

**Indiana Area Extension Course of Study School  
The United Methodist Church  
In Person  
University of Indianapolis**

**Fall: 2023 – September 8/9, October 14, November 11**

**COS 523 Evangelism**

Rev. Dr. Andrew D. Kinsey, Instructor

This course examines the biblical and apostolic roots of the church's evangelistic mission in the world. It also explores various aspects of the church's ministry of evangelism and the distinct contribution of the Wesleyan theological tradition to the church's universal mission of offering Christ. This course promotes vital theological reflection on the church's evangelistic practices, stressing the importance of a holistic approach to the Christian witness and mission.

**Course Objectives**

The course has the following objectives:

1. Explore the biblical and apostolic roots of evangelism, with attention given to both Old and New Testaments and the importance of the early church's witness in the practice of evangelism.
2. Interpret the Wesleyan emphasis on evangelism and discipleship within the wider Christian witness of the church.
3. Analyze contemporary issues in evangelism, such as debates on church growth methods, the relationship of evangelism and mission, the role of evangelism in spiritual formation and social justice, the relationship of preaching, catechesis, and witness to the practice of evangelism, and conceptions of evangelism in the modern and postmodern eras.
4. Focus on the practice of evangelism in the local church with emphasis on preaching, training of laity, long-range planning, and pastoral leadership.
5. Examine larger strategies and models for evangelism in the past, present, and future of the church.
6. Critically analyze and appreciate electronic and social media as instruments for evangelism.

**Books**

The following books are *required* reading:

William J. Abraham – *The Art of Evangelism: Evangelism Carefully Crafted into the Life of the Local Church* – Forward by Andrew D. Kinsey (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 1988/Reprint). ISBN – 13: 978-1-61097-664-0 (**CONTACT Andy Kinsey to order this book! Andy will mail the copy to you.**)

Walter Brueggemann – *Biblical Perspectives on Evangelism: Living in a Three-Storeyed Universe* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1993) – ISBN – 0-687-41233-1

James Logan – *How Great a Flame! Contemporary Lessons from the Wesleyan Revival* (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2005). ISBN – 0 88177 472 3

Sam Chan, *How to Talk about Jesus (Without Being That Guy): Personal Evangelism in a Skeptical World* (Zondervan, 2022). ISBN-130 978-0310112693

Kevin E. Ruffcorn – *Rural Evangelism: Catching the Vision* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Press, 1994) ISBN – 0 8066 2642 9

Dana L. Robert – *Evangelism as the Heart of Mission* (Mission Evangelism Series, Number 1) – General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church (1997)

Students will want to contact Andy Kinsey if there is a problem ordering books, both in terms of obtaining the books and in terms of price. Andy can assist in this area. The Pamphlet “Evangelism as the Heart of Mission” will be given on the first day of class.

**Grading**            Grades for all students are assigned as letter grades [A, B, C, D, F]

**Instructor**        Rev. Dr Andrew D. Kinsey                    1651 DeCourcy Court, Franklin, Indiana 46131  
[andrewdalekinsey@gmail.com](mailto:andrewdalekinsey@gmail.com)            317-494=9704

The best way to contact Andy is via the email address above.

The following books are *recommended* reading for the work of evangelism (not required):

George G. Hunter III – *To Spread the Power: Church Growth in the Wesleyan Spirit*  
(Abingdon Press: Nashville, 1987)

Eddie Fox & George E. Morris – *Faith-Sharing: Dynamic Christian Witnessing*  
(Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1986). ISBN – 0-88177-039-6.

Jan G. Linn – *Reclaiming Evangelism: A Practical Guide for Mainline Churches*  
(St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998)

Scott Jones – *The Evangelistic Love of God & Neighbor* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007).

Paul Nixon – *Fling Open the Doors: Giving the Church Away to the Community*  
(Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002)

Eric H. Law – *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in the Multicultural Community* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1993)

Albert C. Outler – *Evangelism & Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit* (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1996)

### **Class Instructions**

Please read the following instructions on how to write the papers.

1. Persons need to read the required books and come to class prepared with questions raised by the assigned materials as outline in this syllabus.
2. Persons are to follow the instructions on preparing written materials for the class.  
If there are questions, please contact, Dr. Kinsey
3. All work prepared for the Course of Study will be typed on 8 ½ x 11 white paper, double-spaced, with Roman-type Font, 12 Point.
4. Persons are to use quotations from the books sparingly. The point is to put the argument of the text in your own words. Please give proper reference to those points in the body of the written material, using correct page numbers, etc. If using a work not on the required or recommended reading list, please share in appropriate form the name of the work (e.g., Author, Title, Publisher, Copyright, etc.).

5. Persons are to place a title on the top of written material, including the following:

a) Course Name, b) Course Number, c) Date Papers and Sermon are due, d) Your Name.

6. Staple the papers of the section together.

7. Submit all work to the instructor in person.

**Note:** Using other documentation and property without acknowledgment, whether from a book, a journal, teacher, student, sermon service, lectionary aid, etc., is unacceptable. Stealing, or plagiarism, means failure for the course with notification sent to the Conference Registrar and the Division of Ordained Ministry. If you would like to have course work returned, please inform the instructor.

### **Class Preparation and Study**

This course will bring together several disciplines: spiritual formation, practical theology, biblical study, preaching, leadership, and mission. Persons are strongly encouraged to keep up with the assignments and to integrate the work into the practice of ministry in the local church. A few suggestions for study include:

- 1) Read the material, if necessary, twice.
- 2) Please write clearly, examining always the strengths and weaknesses of the work.
- 3) Allow for two hours of study outside of class for every hour in class.

**Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

### **Local Church Description Assignment**

- 1) Write a **three-page paper** describing the context of your local church or churches:

Average Membership (share last seven years, if possible)  
Average Weekly Worship Attendance (last seven years, if possible)  
Location, Demography of Area & Brief History of Congregation

Share your joys and concerns about this particular congregation in light of the church's ministry of evangelism.

### **Book Review Assignment**

1. Walter Brueggemann – *Biblical Perspectives on Evangelism*

Prepare a four-page paper, double-spaced, in keeping with the following outline of questions.

- a. What is this book about? What is the MAIN point the author is making? Write it out. Have a key paragraph at the beginning of the paper stating the central argument the author is stating.
- b. List the strengths in the book. State what you think they are. What did you find helpful about evangelism? Share in a few paragraphs what you think.
- c. List what you think are weaknesses in the book. Where do you see the author falling short? What did you not find helpful?
- d. Answer the following: What implications does this book have on how you are practicing the ministry of evangelism in the church? Please take as much space as possible that deals with this question.

**Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

### **Items for Class**

Class time will involve sharing more about the biblical foundations of evangelism, along with class discussion of Brueggemann's book.

Students will continue to share the challenges of evangelism in the local church and culture.

Prayer and Holy Communion will be practiced as part of the class itself.

### **Book Review Assignment**

William J. Abraham – *The Art of Evangelism*

Paper is to be **three to four** pages, focusing on the following questions:

- a. Share main argument of the book: What is this book about? Have a paragraph that captures the main point of the book. What does William Abraham say evangelism is about?
- b. List strengths of the book: What did you find helpful about what this author is saying about the ministry of evangelism? Share several paragraphs about what you felt were very good points.
- c. List weaknesses of the book: Where do you see the author falling short? What was not helpful to you?
- d. Answer the following: What implications does this book have on how you are practicing the ministry of evangelism in the church? Please take as much space as possible that deals with this question.

### **Other Items for Class Time**

Class will involve opening prayer and sharing.

Class will begin to delve into Wesleyan Theology and Practice

Reviewing Abraham's book

Understanding various "models of evangelism" in the contemporary church

**Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

### **Items for Class**

Sharing in prayer and *lectio divina*.

Reviewing briefly the material from the previous sessions.

Moving more deeply into Wesleyan Theology and Practice

Understanding Contemporary Culture and the Challenges of Personal Evangelism

### **Book Review Assignment**

James Logan – *How Great a Flame! Contemporary Lessons from the Wesleyan Revival*

Write a three-to-four-page paper, utilizing the following outline.

- 1) What is evangelism in the Wesleyan spirit look like according to Logan?
- 2) What is distinctive about the Wesleyan approach to evangelism and discipleship as compared to other Christian traditions?
- 3) What are the strengths and weaknesses of Logan's book?
- 4) What can the wider church learn from this book?

### **Book Review Assignment**

Sam Chan – *How to Talk about Jesus (Without Being That Guy): Personal Evangelism*

Write a three-page paper on Sam Chan's book, addressing the following questions:

- 1) What is the main point of this book?
- 2) What strengths do you see in this book regarding personal evangelism?
- 3) What weaknesses do you see?
- 4) What insights may assist you in the practice of evangelism in your local church?

**Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

### **Items for Class**

Opening sharing and prayer.  
Reviewing previous sessions and assignments.  
Moving into discussion of the relationship between evangelism and mission.  
Understanding the challenges of ministry in rural America  
Reviewing the class.

### **Book Review Assignment**

Students will focus on the pamphlet "Evangelism as the Heart of Mission" by Dana L. Roberts. Students will write a one-page paper in response to this primary text and share in class. The morning session on November 11 will combine Evangelism and Missions classes.

### **Evangelistic Sermon**

Students will deliver and hand in an evangelistic sermon that they preach in their local church as part of this assignment. Sermons should focus on good exegesis of the scripture along with invitation and instruction to the congregation on the importance of the ministry of evangelism: what is evangelism? How are we practicing evangelism? What is the good news the world, the community, needs to hear? How are we making the gospel visible? What do you think your congregation needs to hear?

### **Summary of Class Assignments**

The following assignments represent the work of the class:

### **Papers for the book reviews and church description are due on September 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>**

*Biblical Perspectives on Evangelism*  
*The Art of Evangelism*  
Description of Local Context of Ministry

### **Papers for book reviews are due on October 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Talking about Jesus Without Being "That" Guy or Girl*  
*How Great a Flame*

### **Sermon and book review are due on November 11<sup>th</sup>**

One-Page Response to Evangelism as the Heart of Mission  
*Rural Evangelism*  
Evangelistic Sermon

## **Sessions with Dr. Kinsey**

If a person needs to set up a time to share, please know that is an option. No problem.

## **Special Reminders**

\*Please note: William J. Abraham's *The Art of Evangelism* will need to be ordered through Dr. Kinsey! The William J. Abraham book cost is \$10.00 payable on the first-day of class. He will mail you a copy. No charge.

\*\*The text by Dana Robert will be passed out on the first day of class. It is a short-and-concise essay. There is no cost.