All precourse assignments should be emailed to the Course of Study Office by May 1, 2014.

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.
- Jennings, Jr., Theodore W. *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley’s Evangelical Economics.*
Precourse Work should be emailed to Course of Study Office by May 1st

Precourse Assignments
Read the following books/excerpts:
- Mead, Loren. The Once and Future Church, Chapter 2, “Paradigms Lost” – posted on Blackboard

Write a 6-page, double spaced paper that addresses all the following:
- Explain in your own words the paradigm changes 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 are some of the right questions and wrong questions that are being asked by your church, your Annual Conference, the church as a whole?
- Write a summary of Jenkins’ thesis. How does Jenkins’ use of the word “Christendom” compare with Mead’s?
  - 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?  

Course Grading  
30% Paper due May 1  
10% Description of church context and confession of faith  
20% Paper on country and presentation in class  
10% Devotional  
20% Evaluation  
10% General class participation  

Assignments to Complete by the First Day of Class – these assignments are due July 28  

A. Read Chapter 3, “Aptitudes of Spirit-Led, Missional Churches in Context,” in The Ministry of the Missional Church by Craig Van Gelder. (a) Write a one-page description of your church’s context. Van Gelder states, “Every church needs to learn how to confess the faith within its particular context” (p. 66). (b) Write a confession of faith for your church within its particular context. What do the people there really believe about their relationship with the community and what their purpose is? Be realistic about what you would say they really believe, not what you think they should believe. You will present this in class (probably on Wednesday), so keep a copy for yourself.

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 The Next Christendom by Philip Jenkins 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 5-minute presentation about this country, probably on Thursday or Friday of the first week. I expect that each fact you cite be footnoted (other than the obvious, like “Uganda is in East Africa”) and to give your sources clearly. Please cite your sources clearly in your paper so that you will not have to take up time for this in your class presentation.

C. Prepare a 5-minute devotional based on themes and readings for the course. Dates will be assigned after the class roll is set. 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*
   b) McNeil, Reggie, *The Present Future*
   c) Rusaw & Swanson, *The Externally Focused Church*

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 Reenen, 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

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)
**Guidelines for Written Assignments**

- All papers should be typed, double-spaced, on 8 ½” by 11” paper, unless the instructor has asked for a different format specifically within the precourse work. Font should be Times New Roman or something similar and no larger than size 12. Margins are to be 1” on all four sides of each page.
- All papers must include a page number and the last name of the student in either the header or footer of every page.
- You should note the question you are answering at the beginning of each new section of materials.
- All papers should provide citations for all quoted material. You may use MLA, Turabain, APA or Chicago Style.
- Punctuation should be consistent; clarity of meaning is the primary purpose of punctuation. Edit and retype material as needed and check spelling in a standard dictionary.
- All papers should attempt to eliminate discriminatory language—for example: racism, ageism, sexism, classism, and prejudicial usage concerning handicapping conditions.

**Inclusive Language Covenant**

The faculty of Emory Course of Study School has adopted a covenant statement encouraging inclusiveness in the use of language, as follows:

The Inclusive Language Covenant is designed to create a linguistic environment in which all students, staff, and faculty can grow in understanding and appreciating the rich diversity of God’s people. The COS faculty commits itself—through continued discussion, reflection, and exploration—to using language in such a way that we respond to the fullness of God’s presence among us as much by our choice of words as by our care for one another. Recognizing that our experience with inclusive language is an integral part of theological formation, we invite students and others to share as partners with us in this learning process.

We understand “covenant” more in terms of its biblical and theological meaning than in a legal or contractual context. Covenant signifies the common commitment of a community of faith in response to God’s revelation and in partnership with one another. The values implied in the covenant have morally persuaded us to try to generate patterns of speech and behavior that bond the members of the community in mutual respect. We expect all members of the community to address issues of diversity constructively. The entire Inclusive Language Covenant can be found on the COS website, and you are encouraged to read the whole covenant.
Directions to Email Precourse Assignments

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 instructors precourse assignments.
2. Email must be received no later than 11:59pm on the deadline of May 1st.
   1. Please note that the cut off time is EASTERN STANDARD TIME zone, so email your assignments accordingly.
   2. Any precourse work received after May 1st at 11:59pm will be subject to a late penalty.
      - Precourse work received between May 2 – June 1 is 1 letter grade deduction.
      - Precourse work received between June 2 – June 20 is 2 letter grade deductions.
      - You will be drop from any course for which precourse work has not been received after June 20th. No precourse work will be accepted at check-in.
3. The course number and the phrase “precourse work” should be the subject of your email: Example - Precourse Work 113
   1. 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.
   1. Any version of Microsoft Word will be accepted; PDF and Mac-Pages documents will not be accepted.
   2. All assignments for each course must be in one document, multiple documents are not acceptable. You should send only one attachment with all course assignments.
5. Your FULL name, phone number and email, should all be clearly included at the beginning of your email. See Example
6. Plagiarism Policy and Plagiarism Defined
   The plagiarism Policy and Defined paragraphs below 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 (which is a requirement). 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 the cover sheet for your precourse assignments, because it has the verification of date and time received, and your agreement to the plagiarism policy and definition.
   Plagiarism Policy - I have read the plagiarism definition below and verify that this assignment represents my own work, except where credit is given.
   Plagiarism Defined: “You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone else’s words or ideas but fail to credit that person, leading your readers to think that those words are yours. In all fields, you plagiarize when you use a source’s words or ideas without citing that source. In most fields, you plagiarize even when you do credit the source but use its exact words without using quotation marks or block indentation” (201-202). Booth, Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. The Craft of Research, Second Edition. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.
7. If you do not follow the procedure your precourse work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!