*"What's life all about? Is it worth trying to do right? What **is** right? Is there any hope? Can we believe in **anything**? Yes, we can!*

"When people ask the hard questions, it's time to go 'back to the basics.' Especially so when many are ready to believe almost anything—the bizarre stories in the supermarket tabloid, the latest theories of the talk-show host, the spiritualist saga of the movie star.

*"The old, old Story takes on fresh meaning with each new circumstance. And for those who never learned about the faith, the direction definitely lies ahead. **Forward** to the basics!*

". . . God's dealings with humankind are sheer drama. They run from the beginning of the world to its end — 'creation' to 'consummation.'"

—Gabriel and Dorothy Fackre,

Christian Basics

Penn West Conference
312 South Maple Avenue
Suite PWC
Greensburg, PA 15601

Joseph Hedden, Dean of the Academy
Phone: 412-956-5252
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Penn West Academy for Ministry
2018-2019

A COURSE OF STUDY IN THE ESSENTIALS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Designed for every day life & busy people!

Hosted at First Reformed United Church of Christ
312 S. Maple Avenue
Greensburg, PA 15601

Penn West Academy

Following a four year cycle of study and prayer, The Penn West Academy helps busy people learn about the Christian faith, train in the skills of ministry, and develop more deeply in prayer, all the in context of a community of faith.

Faith

The Academy curriculum engages the major points of our faith: How do we know Jesus? What does the cross mean? How have people understood the Bible through history? Where do baptism and the Lord's Supper fit in the Christian life?

Skills

Grow in knowledge as you learn what the parts of the worship service are (and why we do them!). Learn how to organize a Bible Study, sermon, or a congregational meeting.

Prayer

Strengthen your relationship to God while creating a lifelong habit of study of the Bible.

Community

No one makes this journey alone. Students and faculty work together on hearing God's personal call for your ministry.

2018-2019 Schedule:

This four-year program asks for your commitment of time, energy, and good-will.

September 14 and 15, 2018—Special Block: Introduction to the Program and Picnic

October 19-20, 2018—Special Block: How to pray.

November 16 and 17. Refresher Course at Living Waters: This will be a hands on workshop on the Marks of Ministry and will be open to all. Advisors from the Committees on Ministry will be on hand to help people work on the Marks of Ministry and discern where God is leading you next.

March 15-16, 2019—Special Block: Context. How to read the Bible in Community and in diverse communities.

May 10-11, 2019—Special Block: The Church and Mental Health

Instructional Schedule:

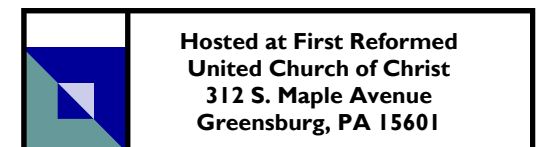|		
Fridays:	6:00-7:20 PM	Special Block
	7:30-8:50 PM	Church History
Saturdays:		
	8:00-9:20 AM	Worship and Preaching
	9:30-10:50 AM	Covenant & Polity
	11:00AM-12:20 PM	Old Testament
	12:20-1:30PM	Lunch
	1:30-2:50PM	New Testament
	3:00-4:20PM	Theology

Students and Fees:

There are two types of students in the Penn West Academy Program: Certificate and Audit.

Certificate students attend all offered programs during the four year cycle, turning in academic work in each subject. The cost of the full program is $150 a year.

Auditing Students may take any combination of courses for $30 a course or can enroll in the whole program (without the responsibility of assignments) for $150.

Students on both the Certificate and Audit track are responsible for the costs of any books and materials assigned.

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