



The CEU News

Continuing Education Update

March 2023

A Publication of the Wesley Leadership Institute
Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church

Events - Coming Soon!

Check the Holston [online calendar](#) for a full listing of future events.

March:

[Serious Answers to Hard Questions](#)

March 6 - May 15 Online 2.2 CEUs

10 Christian and Jewish theologians – world experts in their fields and persons of faith – each address a single perplexing obstacle to faith for many both in and outside of the church. They are: Evil - R. Kendall Soulen, Wesley Theological Seminary, Religion and Science - John Polkinghorne, Cambridge University, Other Religions - Sathianathan Clarke, Wesley Theological Seminary, Evangelism & Tolerance – Scott Jones, Bishop; formerly Perkins School of Theology, The God of the Old Testament - Amy-Jill Levine, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Jesus and Christianity - Richard B. Hays, Duke Divinity School, Resurrection - N. T. Wright, Bishop; formerly Oxford University The Gnostic Gospels - Ben Witherington, Asbury Theological Seminary, The Sins of the Church – Douglas M. Strong, Wesley Theological Seminary, & Forgiveness - L. Gregory Jones, Duke Divinity School.

[Loaves and Fishes: Discovering Hidden Possibilities for You and Your Church](#)

March 6 - 18 Online 1.0 CEUs

Bishops often preach to church leaders about switching their focus from “lack” to “abundance!” And folks ask, “How do we do that – especially now?” This course is one possible answer. It will provide specific, practical tools you can use in your congregation immediately (even by Zoom) to get “unstuck.”

[Sustaining While Disrupting](#)

March 7 Online 0.1 CEUs

For many congregational leaders, preserving cherished traditions while discerning God’s new thing is a challenge. Trying to innovate to address a changing context and culture can take a backseat to daily responsibilities and maintaining ongoing ministries. This webinar offers insights and practices to help leaders navigate this impasse in ways that do not become an either/or situation.

[Using Storytelling in Your Preaching to Make Easter Memorable](#)

March 7 Online 0.1 CEUs

Good preaching and good storytelling go hand in hand, and the ability to inspire your congregation is never greater than Easter Sunday, when we have the largest attendance of the year.

Join master storyteller, Rev. Charles Maynard, as he reaches into his story chest to share some of his best tips with you.

Identifying Core Values of Your Ministry

March 15 Online 0.1 CEUs

Core values explain who we are – our identity. They explain why we do what we do. This is true for organizations like churches, and individuals. In churches the core values are the constant, passionate, biblical core beliefs that drive the ministry. Core values guide church leadership decisions and ministry direction. This webinar is based on the book, *Identifying Core Values of the New Expedition* by Ken Willard.

Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century

March 20 - April 2 Online 1.0 CEUs

This course explores innovative and practical ways of helping congregations develop outstanding ministry with members of our Baby Boomer Generation and beyond. It offers a rich learning experience that includes knowing more about the aging process and the developmental stages of midlife and older adulthood and how we can best shape our ministry.

Cultivating a Resilient Spirit

March 20 - April 3 Online 1.0 CEUs

This course will introduce practices that help cultivate resiliency through a grounded life in God, in one another, and in the self. It is recommended for anyone interested in both the theory and the practice of a grounded faith life that produces resiliency.

Small Churches: Deepening Holy Week Worship

March 29 Online 01 CEUs

In this webinar, Teresa Stewart invites pastors and leaders to use their “small church super-powers,” including conversation and hands-on contact, to deepen the Holy Week experience. Learn how to use the strengths of your small congregation to make Holy Week and Easter worship even more powerful and meaningful.

April:

Journey Through the Psalms

April 10 - June 5 Online 1.5 CEUs

This course is based on the widely-used book *Journey through the Psalms*, and features video lessons by its author, Dr. Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, Professor of Hebrew Bible at Wesley Theological Seminary. Through the course of 8 weekly sessions, the course provides a vehicle to bring the Psalms to life for prayer and worship in the local church and helps participants learn to approach God with the honesty and emotional intensity of the ancient psalmists.

Twelve Secrets for a Top-Notch Church Website

April 10 - May 5 Online 1.0 CEUs

This course is designed for clergy and lay persons who want their websites to be destination sites for both internal and external audiences. Before you can reach these two audiences, though, you need a clear roadmap that identifies where you want to arrive as well as warning of road bumps along the way. These 12 tricks, techniques, and time savers will reap huge rewards for making your church website useful as well as being attractive to persons visiting the site.

Doing Ministry in Innovative Ways:

Casting our nets on the right side of the boat

April 20 Online 0.1 CEUs

As the nation continues to navigate through various disruptions, it's critical that we are willing to do ministry in uncertain, uncommon and uncomformable manner. If you expect to experience amazing things in your ministry, Dr. Michael Bowie dares you to begin making shifts. During this session, our leader will share steps and ideas about how we can lead our congregations to cast nets on the other side of the boat, creating enthusiasm and ministry in ways unimagined before.

[Holston Weekend of Prayer | Praying Together](#)

March 25 - 26 Knoxville (See description for simulcast locations.) 0.15 CEUs

[Register now](#) and plan on joining us for a Holston Conference Weekend of Prayer. Continuing with our 2022 Annual Conference Theme of Praying Together, clergy and laity from across the Holston Conference will be gathering on Saturday, March 25 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm to pray. Our live on-campus event will take place at Cokesbury UMC in Knoxville TN, but we will be simulcasting to four additional locations: Dublin UMC in Dublin VA, State Street UMC in Bristol VA, Christ UMC in Chattanooga TN, and Arua Uganda. Then, on Sunday, March 26, we are asking churches to continue this weekend of prayer by highlighting this spiritual discipline in their worship gathering. A website will be available with resources to use or help your churches to plan that day.

Click on image below to view Bishop Debbie Wallace-Padgett's message regarding the upcoming Weekend of Prayer.



The image shows a YouTube video player interface. On the left, a woman with glasses and a patterned jacket is speaking. The video title is "2023 Weekend of Prayer Promo". On the right, there is a promotional graphic for the "Weekend of Prayer" event. The graphic includes the text "a Pray Together Event", the date and time "SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH 10AM-1PM", and the title "Conference-wide Day of Prayer". Below this, there are two bullet points: "- Guided and personal prayer led by Holston clergy and lay" and "- Breakthrough Prayer led by Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey". The YouTube interface also shows "Watch later" and "Share" buttons, a red play button icon, and a "Watch on YouTube" logo at the bottom left.

CEU QUICKLINKS:

[PeoplePortal User Instructions](#)

(Includes directions for submitting CEU requests)

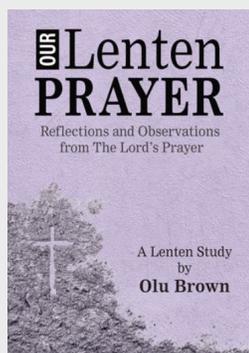
[Event Evaluation Form](#)



CLERGY NOTES:

For those who attended Convocation, we hope that you found it to be informative and inspiring. Please remember that you must submit your evaluation form to get your CEU credits. If you have not submitted it yet, click [here](#) to download the form. You can scan and email it to sue@holston.org or snail mail it to my attention at the conference office.

Book Review



[OUR LENTEN PRAYER:](#) **REFLECTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS FROM THE LORD'S PRAYER** - by Olu Brown

During this Lenten season, Olu Brown encourages the reader to lean fully on God and practice the spiritual discipline of trust. Rev. Brown believes there is so much we don't know or understand, and so much we

have to learn. He writes that our attempts to be God are futile exercises that lead to nothing but disappointment and disillusionment.

Rev. Brown believes that God is challenging us to fully release and trust God for all things in our lives during this Lenten season. It doesn't mean we literally stop and cease to do anything, but we live and operate with the mindset that God is in control and has our best interests at heart even when we don't fully understand what God is doing or perceive God's presence in our lives and world. We need to be open and willing to ask God for help and direction.

Don't worry, however. Olu reminds the reader that God is available to lead and guide us every step of the way. Chapters include:

Chapters include: The Season of Lent, Daily Bread, Jesus's Model Prayer, Forgiveness, Hypocrisy, Fighting Temptation, An Inclusive God and Holy God , Your Personal Doxology, Here and Now! , Kingdom Come, Transformation

The lead pastor of Impact Church, located in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, Pastor Olu Brown has helped grow Impact into one of the fastest growing new church starts in America. For more information about Pastor Brown, log onto <http://www.impactdcd.org>



A Message from Our Director...

Transitions and Opportunities

Life is full of transitions and opportunities. We move from childhood to adulthood. We move from in school and into the real world. We move from one church to another church.

Opportunities also come along. Sometimes when we expect them and other times when we least expect them. One such opportunity began years ago with a vision by Bishop Ray Chamberlain to create an entity that we call the Wesley Leadership Institute. It got off to a good start. It provides learning opportunities for clergy and laity of the Holston Conference. Somewhere along the way, it plateaued and entered into a state of decline. It ceased to exist in all but name. This newsletter, has been the barebones of the Wesley Leadership Institute for the past few years.

This past fall, we began to revitalize the Institute. We created a board of directors and gave two grants to excellent learning opportunities within the annual conference. The hope for the future is a more coherent plan and more significant opportunities for both clergy and laity to grow in their knowledge and expertise.

One of the most significant changes to the Institute is the leadership transition. For years, the Director of the Wesley Leadership has been the person that holds the office of Director of Clergy Services. A decision has been made to move this leadership function to the Rev. Susan Groseclose, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Discipleship. Susan has already taken the reins for this position and will lead the board as the Wesley Leadership Institute moves into the future.

Please keep her and the Institute in your prayers and ask that God give them the wisdom to make the decisions that help clergy and laity become better equipped to strengthen God's Kingdom in this place we call Holston Conference.

Rev. Terry Goodman
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