Duke Divinity School
Weekend Course of Study
Advanced Ministerial Formation
Sept. 11-2, 18-19; Oct. 30-31; Nov. 6-7

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Course Description: This course is a mix of reading reflection, lecture, and group work designed to build the skills necessary to evaluate and create plans for vocational formation for those working within the context of the ministry of the licensed local pastor in the United Methodist Church. It is designed to create opportunity for reflection of one’s own plan for further pastoral formation beyond the structure of theological education offered through the Course of Study. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to assist in the creation of, as well as the evaluation of, plans for pastoral formation for others.

Required Materials:

1. American Saint: Francis Asbury and the Methodists, by John Wigger
2. Listening for God, Renita Weems
3. 24/6: A Prescription for a Healthier, Happier Life, Matthew Sleeth

Will be referenced, and are recommended for your library, but are not required:
1. Preaching Life, Barbara Brown Taylor
2. Open Secrets, Richard Lischer

Pre-Work:
- Write a maximum four-page autobiographical account of your own history of pastoral formation. What has formed you as a pastor and what continues to form you? This should include the people, congregations, ministries, and programs that helped you discern your call, respond to your call, and equip you to live out your calling to pastoral ministry in the UMC. It should also include any leadership or training you received as a lay person and in your secular work that has influenced you. (10% of grade)
- Read the first four chapters of American Saint. Write a 1-2 reflection paper, comparing and contrasting Asbury’s call and early formation to your own experience. (5% of grade)