

## **Evangelism**

Course of Study School 523

NTC Ministry Center, 500 Maplelawn Drive, Plano, TX 75075

December 16, 2023, January 10 & February 17, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Paragraph 202 of *The Book of Discipline* states that, “The function of the local church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is to help people to accept and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to live their daily lives in light of their relationship with God.” The local church fulfills this mandate through its evangelistic outreach. The purpose of this course is twofold: to clarify and strengthen understanding of evangelism and its biblical and theological roots and to develop practical tools and techniques to lead local churches in the evangelistic task.

Books required: *Announcing the Reign of God*, Mortimer Arias; *Faith Sharing*, H. Eddie Fox and George E. Morris; *The Celtic Way of Evangelism*, George G. Hunter III; and *Transforming Evangelism, The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith*, Henry h. Knight III & Douglas Powe, Jr. The Arias and Knight/ Powe books are new required texts from the General Board. You can find all the texts at good prices on Amazon, Walmart and a site called Thrift. There are two editions and either will work, though there is some difference in pagination.

### **Assignments:**

Session One: Read the Arias book, which though dated in some ways, provides a biblical, theological and social gospel foundation that influenced the evangelistic discussion for the past 30 years. Prepare a list of questions you would like to discuss with the class based on your readings and bring them to the first session. If you email the questions a week ahead of time, the instructor can be sure to get them addressed as part of the overall session. We will have a brief quiz at the end of class based on the materials presented during the day.

Week Two: Read *Faith Sharing* and *The Celtic Way of Evangelism*. Both books focus on the issue of faith sharing, with the Hunter book applying principles more than 1500 years old. Write a brief (500-word) summary of one of the books and its central arguments. Add a few paragraphs to briefly describe how you plan to incorporate these insights into your own evangelistic efforts.

Week Three: Read *Transforming Evangelism*. Develop an instructional series for your congregation incorporating insights from the book. You may use PowerPoint and other media. You will have an opportunity to present an overview of your series to the class.

### **Grading:**

1. The most important criterion for grading written work will be completing the assignment according to directions given.
2. Clear, direct, and relevant responses.
3. Clear, careful, and coherent formulation of ideas.
4. Clear, concise, accurate, and careful writing.
5. All work must be original. Material drawn from published sources (including the Internet) without proper attribution will result in a failing grade. It goes without saying that all intelligence must be genuinely that of the student.

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