

THE PENN WEST ACADEMY FOR MINISTRY

2018-2019 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 2018-2019. 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 31st 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

<u>Clarion:</u>	Rev. Barry Fillman 1970 Big Run/Prescottville Rd. Reynoldsville PA 15851	814-427-2468
<u>Juniata:</u>	Rev. Gerald McCuller 437 Givler Dr. Martinsburg PA 16662 gwmcculler@hmwd.org	814-793-3271
<u>Lake Erie:</u>	Ms. Dina Johnson 5532 Bondy Drive Erie PA 15609 dd7of7@gmail.com	814-923-1823
<u>Pittsburgh:</u>	Rev. David Mears 3712B Saxonburg Blvd Pittsburgh, PA 15238 dave.mears33@gmail.com	724-757-1922
<u>Somerset:</u>	Rev. Dr. Joseph Beer 1209 Keysertown Rd. Boswell PA 15531 joseph.beer175@gmail.com	814-443-1111
<u>Westmoreland:</u>	Rev. Steve Craft 211 Westland Dr Greensburg, PA 15601 lpastorsteve@gmail.com	724-552-3213

FACULTY

The Rev. J. Stephen Fair

Instructor in Worship and Preaching

415 Ash Street

Ridgeway, PA 15853

814-772-9343

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

Murrysville, PA 15668

412-956-5252

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

Delmont, PA 15626

724-468-0430

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

East Brady, PA 16028

724-232-0313

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

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

(847) 726-9813

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

Leetsdale PA 15056

412-741-9638

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

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

Joy Johnson (Community, Erie) 3056 W. 22nd Street, Erie PA16506, (716)-720-3110.
jlj425@gmail.com

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

SPECIAL BLOCKS FOR 2018-2019

September 14: Orientation & Saturday, September 15 Picnic

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. On Saturday, we will have a picnic over lunch at a nearby location.

October 19: Prayer: Practice and Theology

Stephen Fair and Joseph Hedden will take turns discussing how prayer shapes and forms ministry. What different types of prayer are there? Is there a difference from a theological standpoint when we pray together or alone?

March 15: Reading the Bible in Context and in Community

For most of Christian history, the Bible was read in community by necessity. Before the printing press and modern technology, Bible reading was an activity nurtured by, and done in, the community. What does it mean to read the Bible in community today? Different cultures and church structures have taught us that what we think the text means may not be what someone else thinks the text means. As pastors, we will surely encounter diverse readings and will have to make sense of many perspectives. George Steffey and the faculty will lead a presentation on this challenge.

May 10: The Church and Mental Health

David Longstreet and Penn West Academy Faculty will present resources that pastoral leaders need to know when to refer people to Mental Health Professionals and how to work as a team with those interested in Mental Health in our congregations and communities.



“Putting the Puzzle Together: The Marks of Ministry”

A Hands On Workshop

2018 REFRESHER COURSE—November 16-17, 2018

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 encourage Licensed Ministers to attend the Refresher Course. The Penn West Academy encourages all to be in close covenantal contact with your Committee on Ministry in all of these matters.

The 2018 Refresher Course is offered at Camp Living Waters, just west of Schellsburg, Pa, off Route 30.

Anyone who serves in a pastoral leadership capacity should be familiar with The Marks of Ministry. Yet, since it is an individualized assessment tool, the question arises: “How can I use this information?” This Refresher Course will feature representatives of each of our Penn West Conference Associations who will work with Members in Discernment and authorized ministers on the Marks. *We encourage you to bring your profile and a hard copy of the Marks of Ministry, in order to fully interact with each other.*

Registration forms will be available in the fall of 2018. 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 16 and ends at 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 17.

COURSE SCHEDULE: 2018-2019

The Penn West Academy has four regular sessions during the academic year. The dates for 2018-2019 are: **September 14 and 15, 2018;**
October 19-20, 2018;
November 16 and 17, 2018;
March 15-16, 2019;
May 10-11, 2019.

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.

*Ramada Inn and Conference Center, 100 Ramada Inn Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 836-6060*

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 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

Auditors: *Fill out the application below and send to Joseph Hedden, 3618 Hills Church Road, Murrysville, PA 15668. (You do not need to complete the same steps as full load students.)*

Full –load students: *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.*