

Supply Preacher Certificate Program

One Year

This program is offered once a year in the fall. There is a minimum number required for the class to be run. Classes are online with at least one Gathering of Vermont students during the class. This will be arranged with the students and leaders. This workshop will be about preaching for events/occasions/special days and some case studies for leading worship.

The program consists of:

- sixteen 1 1/2 hour webinars offered twice each month
 - Monday evenings: 7-8:30
- two 3 1/2 hour practicum sessions at the end of the program
- reading/writing components for each session.
 - generally a 5 page sermon that is due one week after the class session
- Vermont Workshop

Assignments receive written comments from the instructor and a grade. At the end of the program, the student, the student's pastor, and the Vermont Conference will receive a narrative final assessment before including a person on our Pulpit Supply list as a Certified Lay Preacher.

The classes will cover:

Exegesis for Preaching, Communicating with a Congregation: Sermon Structure & Delivery, Preaching from the Lectionary, Preaching the Old Testament, Christology, Theological Reflection, Planning and Leading Worship, Preaching the New Testament, Trinity, UCC Identity, The Ethics of Supply Preaching, Plus, two preaching practicum sessions

You will be reading :

1) *The Preaching Life*, by Barbara Brown Taylor, 2) *Understanding Christian Doctrine*, by Ian S. Markham, 3) *The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction*, by Luke Timothy Johnson, 4) *The Old Testament: A Very Short Introduction*, by Michael Coogan, 5) Other assigned articles (web articles and pdfs). All are available used (or borrowed).

Prerequisite: Recommendation from your Church, webcam

Cost: \$585 and books

Christian Leadership Program

Three Years

For those who feel called to ministry, this Leadership Program will prepare them and help them to discern if Licensed Ministry is their call. A person should be able to finish the program in 3-4 years. There is not a time limit.

Requirements for completion of the Christian Leadership Program:

1. Begin the Licensure process with the Ministerial Standards and Standings Committee of the Vermont Conference.
 - Please note**, if your church membership is in the Windsor-Orange Association, the Grafton Orange Sullivan Association, or the Southwest Association then you will have to see if your Association's Committee on Ministry will consider this program as preparation for Licensure.
2. Completion of these twelve courses:
 - Old Testament I& II, New Testament I&II, Resurrection to the Reformation, Intro to Christian Theology, American Church History, UCC History and Polity, Liturgy & Worship, Pastoral Care, Congregational Life, Ethics.
3. Completion of Boundary Awareness Training
4. Participation in Vermont Conference Workshops and Training Events
5. One Year of Supervised Ministry

The classes are part of the Christian Studies Program (back of brochure).

Prerequisites: Letter of recommendation from your church leadership, a High School diploma or equivalent, webcam

Cost: The Annual Program cost is \$500 (for three years only), class cost is \$344/class or \$683/semester, books, workshop fees

Christian Studies Program

These classes are open for anyone to take, even clergy. They are all web based, taught by Ph.D.'s in the field of study. They are inexpensive (compared to a VT Community College class). You do not have to be in the Christian Leadership Program (preparation for Licensure) to take any of these classes.

Classes change every semester. These are for the Winter/Spring of 2016:

Old Testament II (Rev. David Cleaver-Bartholomew, Ph.D.) –OT I is the prerequisite for this course. The course is on a Sunday/Wed schedule.

Advanced Topics in Pastoral Care and Counseling (Rev. Wayne Gustafson, D. Min.): Saturdays - Feb 6; March 12; April 9 (9:30-4:45 with 1/2 hour lunch break). Only one Pastoral Care course is required for the Christian Leadership Program. This is also an excellent course for those who are in ministry, to brush up on their skills and to be intentional about reflecting on their pastoral care.

Congregational Life (Rev. J. Mark Lawson, Ph.D.): Saturdays – April 23 & 30; May 14 & 21 (9-2:30 with ½ hour lunch break).

This is our nuts and bolts pastoral administration and leadership course.

Cost: class cost is \$344/class or \$683/semester, (\$269/audit) books,

There is no 'application' for these classes. You are asked to fill out the application form as a way to register for the class, inform us about payment options, and to receive your access to the on-line classes.



Vermont School of Ministry

Supply Preacher Certificate Program

There is a real need for Supply Preachers in the Vermont Conference as well as other Conferences and Denominations. There is a truth to the idea that anyone can preach. And some people just feel called to share the Good News. With this certificate program anyone can preach better, with more confidence and depth.

Christian Leadership Program

For those who feel called to ministry, this Leadership Program will prepare them and help them to discern if Licensed Ministry is their call. A person should be able to finish the program in 3-4 years.

Christian Studies Program

Everyone can take these courses. They are all web based, taught by Ph.D.'s in the field of the class. They are inexpensive. They are not something that is available in a local church. You do not have to be in the Christian Leadership Program (preparation for Licensure). The Courses can be audited.

All classes/programs are in partnership with New York Conference. To register for any of these programs, please call (802-728-4999) or email (pittonm@vtcucc.org) the Dean of VTSOM, Mark Pitton.