



## PATHWAYS TO LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

### Phase 1 - Foundational

- 1 Biblical Interpretation  
Tuesdays, Sept 7-Oct 12, 2021
- 2 Church History  
Tuesdays, Oct 26-Dec 7, 2021
- 3 Reformed Theology  
Tuesdays, Jan 11-Feb 15, 2022
- 4 The Christian Life  
Tuesdays, Mar 1- Apr 5, 2022
- 5 Mission & Evangelism  
Tuesdays, Apr 19-May 24, 2022

### Phase 2 - Practical Ministry

- 1 Polity & Administration I  
Tuesdays, Sept 9-Oct 14, 2021
- 2 Teaching the Bible  
Thursdays, Oct 28-Dec 9, 2021
- 3 Preaching  
Thursdays, Jan 13- Feb 17, 2022
- 4 Pastoral Care  
Thursdays, Mar 3- Apr 7, 2022
- 5 Worship & Sacraments  
Thursdays, Apr 21-May 26, 2022

### Self-Directed Bible Surveys

Self-Paced Courses  
Pre-Recorded Lectures

\$135

- 1 New Testament Bible Survey  
Available Now
- 2 Old Testament Bible Survey  
Tentatively To Open Spring 2022

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Online Registration  
Available July 2021

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## Pathways to Learning and Leadership

Pathways Online Courses is a program offered by the Leadership Institute of Union Presbyterian Seminary. The aim of each course is 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 PC(USA).

Each course is six weeks long with one online meeting each week. There are not any prerequisites, and college nor seminary credits are given. It is not necessary to travel, find lodging, or purchase meals, as every class meeting and course is provided online and can be accessed in the comfort of your own home from your personal computer.

You will need an Internet connection, with broadband wired or wireless (at least 3G). 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 of the courses will be taught by those who are experienced practitioners in their field.

**How much does it cost?** Each course is \$135 for early registration and \$150 for standard registration. In addition, there will typically be one book that participants will need to purchase per course.

**How do I start?** We recommend that the foundational courses (Phase 1) be taken first, but this is not a requirement. CRE candidates should consult with their local presbytery for course requirements.

**What kind of computer do I need?** You will need a desktop or laptop computer, a tablet, or smart phone in order to participate. As noted above, you must have a microphone and a webcam, either built-in or external/USB.

**How do I register?** You may register online at [www.upsem.edu/pathways](http://www.upsem.edu/pathways). Feel free to contact Tinsley Jones at [tjones@upsem.edu](mailto:tjones@upsem.edu) with any questions.

## Pathways Online Course Descriptions

**Biblical Interpretation:** This course is designed to equip Christian leaders to interpret biblical texts faithfully. The course provides an overview of the ways in which the church has approached the work of biblical interpretation and then offers a practical guide for close reading of passages, featuring peer discussion of the meaning and message of selected biblical texts.

**Church History:** This course is designed to provide an overview of and an appreciation for the history of Christian traditions, the broader contexts in which they are developed, and their continued significance for the life of the church. Participants will study select crucial history moments (e.g., early Christian movements, church councils, Reformation, Christianity in America).

**Reformed Theology:** This course is designed to provide students with knowledge of and appreciation for the Reformed theological tradition in which the PC(USA) is rooted. The course will explore the central tenets of the Reformed tradition, its contemporary significance for the life of the church, and its relationship to the broader ecclesial and social contexts.

**The Christian Life:** This course is designed to provide knowledge of Protestant perspectives on the Christian life. Participants 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 lives and nurture opportunities for congregational ministry and leadership. Through on-line discussion, assignments, and class lectures, participants will engage in vital components of the Christian life.

**Mission and Evangelism:** Though we frequently hear that the “church is missionary by its very nature,” what exactly does this mean and how may we joyfully claim evangelism as part of our missional identity? In this course participants will go on a wonderful journey of discovery, inquiring into the staggeringly rich realm of mission and evangelism in order to embrace the challenges facing the rapidly changing church and world in the twenty-first century.

**Preaching:** Participants will consider the “why” of preaching and learn the “how” of basic elements of sermon preparation and delivery. They 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 participants to develop planning, implementation, and evaluation skills for teaching the Bible.

**Pastoral Care:** This course will focus on the art of listening in a ministry of care. Topics covered in brief are listening, the role of self in a ministry of care, family systems theory, grief (and loss), the significance of ritual in pastoral care, and care as it relates to rites and sacraments in the life of the church. There will be special focus on what care in a post-pandemic world will look like and how a pandemic has changed the ways in which one thinks about a ministry of care.

**Polity and Administration I:** This course will engage the PC(USA) Book of Order, its underpinnings, and its implications for mission and ministry. As part of the course, participants will review administrative tasks which grow out of the Book of Order (e.g., session meetings, committee meetings, stewardship season, personnel matters and policies, financial matters, presbytery meetings, and annual statistical reports).

**Worship and Sacraments:** This course will examine the history, theology, and practice of worship and sacraments. While rooted in the reformed tradition, the goal is to deepen appreciation for a variety of worship services and liturgical practices. Through reflections on readings and discussions of observed liturgical rituals, the course will seek to cultivate enlivened worship leadership practices and their theological impact within the particular ecclesial context for each person. At the end of the course, participants will be equipped and inspired to craft and lead worship that is lifegiving for them and their worshipping congregation.