



Lay Ministry Training Program

Course Catalog

Year 2—Level 2

- ◆ **Level 2 of the Lay Ministry Training Program** is designed for the individual who wants skills to serve in ministry leadership of a local church more fully.
- ◆ **Course Requirements:** Successful completion of the NACCC Level 1 Lay Ministry Training Program.
- ◆ **Course Fees:** See individual course descriptions on page 2-4.
- ◆ **Completion:** Student will receive a Certificate of Completion.
- ◆ **Questions:** Please contact Polly Bodjanac at (920) 655-3597 or pollybodjanac@gmail.com or Laura Wright at (414) 856-1614 or lwright@naccc.org

Any views or interpretations expressed by instructors who are preparing and teaching a course are not to be construed as being endorsed by or representing the views of the NACCC.

Course Descriptions

Course #1: Advanced Bible

Dates: September & October

Course Description: Communicating the contents and messages of ancient texts to individuals living in the 21st century is a challenging opportunity for the pastor, teacher, or leader of any church. The course in Advanced Bible will contribute to learners' understanding of methods used in doing responsible interpretation work in the Hebrew scriptures and Christian New Testament. Participants will have the chance to use these approaches to engage biblical material and explore ways of bringing it to life for contemporary communities.

Course Instructors: Rev. Dr. Charles A. Packer, Senior Minister, Pine Hill Congregational Church, West Bloomfield, MI and Rev. Jonathan C. Roach, Ph. D., Associate Conference Minister, Hawaii Conference, United Church of Christ

Course Fee: \$200

Course #2: Advanced Theology and Spirituality

Dates: November & December

Course Description: This course will illuminate the practical aspects of living in covenant within congregations, between partners, and individually with God. We will learn the qualitative distinction between a covenant and a contract. We will consider the foundational Scripture of covenantal relationships. Class members will learn to articulate the physical, emotional, spiritual and intellectual connections that build a community into a mutually fulfilling and successful expression of the Body of Christ. This course may be particularly helpful for those who serve in settings that have been heavily influenced by non-Congregational polity.

Course Instructor: Rev. Don Bliss, East Freetown Congregational-Christian Church, East Freetown, MA

Course Fee: \$200

Course #3: The Congregational Way

Dates: January

Course Description: This course will explore how we live and move and have our being as seen through the lens of Congregationalism. This includes studying lessons from our forebearers and past NACCC leaders who have paved the way, as well as searching out relevant articles in the Congregationalist and other resources that help us define Congregationalism. You will be asked to share the Congregational practices in your own church, and we will endeavor to be able to explain what a Congregationalist is and why we choose to follow the Congregational Way.

Course Instructor: Rev. Patti Haaheim, Congregational Church of Soquel, Soquel, CA

Course Fee: \$100

Course Descriptions

Course #4: Essentials of Pastoral Care and Pastoral Ethics

Dates: February

Course Description: In the first part of the course—Essentials of Pastoral Care—we will discuss grieving which follows loss (loved ones, independence, memories, pets, jobs, home, and more), suffering, how pastoral care is compassionate care-giving, walking in the footsteps of Jesus; the importance of mirrored prayer in pastoral care; and why caregivers must take care of themselves. In the second part of the course—Pastoral Ethics—we will consider personal values, morals, and integrity; boundaries with the congregation; and interactions with staff and clergy colleagues. Meaningful relevant dialogue is essential to the class. Therefore, reading the assigned sections of the two required books is critical.

Course Instructor: Rev. Dr. Barry W. Szymanski, Bridge Pastor, First Congregational Church, Oconomowoc, WI

Course Fee: \$100

Course #5: Managing Group Dynamics and Systems

Dates: March

Course Description: Churches are complex and complicated group systems - To understand better what that means and how church leadership can make a difference, we'll explore several approaches to church leadership discussed in Peter Steinke's book *Healthy Congregations, a Systems Approach*, the book *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership*, as well as a closer look at the nature of decision-making in Congregational Churches. There will be two Zoom meetings in the month, and handouts with main points and sources will be provided.

Course Instructor: Rev. Dr. Mary (Mimi) Biedron, North Congregational Church, Farmington Hills, MI

Course Fee: \$100

Course #6: Church Management & Conflict

Dates: April

Course Description: This course will survey various management styles and offer an introduction to Church Conflict Theory, including Change Agent Skills, Stages of Conflict, Problems to Manage and Problems to Solve, and Levels of Conflict and Tensions in Local Churches.

Course Instructor: Rev. Dr. Donald P. Olsen, Senior Minister, Plymouth Congregational Church, Wichita, KS

Course Fee: \$100

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Course Descriptions

Course #7: Worship, Sacraments and Public Speaking

Dates: May

Course Description: This one-month course will cover the basics of planning a worship service, theological fundamentals of worship, working collaboratively with music staff and laity, offering the sacraments, and the fundamentals of clear and effective public speaking. Plan to do the assigned reading and assignments on time, as well as participate in the Zoom class.

Course Instructor: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer, Retired Pastor, Heritage Congregational Church, Madison, WI

Course Fee: \$100

Course #8: Basics of Preaching

Dates: June

Course Description: This course introduces the principles and disciplines of effective preaching. It offers the tools for the fresh, ongoing interpretation of scripture in the lives of listeners. Students will study cultural and congregational factors in the preaching event, methods for interpreting texts, the process of sermon development, and the practical issues of oral communication. This class will be more fun than this dry description.

Course Instructor: Dr. Brett Younger, Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, NY

Course Fee: \$100

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