

The Leadership Institute at Union Presbyterian Seminary presents:

# Pathways

## to Learning and Leadership

Online and Hybrid Education for those training to be Commissioned Ruling Elders and for church members

**What is it?** **Pathways to Learning and Leadership** is a program of nine courses offered over a two-year period to provide educational preparation toward leading a congregation as a Commissioned Ruling Elder, and six courses for church members who want to increase their knowledge and discipleship. Each course is five weeks long. **Phase I courses** (for everyone) are taught entirely online, using live instruction, readings, and peer discussion. **Phase II-a courses for CREs** include online and hybrid courses; most instruction will be done at home, culminating in three days on campus or at a location in your presbytery. Electives for church members (**Phase II-b**) are taught entirely online. Participants will need about six (6) hours per week, including two hours per week (7-9 p.m., either Tuesday or Thursday) online, to complete the work.

**Who is it for?** People studying to be CREs will be joined by interested church members in learning together. Courses will be taught from a Reformed (Presbyterian) perspective, but are open to all.

**Who will teach the courses?** Most will be taught by faculty from Union Presbyterian Seminary. Some will be taught by practitioners in their field.

**How much does it cost?** The cost per five-week course is \$100. In addition there will usually be one book to purchase per course.

**Are there prerequisites to taking the courses?** No. Anyone can participate.

**Will I be given college or seminary credit for the courses?** No. These courses do not earn academic credit. CRE candidates will work with your presbytery to determine which of the Pathways courses will meet their requirements, or if other courses will be offered through the presbytery. Church members who are not studying to be CREs will receive a Certificate of Completion after finishing the four courses in Phase I and two more courses in Phase II-a or II-b.

**When can I get started?** Courses are ongoing throughout the fall, winter, and spring. Phase I courses begin each September.

**How do I register?** Go to [www.upsem.edu/pathways](http://www.upsem.edu/pathways) for more information and to register online, or contact Marilyn Johns at [mjohns@upsem.edu](mailto:mjohns@upsem.edu) with any questions.

## Overview of the Courses:

### Phase I

1. Biblical Interpretation – Includes methods and tools for interpreting the Bible, including a historical overview of how the church has engaged in understanding the scriptures. The course will include elements of the exegetical process. Tuesdays in the fall.
2. Reformed Theology and Church History – An overview of the beliefs of the Reformed Tradition, the confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and how they all came to be over the course of history, from the early church to the present day. Tuesdays in the fall.
3. The Christian Life – A look at spiritual practices, worship and sacraments, and ethics for help in personal spirituality and in leading the congregation to individual and corporate practices of worship. Tuesdays in the winter.
4. The Mission of the Church in the World – Examines our calling to be in and of the world through local and global mission, and in methods of evangelism. Tuesdays in the winter.

### Phase II-a

1. Preaching the Bible – Looks at the biblical and theological foundation of preaching and helps students to discover their authoritative voice of proclamation. Thursdays in the fall.
2. Teaching the Bible - Includes biblical and theological reflection on the teaching ministry of the church. It considers the contextual nature of education and pays attention to basic planning skills, teaching methods and pedagogical concepts for learners across the lifespan. Thursdays in the fall.
3. Administration – A look at the business of running a church, such as church finances, human resources, stewardship, Presbyterian polity, and leading meetings. Thursdays in the winter.
4. Pastoral Care – Introducing the student to basic resources to assist in the ministry of pastoral care, to provide an opportunity to develop pastoral listening skills in a congregational setting, and encourage students to begin the process of integrating theory and practice into a sense of ministerial identity. Thursdays in the winter.
5. Worship and Sacraments - This course seeks to explore the history, theology and practice of Christian worship and the ways worship practices are spiritually formative for congregations. The Directory for Worship and personal reflection will be used to identify and explore the various dimensions of Christian worship, and the theological practice of administering the sacraments. Thursdays in the spring.

Phase II-b - Two electives will be offered each year; topics and instructors will vary.

Online face-to-face classes with the class leader take place on the five Tuesdays or Thursdays during the course from 7-9 p.m. All students are expected to participate in all of these live sessions, as well as the online peer discussions and assignments.

### Technological requirements:

Courses can be accessed from your desktop or laptop computer, or from a tablet or I-Phone. You will get the most benefit from the experience if your device has a microphone and webcam. You must have an email address to participate. There are no computer programs to purchase.