First Year
Pre-class Written Assignment
Course of Study School 2013

(112) THEOLOGY IN THE WESLEYAN SPIRIT

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Consideration of the role and responsibility of the pastor as an interpreter of the gospel with emphasis upon our Wesleyan heritage and the students' own growing sense of theological identity. Basic terms, tasks, and methods of Christian theology are introduced and representative classical themes are defined and illustrated.

Textbooks:

Campbell, Ted A., *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials.* 2012. ISBN: 9-781426727016
Carder, Kenneth L., *Living Our Beliefs: the United Methodist Way, Revised Edition.* 2009 Discipleship Resources ISBN: 978-0-88177-571-6
Gonzales, Justo L. and Perez, Zaida Maldonado, *An Introduction to Christian Theology*.
ISBN: 0-687-09573-5
Harvey, Van A., *A Handbook of Theological Terms.* ISBN: 0-684-84644-6
The Book of Discipline 2008, United Methodist Publishing House. ISBN: 0-687023734

Assignments: answer 4 of the following

1. In about 750 words summarize Chapter four in the Campbell book. Your summary should show ;
   - An accurate and objective description of the chapter's content
   - An evaluation of what you read
   - A statement that would represent how you see this chapter relating to your role as a pastor of a local congregation

2. Beginning on page 49 of the Gonzalez-Perez text there begins a discussion of the doctrine of the Trinity under the title of "The Triune God." You are to write an explanation of what your text says about the Triune God. Please write as if explaining to someone who has not read the material. Secondly; share with your reader how the section helps or does not help your own understanding of the Trinity. Thirdly; express your own continuing questions and concerns about the Trinity.

3. Beginning on page 83 of the Gonzalez-Perez text there begins a section of theories of the atonement. Write an explanation of each theory presented as if writing for someone who has not read the material. Secondly; you are to identify which theory makes the most sense to you and why. Thirdly; what are your own continuing questions and concerns concerning this subject?

4. At the end of each chapter in the "Living Our Beliefs" there are a series of questions designed to be used in study groups. Choose one question from seven different chapters to answer. Your responses are to be one to three pages double spaced. Answer each question in response to the material read. (that means that you are to stay focused on the material in the chapter). Please include the Chapter title and the question you are answering at the beginning of your response.

5. Select ten topics of personal interest from Van Harvey's handbook. Write your own response to how he discusses the topic. Include questions, learned insights and any disagreements you may have for which you are willing to defend. Make this a learning experience.

Note: You should try to say a great deal in a few words, but you do not want to be so sparing with your writing that you appear to be avoiding the question. I will read whatever you turn in. Keep in mind this is an academic course that will hopefully add to your skills as a theologian.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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The completed pre-class work for courses 111-114 must be brought to Course of Study School and submitted to the respective instructors at the first class meeting. **Students taking courses 111-114 who are unable to submit pre-class work on the first day of classes should contact the Course of Study School office to cancel course(s).**.

Each assignment should be typed, double-spaced, or legibly handwritten, with pagination numbers, and be accompanied by a completed cover sheet (Form C). A copy of the cover sheet, can be photocopied, can be found in the Course of Study Catalogue.

Students should keep and bring a hard copy of each assignment to class.

In addition, students should include a one-page autobiography for *each* instructor.

Guidelines for writing pre-class assignments and information on academic dishonesty are provided in the Course of Study catalog, available on the website. Students are expected to understand what constitutes plagiarism. Students who are found to plagiarize are subject to grading penalties, which may include dismissal from the school.