

ENRICHING DISCIPLESHIP

YEAR I

All About the United Church of Christ June 25, 2011

Who are we? Where did we come from? What do we value? How do we work together? Participants in this course will not only journey through the founding and the history of the United Church of Christ, but will develop an understanding of how we live in covenant together, from the local church to Associations and Conferences to General Synod.

The Story of God's People—Part I October 22, 2011

The church's story begins with the biblical story. This course will begin an exploration of the ancient texts of the Hebrew scriptures (Old Testament) that formed the people of Israel into a faith community, considering how these stories continue to form and challenge the church today.

The Church Across the Ages December 3, 2011

The story of God's people begins in scripture and continues with the history of the church from generation to generation. By examining major movements within the 2000-year life of the church, participants in this course will gain a broader and deeper picture of the issues confronting the 21st century church.

Spiritual Disciplines April 7, 2012

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.

The Story of God's People Part II June 2, 2012

This course will continue the exploration of the biblical story beginning in Part I, emphasizing prophets and wisdom literature.

YEAR II

The Story of God's People Part III October 6, 2012

The Church's story begins with the Hebrew Scriptures and continues with the stories of Jesus' life and ministry. This course will focus on the portrayals of Jesus as seen in the four gospels, considering how Jesus' ministry informs our life of discipleship.

God's Good Stewards December 1, 2012

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 we deepen our own sense of stewardship and encourage good stewardship practices within our churches will be the focus of this session.

Telling the Good News February 2, 2013

"Go and make disciples of all nations," said Jesus. The church has good news to share. How do we reach out to the world around us with the transforming message of the gospel in ways that have integrity for us and for our churches? This session will explore both the necessary foundations and practical strategies for evangelism.

Care Giving April 6, 2013

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.

The Story of God's People Part IV June 1, 2013

This session will continue the study of the New Testament, with an emphasis on the Apostle Paul. Participants will come to understand how, in dealing with the issues of the early church, Paul's letters are still relevant to the church today.

YEAR III

God Thought I October 2013

How is God present in the midst of our life journey? This session will help participants view all of life through the lens of God as experienced through scripture, tradition, reason, and history.

God Thought II December 2013

How we talk about God both reflects and informs our faith. This survey of theology will help participants reflect on their own understanding of God and how that understanding affects the way they relate not only to God but to the world.

Growing in Faith February 2014

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.

Sunday Morning Mystery—Monday Morning Living April 2014

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 as well as reflections on how worship provides the context for our daily living.

To Believe, To Care, To Do May 2014

"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): \$60.00 per session; Licensed or Commissioned Fee (Credit): \$120.00 per session

Local congregations are encouraged to help defray costs.

Advanced Classes
Completion of
Basic Enriching Discipleship
Required

LICENSED MINISTRY

YEAR I

Biblical Interpretation for Preaching

September 23-24, 2011

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

November 18-19, 2011

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.

Worship Planning and Preparation

January 20-21, 2012

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.

Pastoral Care

March 16-17, 2012

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.

Models for Ministry: Leadership Styles & Practices

May 11-12, 2012

Faithful and effective pastors can differ widely in their methods. This class will explore various models for ministry as a way of helping participants identify their own particular style and learn ways to keep balance and integrity in the midst of multiple congregational expectations.

YEAR II

Theology and Ethics of Ministry

September 14-15, 2012

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.

Preaching II Special and Challenging Situations

November 16-17, 2012

This class will explore preaching the rites and seasons of the church as well as addressing particular needs in the life of a congregation.

Pastor as Teacher

January 18-19, 2013

What role does the pastor play in faith formation? How does the pastor both pass on the tradition of the faith and encourage fresh understanding of what it means to follow Jesus? This class will examine the role of pastor as the congregation's primary teacher.

Church Administration

March 15-16, 2013

Woven through the preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and other tasks that define pastoral ministry are the everyday, practical matters of church administration—record-keeping, meeting agendas, job descriptions, staffing issues, budgets and finances, policies and procedures, and even more. This session will offer helpful practices for keeping the church running smoothly.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships

May 10-11, 2013

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.

COMMISSIONED MINISTRY

Candidates for Commissioned Ministry are welcome to take classes as determined by their Association and Conference Committees on Ministry

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 for more information.

LICENSED PASTORS CONVOCATION

February 17-18, 2012

Jesuit Spiritual Center
Wernersville, Pennsylvania

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Rev. Sally Dries, Program Director
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Time: Friday, 5:30 pm - Saturday, 4:00 pm **Location:** Jesuit Spiritual Center, Wernersville

Fee: \$275.00 (Audit-\$100) 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.