



THE CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH THE GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

A Note for Fall (September-October-November) 2019 Lessons Concerning the normal Sunday School Lesson Outlines

Since 1872, the Uniform International Sunday School Lessons were developed for persons to study the scriptures by selecting, organizing, designing, and developing a plan for study of the whole Bible over a period of several years.

Today the work of the Committee on the Uniform Series (CUS) operates under the governance and stewardship of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCCUSA). CUS continues to function by using a business-to-business model that collaborates with educators and editors of denominational and independent publishing houses to produce and distribute resources for teachers and learners use. The central objective remains the production of an ongoing course of study that assists editors, writers, and publishers in preparing Bible lessons for use across a diverse expanse of Protestant faith traditions so that participants may embody an enduring faith in Jesus Christ.

The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is a member NCCCUSA and supports CUS financially and by sending representatives to serve. As a matter of fact, I served for three years as the Chair of the committee. The CUS outlines have evolved since 1872. Significant changes were made in 1922, 1940 and throughout the 1990's into the 2000's. I have had the privilege of participating in those changes in the 1990's and 2000's. This year I was asked to serve on the Executive committee to edit Scripture Matrixes.

The Department of Christian Education and Formation determined decades ago that the most expedient approach to providing excellent lessons for our Church Schools was to use manuscripts prepared by United Methodist Church clergy, scholars and laity and the General Secretary would edit those lessons for the benefit of the CME Church. The United Methodist Church decided, beginning with the present quarter, to not use the CUS lesson development guide to choose scriptures and themes for their manuscripts. They did not make me aware of this in time for me to adjust. Therefore, the lessons used this Quarter are not congruent with CUS lesson outlines. This means commentaries will not be helpful for these lessons. I have edited the lessons for this Quarter. They are very good lessons. I endorse the use of the lessons and the teacher's book.

The publisher, Dr. Roderick Lewis, and I are looking to go back to the CUS lesson outlines in the Winter Quarter. Our sister Black Methodists, AME and AMEZ use the CUS lesson outlines are strong supporters of CUS as well.

One of the options in the future will be to develop CME writers of lessons. I am aware of this possibility as well as the impact on budget. The goal of the Department of Christian Education and Formation is to put in place a good process through the remainder of this Quadrennial. We will then assess and resolve where we go in the future.

The lessons this Quarter have the theme as God. The thirteen lessons are about "God the Creator, Humans in God's Image and Worshipping God."

In Service,
Dr. Carmichael D. Crutchfield
General Secretary