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# CL 553 United Methodist Polity and Discipline

Edgar S. Goins

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**CL553 UNITED METHODIST POLITY AND DISCIPLINE  
FALL 2005 -- 2 Hours Credit**

**Instructor: Edgar S. Goins, Sr**  
[weslex@alltel.net](mailto:weslex@alltel.net)

**Guest Lecturer: Lt. Col. Melvin Bowdan, (RET)**

Meets Thursdays September 8, 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 3, 10, from 4:00-5:50 PM.

Room: M307

**Call 859.293-5873 to schedule an appointment for any necessary consultation.**

***Instructor: Edgar S. Goins, Sr.*** – Ordained Elder and Full Member of the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Presently serves as Senior Pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church, Lexington. Served eight years as the District Superintendent of the Louisville North and Owensboro Districts. Elected as a delegate to five General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Served eight years (1992-2000) as a member of the General Commission on Religion and Race. Has served 11 years as a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Served as a member of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Court of Appeals.

***Guest Lecturer: Lt. Col. Melvin R. Bowdan Jr. (RET)*** is the Lay Leader of the Kentucky Annual Conference, 2004-2008. He has served as a delegate to three General Conferences and three Jurisdictional Conferences. Lt. Col. Bowdan also served as a board member for the General Commission of Religion and Race from 1996-1998. He served on the General Board of Discipleship from 1998-2004, and currently serves as a board member for the General Commission of United Methodist Men.

**Purpose of the Course**

This course seeks to fulfill the denominational requirement for polity for you who are seeking ordination in the United Methodist Church. We will explore how the United Methodist Church orders and structures its life on all levels as it seeks to fulfill its mission and ministry.

## Objectives

- To assist you in thinking theologically about polity as ecclesiology, an expression of practical divinity.
- To be able to recognize and appreciate the biblical, theological, and historical foundations for United Methodist structure.
- To gain working familiarity with The Book of Discipline.
- To be able to offer candid critique and visioning for the future of our United Methodist polity.

## Course Requirements

1. Weekly reading assignments from the required texts: The Book of Discipline, 2004; Thomas Edward Frank, Polity, Practice, and the Mission of the United Methodist Church; and Jack M. Tuell, The Organization of the United Methodist Church, (2005-2008 Edition). (*Grading value = 10%*)
2. Punctual class attendance is expected. Students should be prepared to give a three to five minute oral summary of assigned readings. Unexcused absences will result in final grade penalty. (*Grading value = 10%*)
3. Completion of a research essay from an approved topic. 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 researched based views. The paper should be 3000 – 4000 words (twelve to fifteen pages double spaced) plus the bibliography. (*Grading value = 35%*)
4. Submit a reading report by the last day of class that details your reading of “related texts.” You are expected to read at least five of these texts as listed in the course bibliography. (*Grading value = 5%*)
5. All written work should adhere to the following guidelines.
  - a. Use a word processor.
  - b. Use only one of the following two font families: Courier, Times Roman. Use 12-point type size
  - c. Number (in Arabic numerals) the bottom right margin of each page except for the cover page.
  - d. Indent paragraphs consistently throughout your materials. Double indent and block a quotation if it is more than four lines long (or more than 40 words).
  - e. Use standard quality (20-or 24-lb) letter-sized, white paper. Print only on one side of the paper. Double space. Leave one-inch margins on top, bottom, and sides.
6. Final exam covering the material presented in class and readings from the required texts. (*Grading value = 40%*)

## Summary of Grading Procedure

A= 93-100    B=80-92    C=70-79    D=below 70

A	4.00	Exceptional work: outstanding/surpassing achievement of course objective
A-	3.70	
B+	3.30	
B	3.00	Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives
B-	2.70	
C+	2.30	
C	2.00	Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	Marginal Work: minimal or inadequate achievement of course objectives
D-	.70	
F	0.00	Unacceptable work: failure of course objectives

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2004. Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House

Frank, Thomas Edward, Policy, Practice, and the Mission of the United Methodist Church, Updated Edition (2002), Nashville: Abingdon Press

Tuell, Jack M., The Organization of the United Methodist Church, 2005-2008 Edition, Nashville: Abingdon Press

### **RELATED TEXTS**

Campbell, Dennis, The Yoke of Obedience: The Meaning of Ordination. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1988.

Campbell, Dennis M., William B. Lawrence, and Russell E. Richey, editors. Doctrine and Disciplines. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.

Heitzenrater, Richard, Mirror and Memory: Reflections on Early Methodism. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989.

Hickman, Hoyt, ed., The Worship Resources of the United Methodist Hymnal. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989/

Lawrence, William B., Dennis M. Campbell, Russell E. Richey, editors. The People(s) Called Methodist: Forms and Reforms of Their Life. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

Long, Leroy, Patterns of Polity: Varieties of Church Governance. Cleveland, Ohio. Pilgrim Press, 2001.

Richey, Russell E., The Methodist Conference in America. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.

Richey, Russell E., Perspectives on American Methodism. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 1993.

Richey, Russell E., William B. Lawrence, and Dennis M. Campbell, editors. Questions For the Twenty-First Century Church. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.

Richey, Russell E., Dennis Campbell, and William B. Lawrence, editors. Marks of Methodism: Theology in Ecclesial Practice. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.

Schaller, Lyle, Ice Cub is Melting: What is Really at Risk in United Methodism. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2004.

Wesley, John, The Works of John Wesley, ed. by Thomas Jackson, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 14 vols., vol. 8: Addresses, Essays, Letters. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979.

Willimon, William H., Calling and Character: Virtues of the Ordained Life. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

**CL553 CALENDAR  
FALL 2005**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Reading from <u>Discipline</u>*</b>	<b>TOPIC of Class and Reading from Frank* and Tuell<sup>+</sup> (Topic of class is subject to change.)</b>
Sept. 8	Pp. v-20	Syllabus and Introduction to Polity Historical Considerations in the Formation of UM Polity Chs. 1, 2* and Ch. 1 <sup>+</sup>
Sept. 15	Pp. 74-86	Our Theological Task Ch. *4 and Ch. 1 <sup>+</sup>
Sept. 22	Pp. 127-193	The Local Church Ch. 6* and Ch. 3 <sup>+</sup>
Sept. 29	Pp. 21-74	Constitutional and Doctrinal Standards Ch. 3* and + Ch. 1 <sup>+</sup>
Oct. 6	Pp. 194-283	The Ministry of the Ordained Ch. 7* and Ch. 4 <sup>+</sup>
Oct. 13	Pp. 87-125	The Ministry of All Christians and Social Principles Ch. 5* and Ch. 2 <sup>+</sup>
Oct. 20	Pp. 285-311	The Superintendency Ch. 8* and Ch. 5 <sup>+</sup>
Oct. 27	Pp. 451-708	Administrative Order and Church Property Ch. 6-11* and Ch. 3, 8 <sup>+</sup>
Nov. 3	Pp. 709-746	Judicial Administration Ch. 12* and Ch. 9 <sup>+</sup>
Nov. 10	Pp. 313-449	The Conferences – General, Jurisdictional, Central & Missionary Ch. 9* and Ch. 6 <sup>+</sup> The Annual and District Conferences Ch. 10* <i>Reading Report Due</i>
Dec. 12		<b>Final Exam 1:00 – 3:00 pm</b>

**\*Please note: The readings listed for each date should be completed before coming to class.**

**(\*)Frank text**

**(+)Tuell text**