All precourse assignments should be emailed to the Course of Study Office by May 1, 2013.
If you are attending the two/four week summer school session then the precourse work for this course is due May 1st with all other precourse assignments. If you are only attending the weekend session please see the Saturday School precourse work for your appropriate due date.

Course Description
This course emphasizes the integration of the role of the practicing pastor with the church’s theological heritage and its particular Wesleyan expression. The course also stresses theology as an ongoing task of critical reflection for the purpose of action. Consideration is given to issues, events, and institutions that form the context within which the pastor is required to think, speak, and act with theological clarity.

Course Objectives
• Continued growth of the pastor’s identity as theologian and the development of his or her own credo (a written statement of the pastor’s own understanding of Christian doctrine)
• Focus upon thinking theologically about everyday activities and contemporary events in the political, economic, and social areas of life
• Reflection upon a variety of theological perspectives in order to apply a faithful critique to persons who claim to be God’s voices in our time
• Integration of the pastor’s theological understanding in the practice and evaluation of ministry
• Encouragement of lifelong theological reading, reflection, and growth

Required Textbooks
• Bible

Supplemental Textbooks
  OR
• The United Methodist Hymnal (ISBN 9780687431328 )
• The United Methodist Book of Worship (ISBN 9780687035724)
• The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2008 (ISBN 9780687648214)
  OR
• The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2012 (ISBN 9781426757877)
Precourse Assignment
Please submit assignment #1 May 1, 2013 via email to the COS Office

1. **Read** Scott Jones book *United Methodist Doctrine: The Extreme Center* in its entirety. **Write a 2 page (typed, double spaced, 12 pt font) summary** of Jones major points and premise of the book from your reading of the **Introduction**. Use your own words. **Avoid long quotes.** Cite your reference pages.

**Short essays: 2 pages per chapter, (typed, double spaced, 12 pt font)**
- **Chapters 1-** discuss, in your own words, what Jones calls the “shape of United Methodist Doctrine” and the authoritative text that inform UM doctrine. **Chapter 2 –** discuss the Nature of United Methodist doctrine.
- **Chapters 3-9** - summarize the doctrinal teachings of the United Methodist Church using scripture and other supporting text discussed by Jones that inform your theological understand. Engage each doctrine-2 pages per chapter as instructed above.
- **Chapter 10** – Discuss the goal of doctrine particularly for ministry that enables and nurtures Christian life.

2. **Peruse Cobb’s text, select 2 issues that are relevant to your ministry or are currently confronting the church (2 different chapters) and prepare for in-class discussion:** A 2 page (per issue) engagement of 2-3 of the **Discussion questions** found at the end of the chapter or you may pose your own guiding questions for theological engagement. **This is not an opinion paper.** Use scripture and other authoritative UM text to discuss your response. **Document (cite)** the paragraph, page, or reference number for your references in the various text. This paper will be submitted for a grade. (Make 2 copies, 1 for yourself and one to be turned in).
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!!!!!!!