



Course number and name: C.M.E. Polity

Meeting day(s) and time(s): **TBD**

Location / course delivery method: **Hybrid**

Instructor's name: **Dr. Paul L. Brown, Sr., Affiliate Faculty Member**

Instructor contact information: office location / office phone / email address

Office hours

TA name: Calesa Leach (DMIN, ED candidate, Columbia Theological Seminary)

TA contact information (662-549-1465)

Course Description

This course will introduce learners to the basic polity and rituals of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, how and why these saws and practices came into existence. Learners will be engaged in discussions on the relevancy and importance of the rituals and laws as it pertains to the life of the C.M.E Church. Learners will be encouraged to discuss, debate and engage in real life practicums as it relates to the doctrine, church worship styles and rituals, the church's mission, Constitution, Book of Discipline, Conference structure, the Social Creed and its polity and procedures for church governance and ministry.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, as evidence of their commitment to academic discipline and scholarship, learners will have successfully met the following outcomes:

1. Be able to clearly articulate the basic legal structure of the C.M.E. Church;
2. Be able to examine the held community values as it relates to the rituals and practices common to the denomination and how those practices and rituals impact their larger community;
3. Be able to develop a working understanding of their roles as persons engaged in professional ministry;
4. Learners will know and understand how to perform the basic rituals of the church to include but not limited to: Weddings, Funerals, Worship services, The Sacrament of Holy Communion, just to name a few;
5. Be able to leverage this capacity into other areas of ministry within the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and other communions.

Required textbooks:

The Book of Discipline (2022 Edition) Published by the CME Publishing house, 2023.
(See Instructor for text)

The Book of Ritual of the C.M.E. Church. (New and Revised) 1995. Published by the Department of Publication Services, C.M.E. Church, Memphis, TN. (See Instructor for text).

Other required readings and materials: TBD

Course requirements

All assignments must be housed in Moodle, Garrett Learning Management System, <http://moodle.garrett.edu>

1. Participation in course lectures/discussions/projects
2. Successful completion of two exams (Mid-term/Final)
3. Submission of 7–10-page paper on subject matter discussed during course
4. Participation in course project

The three primary objectives to be reached in this course among those listed in the course outcome section of this Syllabus:

1. Critical Thinking which enable problem solving
2. Understanding the importance of leadership within organizations
3. The articulation of leadership theories and principals within organizations

Learners will achieve the above listed objectives through a combination of hands-on experiences via scenarios which are learner created and led as well as invited guests presentations of personal experiences in leading various types of organizations. To that end, learners will engage in the following:

1. Fictional situations which require problem solving
2. Posting thoughts on questions raised and opinions given via class lecture and discussion and responses to other learners
3. Engaging in the total process of organizational structure to include: budget preparation; staffing; organizational planning; long range/short range goal setting; implementation/evaluation of planning.

Basis for course grades

Participation (10%)

Exams (50%)

Term paper (20%)

Course project (20%)

Basic Academic Policies

Include either the basic policy document approved by MDC or a link to it.

Class schedule: (Course can be condensed into four weeks)

Weekly Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities	Due Date
1	The Church as the Visible body of Christ	Book of Discipline Chapter 34 Paragraph 500	None	

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities	Due Date
2	Creeds of the Church	Book of Ritual: Page 9	Learners will submit one-page paper on the various Creeds of the Church	Next Class
3	General Rules	Book of Discipline: Chapter 2, Paragraph 126	Learners discuss implication of General Rules to the C.M.E. Church membership	
4	The Articles of Religion	Book of Discipline: Chapter 1, Paragraph 101	Learners will submit one-page paper on the connection between the General Rules and Articles of Religion	Next Class
5	The Church organized for Mission	Book of Discipline: Chapter 3, Paragraph 130	Learners will submit a one-page paper on the importance of the Constitution	Next Class
6	Conference Structure	Book of Discipline: Chapters 5-11. Paragraphs 201-263	Learners discuss the importance of the conference structure to Methodism	
7	Annual and General Conferences	Book of Discipline: Chapters 5-6	Learners will submit a one-page paper on how these two conferences are particularly related	Next Class
8	Means of Grace	Book of Ritual: pages 1-9	Learners will submit a one-page paper on what is meant by "Means of Grace"	Next Class

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities	Due Date
9	The Rituals of the Church	Book of Ritual: Pages 13-47; 75-113	Learners will discuss how rituals establish community and tradition	
10	Various services	Book of Ritual: Pages 75-113	Learners will submit a one-page paper on the importance of ritual	Next Class
11	The Ministry	Book of Discipline: Chapters 13-47, Paragraph 401-447	Learners discuss steps of Ministry within the C.M.E. Church and the process of Ordination	
12	The Ministry Continued	Book of Discipline: Chapters 13-47, Paragraph 401-447	Learners discuss steps of Ministry within the C.M.E. Church and the process of Ordination	
13	Church Property	Book of Discipline: Chapters 37-41, paragraph 601-608	Learners will discuss the complexities of Church property	
14	Church Property Continued	Book of Discipline: Chapters 37-41, paragraph 401-608	Learners will discuss the roles of the Trustee, Pastor, Presiding Elder and Bishop with respect to Church property	
15	Judicial Administration	Book of Discipline: Chapter 43, Paragraph 801	Learners discuss the Judicial Council of the Church	
16	Judicial Administration Continued	Book of Discipline: Chapter 43, Paragraph 801	Learners discuss challenges of JC	