Instructor: Jerry Chism

Prerequisites: None

Description of Content: This course is intended to enable the student (through lecture, discussion and interplay) to learn the overall structure of the United Methodist Church, discover the necessary tools for functioning within the political nature of the denomination, and grasp the global and communal composition of the church.

Course Objectives: The primary purpose of this course is to prepare students to function effectively within, be appreciative of, and affect creatively the use of polity. Numerous practical issues within the local church will be explored in an effort to acquaint students/pastors with the use of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (BOD). As a church, United Methodism is a denominational connection which is restructured and re-envisioned every four years at General Conference by evolves from a global delegation of clergy and laity. Thus, the course will be balanced between the practical, functional nature of the church and the broader, global nature of the denomination.

Class Procedures: Lecture, plenary discussions, and oral presentations

Requirements: This course is required of everyone working on the ordination track. Consequently, regular attendance, and conscientious preparation are assumed, along with a demonstrated command of assigned reading. There will be regular quizzes on reading assignments and one test on The Constitution.

Polity, Practice, and the Mission of the United Methodist Church (Thomas Frank, Abingdon, 2006)
*Marks of Methodism: Theology in Ecclesial Practice* (Russell E. Richey, Abingdon, 2005)

**Grading Procedures:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests (2)</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scenario Summaries/papers (4)</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation in Class</td>
<td>10%</td>
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