

# Pathways

## to Learning and Leadership

**Date:** September – November, 2016 and January – March, 2017

**Leaders:** Union Presbyterian Seminary faculty

**Event location:** Wherever your computer is!

**Registration:** \$100 per five-week course

**CEUs:** 3.0 per course

**For:** Those desiring to become Commissioned Ruling Elders and church members who want to further their Christian education

In an effort to assist presbyteries in training women and men to be Commissioned Ruling Elders, AND to offer quality educational opportunities for church members in an affordable and accessible way, the Leadership Institute is offering a program with two tracks:

**Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs)** take four Foundational Courses in the first year and five Practical Courses in the second year, which will fulfill the educational requirements of CREs for participating presbyteries. Foundation Courses are online and Practical Courses are hybrid (partly online and partly in person).

**Church members** take the same four Foundational Courses in the first year and two other courses (electives – which are entirely online – or Practical Ministries Courses, which are hybrid) in the second year. Completion of these six courses results in a Certificate of Completion from the Leadership Institute.

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. **Foundational courses** (Phase I - for everyone) are taught entirely online, using live instruction, readings, and peer discussion. **Practical ministry courses for CREs** (Phase II-a) are taught in a hybrid format; most instruction will be done at home, culminating in three days on campus. **Electives for church members** (Phase II-b) are taught entirely online. Participants will need about six (6) hours per week, including two hours at a specific time online, to complete the work. CRE courses are about half online and half hybrid; church members may complete all courses online.

**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 credit for the courses?** No. These courses do not earn academic credit. At the end of the two years, you will meet the educational requirements of your denomination toward becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder (or your denomination's equivalent).

**When can I get started?** The first foundational course, Biblical Interpretation, begins the week of September 3.

**How do I register?** [Click here](#) to register online, or contact Marilyn Johns at [mjohns@upsem.edu](mailto:mjohns@upsem.edu) with any questions.

## Schedule and Overview of the Courses:

- I. Biblical Interpretation – led by Professor **Carson Brisson**. Work begins September 6, 2016 and concludes on October 9, 2016. Includes Bible overview and tools for interpretation
- II. Reformed Theology and Church History – led by PhD candidate **Nina Atkins** and Professors **Christine Luckritz Marquis** and **Adrian Bird**. Work begins on October 17, 2016 and concludes on November 20, 2016. Two sessions on theology, and three on different periods of church history.
- III. The Christian Life – led by Professor **Cindy Kissel-Ito**. Work begins on January 9, 2017 and concludes on February 12, 2017. Includes spiritual practices, worship and sacraments, and ethics.
- IV. The Mission of the Church in the World – led by Professor **John Vest**. Work begins on February 20, 2017 and concludes on March 26, 2017. Includes evangelism and mission.

Complete descriptions of the courses will be available soon on our website. Online face-to-face classes with the class leader take place on the five Tuesdays 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.

### **Biblical Interpretation** - online

- September 6
- September 13
- September 20
- September 27
- October 4

### **Reformed Theology and Church History** - online

- October 18
- October 25
- November 1
- November 8
- November 15

## In 2017:

### **The Christian Life** - online

- January 10
- January 17
- January 24
- January 31
- February 7

### **The Mission of the Church in the World** - online

- February 21
- February 28
- March 7
- March 14
- March 21

## Other information:

- Completion of a course toward CRE requirements or a Certificate of Completion will require that you participate in all course sessions online (two hours per week), complete any assignment given by the instructor, and engage your classmates in online discussion.
- Online instruction sessions will be recorded, so if you have to miss an online face-to-face course session because of an unavoidable situation, or if you want to review what has been taught, those will be available to you. It is expected that all students will attend all of the Tuesday evening live sessions online.
- It is possible to complete all courses for CRE education or a Certificate of Completion in two years. It is normally expected that work be completed within five years.
- The Leadership Institute will keep track of your attendance and participation. If you are in danger of not meeting the attendance and participation requirements of a course, you will be notified so that you can complete the work.
- Courses will ordinarily include some practical application that can be done with your congregation or organization.
- To register for classes, [click here](#). ***Class size is limited***, so don't wait until the last minute to register!
- For more information about the development of this program, [click here](#).
- The technology we will use is Zoom – a very easy-to-use program that allows multiple people to see and connect with one another, and allows instructors to put you into small groups for discussion. It is FREE to you, and does not require you to download anything, just click on the link you will be sent.
- BlackBoard will also be used for any assignments and readings.
- System Requirements – your computer (laptop, desktop, tablet, smart phone) should be equipped with:
  - An internet connection – broadband wired or wireless (3G or 4G/LTE)
  - Speakers and a microphone – built-in or USB plug-in or wireless Bluetooth
  - A webcam or HD webcam - built-in or USB plug-in
  - Or, a HD cam or HD camcorder with video capture card