

**The Penn West Conference and the Penn West Academy for Ministry Present
The 2022 Installment of our Pastoral Ethics Requirements...
Ministry with LGBTQ People**

Back in 2017, all six of the Associations of the Penn West Conference passed the resolution, “On Pastoral Ethics Requirements for the Associations of the Penn West Conference of the United Church of Christ.” In 2022, we are providing a diversity training program, offered three times by Zoom, for Authorized Ministers and laypersons in our Conference. All Authorized (ordained, licensed, and commissioned) Ministers and Members in Discernment are expected to either attend this event, as per the resolution, or write a paper (2-4 pages), either on this subject or on another continuing education experience. This year’s topic is an important subject of ministry, and we hope you will join us.

The training will be led by Andy Lang, Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ. The event is scheduled to be a maximum of three hours (three sessions, each under an hour with a short break in between). A tentative schedule for each day is as follows:

Training Session Outline

Part 1

Becoming a Welcoming Congregation: Why and How

Presenter: Andrew G. Lang

Open and Affirming Coalition

United Church of Christ

Congregations that make a commitment to welcome LGBTQ members and support their relationships have saved untold thousands of lives. A church’s decision to become a safe spiritual home for LGBTQ seekers will restore many who have been rejected by other churches to the Body of Christ. Research also shows that straight millennials, including couples starting families, are part of the growing edge of LGBTQ-affirming churches. This workshop will explore the Reformed tradition of “covenant” to the LGBTQ-affirming church movement.

Part 2

Pastoral Care for your LGBTQ Members

Presenter: TBA

In many ways, the pastoral needs of a church’s LGBTQ members are the same as other members, especially care in times of loss, broken relationships, sickness and financial struggle. However, many LGBTQ Christians also live with the wounds of harm inflicted by congregations where they were taught that their capacity to love and seek love, or their authentic gender identity, was a sin or a sickness. This workshop will share best practices and resources for pastoral care.

Part 3

Gender Identity and Faith

Presenter: TBA

This workshop will focus on transgender and gender non-conforming Christians who are seeking a safe and welcoming church family. Led by a gender nonbinary pastor in the United Church of Christ, it will help church leaders explore the diversity of gender identities, and discover how transgender and gender non-conforming members can bring gifts of courage and a deep relationship with Jesus Christ to the church community.

For the convenience of our pastors and churches, three separate events have been planned. Please register for one.

- ➡ Tuesday, March 22, 9 AM to noon.
- ➡ Tuesday, April 5, 6-9 PM.
- ➡ Saturday, May 21, 9 AM to noon.

The cost of the event is \$25.00 per person. This covers administrative fees as well as an honorarium for the presenter. If the registration fee is a hardship for you for whatever reason, please contact the Conference Minister. Please register and send your payment by Tuesday, March 15, to Penn West Conference, 312 South Maple Ave., Suite PWC, Greensburg PA 15601. Checks may be made to “Penn West Conference.”

I am registering for the 2022 Installment of our Pastoral Ethics Requirement, Ministry with LGBTQ People on the following day:

Tuesday, March 22, 9 AM to noon.

Tuesday, April 5, 6-9 PM.

Saturday, May 22, 9 AM to noon.

Name: _____ Association: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____