All precourse assignments should be emailed to the Course of Study Office by May 1, 2013.

Course Description
The mission of the church is to serve God and neighbor by proclaiming the gospel for the redemption of the world. Redemption is God’s holy activity that transforms individuals, societies, and all of life. When faithful to its mission, the church serves as an agent of God’s transforming redemption. Based upon this understanding of the nature of the church and its mission, this course seeks to help pastors gain theological understanding and practical ministry skills for leading congregations to carry out the mission of the church as God’s agents of transformation.

Course Objectives
1. Development of a biblical and theological framework for Christian mission
2. Consideration of the Wesleyan understanding of personal piety and social holiness
3. Examination of unjust social realities—such as racism, sexism, and classism—that impact society and thus impact the mission of the church
4. Exploration of the growing influence of social, economic, and political globalization in the world and its implications for the mission of the church
5. Exposure to United Methodist ecumenical, interreligious, and community programs that model effective social transformation in the spirit of the gospel
6. Analysis of the context of ministry in local congregations for the development of strategies and leadership skills for the transforming mission of the church

Required Textbooks (you will need to have these texts, either hard copies or electronic books)

Recommended Textbooks Excerpts from these books will be posted on Blackboard. You will be required to read excerpts from these in order to complete your assignments. You will have to register and contact Michelle Levan in the COS Office to acquire your userID in order to access these readings.
- Van Gelder, Craig. *The Ministry of the Missional Church: A Community Led by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids, MI:
Read the following books/excerpts:
- Mead, Loren, *The Once and Future Church*, Chapter 2, “Paradigms Lost”
- McNeal, Reggie, *The Present Future, Six Tough Questions for the Church*
- Roxburg, Alan J., and M. Scott Boren, *Introducing the Missional Church*, Intro and Chapters 1 & 2
- Van Gelder, Craig, *The Ministry of the Missional Church*, Chapter 2

Write a 5-page, double-spaced paper that addresses all the following:
- Explain in your own words the paradigm change that Mead describes.
- How do you see the Church still operating out of the Christendom paradigm?
- How does McNeal’s book address the paradigm change Mead describes?
- What does the term “missional” mean according to Roxburgh and Boren, and how does the missional church minister within the new paradigm?
- Looking at Van Gelder’s “Aptitudes of Spirit-Led, Missional Churches in Context,” describe your church’s context and write a confession of faith for your church within that context.

**Complete by the First Day of Class, July 22, 2013**

A. Based on your reading of *The Next Christendom* by Philip Jenkins, write a 2-page, double-spaced paper with the following:
- A summary of Jenkins’ thesis
- What do the changes in Christianity in the world mean to mission in the world?
- How has this book given you a different understanding of world events?
- What are the implications for the United Methodist Church?

B. Choose one country from the list that will be posted on Blackboard and sign up for that country. Write a 2-page, double-spaced paper with the following:
- A brief history of Christianity in that country including how Christianity was introduced there,
- The spread and/or decline of Christianity and what caused it.
- The current state of the Church there
- Projections for the future of the Church in that country.

You should use Jenkins’ book and *Christian Mission* by Dana L. Robert as your sources, and you are also encouraged to use other sources (properly cited and footnoted, of course). A good source for other articles is *Christianity Today*’s web site. You will turn in this paper during the first day of class, but be sure to keep another copy, since you will give a 3-minute presentation about this country, probably on Thursday or Friday of the first week.

C. Prepare a 5-minute devotional based on themes and readings for the course. There will be a sign-up sheet posted before class begins. You do not need to turn in a copy but will present it, either at
the beginning or end of one of the classes. The purpose of this devotional is to lead the class in worship, but it should also demonstrate your ability to apply the theme of mission to a preaching/worship setting.

**Tentative Course Schedule**
(During the class, we will bring in people from other parts of the world through Skype, so the schedule is subject to change according to their availability.)

**First Week**
1) **Defining Mission, Biblical Case for Mission from the Old Testament and New Testament**  
   (Monday and Tuesday)  
   a) Van Gelder, Craig, *The Ministry of the Missional Church*, Chapter 3  
   b) Van Gelder, Chapter 4  
   c) Van Rheenen, Gailyn, *Missions – Biblical Foundations & Contemporary Strategies*, Chapter 1  
   d) Cardoza-Orlandi, Chapter 2 and Glossary

2) **The New Paradigm for the Church in North America** (Wednesday)  
   a) Mead, Loren, *The Once and Future Church*, Chapter 2  
   b) McNeil, Reggie, *The Present Future*  
   c) Rusaw & Swanson, *The Externally Focused Church*, Chapter 3

3) **The Spread of Christianity Throughout the World** (Thursday & Friday)  
   a) Jenkins, *The Next Christendom*  
   b) Robert, *Mission*  
   c) Be prepared to make a 3-minute presentation on the country that was the subject of your paper.

**Second Week**
4) **Cross Cultural Ministry** (Monday & Tuesday)  
   a) Van Renen, Ch. 4, “Indentificationalism versus Extractionism”  
   b) Van Rennen, Ch. 7, “The Nature of Cross-Cultural Communication”  
   d) Cardoza-Orlandi, Appendix  
   e) Elmer, *Cross-Cultural Servanthood*, Chapter 9

5) **Serving the Poor and Justice as Mission** (Wednesday & Thursday)  
   a) Jennings, Theodore W., Jr., *Good News to the Poor*, Chapters 3 & 4  
   c) Corbett & Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts*, Chapter 4  
   d) Sample, Tex, *Hard Living People & Mainstream Christians*, Chapters 6, 7, 8  
   e) Wallis, Jim, *The Call to Conversion*, Chapter 3  
   g) Sutter, *The Invisible*, Chapter 4

6) **Summary and whatever we didn’t get covered before** (Friday)  
   Turn in paper (2 pages) about insights you have had through this class that will have an impact on your ministry.

**Grade**
- 25% Paper due May 1  
- 15% Paper on *The Next Christendom* turned in the first day of class  
- 15% Paper on country and presentation in class  
- 15% Devotional  
- 20% Paper turned in on last day of class  
- 10% General class participation
DIRECTIONS FOR EMAILING PRECOURSE WORK

Please read all the directions below before emailing your assignments to the COS Office, any emails received that do not follow the directions below will not be accepted. You will receive an email confirmation of receipt and if your email is not submitted correctly an email indicating you will need to resend your assignments.

1. Email only michelle.levan@emory.edu, do not email the instructor your assignment.

2. Emails must be received no later than 11:59pm on the May 1, 2013 deadline.
   a. Please note that the cut off time is EASTERN STANDARD TIME zone, so email your assignments accordingly.
   b. Any precourse work received after May 1st at 11:59pm will be subject to a late penalty.
      1. Precourse work received between May 2 – June 1 is 1 letter grade deduction.
      2. Precourse work received between June 2 – June 20 is 2 letter grade deductions.
      3. You will be drop from any course for which precourse work has not been received after June 20, 2013. No precourse work will be accepted after the June 20th deadline.

3. The course number and the phrase “precourse work” should be the subject of your email:
   Example - Precourse Work 113
   a. You will need to send a separate email for each course you are registered to attend.

4. Precourse work must be sent as an attached document and not in the body of the email.
   a. Any version of Microsoft Word or WordPerfect documents will be accepted; PDF and Mac-Pages documents will be accepted.
   b. All of your assignments for each course must be in one document, multiple documents are not acceptable. You should send only one attachment with course all assignments.

5. Your FULL name, phone number and email, should all be clearly included at the beginning of your email:
   Example: Michelle Levan
   404.727.4587
   michelle.levan@emory.edu

6. Plagiarism Policy and Plagiarism Defined paragraphs must be included in the body of your email (both are below), not within your precourse work. The inclusion of the policy and definition in the body of the email, verifies that you agree to it and your email will represent your signature. If the email does not include the plagiarism policy and definition it will not be accepted. Your email, with the plagiarism policy and definition will be printed and used as cover sheet for your precourse work, because it has the verification of date and time received, and your agreement to the plagiarism policy and definition, and your contact information.

   Plagiarism Policy
   I have read the plagiarism definition below and verify that this assignment represents my own work, except where credit is given. I have also made copies of this assignment and I will bring them with me to class in the event that any of my work is misplaced.

   Plagiarism Defined
   “You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone’s words or ideas but fail to credit that person. You plagiarize even when you do credit the author but use his exact words without so indicating with quotation marks or block indentation. You also plagiarize when you use words so close to those in your source, that if your work were placed next to the source, it would be obvious that you could not have written what you did without the source at your elbow. When accused of plagiarism, some writers claim I must have somehow memorized the passage. When I wrote it, I certainly thought it was my own. That excuse convinces very few.” From page 167 of The Craft of Research by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, published in 1995 by The University of Chicago Press in Chicago.

7. If you do not follow the procedure your precourse work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!!!!!!