



"Investing in Africa's Future"

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY,  
HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION**  
**INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**COURSE CODE: TPT 309**

**COURSE TITLE: UMC POLITY & DOCTRINE**

**END OF SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

**JANUARY-MAY 2020**

**LECTURER: REV. BONDO N.**

**DURATION: 48 hours**

***INSTRUCTIONS***

1. Do not write your name on the answer sheet.
2. Answer ONE questions.
3. Each question carries 100 marks
4. Credit is given for neat, well written and lucid work.

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1. A United Methodist Church (UMC) clergy or laity in good standing should possess at least two books to run the church: the Bible and the Book of Discipline of the UMC.
  - a) Explore the importance of the Book of Discipline in running the UMC. **[25 marks]**
  - b) Examine the extent of awareness of the Book of Discipline in your Episcopal area, among both the laity and the clergy. **[25 marks]**
  - c) Discuss what you think needs to be done and the possible resources (human and material), to promote the use of the Book of Discipline in your Episcopal area. **[50 marks]**
  
2. The itinerant system is the accepted method of The UMC by which the bishop appoints elders (ordained clergy) to fields of labor. All elders accept and abide by these appointments (Willis Wired, 2008).
  - a) Summarize your understanding of the itinerant system. **[20 marks]**
  - b) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the itinerant system. **[20 marks]**
  - c) Evaluate the relevance and applicability of the itinerant system to the UMC to ministry in the continent of Africa. **[60 marks]**
  
3. Answer **Either** a) **Or** b)
  - a) Clergy in the UMC exist in a covenant relationship and clergy accountability at circuit, district and episcopal levels respectively, is monitored and enhanced through three committees namely the Committee on Pastor Parish Relations (circuit), Committee on Superintendence (district), and Committee on Episcopacy (episcopal area).
    - i. Elaborate on the specific duties, responsibilities and effectiveness of these committees according to the 2012 Book of Discipline. **[50 marks]**
    - ii. Discuss the challenges these committees face in assuming their responsibilities and suggest ways of making the UMC clergy more accountable. **[50 marks]**
  
  - b) There is a separation or schism looming in the UMC over the biblical and theological understanding of human sexuality.
    - i. Examine what you think are the theological issues involved. **[40 marks]**
    - ii. Give a sufficiently justified forecast of the future of the UMC Church if either the church remains intact or it separates. **[60 marks]**

**-THE END-**