



FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
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Lay Ministry in the 21st Century
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NEW

LAY MINISTRY
in the
21st
CENTURY



Called to Respond



OR
YOUR CONFERENCE OFFICE

Penn Central Conference UCC
900 South Arlington Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109
717-652-1560
www.pcc.ucc.org



Penn Northeast Conference UCC
431 Delaware Avenue
Palmerton, PA 18071
610-826-3113
www.pnec.org

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference UCC
505 South Second Avenue
PO Box 26400
Collegeville, PA 19426
610-489-2056
www.psec.org



**Enrichment, discernment, and education
designed for lay persons
to equip and empower them
for discipleship
within
the Church and in daily living**

This program is developed and sponsored by
the Tri-Penn Conferences
of the United Church of Christ

Advanced Classes
Completion of
Basic Enriching Discipleship
Required

LICENSED MINISTRY

2008-09

Biblical Interpretation for Preaching

September 12-13, 2008

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: Making the Text Come Alive

November 21-22, 2008

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.

Theology of Ministry - Thinking Theologically & Ethically

(Rescheduled: September 24-25, 2010)

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.

Pastoral Care

March 13-14, 2009

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 22-23, 2009

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.

2009-10

Worship Planning

September 25-26, 2009

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.

Preaching for Special and Challenging Situations

November 20-21, 2009

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 15-16, 2010

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.

Pastoral Identity and Ethics

March 19-20, 2010

Understanding the role the pastor plays in the life of the congregation helps pastors to minister effectively and ethically. Participants will consider the multiple expectations congregations have of pastors and learn ways to keep their balance and integrity in the midst of the pressures these expectations create.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships

April 30-May 1, 2010

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

2008-09

*(See Licensed Ministry for
Class Descriptions)*

Preaching: Making the Text Come Alive

November 21-22, 2008

Theology of Ministry

-Thinking Theologically & Ethically

January 23-24, 2009

Models for Ministry Leadership Styles & Practices

May 22-23, 2009

Area of Specialization (2 sessions)

2009-10

Pastoral Identity and Ethics

March 19-20, 2010

Area of Specialization (4 sessions)

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

June 26-27, 2009

Jesuit Spiritual Center
Wernersville, Pennsylvania

CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT

November 7, 2009

First UCC, Schuylkill Haven

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

Fee: \$275.00 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.

08-09

ENRICHING DISCIPLESHIP

2008-09

The Story of God's People—Part I

October 4, 2008

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 6, 2008

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.

All About the United Church of Christ

February 7, 2009

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 fifty-year 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.

Spiritual Disciplines

April 4, 2009

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 6, 2009

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

2009-10

The Story of God's People—Part III

October 3, 2009

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 in the four gospels, considering how Jesus' ministry informs our life of discipleship.

God's Good Stewards

December 5, 2009

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 6, 2010

"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 10, 2010

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 5, 2010

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.

2010-11

God Thought

October 2, 2010

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 Talk

December 4, 2010

How we talk about God both reflects and informs our faith. This survey of traditional 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 5, 2011

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 2, 2011

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

June 4, 2011

"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): \$50.00 per session; Licensed or Commissioned Fee (Credit): \$100.00 per session

Local congregations are encouraged to help defray costs.