



PATHWAYS TO LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

Phase 1 - Foundational

1 Biblical Interpretation

Thursdays, Sept 5 – Oct 3, 2019

2 Reformed Theology & Church History

Tuesdays, Oct 15 – Nov 12, 2019

3 The Christian Life

Tuesdays, Jan 7 – Feb 4, 2020

4 Mission & Evangelism

Mondays, Feb 24 – Mar 23, 2020

Phase 2 – Practical Ministry

1 Preaching the Bible

Thursdays, Sept 12 – Oct 10, 2019

2 Teaching the Bible

Thursdays, Oct 17 – Nov 21, 2019

3 Pastoral Care

Thursdays, Jan. 9 – Feb. 6, 2020

4 Polity & Administration

Thursdays, Feb 27 – Mar 26, 2020

5 Worship & Sacraments

Thursdays, April 16 – May 14, 2020

Self-Directed – Bible Surveys

Pre-recorded Lectures, Self paced courses

1 New Testament Bible Survey - available

2 Old Testament Bible Survey – coming

Spring 2020

Online Registration will be
available June 2019.

Pathways to Learning and Leadership

Pathways online courses are offered by the Leadership Institute of Union Presbyterian Seminary. The courses aim to enhance the knowledge and discipleship of church and community members and help with the education of those desiring to become Commissioned Ruling Elders in the Presbyterian Church (USA),

Each course is five weeks long with one online meeting each week. There are no prerequisites, and no college or seminary credit is given. No travel, lodging, or meals are required, as every class meeting and recourses are provided online and can be accessed from your personal computer.

It is highly recommended that your device has a webcam either built in or as an external add on. A computer microphone is required.

Frequently Asked Questions:

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

Who will teach the courses? Most classes will be taught by faculty from Union Presbyterian Seminary, the remainder will be taught by experienced practitioners in their field.

How much does it cost? Each course is \$100.00 for standard registration. In addition, there will typically be one book to purchase per course.

When can I get started? We recommend that the foundational courses (Phase 1) be taken first, but this is not a requirement. CRE candidates are to consult with their local presbytery for course requirements.

What kind of computer do I need? You will need a desktop or laptop computer, or a tablet or smart phone in order to participate. You must have a microphone; a webcam is highly recommended.

How do I register? Registration will be available online at www.upsem.edu/pathways. You can contact Tinsley Jones at tjones@upsem.edu with any questions.



Pathways Online Course Descriptions

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.

Reformed Theology and Church History - This course is designed to provide students 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. Students will study confessional statements of the Church to chart the historical and theological development of the Reformed tradition.

The Christian Life - This course is designed to provide students with knowledge of Protestant perspectives on the Christian life. Students will explore biblical and theological foundations that shape an understanding of the Christian life. Reflection on focused experiences of spiritual practices will engage students in critical analysis of their own spiritual life and nurture opportunities for congregational ministry and leadership. Through assignments, on-line discussion, and class lectures, students will engage vital components of the Christian life.

Mission and Evangelism – 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.

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.

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.

Pastoral Care - What makes pastoral care distinctive? What are some biblical metaphors that describe pastoral care? This course will focus on assisting students to be present and listen for the needs of the other.

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, and annual statistical reports).

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.