

Advanced Classes
Completion of
Basic Enriching Discipleship
Required

LICENSED MINISTRY

YEAR I

Biblical Interpretation for Preaching

August 8-9, 2014

The Bible belongs to the whole church, but what does it mean to read it through a preacher's eyes? Participants will explore how the interpretation of scripture informs faithful preaching.

Preaching I Making the Text Come Alive

September 12-13, 2014

Situated between scripture and congregation, the preacher strives to share the good news in such a way that it can transform lives. Participants will learn a variety of ways to bring the text to life.

Preaching II

December 19-20, 2014

This class will build on the materials covered in Preaching I

Worship Planning and Preparation

March 13-14, 2015

Worship is the heart of the life of the church. Well-planned liturgy can help lead congregations into the very presence of God. This class will assist participants in understanding liturgy as the work of the people and in crafting services that have integrity and transforming power.

Rites and Sacraments of the Church

May 8-9, 2015

Just what are we doing when we share bread and wine, sprinkle water, bless a union, pray at a graveside? This class will review the sacraments and rites of the church from both theological and pastoral perspectives, including a consideration of issues for preaching.

YEAR II

Theology and Ethics of Ministry

September 25-26, 2015

Ministry calls us to look for the presence of God in all we do. Participants will consider how thinking about God informs the way we do ministry as well as how our obedience to God leads us to make ethical choices in our calling.

Models of Ministry and Administration

November 20-21, 2015

Faithful and effective pastors can differ widely in their methods. This class will explore various models for ministry as well as consider how to keep the "ministry" in church administration

Pastoral Care

January 22-23, 2016

The goal of pastoral ministry is to connect people with the presence of Christ, whatever their situation. This session will consider both the theological underpinnings and the practical application of pastoral care, including hospital visitation, grief counseling, and crisis care.

Pastor as Teacher and Spiritual Leader

March 18-19, 2016

The roles of teacher and spiritual leader inform everything a pastor does. This class will help participants think intentionally about how they live out these vital identities.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships

May 20-21, 2016

The church does not live in isolation. More and more we are challenged to relate to those who worship and believe differently. This class will offer participants guidance in engaging "the other" in respectful and faithful ways.

OTHER OFFERINGS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST HISTORY AND POLITY

(Three – part course)

September 6 and November 1, 2014
and January 10, 2015

First UCC

Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania

LICENSED MINISTERS CONVOCAION

January, 23-24, 2015

Jesuit Spiritual Center
Wernersville, Pennsylvania

(February 26-27, 2016)

YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERS CONSULTATION

March 21, 2015

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

How do I know God's will for my life?

During our retreat on discernment, we will learn ways of being attentive to God's direction in our lives, both individually and as communities of faith. We will experience tangible ways of listening to "God's voice," so that we can engage in prayerful decision-making throughout our life journey.

Please contact the Program Director

Time: Friday, 5:30 pm - Saturday, 4:00 pm **Location:** Jesuit Spiritual Center, Wernersville

Fee: \$295.00 (Audit-\$110) plus \$90.00 room/board per session

Local congregations are encouraged to help defray costs.

Limited scholarship funds are available from Lay Ministry in the 21st Century.

09-14

ENRICHING DISCIPLESHIP

YEAR I

THIS IS OUR STORY

Understanding the Bible I

September 27, 2014

The Bible is the church's book. In this class we will bring to bear the church's wisdom on how to read and understand it as we review its over-arching story

Understanding the Bible II

December 6, 2014

With all its complex history and all its literary styles, the Bible contains important unifying themes. This session, as well as the next two, will explore some of these themes as they unfold throughout scripture.

Understanding the Bible III

February 7, 2015

(See Understanding the Bible II)

Understanding the Bible IV

April 11, 2015

(See Understanding the Bible II)

Continuing the Story

June 6, 2015

How has the biblical story helped shape the life of the church? What has it meant from age to age to be people of the book? This class will focus on the history of the church seen through the lens of scripture.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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YEAR II

MAKING THE STORY OUR OWN

Our Spiritual Journey

October 2015

Our faith lives are strengthened, both individually and corporately, through the practice of the ancient spiritual disciplines. Practices such as prayer, discernment, healing, and contemplation will be introduced in this course.

Here We Are to Worship

December 2015

Sunday worship is the heart of the life of the church. What we do on Sunday morning matters. This session will offer training in preparing and leading worship that honors the Author of our story.

Theology I

February 2016

How we think about God both reflects and informs our faith. Participants in this class will consider the ramifications of their own theologies as they begin to develop a personal Credo.

Theology II

April 2016

Immersed in the divine story, people of faith throughout the centuries have come to experience God in a variety of ways. This session will encourage participants to understand their own faith in the light of the faith of the ages.

Who Are We Today?

June 2016

Many would say that we are living in a post-Christian age, a spiritual-but-not-religious age. What does this mean, and how might the church respond to this reality as we watch for the new thing that God is doing in our day?

YEAR III

LIVING THE STORY

Care Giving

October 2016

Part of Christian discipleship, both within and outside the church, revolves around sharing Christ's care with others. This session will consider ways to develop listening skills, visitation guidelines, and compassionate presence.

God's Good Stewards

December 2016

As God's stewards, we are called to make use of all God's gifts for the growth of God's reign on earth. How do we deepen our own sense of stewardship and encourage good stewardship practices within our churches?

Growing in Faith

February 2017

How do we develop the next generation of Christians within our churches? How do we support continued growth and depth of faith in all ages? This session will move beyond the traditional church school approach to explore faith formation in its broadest sense.

Telling the Good News

April 2017

The church has good news to share. How do we reach out to the world around us with the transforming message of the gospel? This session will explore both the necessary foundations and practical strategies for evangelism.

To Believe, To Care, To Do

June 2017

"What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." Micah 5:6 This session will make connections between faith and action as encouraged in the United Church of Christ.

Time: Saturday, 9 am - 4 pm **Location:** First UCC, Schuylkill Haven

Open or Certificate Fee (Audit): \$30.00 per session; Licensed Fee (Credit): \$140.00 per session

Local congregations are encouraged to help defray costs.