**West Virginia South District**

**Center for Ministry Formation**

**PRACTICING WESLEYAN-HOLINESS**

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

*SYLLABUS*

**Location**: Summersville Campground

**Dates**: July 10 – 14 (Monday – Friday)

**Time**: 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

**Instructor**: Dr. B. Scott Buell (Sr. Pastor of Winfield Church of the Nazarene)

 e-mail : drbsbuell@gmail.com

 Phone: (419)565-1820 (cell – text first to set up an appropriate time)

1. Course Description

This course deals with the discipline of Christian spirituality and spiritual formation. The goal is not only to enable the students to pursue Christlikeness in life but also to lead others to developing a disciplined Christian life.

# II. Course Objectives

By fulfilling all the requirements of this course, the students will be able to:

* pursue holy character (Christlikeness) by practicing Christian formation and the classic spiritual disciplines as means of grace
* locate, understand, and use the resources for individual and corporate spiritual formation
* take responsibility for his or her own continuing spiritual development
* apply understanding of his or her ongoing developmental needs across the life course of the minister to the pursuit of holy character
* demonstrate a realistic self-understanding including personal strengths, gifts, weaknesses, and areas of needed growth

**III. Texts**

Barton, Ruth Haley. ***Sacred Rhythms: Arranging our Lives for Spiritual Transformation***. Intervarsity Press, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-8308-3333-7

Nouwen, Henri. ***In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership***. Crossroad, 1992. ISBN: 0824512596

Tracy, W. Freeborn, E. Tartaglia, J. Weigelt, M. ***The Upward Call: Spiritual Formation and the Holy Life.*** Beacon Hill Press, 1993. ISBN: 0834115166

Bring a Bible to each class.

1. **Requirements/Assignments**
2. Regular class attendance is required. Students are responsible for all assignments and in-class work even for sessions where they are absent. If more than one session is missed, the instructor will require additional assignments.

#### Students are required to download the student guide (SG) for this course. Choose the link for Practicing Wesleyan-Holiness Spiritual Formation “Stu”. They are also responsible to peruse the Student Guide.

1. Students must complete the assigned readings.
* The required Wesley sermons will be emailed before the first class session.
* Completely read each of the assigned texts.
1. Complete the lesson homework assignments.

**V. Course Schedule**

Monday Introduction

 Foundations of Spiritual Formation

Tuesday An Introduction to Spiritual Theology

READ (before class) – Wesley Sermon: *Scripture Way of Salvation*

Wednesday Introduction to the Spiritual Disciplines

Read *Sacred Rhythms* Chapters 2-8 and *The Upward Call* Chapters 4-10

Thursday Spiritual Formation in Community

Friday Sin and the False Self

**VI. Grading**

Assignment Points Possible

Participation 200 (40 per day)

Paper 1 50

Assigned Reading 250

Final Assignments 300

Total Possible 800

Pass with Distinction: 720 points and above

Pass: over 560 points

Fail: 559 and under

**Paper (Due July 21): A Biblical Reflection on the Goals of Spiritual Formation**

The first two days of this course in the reading and class times you have been exposed to and discussed goals of spiritual formation both Biblically and theologically. Based on these resources and others you may have available write a 3 to 4 page paper proposing goals of spiritual formation in your life personally and in your ministry setting. What is your vision for your spiritual formation as well as that for those you lead in ministry?

Issues to address:

1. What are 2 – 4 important Bible passages that offer a goal for a person’s formation in Christ?

* Briefly discuss each passage presenting your description of the goal you find in it.

2. Offer any spiritual disciplines you find discussed in the Bible and their importance to the Christian’s formation.

3. Develop a vision or picture of what a Christian who is growing in his or her formation in Christ looks like.

* Connect this vision or picture with Scripture.

4. What challenges the Christian’s pursuit of spiritual formation?

* What must be overcome?

**Final Paper (Due July 21): A Plan for Spiritual Formation**

This paper is the capstone assignment for this class. This paper should be 5 to 6 pages in length: 12 point New Times Roman with 1 inch margins. Taking into account all your reading, class discussion, and lecture notes write a plan for your own spiritual formation. You will want to pay close attention to chapter 9 in *Sacred Rhythms*, “A Rule of Life” for this assignment.

Your plan **must be realistic** given your time, family responsibilities, ministry responsibilities, school work, and other components of your life. Do not write a “pie in the sky” plan that you have no hope or intention of fulfilling.

As you develop your plan for spiritual formation and write this paper include in it:

1. What spiritual disciplines will you practice?

* At what regularity? Some disciplines you may practice daily (such as Bible reading and prayer) others may be weekly, monthly, or even less often (such as corporate worship, retreat, or reflecting on your journaling).
* Please be very specific about how you are practicing or intend to practice the various disciplines you include in your plan.
* How much time do you anticipate the various disciplines require of your day or week?

2. What are your personal goals in your spiritual formation?

* What do you desire God to do in you?
* Do you plan on using particular disciplines to address certain goals? Or to address problem areas or areas that need special attention?
* What Biblical passages are informing your vision or goals for your spiritual formation?

3. How will you include others in your spiritual formation plan?

* If you have a spouse and/or child at home, how do they fit into your plan?
* What role will your local congregation play in your plan? Whether you are the pastor, staff member, or lay member how will the church fit into your plan?
* In what ways will you lead and teach others in their spiritual formation?