

EPA Laity Academy - Session 2

August 4th – 5th 2023



2023 COURSE CATALOG

The courses offered at the 2023 Laity Academy – Session 2 are divided into the Christ Servant Ministry categories of the BASIC Course, Speaking, Leading, and Caring. This year you may select from 10 courses, including 4 **NEW** classes. [Registration closes July 22nd](#).

BASIC

- BASIC – The Journey Begins

SPEAKING

- Speaking 1 – Preaching to be Heard
- Speaking 2 – Preaching CAREfully

LEADING

- Creation, Evolution, Intelligent Design Theory **NEW**
- Disciple-Making Small Groups
- Emotional Intelligence 2 – The Next Step **NEW**
- Servant Leadership

CARING

- Developing Christian Peer Mentoring Skills **NEW**
- Making Every Prayer Count
- Spirituality of Self-Care **NEW**

BASIC

BASIC COURSE – The Journey Begins

Ready to explore God’s call in your life? Take the first step in the Christ Servant Ministry program with others who have heard that still, small voice calling in the night or are sure they have been hit across the head with a two-by-four.. The Basic Course provides a firm foundational understanding of God’s presence in our lives, the meaning and mission of the church, and insight into how and where you can apply the gifts you have and will receive from our Lord. You will learn about the need for servant ministries in our world and what it means to be a servant for Christ. The Basic Course is also the first step towards further development as a Certified Lay Speaker or Certified Lay Minister

Participants in this course must request the recommendation and approval from their Local Church and submit it with their registration. Registrants are required to complete assignments from a Basic Course Manual prior to attending the Laity Academy. There is also an additional \$5 fee for a Basic Course Manual as indicated on the registration form.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- Students must complete the application to enter the CSM program and submit to Ms. Judy Ehninger prior to the class.

PREREQUISITES:

- Instructor will assign homework equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction to be completed and submitted prior to the class.

INSTRUCTOR: Judy Ehninger, Certified Lay Minister

SPEAKING

SPEAKING 1: Preaching to be Heard

Speaking 1 is the basic course for those who wish to preach or to enhance their speaking abilities. This class will look at the focus of our preaching, share ideas on the development of sermons, and create an opportunity for each participant to develop and present a “mini” sermon to the group. An important part of this experience is the sharing of feedback in a supportive and safe setting so that all who wish to preach can benefit from the group. The expectation is that our time together will be one of joy and excitement.

For CSM participants, this course is recognized as an advanced course in speaking. Successful completion of Speaking 1 is one of the requirements to receive Certified Lay Speaker credentials.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- Class attendance is limited to 12 students.

PREREQUISITES:

- Instructor will assign homework equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction to be completed and submitted prior to the class.

INSTRUCTOR: Rev Harold Burkett

SPEAKING 2: Preaching CAREfully - Learning How to Speak as a Shepherd of Souls

In the early church, the pastor was called to be a “shepherd of souls,” a role which included both preaching and care-giving. But after the Reformation, those roles were largely separated, with the titles “pastor” and “preacher” referring to

separate tasks of ministry. Since true preaching is always pastoral, and pastoral care can be done through preaching, this course will help those who speak on Sunday mornings learn how to reclaim being a “shepherd of souls.”

For CSM participants, this course is recognized as an advanced course in speaking. Successful completion of Speaking 2 is one of the requirements to receive Certified Lay Speaker credentials.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- Student has completed the Basic Christ Servant Ministries Course (or the training for a Local Church Lay Servant) as required by the 2016 Book of Discipline prior to taking the course,
- Student has completed a Preaching 1 or Speaking 1 Course

PREREQUISITES:

- Student will have completed assigned pre-class work that includes reading, *I am the Lord Who Heals You* by G. Scott Morris. (Additional information will be given after registration.)

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. Dr. Lloyd F. Speer III, OSL,

LEADING

CREATION, EVOLUTION, INTELLIGENT DESIGN THEORY

NEW

The subject of ‘origins’ remains an ongoing source of high interest, discussion, and inquiry. The topic has far-reaching implications which involve ‘big questions’. For example:

- “What is the best explanation for the origin of the cosmos? “
- “What is a reasonable explanation for the origin of life on earth?”
- “Does modern day Homo sapiens share a genetic lineage with ape or ape-like ancestors?”
- “Can modern science inform our understanding of the Genesis record in the Scriptures?”
- “Could ‘evolution’ be the mechanism through which God created life on earth, including we
- ourselves?”
- “Is Genesis history, or is it best seen as allegory mixed with metaphor?”

In 1859 Charles Darwin released his well known book, On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection. This class will explore a fundamental question: “What do we know today that Charles Darwin, in the mid 1800s, did not yet understand?” A question which derives from this one is, “does the significant increase in scientific knowledge since the time of Darwin strengthen or weaken the data base underlying evolutionary theory?”

We will first examine the primary areas of science relevant to these questions: Cytology, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Paleontology, Laws of Thermodynamics, Law of Biogenesis, Universal Law of Cause and Effect, Modern Information Theory. If you do not have a strong background in science, but are interested in having answers to the questions proposed in the first portion of this course description, do not allow that to hinder you from exploring this important subject. If you have a basic understanding of high school biology, this will be a sufficient foundation from which to build. Even though each of these topics can be explored in great depth, our goal is not to engage in ‘content overload’. There will be opportunities, built into our curriculum, to answer questions. And there are many supplemental resources available to those who ‘would like to go deeper.’

After the primary scientific questions have been considered, we will examine the Biblical Record concerning the subject of ‘origins’. Although references to God’s role as the Author of Creation are found in both the Old and New Testaments, there will be a specific emphasis in this portion of our class on Jesus’ perspective about Creation.

PREREQUISITES & HOMEWORK

- Student will view a DVD consisting of 6, ten minutes segments which summarize primary content areas evaluating Darwin's Theory using research about which he himself had no knowledge. [approximately 1 hour] The presenters are highly credentialed research scientists active in their fields. A brief worksheet, based on the DVD content will be completed by each registrant prior to our on-site meeting. A packet will be mailed to your home address – USPS - which will contain the DVD, the brief question sheet, and a separate document explaining the fundamental differences between "Creationism" and "Intelligent Design Theory."
- Student will complete a set of questions sent to your email inbox to be returned to the instructor by August 13th.
- Completion of both assignments is equivalent to 2 hrs. of instructions and is required for completion of this course.

INSTRUCTOR: Steve Myers

DISCIPLE-MAKING SMALL GROUPS: The Who, What, When, Where,

How and Why

Disciple-Making Small Groups is a class for anyone who is interested in beginning a small group at their church, or who now participates in a small group and wants to grow the group into a disciple-making ministry. Outside readings and exercises totaling 2 hours will be required prior to the in-person sessions, and participants will be expected to share their findings in both class and break-out sessions. All materials will be sent to the participants in .pdf or print format upon registration. At the end of the class, participants will have the necessary tools to offer and facilitate disciple-making groups tailored to the needs of their own congregations. Participants who are already members or facilitators of groups will be able to share their experiences with others, as well as learn new ways to use their ministries for disciple-making. Additional resources will be introduced from Discipleship Ministries as well as other sources for learning more about starting and leading disciple-making small groups.

PREREQUISITES:

- Instructor will assign reading material and questions equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction to be completed and submitted prior to the class.

INSTRUCTOR: Brenda Binns, Certified Lay Minister

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE 2: The Next Step

NEW

This workshop is a follow up or the next step after attending *Charting the Path of Emotional Intelligence*. This workshop is beyond the introductory concepts of knowing one's emotions, managing one's emotions, motivating oneself, recognizing the emotions of others, and handling relationships. This workshop is completely application based and built on intentionally taking time to increase self-awareness which leads to managed responses. During this interactive, experientially based workshop participants will:

- Discover the roots of behavior
- Define the steps to heal, specifically working with a 4 step model
- Apply healing techniques to life circumstances
- Recognize the interdependency of the 5 characteristics of emotional intelligence
- Practice integrating the 5 characteristics of emotional intelligence to real life scenarios
- Identify the blocks of living emotional intelligence daily
- Integrate emotional intelligence into your leadership style
- Apply the biblical roots of emotional intelligence to one's personal faith

PREREQUISITES:

- Student has completed Emotional Intelligence 1: *Charting the Path of Emotional Intelligence*.

- Instructor will assign homework equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction to be completed and submitted prior to the class.

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. Dave Piltz

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Jesus Christ was the greatest leader of all time. In the span of roughly four years, Jesus gathered and led 12 diverse individuals on a journey unlike the world could image. Because of the strength of Jesus' leadership, Christianity grew from only a few hundred followers to nearly 2.5 billion Believers around the world today.

But what made Jesus a great leader? What was it about Jesus' approach to leadership which made Simon Peter and Andrew to answer the call of "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"? And what was it which enabled the Disciples, to grow into a team which carried on a mission long after Jesus physically departed from them?

The answer lies in the concept known as Servant Leadership. Servant Leadership was not unique to Jesus, but Jesus exemplified it in his ministry. In fact, Jesus imparted to his Disciples to take on his role as leader when he said, "the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve". But what does that mean? Are we, who serve within our church and community, leaders who "come to serve and not to be served?"

we can see its characteristics of Servant Leadership as far back as Moses. In business and academia, Servant Leadership is as young as the 1970's when Robert K. Greenleaf coined the phrase, "Servant Leadership", is "...a philosophy and set of practices that enriches the lives of individuals, builds better organizations and ultimately creates a more just and caring world". Servant Leadership places people first. Its goal is helping them to develop, thrive, and perform to their fullest, where success naturally follows through commitment, empowerment, and engagement.

The goal of this class is to get students on a leadership journey like that of Jesus. As laity leaders it is imperative we adopt a style which will nurture Christian followers, give them what they need to succeed, and, like Jesus, allow our churches' mission and vision to continue and flourish long after we are no longer in charge.

HOMEWORK:

- Instructor will assign homework equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction to be submitted by August 13, 2023.

INSTRUCTOR: Joseph Skarbowski, Christ Servant Minister

CARING

DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN PEER MENTORING SKILLS

NEW

Do you have a heart to help others?

This course will encourage those that are in Caring Ministries to develop the skills needed to help encourage and guide others mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Mentoring is a companionship in which two or more persons intentionally come together to seek and respond to God's activity in their lives. Simply telling others where they must go or what they must do won't cut it. The journey must be shared. Guiding requires a mentor's heart.

In this course we will learn what it means to have a mentor's heart. By learning to be a mentor you can learn to offer an important gift in the life of another. We will delve into the Five C's used in counseling: care, compassion, competence, communication, courage, and commitment to learn how to walk alongside another in a time of need.

PREREQUISITE:

- Students will be emailed an assignment after registration and must be returned to the instructor by July 31st
- This assignment is equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction.

INSTRUCTOR: Susan Adamczyk (formerly Velez), Outpatient Therapist

MAKING PRAYER COUNT: Making Every Prayer Count: Moving from ME to WE

Have you ever had trouble connecting with God? Praying for Others? This course is designed to be a powerful resource aimed at making your personal prayer life more effective (**ME**) and equipping you to be a person of impact within your church and community (**WE**). We will begin our journey focusing on “me”. Diving into areas of God given identity and the impact that our belief system has on every aspect of our life. We will explore how we grow in intimacy with Jesus, our belief system and the importance of forgiveness. As we look at “WE” we will dive into developing a prayer ministry at the local church, learn some simple but effective prayer models (salvation, blessing, healing etc.), and explore what it means to be a people who call others into a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ. This course is full of laughter, hand’s-on activation, Q&A, and God surprises!

SPECIAL NOTES:

- This course requires a minimum of 12 students
- There is also an additional \$10 fee for a book as indicated on the registration form.

PREREQUISITES:

- Instructor will assign homework equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction to be submitted by August 13, 2023.

INSTRUCTOR: Pastor Ruth Hendrickson

SPIRITUALITY OF SELF-CARE IN A BUSY AND OVERBURDENING WORLD

NEW

Self-Care is the new buzz phrase of the 21st century. Every where we see the phrases “Self-Care and “Me-time.” Many of us have been properly taught according to the Bible, to put others before ourselves, creating a conundrum of how to live into self-care in an increasingly selfish society while demonstrating the love of Christ by putting others before self. The Spirituality of Self Care Workshop will explore the questions: Is self-care selfish? How do I find time for self-care in an already packed life? Is the instruction for a sabbath still valid? And is a beer and/or chocolate a valid part of self-care? We will posit biblical examples of self-care and how Jesus taught and demonstrated self-care in the midst of challenging life circumstances. Participants will leave with practical steps to insert self-care into their daily routine beginning the process of growing into a well-rounded Christian and self-care practitioner.

HOMEWORK:

- Instructor will assign homework equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction to be submitted by August 13, 2023.

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. Misty L. Fuller, MDiv



The Academy for Laity