COMMUNICATING FAITH IN THE 21ST CENTURY
Course Syllabus

Welcome to "Communicating Faith in the 21st Century." This online course has evolved from the book, *We Must Speak*, by Rev. Larry Hollon and is based upon the key premise of the book, which states that the Church has lost its voice in the public media and must regain it in order to bring much needed moral, ethical and spiritual values to the culture via the communications tools of the 21st century. We are glad you have chosen to begin or deepen your commitment to sharing your faith stories. We worked with pastors and leaders to design a course for you to expand your own understanding of the importance of telling stories as part of our individual and shared responsibility to be a voice of peace, justice, hope and wholeness in the public media.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:
- Explain the importance of telling stories of faith and sharing individual messages in the public sphere.
- Craft and share personal stories of faith.
- Identify people and organizations with whom to build relationships via social media and other 21st century communications tools.
- Use and participate in specific tools, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram or Flickr, and Blog.
- Articulate and implement best practices for using 21st century communications tools to communicate faith.
- Discover additional training opportunities to organize a local church small group study for Communicating Faith in the 21st Century that can empower the local church to tell its stories of faith in the public sphere.
- Access resources from United Methodist Communications, The United Methodist Church, United Methodist News Service, and other denomination and faith-based organizations.

Getting Started
The “Getting Started” section contains important information and tool for learning how to use the Moodle online learning environment. If this is your first time taking an online course with Moodle, you are encouraged to review the “How to Use Moodle” book and view the “Moodle Navigation” video or PDF.

Module 1: Facebook
In this section, you will share your stories of faith on Facebook, a social networking site that allows you to engage in conversations with friends and like-minded organizations. To begin, review the “We Must Speak: Facebook” pages and then complete the activities in this section to practice communicating faith in the 21st century with this communications tool.
- We Must Speak: Facebook
  - Activity 2.1: Let’s Talk about Facebook Forum
  - Activity 2.2: I’m on Facebook Assignment
    - Set Up a Facebook Account Resource
  - Activity 2.3: Facebook Best Practices Assignment
    - Facebook Best Practices Wiki
Module 2: Twitter
In this section, you will share your stories of faith on Twitter, which is a micro-blogging social networking tool that allows you to engage in sound bite with friends and like-minded organizations. To begin, review the "We Must Speak: Twitter" pages and then complete the activities in this section to practice communicating faith in the 21st century with this communications tool.
- We Must Speak: Twitter Book
  - Activity 3.1: Let's Talk about Twitter Forum
  - Activity 3.2: I'm on Twitter Assignment
    - Set Up a Twitter Account Resource
  - Activity 3.3: Twitter Best Practices Assignment
    - Twitter Best Practices

Module 3: YouTube & Instagram
In this section, you will communicate your stories of faith with YouTube and Instagram, which are social networking tools that allow you to share video, audio, visual and graphic messages with friends and like-minded organizations. To begin, review the "We Must Speak: YouTube and Instagram" pages and then complete the activities in this section to practice communicating faith in the 21st century with these communications tools.
- We Must Speak: YouTube and Instagram Book
  - Activity 4.1: Let's Talk about YouTube Forum
  - Activity 4.2: Let's Talk about Instagram Forum
  - Activity 4.3: I'm on YouTube or Instagram Assignment
    - Images Are Worth... Forum
  - Activity 4.4: YouTube & Instagram Best Practices Assignment
    - YouTube & Instagram Best Practices

Module 4: Blog
In this section, you will share your stories of faith with a Blog, which is a social networking tool that allows you to engage in more lengthy posts and conversations with friends and like-minded organizations. To begin, review the "We Must Speak: Blog" pages and then complete the activities in this section to practice communicating faith in the 21st century with this communications tool.
- We Must Speak: Blog Book
  - Activity 5.1: Let's Talk about Blogs Forum
  - Activity 5.2 I Have a Blog Forum
    - Set Up a Blog Resource
  - Activity 5.3 Blog Best Practices Assignment
    - Blog Best Practices

Next Steps
In this section, you will discover various resources to help you apply what you have learned in this course to your personal goals to communicate faith in the 21st century and to help your church do the same.
- We Must Speak: Next Steps Book
  - Activity 6.1: Let's Talk about Next Steps Forum
  - Activity 6.2: I'm Taking the Next Step Assignment
  - Activity 6.3: Course Evaluation Assignment
    - Course Evaluation Feedback