Action” (Missional Engagement/Mission Project) – “Community Service” is needed in the community?

 What “skills” or resources are needed to fulfill the Mission Project?

 What are the “Boundaries” for the operation of the Missional Engagement/Mission Project?

**WHEN** – The length of commitment for the Missional Engagement/Mission Project

 Time of Engagement – ongoing, weekly, monthly, etc…

 Is there a specific time for the Missional Engagement/Mission Project – “Great Day of Service”, or Monthly Community Service, etc…

**WHO** – Who will serve, Who will be served?

 Will there be opportunities for Community Partnerships?

 Will there be strategic alliances with others who have connections, context and common vision?

**WHERE** – If there is a “specific location” for the Mission Engagement is it in the Community, strategically close to where the greatest need is? If so Why, or If Not, Why Not?

**HOW** -Narrow the Focus of the Mission Project to Answer the How the Missional Engagement/Mission Project will “change the community for good?”

 What are the “mechanisms” and partnerships necessary to “advance” the mission?

**HOW MUCH** - Is there a COST $$$?

 Who will fund the Cost?

 Budgeting for more than the cost of the Missional Engagement/Mission Project –

 Funding or in kind gifts from Sponsors, Partners, “friends”?

**SO, WHAT**? – Evaluation of Missional Engagement/Mission Project –

 Is the Mission Project “aligned” with the WHY?

 Were the “SMART” Goals met – If so, How? If not, Why Not?

 What have “we learned”?