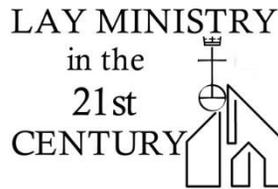


PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF MINISTRY

FORMERLY



Lay Ministry in the 21st Century was originally designed as a program of education for lay persons to be equipped and empowered for discipleship within the life of local congregations and in daily living. Begun in 1995 this program was developed and sponsored by the Tri-Penn Conferences of the United Church of Christ - Penn Central Conference, Penn Northeast Conference, and Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. As time marched on Lay Ministry in the 21st Century became known as the Licensed/Commissioned Ministry education program only.

But times have changed and Lay Ministry in the 21st Century is changing too! A new name; **Pennsylvania Academy of Ministry** has been adopted to reflect a more broad mission. A new curriculum has also been developed that fits faithfully within the MARKS of Effective Ministry and one that is more streamlined for efficient completion of the Licensed/Commissioned requirements. In addition, Pennsylvania Academy of Ministry will be assisting our Tri-Penn Conference sponsors by providing new classes designed to help the local churches prepare, empower and equip leaders and laity from their congregations work together to bring about a long and prosperous future for their church and the church universal.

Currently there are forty (40) persons participating in Pennsylvania Academy of Ministry. Eighteen (18) are pursuing licensed ministry, two (2) certifications in church leadership, six (6) continuing education, ten (10) UCC History and Polity, and four (4) open enrollments. Ten (10) persons from Penn Northeast Conference have participated this year – seven (7) pursuing licensed ministry, three (3) continuing education, and three (3) UCC History and Polity.

The 2015 scholastic year consisted of five (5) of the current fifteen (15) all-day Saturday classes for the basic portion of the licensing requirements that are also used as for a Lay Leadership certification and four (4) of the current ten (10) Friday night/all-day Saturday retreats, part of the advanced classes for licensed ministry. Students unable to attend any of these classes were able to attend via LIVE BROADCAST or view the “recorded” class at a later time. In both alternatives the student is able to submit a paper for credit toward their licensure program.

Pennsylvania Academy of Ministry’s LM21C website is now utilizing the Student’s Page for all class documents and has a forum for Instructor’s to post a question for the entire class to answer as part of the reading or post class assignment. Beginning in the Fall of 2016 the Friday night/all day Saturday retreats are coming to an end. These retreats, while valuable for bonding of the class, proved an added expense to the student. In place of the Friday night class, pre-class writing assignments including but limited to the forum will be utilized to provide for a more efficient learning experience. A post class writing assignment will remain as an integral part of the evaluation process.

This year has been transitional for the new program director but exciting as new prospects have led to a more diverse program that allows LM21C to be part of the UCC’s Regional Theological Educational Consortium that solidifies our place as a premier program for our region. For more information on Lay Ministry in the 21st Century, contact our Program Director, Rev. Steven C. Hummel, at 324 Center St., Bloomsburg, PA 17815 or call 484-239-5578 or email laymin21century@gmail.com or PAAcademyofministry@gmail.com.