

**2012 Course of Study School**  
**Hiwassee College, Madisonville, TN**  
**September 7-8, 2012 & October 5-6, 2012**

**Course:** COS 213 – Formation for Christian Discipleship

**Instructor:** Dr. Bob Winstead

**Texts**

Tye, Karen B. *Basics of Christian Education*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2000.  
**ISBN 9780827202290**

Griggs, Donald L. and Walther, Judy McKay. *Christian Education in the Small Church*. Valley Forge, Judson Press, 1988. **ISBN 9780817011031**

Benedict, Daniel T. Jr. *Come To The Waters: Baptism & Our Ministry of Welcoming Seekers & Making Disciples*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1996. **ISBN 9780881771794**

Wimberly, Anne E. Streaty. *Soul Stories: African American Christian Education*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994. **ISBN 9780687009329**

**Assignment 1:**

- A. Read Tye's *Basics of Christian Education* **and** Griggs & Walther's *Christian Education in the Small Church*.
- B. Read either Benedict's *Come to the Waters* **or** Wimberly's *Soul Stories*.

**Assignment 2:**

Provide a detailed written description and evaluation of your current educational ministry.

Part 1: Describe your congregation with particular attention to the education ministries you have. (Note: if you are appointed to a multi-point charge please choose only one congregation on which to do this assignment.) Begin with a general description of the congregation and setting, including a brief explanation of the community demographics and how these are represented in your congregation. Next, describe the way the congregation teaches. Include all educational programs like worship, Sunday School and Bible Studies or other small groups, special events like Vacation Bible School, retreats, confirmation classes, etc. Be complete in your descriptions with number and size and age group of participants, teachers & curriculum materials used, events in the congregation, and other activities that help explain your situation. Conclude with a brief description of worship, describing how your worship is educational for children, youth and adults. Explain how you plan and order worship, and why you choose this structure for your worship. (3 to 4 pages)

Part 2: Assess and evaluate your educational ministry as described in Part 1 in light of your reading the texts by Karen Tye and Griggs & Walther. For pastors of small membership churches, engage Griggs & Walther's tools for evaluating the specific needs of the small church. (2 to 3 pages)

Part 3: Evaluate your educational ministry from a pastoral perspective. Here is the place for your personal assessment and evaluation. Include thoughts on the church that fall outside Tye's or

Griggs/Walther's categories, your own insights about education in the church's life, what you think the pastor's role might be to address these issues, etc. *(1 to 2 pages)*

*(6 to 9 pages total)* **This assignment is due the first weekend!** (25% of course grade)

**Assignment 3: (do one of the following two assignments – your choice.)**

-- If you choose to read Benedict, do this assignment:

Benedict defines the congregation's essential work with four tasks: reaching out to people, welcoming them to the life of faith, forming them as disciples in a covenant community, and commissioning them to love God and neighbor in the world. Write a short paper explaining how you believe this can and should be done most effectively in the church today. Dialog with the text paying particular attention to how Benedict describes Christian initiation, conversion, the role of worship in Christian conversion, and the role of baptism in adult conversion. Use Benedict as your primary source; however, you may use additional resources if you choose to do so.

Do not use extensive quotes – your thoughts and ideas are what is desired in this paper, but only as you engage and converse with the ideas of Benedict. You must cite all works referenced, including any quotes or ideas taken from secondary sources. *(3 to 4 pages)*

**This assignment is due the second weekend!** (25% of course grade)

-- If you choose to read Wimberly, do this assignment:

Wimberly defines teaching in African American culture by a process of linking Christian Faith Stories with everyday life experiences. In this exercise, participants are encouraged to reflect critically on historical events, along with current life experiences. Write a short paper explaining how you believe this style of teaching can and should be done in the church today. Dialog with the text paying particular attention to how Wimberly addresses the issues and contexts of Scripture over against the issues and contexts African Americans face today. Also consider how this story-linking model is particularly appropriate for intergenerational Christian education settings. Use Wimberly as your primary source; however, you may use additional resources if you choose to do so.

Do not use extensive quotes – your thoughts and ideas are what is desired in this paper, but only as you engage and converse with the ideas of Anne Wimberly. You must cite all works referenced, including any quotes or ideas taken from secondary sources. *(3 to 4 pages)*

**This assignment is due the second weekend!** (25% of course grade)

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