

**M-607C**  
**United Methodist Ecclesiology & Polity**  
**Tuesdays**  
**2:15-5:00**

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Please refer to the collection of Seminary policies regarding attendance and plagiarism in the 2007-2009 Course Catalog and the 2007-2008 Student Handbook and Planner.

Texts

*The Book of Discipline 2004.*  
*The Book of Resolutions 2004.*  
 Frank, Thomas Edward. *Polity, Practice, and the Mission of the United Methodist Church* .  
 Tuell, Jack M. *The Organization of the United Methodist Church.*

Class Schedule

| Date  | Topic   | Discipline       | Tuell    | Frank  |
|-------|---|------------------|----------|--------|
| 9/4   | The Book of Discipline/<br>Constitution/"Connexion" | Part I           | Ch 1, 10 | Ch 1-3 |
| 9/11  | The Local Church                                    | Part V-1         | Ch 3     | Ch 6   |
| 9/18  | The Local Church (part 2)                           |                  |          |        |
| 9/25  | Church Property                                     | Part V-6         | Ch 8     | Ch 11  |
| 10/2  | The Annual Conference                               | Part V-4, IX-X   | Ch 6     | Ch 10  |
| 10/9  | The Superintendency                                 | Part V-3         | Ch 5     | Ch 8   |
| 10/16 | <i>Reading Day</i>                                  |                  |          |        |
| 10/23 | The General Conference                              | Part V-4, I-VIII | [Ch 6]   | Ch 9   |
| 10/30 | The Theory of Discipline                            | Part II          | [Ch 1]   | Ch 4   |
| 11/6  | Administrative Order/<br>Connectional Table         | Part V-5         | Ch 7     | [Ch 9] |
| 11/13 | Judicial Administration                             | Part V-7         | Ch 9     | Ch 12  |
| 11/20 | <i>Reading Day</i>                                  |                  |          |        |
| 11/27 | The Ministry of the Ordained                        | Part V-2         | Ch 4     | Ch 7   |
| 12/4  | Social Principles/Resolutions                       | Part IV          | Ch 2     | Ch 4   |
| 12/11 | The Ministry of All Christians                      | Part III         | [Ch 2]   | Ch 5   |
| 12/18 | NO FINAL  |                  |          |        |

Assignments

Paper #1

5-8 pages

Due October 2

Describe the underlying theology and ecclesiology of the United Methodist Church including the ideal of 'connection.'" Indicate how this theological foundation is (or is not) the foundation of the current organization.

Paper #2

10-12 pages

Due October 30

Describe your ideal organization of the Annual Conference. Indicate any similarities to the current structure noting why you would maintain the current practice. Indicate changes in the current structure suggesting the reasons for advocating the change. Please feel free to use both religious and secular (business, sociology, etc.) texts to support your cause.

Project #1

5-8 Pages

Due November 27

After drawing your assignments in class, explore the assigned website(s) of the general agencies. Write a review of the website(s) indicating those items you found useful, those you found confusing, and items you wished were on the site. Review the paragraphs in *The Book of Discipline 2004* that direct the work of your agency/agencies. Compare the paragraphs to the website indicating the completeness of information sharing by the agency/agencies.

Project #2

1-2 pages each

Due as assigned

There will be three situations provided during the class that will require study of *The Book of Discipline*.