

Annual Report to the Penn West Conference—Penn West Academy for Ministry
2021

The 2020-2021 session of the Penn West Academy was very challenging. With the complexities of the Covid-19 pandemic, remote learning, remote teaching, scheduling away from our normal ‘home’ at the Conference office at First Reformed in Greensburg, we had plenty of activity to keep us going. It was not easy.

One new student began in September bringing the total of all full load students to five. Additionally, we have one auditing student who is auditing all classes. Finally, we had one auditor who began but due to connectivity issues, spotty internet, she withdrew after a short time being with us. .

Although ZOOM has been really handy for meeting, we anticipate going back to in person learning (with a Zoom option, where travel is difficult) in the Fall of 2021. We had very few technological issues with Zoom technology.

The Penn West Academy prayerfully discerns 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 care or if you want to know who the wise men were. What does the faith say to a fractured time?

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