

WESLEYAN HISTORY AND POLITY

January 11, 2027 – February 22, 2027

Monday 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Zoom Format

Rev. Dr. Wesley D. Oden

wesoden59@gmail.com / 585-307-2046

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To familiarize the student with the life and history of John Wesley as the founder of Methodism.
2. To fix in the student's mind the events and ideas that precipitated the inception of The Wesleyan Church as well as its continuing history so that the student is able to articulate key events and ideas to others.
3. To help the student understand The Wesleyan Church in the context of the Methodist Church of America as well as the wider culture of North America.
4. To introduce the student to the specific structure of The Wesleyan Church so that the student is able to understand how and why the church is organized at every level of church government.
5. To provide opportunity for the student to understand and interact with the basic principles and distinctives of The Wesleyan Church as would be needed to serve as a local church pastor or any other role in the church.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class provides a detailed description of the history of The Wesleyan Church as well as a detailed discussion of the polity of The Wesleyan Church as outlined in The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Read textbooks completely and keep a journal with notes and ideas related to the reading. The journal isn't intended to be detailed nor quotes from the material, but some points of interaction with the text, including ideas or questions that arise out of the text.
2. Attend all classes and contribute to the class discussion by asking questions or offering ideas.
3. In an exam, exhibit proficiency related to key moments and events in the history of The Wesleyan Church, particularly related to the beginnings of The Wesleyan Methodist and Pilgrim Holiness Churches and the 1968 merger. In addition, the exam would focus on how past events bear on the contemporary Wesleyan Church.
4. In an exam, show proficiency with using The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church as a tool for managing, organizing and handling situations that arise in a church setting.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Black, Robert and Keith Drury. *The Story of The Wesleyan Church*. Indianapolis: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2012.

Collins, Kenneth J. *A Real Christian: The Life of John Wesley*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.

The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church 2026. Indianapolis: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2026.

GRADING SCALE

97-100	A
94-96	A-
91-93	B+
88-90	B
85-87	B-
81-84	C+
76-80	C (Minimum passing grade)
71-75	C-
68-70	D
0-67	F

GRADING

- 25% — Reading journals.
- 25% — Class participation and weekly assignments.
- 25% — Wesleyan History exam
- 25% — Wesleyan Discipline exam

PREPARATION FOR THE COURSE (All due prior to the first class session)

1. Read *A Real Christian*. Write a 1-page observation paper on the book. Describe thoughts and ideas from the book that catch your attention. Provide a brief description of why these ideas are important to you. This paper is due at the beginning of the first class session.

ATTENDANCE

You are responsible to be present and engaged at each scheduled class session. If you miss a class session, you are expected to watch the class video to make up the absence.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

- Students are expected to exhibit honesty and integrity in their personal, professional and academic life, and work. As Christians, we are called to a high standard of honesty.
- Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to) the following:
- Copying all or part of a theme, exam, paper, reading report, or other written work from another person;
- Submitting as one's own work that which was wholly or partially done by another;
- Quoting material from any source without clearly indicating it is someone else's work;
- Summarizing or paraphrasing from any source without clearly indicating it is someone else's work;
- Misrepresentation of documentation or resources
- Submitting workbook answers copied from another person or working in a group and submitting an identical set of answers for each member of the group without explicit permission from the professor;
- Cheating on a test by getting answers in an unauthorized manner;
- Submitting the same work for more than one course without the prior approval of the instructor.
- An instance of plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" for the specific assignment and may also result in an automatic failure of the course.
- Repeat offenses will result in an automatic failure of the course.

COURSE PLAN AND ASSIGNMENTS

Monday, January 11, 2027

- Class Discussion
 - Course Introduction
 - General Church History Key Events
 - History of John Wesley
- Class Preparation
 - *A Real Christian* completed (**Reading Journal Due**)

Monday, January 18, 2027

- Class Discussion
 - Wesleyan Methodist History
- Class Preparation
 - *The Story of The Wesleyan Church*, Part I (Chapters 1-7)

Monday, January 25, 2027

- Class Discussion
 - Pilgrim Holiness History
- Class Preparation
 - *The Story of The Wesleyan Church*, Part II (Chapters 8-15)

Monday, February 1, 2027

- Class Discussion
 - The Wesleyan Church History
 - Women in Ministry
- Class Preparation
 - *The Story of The Wesleyan Church*, Part III (Chapters 16-21) and Appendixes
 - Sermon: *When You Feel Called to Be a Leader*
- Class Assignment: ***The Story of The Wesleyan Church* Reading Journal Due**

Monday, February 8, 2027

- Exam: History of John Wesley and the Wesleyan Church
- Class Discussion
 - Introduction to the Organizational Structure of The Wesleyan Church
 - Basic Principles of The Wesleyan Church
- Class Preparation
 - *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* 2026 Part 1

Monday, February 15, 2027

- Class Discussion
 - Local Church Government
 - District Church Government
 - Parliamentary Law / Robert's Rules of Order
- Class Preparation
 - *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church 2026* Parts 2 and 3
 - *Robert's Rules of Order* Quick Start Guide

Monday, February 22, 2027

- Class Discussion
 - General Church Government, World Organization, Ministry, Corporations, Property, Judiciary, Rituals, Forms, Appendices, Index
- Class Preparation
 - *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church 2026* Parts 4-11 and Appendices
- Class Assignment: ***The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church 2026* Reading Journal Due**

**Monday, March 1, 2027
Midnight**

- Class Assignment: **Final Exam Due**