

Welcome

Welcome to the Penn West Academy for Ministry. The Academy is a program of the Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ that aims to prepare women and men for service in local churches of the United Church of Christ as Licensed Ministers and in special cases as Commissioned Ministers. In addition to this, the Academy provides continuing education opportunities for ordained and lay persons alike. This catalog outlines opportunities we are providing in the Academic Year 2014-2015. I hope this catalog will acquaint you with our program and spark an interest in it. If God is calling you to serve as either a Licensed or Commissioned Minister or even if you simply hunger to learn more about different facets of Christian ministry, perhaps the Academy is for you.

God bless you!

David Ackerman, Dean

Tuition

The tuition for a student in the Licensed Ministry Track is \$120 per year. Payments should be made to Penn West Conference and sent by December 31 of each academic year to the attention of Diane Fox at 320 South Maple Ave., Greensburg PA 15601. Tuition for students in the Commissioned Ministry track will be negotiated with the Dean. Students may also be asked to purchase books, and depending on circumstances, they may wish to seek 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.

Penn West Academy for Ministry Application for Licensed Ministry Track

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Local Church Membership: _____

Educational Background: _____

Church Activities: _____

Church Reference & Contact Information: _____

Business Reference & Contact Information: _____

Character Reference & Contact Information: _____

This application should be submitted to the chairperson of your Association Church & Ministry Committee along with a written recommendation from your home church, three letters of reference (including your pastor), proof of a high school education, and a written statement about your sense of call to ministry. You should be asked to meet with your Association Church & Ministry Committee upon entering the program and annually after. The Association Church & Ministry Committee chairperson will inform the Dean upon the successful completion of your application process.

Licensed Ministry Track

Students who enter the Licensed Ministry Track often do so aiming to serve as Licensed Ministers in the UCC. The role of Licensed Minister has grown in recent years. Once Licensed Ministers were called on to preach on a short-term basis, but now many are called upon by Associations to offer longer term pastoral leadership in local churches, including the administration of rites and sacraments in some cases. Licensed Ministers may serve as weekly pulpit supplies, interim ministers, or stated supplies. More details on Licensed Ministry may be found in Sections 151-154 of the UCC Constitution as well as the relevant sections of the Manual on Ministry.

Students in the Licensed Ministry Track must attend all 4 regular sessions plus the Licensed Ministers' Refresher Course each academic year for 4 years. If a student misses more than 1 of these 5 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 advisor, with whom they must meet each academic year. The Dean and faculty will annually report on the progress of students to the Conference Church & Ministry Committee.

After graduation, students will meet with their Association Church & Ministry Committees to satisfy any additional requirements. They may then be licensed for particular service and appointed permanent advisors.

Faculty

The Rev. David Ackerman

Instructor in Practical Theology and Dean of the Academy

P.O. Box 56

Pleasant Unity PA 15676

dmackerman15676@yahoo.com

Rev. Ackerman is pastor of St. Paul's UCC in Trauger and a graduate of Harvard Divinity School. He advises Brenda Haws and Margaret Mortimer.

The Rev. Joseph Hedden

Professor of Theology

4915 Sardis Rd.

Murrysville PA 15668

pastorjoseph@windstrem.net

Rev. Hedden is pastor of Emmanuel Reformed UCC in Export and a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He advises Ryan & Trista Lucas and Allison Carmichael.

Mr. George Kepple

Instructor in Church History

309 Kittanning Hollow Rd.

East Brady PA 16028

gkepple@pts.edu

Mr. Kepple is an Academy graduate and Licensed Minister in the Clarion Association. He is an attorney and is presently studying at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He advises Shirley Musick and Joseph Weister.

The Rev. Ruth Shaver

Instructor in Old & New Testament

210 Vine St.

Schellsburg PA 15559

revruthucc@schellsburgchurch.org

Rev. Shaver is pastor of United Church of Schellsburg UCC in Schellsburg and a graduate of Boston University School of Theology. She advises Glenda Berg, Keith Grimm, and Valarie Poole.

The next instructor in our Covenant & Polity class, as well as the future advisor to Bryan Lohr, Cindy Parker, and Brady Plummer will be announced in the future

Course Descriptions

Practical Theology: The objective of this course is to provide students with a background in practical theology, with a focus on preaching and worship, so that they may show competence in leading worship in a local church setting.

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.

Old Testament: In this course, students will survey the Hebrew Scriptures 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.

Theology: Students in the Theology course will be introduced to some of the great theologians and approaches to theology of the past and present. As they engage in these studies, students will learn to think and reflect theologically.

Covenant & Polity: Students in this course will discover a deeper understanding and appreciation of the concept of covenant and how it relates to polity & structure in the UCC. Some Church & Ministry Committees may require this course for non-UCC ministers serving in UCC settings.

Commissioned Ministry Track

This track is newly established, and those interested in pursuing this track should examine sections 144-150 of the UCC Constitution as well as the relevant sections of the Manual on Ministry. If you wish to pursue this track, you will want to initiate close consultations with the chairperson of your Association Church & Ministry Committee, the Dean of the Academy, and the Conference Minister to devise a specialized plan of study that will provide you with the Biblical, theological, historical, and practical knowledge you'll need for your specified ministry. Here is a list of the current chairpersons of the Church & Ministry Committees in our Conference.

Clarion: The Rev. Barry Fillman
1970 Big Run/ Prescottville Rd.
Reynoldsville PA 15851

Juniata: The Rev. Gerald McCuller
437 Givler Dr.
Martinsburg PA 16662

Lake Erie: The Rev. Philip Garner
260 Main St.
Greenville PA 16125

Pittsburgh: The Rev. Liddy Barlow
5506 Baywood St
Pittsburgh PA 15206

Somerset: The Rev. Dr. Joseph Beer
1209 Keysertown Rd.
Boswell PA 15531

Westmoreland: The Rev. Cindy Parker
1414 Ligonier St.
Latrobe PA 15650

Course Schedule for 2014-2015

The Penn West Academy has four regular sessions during this academic year. The dates for these sessions are September 12-13, October 10-11, March 13-14, and May 8-9. The schedule for these sessions is as follows:

<i>Friday:</i>	<i>6:00-7:20 PM Special Block</i>
	<i>7:30-8:50 PM Practical Theology</i>
<i>Saturday:</i>	<i>8:00-9:20 AM Church History</i>
	<i>9:30-10:50 AM Covenant & Polity</i>
	<i>11:00 AM-12:20 PM Old Testament</i>
	<i>12:20-1:30 PM Lunch</i>
	<i>1:30-2:50 PM New Testament</i>
	<i>3:00-4:20 PM Systematic Theology</i>

All of these regular sessions will be held at First Reformed United Church of Christ, located on the corner of Third & South Maple Avenues in downtown Greensburg. First Reformed is about .2 miles from the Westmoreland County Courthouse, heading south on Main St. (Route 66). Here's a list of possible overnight accommodations in Greensburg:

Four Points Hotel, 100 Sheraton Dr., 724-832-0186

Hampton Inn, 1000 Towne Square Dr., 724-838-8800

Super 8, 111 Sheraton Dr., 800-536-0719

Courtyard by Marriott, 700 Power Line Dr., 866-460-7456

Comfort Inn, Route 30 E., 724-838-7070

Continuing Education

Any Academy sponsored continuing education events for 2014-2015 will be announced during the academic year.

Returning Licensed Ministry Track Students

(Years are pending advancement; students on hiatus are not listed.)

Glenda Berg (Year 4: First Reformed, Greensburg), 1964 Gay Ave., Greensburg PA 15601, kittencheryl@aol.com

Ryan Lucas (Year 4: Hill's, Export), 281 Linden St., Vandergrift PA 15690, ryanplucas@gmail.com

Cindy Parker (1 class Year 4: Christ, Latrobe), 713 Weldon St., Latrobe PA 15650, cindyangelo@verizon.net

Valarie Poole (Year 4: First Reformed, Greensburg), 1129 Acorn Dr., Greensburg PA 15601, valpoole7@gmail.com

Keith Grimm (Year 3: Mt. Zion, Hay's, Meyersdale), 1472 Cumberland Hwy., Berlin PA 15530, kgrimm@hughes.net

Brenda Haws (Year 3: Jerusalem, Rimersburg), Suite 10, 22868 Rte. 68, Clarion PA 16214, brendahaws@comcast.net

Bryan Lohr (Year 3: St. Paul's, Somerset), 275 Water St., Hooversville PA 15936, bryanlohr@comcast.net

Trista Lucas (Year 3: Hill's, Export), 281 Linden St., Vandergrift PA 15690, tristajlucas@gmail.com

Margaret Mortimer (Year 3: Jerusalem, Rimersburg), 161 Alison Dr., Shippenville PA 16254, peggymortimer@hotmail.com

Brady Plummer (Year 3: St. John's, Bedford), 501 N. Juliana St., Bedford PA 15222, brady_plummer@yahoo.com

Allison Carmichael (Year 2: Hill's, Export), 3450 Woodlawn Drive, Murrysville, PA 15668, snowbelled@yahoo.com

Shirley Musick (Year 2: Christ, Latrobe) 717 Latrobe-Crabtree Rd., Latrobe PA 15650, Bjmusick@verizon.net

Joseph Weister (Year 2: Bellknap, Dayton) 126 White Oak Rd., Rural Valley PA 16249, weister2006@yahoo.com

Special Blocks for 2014-2015

September 12: Orientation

Students and faculty will introduce themselves to each other as faculty offer an orientation to their classes. We will then share in a service of worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

October 10: Pastoral Leadership

The Rev. Meredith Hutchison, pastor of Denmark Manor UCC, will lead us in a special block on the subject of leadership in a pastoral context.

March 13: Mission

A member of our faculty, the Rev. Joseph Hedden, served as our Conference's ambassador last year to the NW Luzon Conference of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. He will offer us a presentation not only about this trip but about the subject of mission in the UCC in general.

May 8: Stewardship

The Rev. Nancy Mears, retired pastor from First UCC in Irwin, will lead our time together on the subject of stewardship in the church.



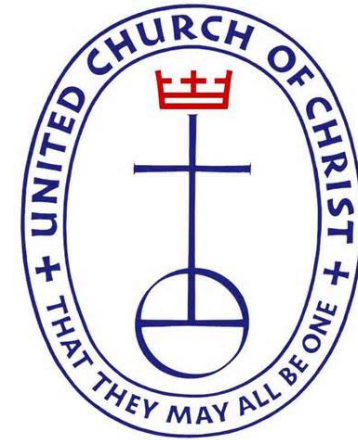
Licensed Ministers' Refresher Course

The Penn West Conference Licensed Ministers' Refresher Course is offered annually at Camp Living Waters, just west of Schellsburg PA off Route 30. This year it will be held November 14-15, and the subject will be "End of Life Issues." We will take a look at such topics as hospice care, pastoral care with dying persons and their families, issues around funerals, and working with dementia patients and their families. Our presenters will be the Rev. Gerald McCuller, Director of Spiritual Care at Homewood Homes in Martinsburg PA, and Mr. Don Deaner, Supervisor of the Deaner Funeral Home in Stoystown PA. More details about the course will be announced closer to the date.

Students in the Licensed Ministry Track at the Penn West Academy are to attend the course. If they miss it, they must attend all four regular sessions in an academic year to be advanced to the next year of their program. Chairpersons of Association Church & Ministry Committees expect all Licensed Ministers to attend the Refresher Course. If they are unable to do so, they may be asked by their Association Church & Ministry Committee at the time their license is to be renewed to demonstrate evidence of continuing education.

All attendees are asked to complete a registration form and send it in along with their payment. The form will be sent to all Penn West Academy students and all Licensed Ministers in the Penn West Conference in October, 2014. Please remember to bring your own bedding, pillows, towels, and maybe some snacks to share. We will not be making any "official" plans for dinner, but our starting time of 7 PM on Friday, November 14, is a little earlier than it used to be. We should be finished by 3 PM on Saturday, November 15.

Penn West Academy for Ministry



Penn West Academy for Ministry

Studies for Licensed & Commissioned Ministries
and Continuing Education Events
in the Penn West Conference, United Church of Christ

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Penn West Conference
United Church of Christ
320 S. Maple Avenue
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-834-0344

The Rev. David Ackerman
PO Box 45
Pleasant Unity, PA 15676
724-423-6473



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