



LEADERSHIP

UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

Local Pastor Licensing School 2025

Resourcing & Homework

Assignments are subject to change – you will be notified ASAP if anything changes.

Welcome Evening and Breakthrough Preaching Format

Prior to Tuesday, January 21st 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 28th meeting on Zoom:

- Purchase and read [Worshiping 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

Following the Saturday, February 1st meeting in person at the Mission and Resource Center:

By February 20th: Submit sermon and bulletin to Leah Zuckerman via email at lzuckerman@epagnj.org

- Sermon Instructions:
 - 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 1st 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 1st.
- Bulletin Instructions
 - Please create a Worship Bulletin based on your Scripture and Sermon
 - Please title your document “Bulletin by *First and Last Name*”
 - Basic patterns for worship can be found in the United Methodist Hymnal pages 2-5
 - Feel free to use bulletins from your church as a reference

Journey of Hope: Antiracism and Discipleship

Prior to Tuesday, February 4th 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?”
 - Please reflect on the four questions found at the end of the article entitled “What Is Beloved Community”.
- 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, February 18th meeting on Zoom

Consider the questions below and write your responses to be ready to engage in group discussion:

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?

Preaching the Sermon and Breakthrough Small Groups

Prior to Saturday, March 1st meeting in person at the Mission and Resource Center

- Prior to class, review [Breakthrough “Celebrate” Small Group Resources](#)
- Bring a copy of your sermon and bulletin to class to be ready to preach

Congregational Care & Funerals and Finance, Shared Ministry, & Stewardship

Prior to Saturday, March 15th meeting in person at the Mission and Resource Center

Congregational Care and Funerals

- 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 14th: 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 Leah Zuckerman (lzuckerman@epagnj.org) by April 14th.
- This is a written assignment, meaning the sermon will not be preached in class.

Finance, Shared Ministry, & 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”](#)

Overview of UMC Polity

Prior to Tuesday, March 18th meeting on Zoom

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

Discipleship Pathways & MissionInsite

Prior to Tuesday, March 25th meeting on Zoom

- To prepare for your upcoming session on MissionInsite, please follow these steps:
 - Go to: www.missioninsite.com
 - Click on the Registration Information button on the left side of the home page.
 - Click on Register.
 - Enter the Agency Account Number: p9qcv and click SUBMIT
 - Select your city and then select your church from the drop-down menus
 - Follow the directions to register and create your own username and password.
 - This will give you access to your church’s own Mission Insite report.
- For this session, we will focus on the Mission Insite for Neptune, NJ. The following reports will be handed out at the first in-person gathering, but you should familiarize yourself with them for the Zoom meeting:
 - QuickInsite Report
 - Religious Priorities Report
 - These reports are based on a two-mile radius around the GNJ Conference Center in Neptune.

Self Care/Mutual Care and Weddings & Sacraments

Prior to Saturday, April 5th meeting in person at the Mission & Resource Center

Please bring a Book of Worship to class

- 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 Leah Zuckerman at lzuckerman@epagnj.org by **April 25th**. Work should be typed in Times New Romans, font 12, double-spaced with your name on each page. The file should be titled “Your Name_Sacraments and Grace”.

Safe Sanctuaries

Prior to Tuesday, April 8th meeting on Zoom

To be Safe Sanctuary Certified there is a 1-hour online training that will need to be completed called *Sexual Abuse Prevention Training*. This 1-hour training class will need to be completed online between April 8th, 2025 and April 20th, 2025. Information will be provided during the April 8th class.

Please read and write out responses to the following questions. Responses should be submitted via email to gnisafesanctuaries@epagnj.org by April 2, 2025. **Note this is a different email than the other homework submissions. Please be sure you send your work to the correct email address.**

- 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?

Self-Assessment:

Please type your responses to each question below in up to 200 words. Please ensure that your name is on each page of your work. Responses should be emailed to Leah Zuckerman at lzuckerman@epagnj.org no later than **April 25th**.

1. From your experience in class and in ministry, what are your ministry strengths? Be specific. How will you continue to grow in your strengths?
2. What topics of ministry would you identify as your areas of growth? What opportunities or resources can help you develop your skills?