



LEADERSHIP

UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

Local Pastor Licensing School 2023

Resourcing & Homework

Welcome Evening and Breakthrough Preaching Format

Prior to Tuesday, January 24th meeting on Zoom:

- Review The Breakthrough Worship Series called [“Celebrate”](#)
 - Pay careful attention to the “Celebrate Preaching Resource”, which is available in Word and PDF format on the above link
- Review a sample sermon outline found in the [2020 Breakthrough Guide](#) on page 19

Introduction to Worship

Prior to Tuesday, January 31st meeting on Zoom:

- Purchase and read [Worshipping with United Methodists Revised Edition](#) by Hoyt L. Hickman
- Purchase and read chapters 2 and 3 of [Worship for the Whole People of God](#) by Ruth Duck
 - [PDF of the reading assignment available here](#) if you prefer not to purchase the book
- Bring a United Methodist Book of Worship and The United Methodist Hymnal to class. You may choose to borrow these from your local church.

Preaching Instruction

Prior to Saturday, February 4th meeting in person at the Mission and Resource Center

- Review [Preaching Resources Page](#)
- Bring your bible to class
- By February 20th: Submit sermon to Joanne via email at jsullivan@gnjumc.org
 - Title your document “Sermon by *First and Last Name. Sermon Title*”
 - Manuscript should be typed in Times New Roman, 12 pt font, double spaced with your name on each page.
 - The sermon should be a 10-15 minute original sermon that you are prepared to preach on in class on March 4th based on ONE of the identified scriptures from the *Breakthrough* series “Celebrate”.
 - Consider using the preaching feedback form to receive feedback on your sermon from someone before submission. The form will help guide our preaching sermon feedback session on March 4th.

Journey of Hope

Prior to Tuesday, February 28th meeting on Zoom:

- Please review and reflect on the following three reading materials:
 - [GNJAC Journey of Hope Legislation](#)
 - [“Imago Dei – A Lenten Bible Study of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion”](#)

- [“What is Beloved Community”](#)
 - Please reflect on the four questions found at the end of this article.
- We also highly recommend the following two books by Eric H. F. Law:
 - [“The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community”](#)
 - [“Inclusion: Making Room for Grace”](#)
- Please reflect on the following questions:
 - What is race and what is racism?
 - What does it mean to you to “seek to engage and embrace anti-racism and cultural diversity?”
- Use up to 250 words to write your own story about racism you have seen or experienced. What kind of impact did it have on you?
 - During our learning session, you will have a chance to share with your breakout group.

Overview of UMC Theology

Prior to Tuesday, March 14th meeting on Zoom

From the 2016 Book of Discipline, Paragraph 324.9

- Describe your personal experience of God and the understanding of God you derive from biblical, theological, and historical sources.
- What is your understanding of evil as it exists in the world?
- What is your understanding of humanity, and the human need for divine grace?
- How do you interpret the statement Jesus Christ is Lord?
- What is your conception of the activity of the Holy Spirit in personal faith, in the community of believers, and in responsible living in the world?
- What is your understanding of the kingdom of God; the Resurrection; eternal life?

Congregational Care and Funerals, Weddings, and Self Care/Mutual Care

Prior to Saturday, March 25th meeting in person at the Mission and Resource Center

- Bring a copy of the UMC Book of Worship and the UMC Hymnal
- Consider an aspect of congregational/pastoral care that is a personal challenge.
- Review [Right Listening by Mark Brady](#). Select at least one of the practices that will impact your listening skills. Use that practice for at least one week before class. Make note of the impact the practice has on your listening skills
- Review in the UMC Book of Worship: Services of Death and Resurrection, pages 139-169
- Review the [sample of a Funeral Sermon](#)
- By April 17th: Funeral Sermon Assignment:
 - Select an obituary of someone that you do not know. Write a funeral sermon based on the obituary. Include the printed obituary and scripture before the sermon.
 - Sermons should be double-spaced in 12-point font of Times New Roman. Make sure your first and last name is on each page. Submit the sermon in a file titled "Your Name_Funeral Sermon" to Joanne Sullivan (jsullivan@gnjumc.org) by April 17th.
 - This is a written assignment, meaning the sermon will not be preached in class.

Overview of UMC Polity

Prior to Tuesday, March 28th meeting on Zoom

- Read sections of [Polity, Practice, and the Mission of the United Methodist Church](#) by Thomas Edward Frank
 - Chapters 3, 6, 10, and 11

Safe Sanctuaries

Prior to Tuesday, April 25th meeting on Zoom

Please read and write out responses to the following questions:

- Why do you think a local church needs a Safe Sanctuary Policy?
- How would you use the Wesleyan Quadrilateral (Scripture, Reason, Tradition, and Experience) to explain to your congregation why having a plan/policy/procedure to protect youth, children, and vulnerable adults is necessary and of biblical importance?
- What kinds of ministries do you have currently at your church or that you might want to one day have that would require you to think through safe sanctuaries?
- If your church were adamant against a Safe Sanctuaries policy, how would you help them to see its importance and how, even if you are in a small church, you might be able to be creative enough to make it happen?

Review the [Safe Sanctuaries Checklist](#)

Review the [Safe Sanctuaries Proposed Sample Policy](#)

Finance, Shared Ministry, and Stewardship/Sacraments

Prior to April 29th meeting in person at the Mission & Resource Center

Finance, Shared Ministry, and Stewardship

- Review [this link](#) and read the job descriptions of the following leadership positions: Finance Chairperson, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary
- Peruse the following links:
 - [The Lewis Center for Church Leadership](#)
 - [Horizons](#), please sign up for Giving365
 - [Discipleship Ministries](#)
- Read the article [“The Spirituality of Fundraising”](#)

Sacraments

- Read about the Three Types of Grace: [A Wesleyan understanding of grace](#)
 - In 250 words, explain the three types of grace and how you have experienced God’s grace for yourself or in the community with others.
- Download and Read: [“By Water and the Spirit”](#)
- Download and Read: [“This Holy Mystery”](#)
- Talk with three individuals from your church or community about their understanding or experience of one or more of the sacraments. Then write in 500 words about your experience with and understanding of the sacraments: baptism and communion.
 - Submit written work to Joanne Sullivan at jsullivan@gnjumc.org by **April 21st**. Work should be typed in Times New Roman, font 12, double-spaced with your name on each page. File should be titled “Your Name_Sacraments and Grace”.

Additional assignments for future weeks will be added as they become available.