

Lay Ministry Programs in the United Church of Christ

Most of these programs are appropriate for general faith formation and enrichment. Many courses may also be appropriate for continuing education for clergy. Several provide training for local church educators

Most of them also provide preparation for Authorized Ministry (primarily Licensed or Commissioned). In every case the candidate's Committee on the Ministry will authorize, and candidates should pre-approve coursework through the Committee.

For more information on a particular program there are contacts and web pages, if available, listed.



Academy for Ministry

Penn West Conference, United Church of Christ

David Ackerman

Dmackerman15676@yahoo.com

<http://www.pennwest.org/MinistryPrograms/AcademyforMinistry/tabid/47119/Default.aspx>

Academy for Congregational Life and Leadership

Maine Conference, United Church of Christ

Peggy Dunn

meuccacademy@gmail.com

Academy for Vital Christianity

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

(Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ and Minnesota Conference UMC)

Cindi Beth Johnson

cbjohnson@unitedseminary.edu

<http://unitedseminary.edu/CommunityPrograms/academy.asp#FAQs>

Associates in Christian Education

Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ and Hartford Seminary

Chuck Ericson

chucke@ctuucc.org

<http://www.ctuucc.org/program/ACE.html>

Catoctin Lay Ministry School

Catoctin Association, Central Atlantic Conference, United Church of Christ

Glenn Patterson

glennpat@comcast.net

Center for Excellence in Christian Education (CE2)

The First Church of Nashua, New Hampshire
Debbie Gline Allen, Pat Harris

webmaster@ce2nh.org

<http://www.ce2nh.org>

CENTER/LEARN/SEARCH

Iowa Conference, United Church of Christ
Dianne Prichard

Dianne@ucciaconf.org

<http://www.ucciaconf.org/CLS.php>

Design for Leadership

Defiance College

Marian Plant

mplant@defiance.edu

http://www.defiance.edu/pages/design_for_leadership.html

Eagle Butte Learning Center

United Church of Christ Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM)

Rosemary McCombs Maxey

rmaxey@oklatel.net

http://www.caimucc.org/eagle_butte.html

Education for Effective Youth Ministry (EEYM)

Massachusetts Conference United Church of Christ

Elsa Marshall

elsa.marshall@gmail.com

<http://www.macucc.org/youth/EEYM.htm>

Education for Lay Ministry (ELM)

Nebraska Conference United Church of Christ; Christian Church: Disciples of Christ in Nebraska; Central, Homestead and Missouri River Valley Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (USA); American Baptist Church in Nebraska

Sharon Shields

shieldscotner@windstream.net

<http://www.uccnebraska.org/who-are-we/mission/23-education-for-lay-ministry-elm>

Henry ‘Opukaha’ia Center for Continuing Education

Neal MacPherson

hoc@hcucc.org

<http://www.hcucc.org/ChurchesandMinistries/AffiliatedOrganizationPages/HenryOpukahaiaCenter/tabid/31117/Default.aspx>

K-O-C School of Theology

Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, United Church of Christ

Program is currently on hiatus

Lay Academy

Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ

Gail O'Neal

goneal@wcucc.org

<http://www.wcucc.org/index.asp?pageid=108>

Lay Institute of Faith Exploration (LIFE)

Missouri Mid-South Conference, Illinois South Conference and Eden Theological Seminary,
United Church of Christ

Nancy Livingston

life@eden.edu

<http://www.lifeateden.com>

Lay Ministry in the 21st Century

Penn Northeast Conference, Penn Central Conference, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference,
United Church of Christ

Sally Dries

salann@ptd.net

<http://www.pccucc.org/Ministries/LayMinistryinthe21stCentury/tabid/44936/Default.aspx>

<http://www.pnec.org/leadership/21Min.html>

Lay Ministry Institute of the Montana Association of Churches (LMI-MAC)

Montana Association of Churches (including United Church of Christ)

Laurie Budlong-Morse

laurie@fcchelena.org

<http://www.montana-churches.net/Programs/tabid/7804/Default.aspx>

Lay School of Religion

Northwest Association, Ohio Conference United Church of Christ

Dan Busch

dlbusch@nwoa.org

<http://www.nwoa.org/lay1.htm>

Lay School of the Church

Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association, Ohio Conference United Church of Christ

Julie Olmstead

revjulietrinity@sbcglobal.net

<http://www.sonkaucc.org/pages/ministries/lay-school/lay-school.html>

Lay School of the Church

Western Reserve Association, Ohio Conference United Church of Christ

Joan Ishibashi

jiishibashi@wraucc.org

http://www.wraucc.org/index.php?module=article&view=4&MMN_position=34:34

Learning to Teach

Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ

Elsa Marshall

elsa.marshall@gmail.com

<http://www.macucc.org/education/LearningtoTeach.htm>

Licensed Ministry Training Program

Indiana/Kentucky Conference, United Church of Christ

ikc@ikcucc.org

Partners in Ministry

Eastern Ohio Association, Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ

Richard Plant

richp@eoaucc.org

[http://wraucc.org/branches/eoa/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page
&PAGE_id=3&MMN_position=8:8](http://wraucc.org/branches/eoa/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=3&MMN_position=8:8)

Pastoral Leadership Development Program

Southern Conference, United Church of Christ

Margot Pickett

plddirector@verizon.net

<http://www.enca-ucc.org/enca/pld.html>

STEM (Systematic Training for Effective Ministry)

Michigan Conference United Church of Christ and the Michigan Region of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Anne McCauslin

anne@michucc.org

http://michucc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=34

The New York School of Ministry

New York Conference, United Church of Christ

Marjorie Purnine

purnine@earthlink.net

<http://www.uccny.org/NewYorkSchoolofMinistry/tabid/21545/Default.aspx>

Theological Education Institute (TEI)

Rocky Mountain Conference, United Church of Christ and Central Rocky Mountain Region,
Christian Church: Disciples of Christ

Phil Campbell and Dan Wilkie

campbelpe@aol.com, dan@firstcongregational-ucc.org

Theology Among the People (TAP)

Southeast Conference United Church of Christ

Kathy Clark

kclark@secucc.org

<http://www.secucc.org/TAP>

Vermont Academy of Spiritual Training (VAST)

Vermont Conference United Church of Christ

Pam Lucas

lucasp@vtucc.org

http://www.vtcucc.org/Vermont_Academy_of_Spiritual_Training.html

Yankton College Licensed Ministry Program

South Dakota Conference United Church of Christ

ON HIATUS as of 10/09

info@yanktoncollege.org



Programs Outside of the United Church of Christ

There are a number of other programs for lay people looking for deeper and broader faith education. For those who might be also be considering some form of authorization for ministry in the United Church of Christ (Ordination, Licensing or Commissioning) it will be important to review the educational settings and course selections with the Committee on the Ministry in your area. This is the Committee with which you may be entering a discernment process as a prelude to possible authorization. (Programs which are sponsored by an Association or Conference of the United Church of Christ already have a relationship with the Committee on the Ministry so the process is usually simpler.)

A number of **mainline** denominations offer training which may be available in your area. Most are organized locally. Some programs are open to members of other denominations. Inquire with the local judicatory.

- The Christian Church: Disciples of Christ cosponsors lay education programs in a number of areas; some are co-sponsored with the United Church of Christ programs. This directory of regions lists websites where information on such programs could be found:
<http://www.disciples.org/RegionalMinistries/RegionalDirectoryandContactInformation/tabid/156/Default.aspx>
- The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has training programs for their authorized lay ministers. These are called “Commissioned Lay Ministers”, and many function in ways like United Church of Christ licensed ministers. These are available in over 130 Presbyteries in the US. Some United Church of Christ Associations have cooperative arrangements with these programs.
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) hosts Lay Schools or Diaconal Ministry programs in many of its Synods.
- The ELCA also hosts web- based courses at a college level intensity which are written and facilitated by experts in their fields. See <http://www.selectlearning.org>
- The United Methodist Church, through its General Board of Discipleship, sponsors educational programs called “Learning and Leading”; there are added courses for those seeking to be Certified Lay Ministers.

The School of Theology at the University of the South has long sponsored a lay education program called “Education for Ministry” or EFM. It can be contracted for a group of students in many different locations. While established in Episcopalian churches it is offered ecumenically. In addition there is now an online program. The goal of this program is education of lay people for diverse ministries in their everyday walks of life. However its content might be appropriate preparation or partial preparation for licensed or commissioned ministry in the United Church of Christ. For more information see <http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm>

The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary is a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). It hosts an Education for the Laity program which provides ONLINE training for any interested lay person, but is particularly geared for lay pastors. The website <http://www.udtslearning.net/mod/resource/view.php?id=61>

Many **Roman Catholic universities and seminaries** offer coursework for what is often called “Lay Ecclesial Ministries” or “Ministry Expansion” Many have online courses, though some do not. Some programs may only be open to Roman Catholic students. To learn more about these programs see a report on the website of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities <http://www.accunet.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=3571> Some well known schools such as Notre Dame have online courses available.

United Church of Christ related seminaries, (and other mainline seminaries), offer many certificate programs, and some have organized “lay schools” that offer a complete catalog of programs. (Seminaries of the United Church of Christ which offer such a comprehensive lay education program are listed with other United Church of Christ programs in this listing.) Others offer coursework or seminars that may be taken by non-matriculated students. They may be full length credit courses, or continuing education, lifelong learning, or extension courses or workshops. Most are taught by seminary professors. To search the websites of the seminaries of the UCC: <http://www.ucc.org/higher-education/school/seminaries.html>

To search for accredited seminaries see the website of the Association of Theological Schools Commission on Accrediting at www.ats.edu. Many of the seminaries offering lay leadership programs are Presbyterian or Episcopalian.

Check seminaries or other schools which may be at some distance from your location but may offer classes at varied sites. For example Duke Divinity School’s Lifelong Learning Division offers lay education classes at sites throughout North Carolina.

