

Pathways course brief descriptions

2017/18

Phase I – Foundational Courses: online portion is on Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. ET

- **Biblical Interpretation** – This course is designed to address the calling of Christian ministers to interpret biblical texts, this course features a historical overview of how the Church has approached this calling, and offers a structure for a close reading and peer discussion of a practical guide to biblical exegesis.
September 12 – October 10, 2017
Instructor: **Dr. Carson Brisson**
- **Reformed Theology and Church History** - This course is designed to provide participants with knowledge of and an appreciation for the theological tradition that is foundational for the Presbyterian Church (USA), its historical contexts, and its contemporary significance for the life of the church.
October 24 – November 21, 2017
Instructor: **Dr. Adrian Bird**
- **The Christian Life** - This course is designed to provide participants with knowledge of Protestant perspectives on the Christian life. Participants will explore biblical and theological foundations that shape understanding of the Christian life. Reflection on focused experiences of spiritual practices will engage participants in critical analysis of their own spiritual life and nurture opportunities for congregational ministry and leadership. Focused reading and writing, on-line discussion and class lectures will provide students with a basic understanding of vital components of Christian life.
February 13 – March 20, 2018. **Note: class will not meet on February 27**
Instructor: **Dr. Cindy Kissel-Ito**
- **Mission and Evangelism** - In this course students will be challenged to articulate their own understanding of the gospel while exploring innovative ways of being a missional church in our rapidly changing world.
April 10 – May 8, 2018
Instructor: **Dr. John Vest**

Phase II – Practical Courses: online portion is on Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. ET

- **Worship and Sacraments** - Worship is the central act of the people of God and the community of faith. The sacraments provide a tangible witness to God's ongoing grace and presence in the world and in our lives. Together they enrich and enliven the life of faith for all God's people. We will explore the meaning and practice of Worship, Baptism and Communion as means and experiences of grace and commission.
September 7 – October 5, 2017
Instructor: **Dr. Rebecca Davis**
- **Teaching the Bible** - This interdisciplinary course examines selected approaches to Bible teaching from the perspectives of biblical scholarship and Christian Education. The purpose of this course is to equip students to develop planning, implementation and evaluation skills for teaching the Bible.
October 19 – November 16, 2017
Instructor: **Dr. Cindy Kissel-Ito**
- **Polity and Administration** - This course will engage the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Order, its underpinnings, and its implications for mission and ministry. As part of the course, we will review administrative tasks which grow out of the Book of Order (i.e., Session meetings, committee meetings, stewardship season, personnel matters and policies, financial matters, presbytery meetings, annual statistical reports).
January 11 – February 8, 2018
Instructor: **Rev. H. Carson Rhyne**
- **Pastoral Care** - What makes pastoral care distinctive? What are some biblical metaphors that describe pastoral care? In this Pathways course we will focus on being present and listening for the needs of the other. The required text will be *Giving Counsel* by Donald Capps.
February 22 – March 22, 2018
Instructor: **Dr. Carol Schweitzer**
- **Preaching the Bible** - In *Preaching the Bible*, students will consider the "why" of preaching and learn the "how" of basic elements of sermon preparation and delivery. Students will put this learning into practice by developing, delivering, and receiving feedback on a sermon preached in their context.
April 12 – May 10, 2018
Instructor: **Dr. Richard Voelz**

Electives – online portion is on Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. ET.

- **Parables of Jesus** - One of the signature features of Jesus's teaching was his use of parables to communicate his message. What is a parable? What are the distinctive themes in Jesus's parables? How does each Gospel focus central themes in its narrative about Jesus through his telling of parables? What do the parables have to say to twenty-first-century listeners? How does Jesus present parables in a way that leaves decision and action in the hands of those who hear? This five-week course on the Parables of Jesus will explore questions such as these, and in so doing invite participants to deepen their understanding of the Gospels, and to gain fresh insight into the mission and message of Jesus—for both first and twenty-first centuries.

May 24 – June 21, 2018

Instructor: **Dr. John Carroll**