

## Requirements for the Bible Study

In The Book of Discipline, both elders and deacons are ordained to ministries of “the Word.” Pastors are required to “read and teach scripture.” Membership vows in the United Methodist Church include the following: “To receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.” In the liturgy of ordination, both deacons and elders are asked to affirm “the scriptures...are the unique and authoritative standard for the Church’s faith and life.” Our theological guidelines say this about scripture: *United Methodists share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine. Through Scripture the living Christ meets us in the experience of redeeming grace.*

The Bible Study you create and present to us should reflect your commitment to scripture as primary in the life of both the individual Christian and the church. Full member candidates will create **and lead** a Bible Study based on passages from a synoptic gospel (Matthew in liturgical year A, Mark in year B, Luke in year C.)

### **Outline of the work to be turned in:**

1. Prepare a handout entitled: **Why we study the Bible (Maximum 1000 words)**. Address the following issues in that handout:
  - A. Briefly describe your theological understanding of the Bible. There is an expectation that you will use theological sources, appropriately noted.
  - B. Explain your understanding of the role of Scripture in the life of the individual believer and the Church.
  - C. Share why the Bible is important to you personally.
  - D. Reflect briefly on how your experience of ministry has affected your understanding of the Bible and its role in your life, that of the church, and those of your congregants.
  
2. Submit a **course plan** for teaching six lessons on the assigned Biblical book **(approximately 1200 words)**.
  - A. State your objectives for the overall course. This is intentionally left open ended so that you may develop the study in whatever way is authentic to you and your setting. Some may develop a thematic study, some may attempt a chapter by chapter method...as long as it covers the assigned book in an effective way, you are welcome to develop a study as you see fit.
  - B. Describe the overall ministry setting (church/ministry agency and community)
  - C. Describe the participating students and note assumptions you are making about them
  - D. Briefly describe how you will assess the learning of participants

- E. Prepare a syllabus for the students, including assignments you will be giving them
  - F. List a repertoire of learning activities you plan to use through this particular course
  - G. List an annotated bibliography of books and other resources you are using to prepare the course. The board is looking for good scholarship here, and good use of resources. We caution you though not to rely too heavily on any one particular resource. In the interview process we are looking for *your* words, not someone else's.
  - H. Since you are required to teach this study, provide a brief self-evaluation. What would you do differently next time? What worked well? What surprised you?
3. Submit a **detailed lesson plan** for **ONE** of the lessons (**approximately 700 words**). Your submitted lesson should be in its final, presentation-ready, form. It should stand alone and need no further explanation from the candidate, or put another way, a skilled teacher should be able to take these pages and teach this one detailed lesson themselves.
- A. Identify which lesson from the syllabus you will be detailing
  - B. List the objectives for that particular lesson
  - C. Outline an agenda (detailed lesson plan) for the session, including time allotments for each activity
  - D. List materials needed
  - E. Describe your lead-in, which may include reviewing previous lessons, asking leading questions for the new lesson, providing a resource, or telling a story that piques interest
  - F. Prepare two feedback questions (opportunities for participant to embrace and incorporate the theme of the lesson) to be answered by each student at the conclusion of the session.
  - G. Attach any lecture notes
  - H. If you use other media, make those presentations available online
4. Provide a scholarly overview of the assigned book (original audience, assumed author and date, internal structure, connection to other biblical books, major themes, etc.). Include a scholarly bibliography of works used for this section and all of the Bible Study. (**Approximately 600 words**)