

**Summer assignment-How would you teach History and Polity of the United Church of Christ to a confirmation class without boring them silly?
For viewing and reading -Videos, resolutions and important decisions of General Synod.**

2021-2022 UCC Covenant and Polity Class Syllabus

Session 1

Marks:

Exhibiting a Spiritual Foundation and Ongoing Spiritual Practice

- Being called to authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ.
- Continuing discernment of one's call in community.
- Exhibiting a commitment to lifelong spiritual development and faithful personal stewardship.

Nurturing UCC Identity

- Participating in the various settings of the United Church of Christ
- Knowing and appreciating UCC history, polity and theology.
- Exhibiting a commitment to the core values of the United Church of Christ

Building Transformational Leadership Skills

- Empowering the Church to be faithful to God's call, reflective of Christ's mission, and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.

Caring For all Christion

- Stewarding the resources of the church.

Participating in Theological Praxis

- Practicing theological reflection and engagement as part of one's sense of ministerial identity.
- Integrating theological reflection in teaching, preaching and ecclesial and community leadership.
- Articulating a theology and practice of ministry consistent with the UCC Manual on Ministry.

Strengthening inter and intra-personal assets

- Demonstrating excellent communication skills.

First half of class:

Discuss Salary issues and Compensation Guidelines as well as how we advocate for ourselves to be compensated.

Discussion about teaching about the UCC in the setting where you serve (Confirmation, new members and the congregation in general) Report on your Confirmation Class Plan

Second half of class: Reflections from General Synod

Session 2

Marks:

Exhibiting a Spiritual Foundation and Ongoing Spiritual Practice

- Being called to authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ.
- Continuing discernment of one's call in community.
- Exhibiting a commitment to lifelong spiritual development and faithful personal stewardship.

Building Transformational Leadership Skills

- Encouraging leadership development of self and others through continuing education and lifelong learning.

Caring For all Christion

- Stewarding the resources of the church.

Participating in Theological Praxis

- Articulating a theology and practice of ministry consistent with the UCC Manual on Ministry.
- Embodying the UCC Ministerial Code.

Strengthening inter and intra-personal assets

- Developing and maintaining a healthy sense of self as shaped by God, community and life experiences.
- Living in relationships of covenantal accountability with God and the Church.
- Demonstrating excellent communication skills.

Class: The Marks: What areas do you need to develop and how can we address some of these in UCC Covenant and Polity Class and in the Penn West Academy? (Dean Joseph Hedden may want to attend this class)

All:

Read the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

Paper for next session (Hint to students seeking ecclesiastical authorization: this is a part of your fourth-year paper).

- **What are the most important points of the preamble**
- **Did you discover anything that you hadn't already known about the UCC?**

- **What does this say about how we do church?**
- **Why is the local church key to the functioning of the United Church of Christ?**
- **How does the structure of the UCC reflect the concept of covenant?**
- **Any other thoughts and comments?**

Session 3

Marks:

Exhibiting a Spiritual Foundation and Ongoing Spiritual Practice

- Being called to authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ.
- Continuing discernment of one's call in community.
- Exhibiting a commitment to lifelong spiritual development and faithful personal stewardship.

Nurturing UCC Identity

- Acknowledging Jesus Christ as the sole Head of the Church.
- Communicating passion for the oneness of the Body of Christ.
- Knowing and appreciating UCC history, polity and theology.
- Exhibiting a commitment to the core values of the United Church of Christ

Building Transformational Leadership Skills

- Encouraging leadership development of self and others through continuing education and lifelong learning.

Caring For all Christion

- Stewarding the resources of the church.

Participating in Theological Praxis

- Practicing theological reflection and engagement as part of one's sense of ministerial identity.
- Integrating theological reflection in teaching, preaching and ecclesial and community leadership.
- Articulating a theology and practice of ministry consistent with the UCC Manual on Ministry.
- Embodying the UCC Ministerial Code.

Strengthening inter and intra-personal assets

- Developing and maintaining a healthy sense of self as shaped by God, community and life experiences.
- Living in relationships of covenantal accountability with God and the Church.
- Demonstrating excellent communication skills.

Class:

Reflections on what you learned by reading the Constitution and Bylaws of the UCC.

Assignment-Paper for 4th year student. Paper due to Meredith no later than... For next session: Download the Ordained Minister's Code

Session 4

Marks:

Exhibiting a Spiritual Foundation and Ongoing Spiritual Practice

- Being called to authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ.
- Continuing discernment of one's call in community.
- Exhibiting a commitment to lifelong spiritual development and faithful personal stewardship.

Nurturing UCC Identity

- Acknowledging Jesus Christ as the sole Head of the Church.
- Communicating passion for the oneness of the Body of Christ.
- Knowing and appreciating UCC history, polity and theology.
- Exhibiting a commitment to the core values of the United Church of Christ

Building Transformational Leadership Skills

- Empowering the Church to be faithful to God's call, reflective of Christ's mission, and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.
- Strategically creating the future of God's Church.
- Witnessing in the public square God's redeeming power.

Caring For all Christian

- Stewarding the resources of the church.

Participating in Theological Praxis

- Practicing theological reflection and engagement as part of one's sense of ministerial identity.
- Integrating theological reflection in teaching, preaching and ecclesial and community leadership.
- Articulating a theology and practice of ministry consistent with the UCC Manual on Ministry.

Strengthening inter and intra-personal assets

- Developing and maintaining a healthy sense of self as shaped by God, community and life experiences.
- Living in relationships of covenantal accountability with God and the Church.
- Demonstrating excellent communication skills

Class: The UCC-What we believe

Inclusive language (humankind vs. mankind) -Language in general and the power it has. (i.e.. “Enslaved people vs. slaves.) The Ordained Minister’s Code and the difference between lay ministerial standing and licensure. Where are you in your discernment process.... are you comfortable in beginning to think about ordination? Or NOT?

Fourth year student paper