

**Southwestern College / Institute for Discipleship / SPARK Youth Ministry Conference
January 2017 Certification Class Road Map: Doing Theology with Youth**

Introductions & Overview- Charles Harrison, Steve Wilke, Lisa Buffum

Goal: To help the students build a coherent Theological Outlook that is distinctly Wesleyan and that fits the call to Certification in United Methodist Youth Ministry by GBHEM. We will focus on a Wesleyan model in order to help build the capacity to live out the mission of the UMC – ***To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.*** We believe this is the starting point for all competent Youthwork in the UMC. Wesleyan leadership is vital to a healthy UMC.

1 Hour Units Taught:

1. The Content of the American Theological Landscape- Heresy- **Charles W. Harrison**
2. Flavors of Modern World Theology: Liberation, Feminist, Womanist, Black, Evangelical, Liberal, etc.- **Stephen Rankin**
3. Understanding Postmodernism- **Stephen Rankin**
4. Do You Believe in Atheism?- **Charles W. Harrison**
5. How to Think Theologically-
6. The Quadrilateral Reframed-
7. Christian Faith Defined-
8. United Methodist Doctrine: Overview and Distinctive Emphasis-
9. When Grace is the Chauffeur – Theology and Education module- **Charles W. Harrison**
10. Ethics-
11. Revelation-
12. The Human Condition: Anthropology-
13. God-
14. Creation-
15. Theology & Science-
16. Evil: Theodicy-
17. Sin/Original Sin-
18. Jesus/Christ-
19. Atonement Theory- **Charles W. Harrison**

**Southwestern College / Institute for Discipleship / SPARK Youth Ministry Conference
January 2017 Certification Class Road Map: Doing Theology with Youth**

20. Identity/Vocation-
21. Conversion/Evangelism- **Charles W. Harrison**
22. Church/Community: "We're All In This Together!"-
23. Holy Spirit: The "It" Factor-
24. Mission (Missio Dei)-
25. Worship/Mean of Grace/Christian Practices-
26. Reign of God/New Beginnings-

3 Units of Analyzing Secular Music- **Charles W. Harrison**

Real World Conversations:

1. TBA
2. TBA
3. TBA

Closing Worship: led by **Rev. Wendy Mohler-Seib** with Communion on Friday.

Worship at SPARK also on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

Class members will also participate in Boot Camp and function as supervised "coaches" for the other participants thereby gaining experience in Community Care of other Youthworkers and helping to build the national network of Wesleyan Youthworkers.

Bible Study (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) & Sunday worship led by Mark Oestriecher.

Music led by Shawn Welling

3 Key Note Addresses

**Southwestern College / Institute for Discipleship / SPARK Youth Ministry Conference
January 2017 Certification Class Road Map: Doing Theology with Youth**

FAQs:

1. ***Why is there an emphasis on a Wesleyan Model of Youth Ministry?*** Simply, we believe that to be certified in United Methodist Youth Ministry, you should be working out of the distinctives of the United Methodist Church and that means Wesleyan Theology and Praxis. There are dozens of great Youth Ministry models out there. We focus on the Wesleyan Model while learning from other approaches.
2. ***How difficult is it to take this class taught at a graduate level?*** It is very hard work. Most folks will say the amount of reading is difficult. Some struggle with the papers to be written. But, since we are Wesleyan, we are grace-based in teaching. We want to uphold the highest and most rigorous standards of academics and we use the teaching content that we think should be the standard for any UMC academic institution to use. This model and content has been successfully taught for 15+ years now with great results. We have students who have never taken a college class, some who have not been in college in 30 years, and some who are thinking about going on to get a Seminary education. We teach everybody the same way. We help you succeed because the professors are available to you all year long. They are available to coach, pray, and teach outside of regular class time. We do everything we can to help you succeed.
3. ***How does each of the 5 classes (Youth Ministry, Bible, Theology, UMC Studies, Adolescent World) relate to the others?*** Each class is designed to compliment the other 4 classes. Threads run throughout the 5 classes tying everything together into a coherent whole. Each of the 5 classes is a different discipline. Each class focuses on that particular discipline exclusively to avoid confusion and too much heavy reading at any one time.
4. ***What will I get out of class?*** You will learn a lot. You will grow to be thoroughly Wesleyan in thought and praxis. You will get to meet some of the top Youth Ministry minds from across the country. You will learn the most innovative approaches being used in various contexts. But maybe even more importantly you will grow to be a part of a national group of Youthworkers who want to set the standard for Youthwork in the United Methodist Church. You will be a part of a vocational community that cares for each other all year long, year after year. We also expect you to become a leader very quickly in the national network. We want you to teach, coach, and care for your fellow youthworkers and we help you to be ready to do that.
5. ***What if I have not taken any of the other Certification Classes yet?*** Our teaching system is designed for you to start with any of the 5 classes. It absolutely does not matter what order you do them in.
6. ***What if I have taken one or more classes at other academic institutions?*** GBHEM keeps up with what classes you have successfully completed. While most students take all of their classes at just one institution, over the years we have had several students that took classes at as many as 2-3 other institutions. All that you need is to complete each of the 5 classes somewhere. GBHEM helps you to stay on track.

REAL YOUTHWORKERS TRAINING REAL YOUTHWORKERS