

## THE PENN WEST ACADEMY FOR MINISTRY

### 2017-2018 ANNUAL CATALOGUE

#### WELCOME

*The vision of the Penn West Academy is: To know God and to be known by God in Christ Jesus.*

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 2017-2018. 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

#### ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES ON MINISTRY & TUITION

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, found below. 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 31<sup>st</sup> of each academic year. Payment should be addressed as follows:

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

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.

### **AUDIT OPTION**

The Penn West Academy now offers 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!

### **ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES ON MINISTRY**

<b><u>Clarion:</u></b>	Rev. Barry Fillman 1970 Big Run/Prescottville Rd. Reynoldsville PA 15851	814-427-2468
<b><u>Juniata:</u></b>	Rev. Gerald McCuller 437 Givler Dr. Martinsburg PA 16662	814-793-3271
<b><u>Lake Erie:</u></b>	Ms. Dina Doerfer 5532 Bondy Drive Erie PA 15609	814-923-1823
<b><u>Pittsburgh:</u></b>	Rev. Liddy Barlow 5506 Baywood Street Pittsburgh PA 15206	412-523-6736
<b><u>Somerset:</u></b>	Rev. Dr. Joseph Beer 1209 Keysertown Rd. Boswell PA 15531	814-443-1111
<b><u>Westmoreland:</u></b>	Rev. Steve Craft 211 Westland Dr Greensburg, PA 15601	724-552-3213

### **FACULTY**

**The Rev. J. Stephen Fair**

*Instructor in Worship and Preaching*

415 Ash Street

814-772-9343

Ridgeway, PA 15853

[pastor\\_stephen\\_2@yahoo.com](mailto:pastor_stephen_2@yahoo.com)

Rev. Fair serves as pastor of Faith UCC, Ridgeway, and St. John's Lutheran Church, Johnsonburg. He is a graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary.

**The Rev. Joseph Hedden**

*Instructor in Theology and Dean of the Academy*

4915 Sardis Road

412-956-5252

Murrysville, PA 15668

[pastorjoseph@windstream.net](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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.

**Mr. George Kepple**

*Instructor in Church History*

309 Kittaning Hollow Road

724-232-0313

East Brady, PA 16028

[gkepple@pts.edu](mailto: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.

**The Rev. David Longstreet**

*Instructor in Old Testament*

4601 Fifth Ave., Apartment 827

(847) 726-9813

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

[longstreetdavid@gmail.com](mailto:longstreetdavid@gmail.com)

Rev. Longstreet is a retired local church pastor who teaches Old Testament.

**The Rev. Dr. George Steffey**

*Instructor in New Testament*

6 Elm Lane

412-741-9638

Leetsdale PA 15056

[gssteffey@aol.com](mailto:gssteffey@aol.com)

Rev. Dr. Steffey is chaplain at East Liberty Family Health Care Center. He is a graduate of Gordon-Conwell and teaches New Testament.

## 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.

## **RETURNING STUDENTS**

**Melissa McLean** (Emanuel, Warren) 707 Follett Run Road Warren PA 16365,  
(814)-706-9930, [mjmclean@verizon.net](mailto:mjmclean@verizon.net)

**Jennifer Ward** (Grace, Manns Choice) 3507 Business Rte 220 Bedford PA 15522,  
(814)-977-0670, [futurepastorward@gmail.com](mailto:futurepastorward@gmail.com)

**Joy Johnson** (Community, Erie) 3056 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Erie PA16506, (716)-720-3110.  
[jlj425@gmail.com](mailto:jlj425@gmail.com)

**Terry Luteri** (Trinity, Berlin) 1028 Main Street Berlin PA 15530 (814)-267-4143  
[td28lovebirds@aol.com](mailto:td28lovebirds@aol.com)

## **SPECIAL BLOCKS FOR 2017-2018**

### **September 15: Orientation**

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

### **October 13: Is Worship Theatre?**

The Rev. Wayne Sautter, retired UCC pastor will ask the following questions about worship: The Physical Setting - Should the “stage” reflect the basic message being proclaimed? What message does placement suggest? How does one move in that space, and what impact does movement have on the message? The Cast - What “role” does the pastor play - playwright, director, actor, or all three? What about other “characters”? The Play - Is there a clear message? Is the message a speech or a soliloquy? Can it be both? Should it be both? Are other “characters” important to the message? How important is the script? The Audience - Who is it?

### **March 9: Prayer and Spiritual Direction**

The Rev. Bobbie Hine, licensed spiritual director presents on prayer and Spiritual Direction. As church leaders it can be easy to forget that we are beloved children of God before we are anything else. This long, complex relationship we have with the divine is one that is sustained through prayer. The Bible is first of all a prayer book for the people of God to nurture our on-going relationship with the Beloved. One important way for enrichment is to meet with a spiritual director regularly. Spiritual direction helps us find our personal story in our common Christian story.

### **May 11: UCC and Disciples of Christ Connections**

The Rev. Janet Hellner-Burris, pastor of the Christian Church (DoC) in Wilkinsburg will present on the common history and significant differences between the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ.

### **“What’s Up With Authorized Ministry in the UCC?” 2017 REFRESHER COURSE—NOVEMBER 17-18, 2017**

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 2017 Refresher Course is offered at Camp Living Waters, just west of Schellsburg, Pa, off Route 30.

Since the announcement was made that the new Manual on Ministry proposed moving from three forms of authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ to one form (ordination), there has been much concern about what will happen in the future, especially for our licensed and commissioned ministers. Throughout this year of 2017, we are living in a time of ‘bridging the transition.’ Since, at the time of this writing, both General Synod 31 and Regional Authorized Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century gathering have yet to take place, there are still many things that are undecided and there are still opportunities for conversation, learning, and discernment. This is one such opportunity, and the timing couldn’t be better. Our Conference Minister, the Rev. David Ackerman, plans to be in attendance, and from our national office in Cleveland, we will be blessed to be joined by Minister for Ministers in Local Church in the United Church of Christ, the Rev. Elizabeth Dilley. Because of the importance of this subject for all involved, this is a Refresher Course that you won’t want to miss!

Registration forms will be available in the fall of 2017. 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 17 and ends at 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 18.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE: 2017-2018**

The Penn West Academy has four regular sessions during the academic year. The dates for 2015-2016 are: **September 15-16, 2017; October 13-14, 2017; March 9-10, 2018; May 11-12, 2018.** 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 &amp; 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.*

## **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](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 expectation. 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.

## **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 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.***