

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, however, 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 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 for Fall of 2016 are listed on the next page.

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

Classes Fall 2016

Introduction to Christian Theology:

Instructor - Rev. Steven D. Johnson, Ph.D.

Wednesday evenings, 7-9 pm

September 7, 14, 21, 28; October 5, 19, 26; November 2, 9, 16

This course introduces participants to the primary themes of Christian Theology. Participants write papers or sermons that address the topics of Christology, the Doctrine of the Trinity, and the Purpose of the Church.

Deadline to sign up is August 24.

Liturgy and Worship:

Instructor - Rev. Marjorie Purnine, Ph.D.

Saturdays, 9:00-2:30 (with 1/2 hour lunch break)

November 12; December 10; January 7 & 28

This course surveys the history of Christian liturgy, examines the theology of worship and the sacraments, and offers practical instruction to enable participants to make informed choices when planning liturgies. One quarter of the course is devoted to preaching.

Deadline to sign up is October 28.

Family Systems and Pastoral Leadership

Instructor - Rev. Wayne Gustafson, D.Min

Saturdays, 9:30-4:45 (with 1/2 hour lunch break)

September 10; October 1; October 29

This course focuses on how Family Systems Theory helps pastors be as healthy as they can be in ministry and how they can use their personal process of "differentiation" to maximize their leadership capacities in congregations

Deadline to sign up is August 26.

It may be important to note that the Vermont School of Ministry does not License people for a Ministry in the United Church of Christ or the Vermont Conference. The VT SOM Leadership Program is merely an educational foundation for the more profound discernment about ones fitness for a Licensed Ministry.

To be “Licensed” is a process separate from completing the Christian Leadership Program. A Committee on Ministry is responsible for this. To aid a committee in their discernment, something called “Marks for Ministry” is used. You can see the Marks for Ministry on the UCC website <http://tinyurl.com/hbhm56l> . In this document there are 4 sections that describe the sorts of things (marks) that a committee looks for in a person before they are Authorized for Ministry with the UCC as the Authorizing Body. The four sections are:

- Spiritual Foundations for Ministry
- UCC Identity for Ministry
- Professional Formation for Ministry
- Knowledge and Skills for Ministry

What the VT SOM provides as a foundation might also be provided by other regional schools of ministry associated with UCC Conferences. To find out if a particular one would be acceptable, you should talk to the Ministerial Standards and Standing Committee (MSSC). Rev. Laurie Krooss is the Chair LKROSS@yahoo.com and Bev. Anderson is in charge of licensing brandx@vermontel.net .

July 20, 2016



Vermont School of Ministry

Fall 2016

Supply Preacher Certificate Program

We hope to offer this in September 2017

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Christian Studies Program

Everyone can take the courses offered in the Leadership Program, even clergy. They are all web based, mostly 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. The Courses can be audited.

All classes/programs are in partnership with New York Conference. To apply/register the application is <http://tinyurl.com/zgkvu9f>. You can also call (802-728-4999) or email Pam Lucas at Lucasp@vtucc.org.