

Annual Report to the Penn West Conference—Penn West Academy for Ministry
2020

The 2019-2020 session of the Penn West Academy started strong with a great new batch of interested students and engaging Special Blocks by Scott Fuller on Pastoral Care. We ended in the midst of Covid-19; and all the complexities the pandemic has brought us.

Three new students began in September bringing the total of all full load students to four. Additionally, we have one auditing student who is auditing all classes. Finally, we had 5 ala carte auditing students, which means taking one (or more) classes.

The number of auditors were from all over the conference and we found in September and October that ZOOM was really handy for meeting. We had very few technological issues with people dropping in and out using modern communications.

The spring session in March was the last weekend before the Stay At Home order from Governor Wolf and the same recommendation from the White House. We have scheduled all classes in May to be Zoom only; with myself at the Conference Office running Zoom and others tele-commuting.

The Penn West Academy wrestles with questions of church leadership in broad areas: Church history, taught by George Kepple; Worship and Preaching, taught by Stephen Fair; United Church of Christ History and Polity, taught by Meredith Hutchison; Old Testament, taught by David Longstreet; New Testament, taught by George Steffey; and Theology, taught by Joseph Hedden.

For some, taking these courses are about finding a way to live out their call in the church. But that is not all! Students are invited and encouraged to take these courses to learn more about the Bible or if you are interested in pastoral counseling or if you want to know if hell exists or not. How does science overlap with belief in miracles? Who was Hezekiah?

It is easier than ever to join the Penn West Academy due to ZOOM! To enroll in any one of these classes or to get more information, contact the Dean, Joseph Hedden at pastorjoseph@windstream.net or 412-956-5252.

Grace and Peace,

Joseph Hedden