



# Lay Ministry Training Program

## *Course Catalog*

### *Year 1—Level 1*

- ◆ **Level 1 of the Lay Ministry Training Program** is designed for any Christian who is ready to deepen their relationship and service to God. Students will receive an overview of the basics of Christian faith and practice. Students will have an opportunity to interact with other students through a format such as Zoom during each session. Instructors will provide an assignment for each class. Credit for classes is earned through participation, attendance, and assignment completion. The NACCC will provide a mentor to work with roughly 10 students per session.
- ◆ **Course Pre-requisites:** None
- ◆ **Course Requirements:** Before the first class begins, complete a Statement of Faith and a Spiritual Gifts Inventory Assessment.
  - ◆ **Statement of Faith** ([click to download Word doc](#))

Prepare your statement of belief including your definition of the following: Bible, God, Jesus, resurrection, man and sin, Holy Spirit, salvation, the Church. Support your statement with Biblical scripture. Email this document to [pollybodjanac@gmail.com](mailto:pollybodjanac@gmail.com).
  - ◆ **Spiritual Gifts Inventory Assessment** ([click to complete](#))

There are 108 questions so allow yourself an adequate amount of time to complete the inventory. Print/save the results for review in the future.
- ◆ **Course Fees:** See individual course descriptions on page 2-3.
- ◆ **Completion:** Student will receive a Certificate of Completion.
- ◆ **Questions:** Please contact Polly Bodjanac at (920) 655-3597 or [pollybodjanac@gmail.com](mailto:pollybodjanac@gmail.com) or Laura Wright at (414) 856-1614 or [lwright@naccc.org](mailto: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: Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures

**Dates:** September & October

**Course Description:** This course will consider the biblical material that witnesses to the faith of biblical Israel and its development over many centuries. The historical and social contexts in which these writings emerged will be given significant attention, as well as the ways in which they are most responsibly interpreted. While acknowledgment will be made to their importance with regard to the Christian New Testament, there will be an emphasis on reading with appreciation for their value as sacred literature for other communities, as well.

**Course Instructor:** Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Dean, Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies

**Course Fee:** \$200

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## Course #2: New Testament Survey

**Dates:** November & December

**Course Description:** This course will trace the story of the formation of the New Testament and its role in the life of the church. Questions of authorship, historical background and theologies of the Letters of Paul, the Synoptic Gospels, the Book of Acts, the Writings of John, and the General Epistles will be surveyed. This course will conclude with reflections on the unity and diversity of the New Testament witness to Jesus.

**Course Instructor:** Rev. Norm Erendson, First Congregational Church, The Road Church, Stonington, CT

**Course Fee:** \$200

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## Course #3: Spiritual Formation

**Dates:** January

**Course Description:** This course will provide an introduction to spiritual formation, discipleship and the practice of spiritual disciplines. Using daily practices of spiritual reading, prayer and meditation, students will be guided to a greater understanding of God and essential pathways to experiencing God.

**Course Instructor:** Rev. Dr. Stu Merkel, Faith Community Church, Franklin, WI

**Course Fee:** \$100

# Course Descriptions

## Course #4: A Survey of Church History

**Dates:** February & March

**Course Description:** A Survey of Church History will tell the story of the growth of the institutional Church in the West as a social, political and religious force in the world from its beginnings to the present. This survey will pay special attention to Christian thought leaders and the theological questions and conflicts that defined their times. A second important objective will be to discover the ways in which Christianity has attempted to remain true to the ethical ideals of Jesus and the cause of social justice. This study will conclude by looking at the challenges facing the Church universal and local congregations in the 21st century.

**Course Instructor:** Rev. Norm Erlendson, First Congregational Church, The Road Church, Stonington, CT

**Course Fee:** \$200

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## Course #5: Christian Theology

**Dates:** April & May

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the content of the Christian faith as believed and confessed from the early church to the present day. Topics will include revelation, Scripture, the Trinity, creation, human sin, the Person and the Work of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, sacraments and ministry, Christian hope, and the Christian life.

**Course Instructor:** Rev. Dr. Sue LeFeber, Ozaukee Congregational Church, Grafton, WI

**Course Fee:** \$200

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## Course #6: Living Out Our Faith

**Dates:** June

**Course Description:** "Living Out Our Faith" emphasizes experiencing and sharing the new and living way of Christ. We will explore the biblical motifs of life on mission and life in an incarnational community. Students will gain practical and theological knowledge for living on mission and inspiring others to do the same. Course material will be anchored in the book of James and informed by "Christianity and the Creative Quests," by Gaius Glenn Atkins, 1933 - Available free online.

**Course Instructor:** Rev. Dr. Chris Surber, D.Min. First Congregational Church of Naples, FL

**Course Fee:** \$100



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