**Polity and Leadership Class**

**Winter Quarter, Iliff School of Theology**

**2014**

**January**

**7 Who are you and what got you here?**

**14 How is the Discipline written and what should it say? Paragraphs 201-245**

**A. Paper due “Called To Do What?**

**21 Demythologizing the appointive process Paragraphs 425-430 &2702-2719**

**28 When the church is what it could be? Butler-Bass *Christianity After Religion* Read Chapter 4 “Believing”**

**February 4 The organization of the organization Paragraphs 246-271**

**B. Paper due “Whom Would I Nominate for Sainthood?”**

**“The Deacon” Updike Reading given in the class (not an assignment)**

**11 The saints among the sinners Butler Bass *Christianity After Religion* Chapter 5 “Behaving”**

**18 Who owns what and why Paragraphs 2525-2551**

**25 What God Do I Worship? Paragraph 105**

**C. Paper due “If I had One Sermon to Preach”**

**March**

**4 Always Ask for Wonder**

**D. Paper due “When the Church Was What the Church Ought to Be”**

**11 Final Exam**

**Grades will be determined on the basis of three areas:**

1. **Class participation 10%**
2. **4 required papers 60%**
3. **Final Exam 30%**

**Papers to be written (Four pages). The papers are designed to allow a free flow of thought. They are required in order to enable the students to work through their call to ministry and the way they might be able to see themselves functioning as a church leader and a United Methodist.**

**Final Exam: Based on Thomas Frank *Polity, Practice, and the Mission of the United Methodist Church* (Chapters to be determined)**

**Required Reading**

**United Methodist Book of Discipline**

**Thomas Frank *Polity, Practice, and the Mission of the United Methodist Church***

**Diane Butler-Bass *Christianity After Religion***

**Class Description: Required classes are established to discourage the less than ardent and, when it comes to the church, to weed out the lazy and the less than “called” into ministry. The Polity and Leadership class has the potential of being about as interesting as watching a video on the process of changing out transmission oil from farm equipment. As a student at Duke Divinity School years ago when I was forced to take the equivalent of this course it was about as enjoyable as serious dental work. I will do everything I can to make this class interesting because it is one of the most important pieces of learning for an Iliff student.**

**This class, offered at the school on a Tuesday evening, will be an opportunity to test out the student’s call to ministry, to examine how one might think theologically, and to explore ways in which a church leader is able to apply theory onto praxis. Most important is the interaction with the other students, the book of Discipline, and the other two required readings. It is hoped that this 4 hour class will be both interesting and helpful for those who want to take seriously their future ministry and their work in the United Methodist Church. The ultimate goal is to create an environment where the students can think and imagine our structures as enabling creativity, and where church leaders of the future will be inspired to lead the church as institutions formed to bring justice and transformation.**