

Welcome

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES ON MINISTRY & TUITION

Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid.' Luke 10:5-7

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Penn West Academy for Ministry Catalogue! The Academy is a spiritual and educational program of the Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ that aims to prepare women and men for service in local churches. Run under the authority of the Conference Committee on Ministry, the Academy provides courses in Biblical Studies, Theology, Worship and Preaching, Church History and UCC History and Polity. This catalogue outlines educational opportunities for clergy and lay persons in the Academic Year of 2016-2017. If God is calling you to a deeper walk of faith or "to make this faith [your] own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God,"[from the UCC Constitution] you might discern that the Penn West Academy is for you.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Joseph Hedden, Dean

The Application and Credentialing of all students takes place through the Association Committees on Ministry. Please submit the application found on the last page of this Catalogue to the chairperson of your Association Committee on Ministry. Completion of the full four year course of the Academy will result in a Certificate of Completion being issued; **the Academy does not guarantee nor grant credentialing.** Questions of Licensing, Commissioning and credentialing in the United Church of Christ are the responsibility of the Associations. Please be in direct and frequent covenantal contact with the Committee on Ministry of your Association regarding your discernment status.

The tuition for a student of the Penn West Academy is \$150 per year. Payments should be made to the Penn West Conference by December 31st of each academic year. Payment should be addressed as follows:

Penn West Conference
Attn: Diane Fox
312 South Maple Ave. , Suite PWC
Greensburg, PA 15601.

Penn West Academy for Ministry Application

Submit this application to the chairperson of your Association Church and Ministry along with the following: 1). A written recommendation from your home church; 2). Three letters of reference (see below; including one from your pastor); 3). Proof of high school education; and 4). A short written statement about your sense of call to ministry.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Local Church Membership: _____

Educational Background: _____

Church Activities: _____

Church Reference & Contact Information: _____

Business Reference & Contact Information: _____

Character Reference & Contact Information: _____

After submitting this application and its supporting documentation, you will be asked to meet with your Association Church and Ministry Committee upon entering the program and at least annually after.

Note to Church and Ministry Chairs: Once approved, please forward a copy of this application to the Dean of the Academy for PWA records.

Faculty

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Since there are many different types of students who enroll in the Penn West Academy, there is no one-size-fits-all course of study or discernment. However, it is important to remember that questions pertaining to Licensing, Commissioning, and Member in Discernment Status (MIDs) are issues for the MID in prayerful and frequent consultation with her or his Association Committee on Ministry. More information on the Member in Discernment Process is available on the United Church of Christ website (http://www.ucc.org/ministers_marks). Students and Committees on Ministry should make themselves very familiar with these documents and processes.

Students in the Penn West Academy must attend all four regular sessions plus the Refresher Course each academic year for 4 years. If a student misses more than one of these five total sessions in an academic year, he or she must repeat the year. Students should notify the Dean if they will be absent or if there are any circumstances that may alter their status as students in the Academy. Each student will be appointed a faculty mentor, with whom they must meet each academic year. The Dean and Faculty will report annually (usually in late May) on the progress of students to the Conference Committee on Ministry.

The Penn West Academy expects students to abide by a Code of Conduct informed by Christian values and practices. Relying on God's grace, students should live lives of honesty, prayer, Bible reading, and impartiality/fairness to others. Students are expected to be in regular contact with the faculty and Dean in regards to specific assignments and expectations. All work is expected to be one's own. Proper attribution is expected if students cite ideas from other authors/sources. If students have questions about academic standards, they are encouraged to research proper citations and how to write a bibliography. The Dean has these resources.

After graduation, students will meet with their Association Committee on Ministry to satisfy any additional requirements. Association Committees on Ministry may require additional education, service, spiritual direction, and may appoint graduates permanent Association advisors

The Rev. Joseph Hedden

Instructor in Theology and Dean of the Academy

4915 Sardis Road

412-956-5252

Murrysville, PA 15668

pastorjoseph@windstream.net

Rev. Hedden is pastor of Emmanuel Reformed (Hill's) United Church of Christ in Export and a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He mentors Terry Luteri.

The Rev. Meredith Hutchison

Instructor in United Church of Christ Covenant and Polity

169 Sheffield Drive

724-468-0430

Delmont, PA 15626

mercomp@aol.com

Rev. Hutchison is pastor of Denmark Manor United Church of Christ in Export and a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School with a "Fellow in Pastoral Leadership Development" certificate from Princeton Theological Seminary. She mentors Joy Johnson.

Mr. George Kepple

Instructor in Church History

309 Kittaning Hollow Road

724-232-0313

East Brady, PA 16028

gkepple@pts.edu

Mr. Kepple is a Penn West Academy graduate, a 2013 graduate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and a fill-in worship leader for local churches in and around the Clarion Association. He mentors Joseph Weister.

The Rev. Cindy Parker

Instructor in Worship and Preaching

1412 Ligonier Street

724-787-4230

Latrobe, PA 15650

revcindyparker@gmail.com

Rev. Parker serves as pastor of Christ UCC, Latrobe, and St. John's UCC, Laughlintown. She is a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and mentors Shirley Musick and Melissa McLean.

The Rev. Ruth Shaver

Instructor in Hebrew Bible & New Testament

210 Vine Street

814-317-6331

Schellsburg, PA 15559

revruthucc@schellsburghchurch.org

Rev. Shaver is pastor of United Church of Schellsburg UCC in Schellsburg. She is a graduate of Boston University School of Theology and mentors Jennifer Ward.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Old Testament: In this course, students will survey the Old Testament as they develop critical skills for Biblical interpretation. Strong consideration will be given to historical context as students reflect on how the authors' messages relate to our present time.

New Testament: In this course, students will survey the New Testament as they develop critical skills for Biblical interpretation. Strong consideration will be given to historical context as students reflect on how the authors' messages relate to our present time.

Church History: The focus of this class is for students to come to articulate a knowledgeable understanding of church history and world religions from the perspective of the UCC.

Theology: Students in the Theology course will be introduced to approaches of theological study of the past and present. As they engage in these studies, students will learn to think and reflect theologically and spiritually. ****All** fourth year students are required to turn in **before** the final class a theology paper that **may** be included in the portfolio of Members in Discernment, upon the approval of their association advisor.

UCC Covenant and Polity: Students in this course will discover a deeper understanding and appreciate of the concept of covenant and how it relates to polity and structure in the UCC. Some Church and Ministry Committees may require this course for non-UCC ministers serving in UCC settings. ***All** fourth year students are required to turn in **before** the final class a UCC Polity paper that **may** be included in the portfolio of Members in Discernment, upon the approval of their association advisor.

Worship and Preaching: This course provides and understanding of the theology of Christian preaching and worship. We will study the liturgical, exegetical, homiletical, theological, and pastoral dynamics of worship and preaching.

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES ON MINISTRY

Clarion: Rev. Barry Fillman
1970 Big Run/Prescottville Rd.
Reynoldsville PA 15851 814-427-2468

Juniata: Rev. Gerald McCuller
437 Givler Dr.
Martinsburg PA 16662 814-793-3271

Lake Erie: Rev. Philip Garner
260 Main Street
Greenville PA 16125 814-588-6940

Pittsburgh: Rev. Liddy Barlow
5506 Baywood Street
Pittsburgh PA 15206 412-523-6736

Somerset: Rev. Dr. Joseph Beer
1209 Keysertown Rd.
Boswell PA 15531 814-443-1111

Westmoreland: Rev. Cindy Parker
1414 Ligonier St.
Latrobe PA 15650 724-537-4901

Course Schedule for 2016-2017

The Penn West Academy has four regular sessions during the academic year. The dates for 2016-2017 are: **September 9-10, 2016; October 7-8, 2016; March 10-11, 2017; May 12-13, 2017.** The regular schedule for these sessions is as follows:

<i>Friday:</i>	<i>6:00-7:20 PM</i>	<i>Special Block</i>
	<i>7:30-8:50 PM</i>	<i>Church History</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>8:00-9:20 AM</i>	<i>Worship and Preaching</i>
	<i>9:30-10:50 AM</i>	<i>Covenant & Polity</i>
	<i>11:00AM-12:20 PM</i>	<i>Hebrew Bible</i>
	<i>12:20-1:30PM</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
	<i>1:30-2:50PM</i>	<i>New Testament</i>
	<i>3:00-4:20PM</i>	<i>Theology</i>

All regular sessions are held at First Reformed United Church of Christ, 312 S. Maple Street, Greensburg, PA, 15601. The Church is located at the corner of Third and South Maple Avenues.

Local Hotel Accommodations in Greensburg:

Hampton Inn, 1000 Towne Square Drive., 724-838-8800.

Holiday Inn Express, 137 Blair Street, Greensburg, PA 15601, 724-837-1400.

Super 8, 111 Sheraton Drive, 1-800-536-0719

Courtyard by Marriott, 700 Power Line Drive, 866-460-7456.

Comfort Inn, Route 30 East, 724-838-7070.

Four Points Hotel, 100 Sheraton Drive, 724-832-0186

Students will be expected to purchase books or instructional materials. Students may wish to seek funding assistance from their home church or association. A student exploring the Academy may attend one weekend session free of charge. After this, tuition payments are expected.



NEW FOR 2016-2017! AUDIT A CLASS!

For the first time the Penn West Academy is offering an audit option for those who would like to get some Continuing Education or have interest in a particular topic but do not wish to take the complete course offerings. Auditors will have access to four class lessons in a specific subject area (ie. Worship and Preaching or Old Testament) during the year for **\$30**. Auditors will not be expected to turn in assignments but are welcome to participate in classroom discussion, etc. So if you would like to hear what is new in the field of New Testament Studies or have trouble remembering the difference between John Calvin and John of Patmos, call the Dean, Joseph Hedden (412)-956-5252 now!

Special Blocks for 2015-2016

September 9: Orientation

Students and faculty will introduce themselves. Faculty will offer an overview of their classes and distribute syllabi for the 2016-2017 year. We will close the orientation with a service of worship and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

October 7 : Pastoral Care

Rev. Becca Siddle, Chaplain at Redstone Highlands Senior Care, will be leading a discussion on providing pastoral care to those who are ill, lonely, or grieving, etc. She will be drawing from her experiences serving as a healthcare chaplain in both acute-care and long-term care settings.

March 10: Faith via Local Food & Farm

This will be a discussion, led by Academy graduate Paul Sarver, about how a dynamic spiritual community is created through volunteerism supporting a local Family Organic farm. Subjects to be discussed: Networking & outreach, parallels between Church & Local Farm CSA (*Community Supported Agriculture*) membership & the similarities or the leadership role as Pastor & Farmer.

May 12: Pastoral Care: From Cradle to Grave and Everything in Between!

Rev. Erin M. Davenport, LSW is a Presbyterian Church (USA) pastor and licensed social worker. Erin has served as a nursing home chaplain, middle judicatory staff person, child and adolescent counselor and currently serves as the Director of the Miller Summer Youth Institute at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. During this course, Erin will focus on pastoral care trends in all age cohorts-the similarities and differences. She will also work with the group on best practices in pastoral care for all age cohorts.

Refresher Course

November 18-19, 2016

The Penn West Conference Refresher Course is offered annually for current Academy students, Licensed Ministers, Commissioned Ministers, and others. Current students in the Penn West Academy are expected to attend the Refresher Course. If a current student does not attend the Refresher Course, she or he must attend all four regular sessions in the academic year to be advanced to the next year of study.

Chairpersons of Association Committees on Ministry expect all Licensed Ministers to attend the Refresher Course. If they fail to do so, Licensed Ministers may be asked by their Committee on Ministry to demonstrate evidence of continuing education. The Penn West Academy encourages all to be in close covenantal contact with your Committee on Ministry in all of these matters.

The 2016 Refresher Course is offered at Camp Living Waters, just west of Schellsburg, Pa, off Route 30. The topic is called **“Drawing a Spiritual Roadmap for a New Religious Landscape.”** Rev. Jeffrey Nelson, pastor of Grace United Church of Christ in Uniontown, Ohio and author of the book *Coffeehouse Contemplative: Spiritual Direction for the Everyday*, will lead sessions related to nurturing one's own spirituality in light of changing times inside and outside the church.

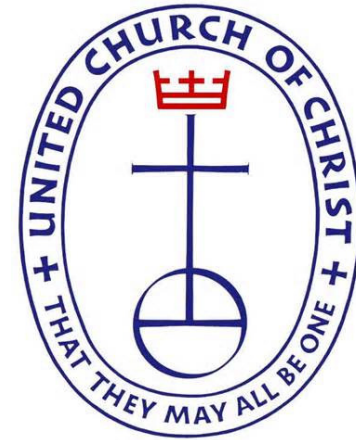
Registration forms will be available in the fall of 2016. All attendees are asked to complete in full a registration form and send it in to the Conference Office along with their payment. Registration forms will be sent to all current Penn West Academy Students and all Licensed Ministers in the Conference in October. Participants are reminded to bring your own bedding, pillows, towels, and snacks to share. Event begins on 7 p.m. on Friday, November 18 and ends at 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 19.

Penn West Academy for Ministry

CONTACT INFORMATION:

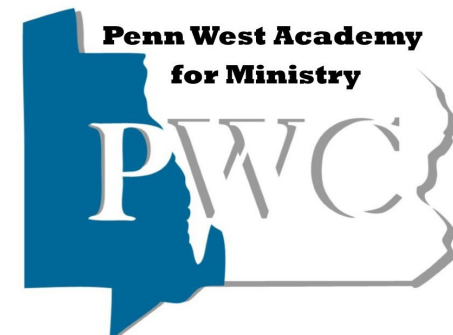
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"So Christ gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ. . . ." Ephesians 4:11-12



2016-2017 Catalog