

## **Church History – Year Four**

Year four of Church History concentrates on the story of Christianity in America from the colonial period to the present day. The Academy requires that one of the four sessions be devoted to the history and polity of the United Church of Christ.

Text: The Religious History of America by Gaustand and Schmidt

- September Session: We will be considering Christian development from the colonial period to the Civil War.
  - Assignment: Read Section I – Chapters 1-5 of the text.
- October Session: United Church of Christ History and Polity. We will look in depth at the four streams of faith which formed the United Church of Christ. We will also consider the various forms of church government with particular emphasis on the polity of the United Church of Christ.
  - Assignment: Write a two-page historical timeline tracing the physical and theological developments of your church. Include dates, buildings, denominational affiliations, and any unique facts or situations which you find interesting or unique.
- March Session: We will look at Christian development from the time of the Civil War to World War II.
  - Assignment: Read Sections II and III – Chapters 6-14.
    - It has often been said that he or she is so heavenly minded that he or she is no earthly good. Write a two-page reflection paper setting forth your thesis as to how best to balance your spirituality and your Christian practicality. You will choose the title of your paper.

- May Session: We will review Christian transformation from World War II to the present.
  - Assignment: Read Section IV – Chapters 15-18.
    - Write a two-page reflection regarding Christian options when one's church or denomination becomes too modernistic. Is it better to organize a new church or remain and seek to purify the established denomination? You will choose the title of your paper.