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Duke University Divinity School
June 30-July 25, 2008

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ADVANCED YEAR STUDIES (Take off 20% unless otherwise noted, prices subject to change)

COS ADV CARE: Ministry Beyond the Barriers

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___ *Dancing with Disabilities: Opening the Church to All God's Children*, by Brett Webb-Mitchell, 1997, \$16.00 (no discount)

___ *Engaging the Powers*, by Walter Wink, 1992, \$25.00

___ *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time*, by Desmond Tutu, 2005, \$11.95

___ *Jesus and the Disinherited*, by Howard Thurman, 1969, \$15.00

___ *More Ready Than You Realize: Evangelism as Dance in the Postmodern Matrix*, by Brian D. McLaren, 1992, \$12.99

***Pastor, I Am Gay*, by Howard Bess, 1995, (OUT OF PRINT – PLEASE BUY USED ELSEWHERE)

___ *The Dream of God: A Call to Return*, by Verna J. Dozier, 1991s., \$13.00

___ *United Methodists and the Sacraments*, by Gayle C. Felton, 2007, \$7.50

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SCOS Advanced Pastoral Care: Ministry Beyond the Barriers
July 2008 Duke Divinity School
Rev. Laurie Hays Coffman

Too many Christians forget that we are called to minister to more than "us and ours." The church that gathers to worship God and nurture each other must eventually be sent out to serve... but serve whom? The least, the lost, the left out. The sick and lonely, exiled or imprisoned. The outcast, alien, and stranger - some much stranger than others! Here we begin to familiarize ourselves with people our prejudices might tempt us to reject - with the hope that, in every face, we find Jesus. Warning: God's gonna trouble the waters!

ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS:

Write a one-page reflection paper on the "barriers" you find in your congregation, i.e., the beliefs or assumptions that would limit your church's ability to extend the love of Christ to some persons in the nearby community. Consider who is the "neighbor" as seen by ethnicity, language, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, education, ability, age, confinement, or other defining characteristics. What can you as pastor do to help move your church members toward the margins? On what biblical grounds can you advocate for the outsider?

Email this one-page paper (both attached as a Word document and embedded in the body of the email) **by June 20, 2008**, to Rev. Laurie Hays Coffman at shalom1010@juno.com. Include a brief introduction to yourself: name, appointment, conference, phone number and address, previous employment, and any significant relationships that sustain you.

BOOK LIST:

Select only three of the following eight books and read them before class begins. Look for **similarities and differences** in their theological approaches to reaching out for the "other." Note **what challenges** your limits and barriers, as well as the concepts or examples that **ring true** to your understanding of the gospel. Be prepared to address the **pros and cons** of your three authors' faithful ministry to/for/by/with the marginalized.

1. *Dancing with Disabilities: Opening the Church to All God's Children*, by Brett Webb-Mitchell, 1997, United Church Press. ISBN-10: 0829811524 or ISBN-13: 978-0829811520

2. *Engaging the Powers*, by Walter Wink, 1992, Augsburg Fortress Press. ISBN-10: 080062646X or ISBN-13: 978-0800626464

3. *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time*, by Desmond Tutu, 2005, Image Press. ISBN-10: 0385483716 or ISBN-13: 978-0385483711

4. *Jesus and the Disinherited*, by Howard Thurman, 1969, Beacon Press. ISBN 0807010294

5. *More Ready Than You Realize: Evangelism as Dance in the Postmodern Matrix*, by Brian D. McLaren, 1992, Zondervan. ISBN-10: 0310239648 or ISBN-13: 978-0310239642

6. *Pastor, I Am Gay*, by Howard Bess, 1995, Palmer Publishing Co. ISBN-10: 0964412306 or ISBN-13: 978-0964412309

7. *The Dream of God: A Call to Return*, by Verna J. Dozier, 1991, Cowley Publications.

8. *United Methodists and the Sacraments*, by Gayle C. Felton, 2007, Abingdon Press. ISBN:0687492157

We will also be considering several forms of pastoral care with the marginalized as enacted by contemporary Christians, including some of these. (You do not need to buy)

"Gangs and God: How Churches are Reaching Out" found in *Christian Century* (Sept. 18, 2007)

Article may be downloaded at <http://www.christiancentury.org/article.lasso?id=3663>

"How to Start a Prison Ministry" and Disciple Bible Outreach Program

<http://archives.umc.org/interior.asp?ptid=1&mid=3085>

http://archives.umc.org/frames.asp?url=http%3A//gbgm-umc.org/mission_Programs/mcr/4.35/howtostartprisonministry.htm

L'Arche Communities where people with disabilities and others share life together, <http://www.larcheusa.org/>

"The Church Studies Homosexuality" 1992 General Conference, 1994, Cokesbury. ISBN-13:X783798 with separate Leader's Kit #778964

The National Ethnic Plans for Ministry in the UMC <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/plan/connections/overview/>

The new monastic movement, an experiment in Christian community, found at <http://www.newmonasticism.org/>

Brief readings, guest speakers, field trips, and personal interviews will enlarge our understanding of Jesus' call to go out, proclaiming God's favor, binding up the broken, and making disciples for the transformation of the world. Grades will be based on class engagement, oral presentations, and reflection papers.

Rev. Laurie Hays Coffman 919-688-7138 Calvary UMC, Durham shalom1010@juno.com