

Mission u 2021

Requirements for Certification & Supplemental Resources for the Adult Study

Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship

Mission u establishes certification requirements to help prepare study leaders to lead this study. The requirements for study leader certification are listed in Section 1 and further supplemental resources are listed in Section 2, but are not required for certification.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Section 1: Requirements for Certification*

This section contains the certification requirements for becoming a Mission u study leader.

Central Text

- ***Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship***, by Darryl W. Stephens

Additional Reading

- ***Methodist Morals: Social Principles in the Public Church's Witness***, by Darryl W. Stephens (Chapters 1-4, and the Conclusion)
Methodist Morals examines official Methodist teachings from institutional, historical and cross-cultural perspectives. The author provides a rich analysis of this case study of Protestant social witness, drawing on his expertise in church polity, Methodist history and Christian social ethics. A study guide for this book is also available here: darrylwstephens.com/?page_id=93

Podcast

- Listen to an episode of United Methodist Women's **Faith Talks** podcast (unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks) with either Grace Musaka or Cindy Johnson and consider how the person being interviewed bears witness through attentive presence to those around them.



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Prayerful Activity

- Complete the Prayerful Activity (#4) found on page 104 of *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom* to interview a person about the way they bear witness to a more just world.

Online Checklist: Indicate the completion of the requirements above through the online certification checklist. <https://umwomen.wufoo.com/forms/s13olxfo10w5sxx/>

Orientation to Mission u Online Course: **Only for first-time study leaders** (those who have not previously led a study in a conference Mission u). First-time study leaders will receive notice on how to access the course after registering for the Mission u training. Registration for Mission u training is scheduled to open in late January.

*All requirements for certification listed above must be completed before the Mission u training event.

Attendance at One Mission u Training Event: Your Mission u dean will notify you when registration for training is available.

Section 2: Supplemental Resources

The following resources are not required for the certification process; however, study leaders may find them useful as they prepare to lead the study.

Articles & Documents

- “God’s Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action,” Foundation Document. By the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church
hopeandaction.org/main/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Foundation-Doc-Eng-Handout-2-col.pdf
God’s Renewed Creation is a foundation document written to serve as a rallying voice and a demonstration of rededicated leadership by the bishops to engage, inspire, and rouse United Methodists and people of goodwill to a deeper spiritual consciousness as stewards and caretakers of Creation.
- “Eight Principles of Holy Conferencing: A Study Guide for Churches and Groups,” by Sally Dyck mnumc-email.brtapp.com/files/eefiles/documents/holy_conferencing_study_guide_2012.pdf
This is a study guide to “holy conferencing,” which is what we call the spirit and principles that guide us to be caring in our conversations.

- “God of the Bible: A Study for United Methodists about How God is Revealed in Scripture,” ed. by Carol Cook-Moore. gcsrw.org/Resources/Curriculum.aspx
“God of the Bible” is a five-week study designed for small groups to explore expansive language - the names, images and ways God has been revealed to us in Scripture. (Scroll down the page to find this course.)
- “The Scripture Way of Salvation,” by John Wesley
It is available for free download here: whdl.org/scripture-way-salvation-sermon-43
This is widely considered one of Wesley’s most important sermons, exploring the nature of faith and salvation.

Books

- ***Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission***, by Ellen Blue
The study explores the powerful history of United Methodist Women and women leaders who changed the face of mission.
- ***Bid Our Jarring Conflicts Cease: A Wesleyan Theology and Praxis of Church Unity***, by David N. Field
This book explores Wesley’s perspective and theology on unity and diversity in the church.
- ***When Trauma Wounds: Pathways to Healing and Hope***, by Karen A. McClintock
This book shows readers how to create a sanctuary to shelter a wounded soul. The author combines psychological approaches with faith resources to help trauma survivors find acceptance, hope and healing.
- ***Born of Conviction: White Methodists and Mississippi’s Closed Society***, by Joseph T. Reiff
Born of Conviction tells the story of "the Twenty-eight" white Methodist pastors in Mississippi who signed a statement for racial justice in 1963. Their story illuminates the impact on the larger culture of this attempt by white clergy to support race relations change.
- ***Massacre at Sand Creek: How Methodists Were Involved in an American Tragedy***, by Gary L. Roberts
Referenced in Module 3 of *Bearing Witness*, this book is about the massacre of 230 Native Americans. It explores how we come to grips with what happened at Sand Creek. Reckoning with our past involves hard questions and unsatisfactory answers, not only about what happened but also about what led to it and why.

- ***Crossing Boundaries: Sharing God's Good News through Mission***, by David W. Scott
This book leads readers to think more deeply about their own contexts, others' contexts, and offers practical steps about how to cultivate relationships that lead to conversations about good news across differences in context.
- ***Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us***, by Layton E. Williams
By analyzing conflict and rifts in both modern culture and Scripture, Williams explores how our disagreements and differences—our disunity—can ultimately redeem us.
- ***Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship***, by Janet Wolf
This Mission Study presents the Gospel of Mark through voices and experiences that are often relegated to the margins. The study incorporates an exploration of how where we stand, what we see, who we listen to, whose stories and voices we value or dismiss, shape the way we understand the world and the Bible.

Supporting Resources for Engaging Virtually

- “How to Host a Simple, Live Virtual Event Using Zoom”
[unitedmethodistwomen.org/Media/PDF/HowToHostVirtualEvent.pdf](https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/Media/PDF/HowToHostVirtualEvent.pdf)
- “If It Is Not Possible to Have a Face-to-Face Program”
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/Media/PDF/DistanceProgrammingResources.pdf>