

## Participant Information Sheet

### Durham University

**Project title:** Toward a Pentecost Pedagogy of Receptivity: Understanding the Learning Experiences of Local Pastors in the Course of Study of The United Methodist Church

**Researcher(s):** Andrew D. Kinsey

**Department:** Theology and Religion

**Contact details:** 317-494-9704 (USA), or andykinsey@franklingrace.org

**Supervisors:** Rev. Dr. Will Foulger and Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Kent

**Supervisor contact:** [william.foulger@durham.ac.uk](mailto:william.foulger@durham.ac.uk) and [Elizabeth.kent@durham.ac.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.kent@durham.ac.uk)

You are being invited to take part in a research project that will explore your experience in the Course of Study. I am conducting this project as part of my work in the Doctor of Theology and Ministry (DThM) program at Durham University in England.

This study has received ethical approval from the Ethics Committee in Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University.

Personal Note: I am an elder in the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church. I have been teaching in the Course of Study for fourteen years. I am also the senior pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Franklin, Indiana. My vita and resume are available upon request by emailing me at the above address.

Before you decide whether to agree to take part, it is important for you to understand the purpose of the research and what is involved as a participant. Please read the following information carefully. Please get in contact with me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

The rights and responsibilities of anyone taking part in Durham University research are set out in our 'Participants Charter':

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/research.innovation/governance/ethics/considerations/people/charter>

### **What is the purpose of the study?**

The aim of this study is to find out how those who participate in the Course of Study experience it as a form of theological education and ministerial formation. It seeks to understand how you learn in the Course of Study and are shaped by your interactions in it. The research will involve

- An online survey
- An interview, which will take place online (via video conferencing) or in person

All participants will be asked to complete the online survey (phase one) and will be asked whether they would be willing to be invited to an interview. A selection of participants who have indicated their willingness to be interviewed will then be invited to an interview with the researcher (phase two). This information sheet and a consent form will be provided to you in advance of the online survey and again in advance of any interview.

### **Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited because you are a participant in the Course of Study. You are a licensed local pastor, or you are in the process of becoming a licensed local pastor. You have been identified as person who is preparing to serve, or currently serving, or has served in The United Methodist Church and has been involved in the Course of Study.

### **Do I have to take part?**

Your participation is voluntary, and you do not have to agree to take part. If you do agree to take part, you can withdraw at any time prior to the submission of the researcher's thesis (expected to take place in 2025), without giving a reason. Your rights in relation to withdrawing any data that is identifiable to you are explained in the accompanying Privacy Notice.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you agree to take part in this research, you will be provided with a link to complete an online survey. The survey online will take between 20 to 30 minutes to fill out. You may choose not to answer any of the questions in the survey. You may complete the survey anonymously or you may choose to give your name and contact details if you would be willing to be interviewed in phase two of the research study.

If you have indicated your willingness to be interviewed and you are selected as a participant for phase two of the research, you will be invited to an interview with the researcher at a time convenient to you. The interview will either be held in person in a public space that is convenient for you, or it may be held online via videoconference (Zoom). The interview will last around one hour and fifteen minutes. You can choose not to answer any question during the course of the interview.

During the interview, I will invite you to use a form of reflection on choosing a picture to explore and reflect on your involvement in the Course of Study. You will be provided fifty different pictures and invited to reflect on your experience in the Course of Study. You may choose not to participate in this aspect of the interview.

The interview will be audio recorded and then transcribed. If you choose to participate, a picture will also be taken of the picture you decided to share.

If you participate in an in-person interview, you will be reimbursed for any travel expenses with a gas-card (or equivalent).

### **Are there any potential risks involved?**

There is no risk to you in this process. You will be asked about your educational and ministry experience and your views on the Course of Study. You do not need to prepare anything in advance.

A possible benefit of this research is that your responses could inform research that seeks to shape the future of learning and formation in the Course of Study.

### **Will my data be kept confidential?**

All information obtained during the study will be kept confidential. Any identifiable data collected will be accessible only to the researcher and to Durham University staff directly involved in the supervision and oversight of the research project. You will be asked to give permission for the use of verbatim quotations from your survey responses and (where

applicable) your interview responses. Quotations will be anonymised in the publication or presentation of any research findings.

You may choose to complete the online survey anonymously. Persons will not be able to connect data to the IP address from which the survey is completed. Qualitative Software called NVivo7, a qualitative research software program developed by QSR International, will help in coding, categorizing, analysing, and interpreting the data. Data within NVivo7 will be accessible only to the researcher and to Durham University staff directly involved in the supervision and oversight of the research project.

Interview recordings will be stored on a secure digital recording device and transcriptions will be kept in password protected files on a secure computer. Full details are included in the accompanying Privacy Notice

**What will happen to the results of the project?**

This research will be published as part of a thesis submitted to Durham University, in the Doctor of Theology and Ministry program. It will also be presented in online formats and at conferences on practical theology. Individual participants will not be identified in any publication or a presentation.

**Who do I contact if I have any questions or concerns about this study?**

If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please speak to the researcher or their supervisor. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please submit a complaint via the University's [Complaints Process](#). *Thank you for reading this information and considering taking part in this study.*

'Andy' Kinsey

[andykinsey@franklingrace.org](mailto:andykinsey@franklingrace.org)